


## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### World Wide Web Day 2023: August 1

- **World Wide Web Day is observed all over the world on August 1st** each year dedicated to web browsing, the online activity that brings the whole world to your fingertips, and places a wealth of knowledge at your feet.
- **In 1989, Sir Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web,**
- **On 1st August 1989, is World Wide Web Day,** marking the invention by Tim Berners-Lee of an internet-based communication system that changed the world.

#### World Breastfeeding Week 2023 - August 1 to 7

- **Breastfeeding week** is celebrated every year during the **first week of August(August 1 to 7).**
- The **theme set by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)** for this year (2023) is: **“Enabling breastfeeding: making a difference for working parents.”**
- World Breastfeeding Week is **observed by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNICEF** to promote world breastfeeding week.
- WADA was **first formed on 14th February 1991.**
- **World Breastfeeding Week was first observed in 1992 by WADA.**

#### Hiroshima Day 2023: August 6

- Every year **August 6 is celebrated as Hiroshima Day.**
- Hiroshima Day 2023 is observed all over the world to promote peace politics.
- This day is **observed to raise awareness of the bomb attack on Hiroshima.**
- **In 1945, the United States (US) deployed a nuclear bomb in the city of Hiroshima which is located in the country of Japan.**
- This nuclear bomb wiped out 39 per cent of the civilians of Hiroshima.
- The US has named the atomic bomb named **“The Little Boy” which was dropped on August 6.**

#### National Handloom Day 2023 - August 7

- **National Handloom Day** is observed every year on **August 7.**
- On this day, the Government and other organizations raised awareness to honour the handloom weaving community.
- **In 2015, the first National Handloom Day was celebrated which was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi**
- **On August 7, 1905, The Swadeshi movement was launched in Calcutta Town Hall.** This movement focuses on reviving domestic production, encouraging handloom industries and the spirit of Swadeshi.
- **The Ministry of Textiles will be celebrating National Handloom Day at Dilli Haat which is celebrated from August 1 to August 15.**

#### Quit India Movement - August 8:

- **Quit India Movement** is observed **annually on August 8.**
- This day is **also known as August Kranti Din.**

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- This day is observed as an important movement in the freedom struggle and many freedom fighters took charge themselves.
- **Quit India Movement was launched in the year 1942.**

### **Nagasaki Day 2023 - August 9**

- **Nagasaki Day is observed on August 9 every year.**
- This day is the **78th Anniversary of the US atomic bombing.**
- On August 9, 1945, during the second world war, the US dropped a bomb on Nagasaki in the city of Japan.
- **The nuclear bomb that was attacked by the US in Nagasaki was called the 'FAT MAN'.**

### **International Day of World's Indigenous People 2023 - August 9:**

- **International Day of World's Indigenous People** is observed annually on **August 9.**
- **This year's theme is Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination.**
- This day is observed to raise awareness about life and to protect the indigenous people.
- **This day was first observed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1994.**
- This day is observed annually to recognize the first UN working group on indigenous people meeting in Geneva in 1982.

### **World Biofuel Day 2023: August 10**

- **Every year World Biofuel Day** is observed on the **10th of August.**
- World Biofuel Day 2023 is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of biofuels and features the efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.
- **World Biofuel Day 2023 is observed to honour Sir Rudolf Diesel for his research experiments.**
- Since 2015, India has celebrated World Biofuel Day through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

### **World Elephant Day 2023: August 12**

- **World Elephant Day is an international annual event on August 12,** Conceived in 2011 by Canadian filmmakers Patrica Sims and Michael Clark of Canazwest Pictures and Sivaporn Dardarananda, Secretary General of Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand.
- **It was officially launched on August 12, 2012.**
- **The first world elephant day was held on 12 August 2012.**
- The world elephant day website was designed and maintained by Canazwest Pictures.
- **World elephant day was founded in November 2015 to support elephant conservation worldwide.**

### **International Youth Day 2023: August 12**

- **International Youth Day** is observed annually all over the **world on August 12.**
- International youth day focuses on all the difficulties that young people are facing throughout the world.
- The **theme of International Youth Day is 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'.**
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Economic and Social Council focus on three themes called Participation, development, and peace.
- The United Nations passed a resolution for creating **the International Youth Day in 1999 at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).**

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- The first International Youth Day was observed on 12th August 2000.

### International Lefthanders Day 2023: August 13

- **International Lefthanders Day 2023** is the 31st annual lefthanders day celebrated on the 13th of August every year worldwide.
- The theme for International Lefthanders Day 2023 is “Left Handers in Sports.”
- **The Left-Handers Club launched International Lefthanders Day as an annual event on the 13th of August, 1992.**

### World Organ Donation Day 2023: August 13

- Every year **World Organ Donation Day** is celebrated on the 13th of August to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to donate their organs after death.
- World Organ Donation Day 2023 theme is "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
- **World Organ Donation Day was first observed in 2005.**
- The first organ donation was performed in 1954, when Ronald Lee Herrick donated his kidney to his twin brother.

### Independence Day in India 2023: August 15

- Every year, **Independence Day in India** is observed on the 15th of August, 2023.
- The theme of the 77th Independence Day 2023 of India is Nation First, Always First as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- **On August 14, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India conveyed an iconic speech Tryst with Destiny.**

### World Photography Day 2023 - August 19

- **World Photography Day** is celebrated on August 19 every year.
- World Photography Day 2023 is a Worldwide celebration of the art, crafts, science, and history of photography.
- **The first World Photography Day was held on August 19, 2010.**
- On World Photography Day nearly 270 photographers shared their pictures in a global online gallery.
- **The first digital photograph was created in 1957, two decades before the digital camera was invented.**

### Sadbhavana Diwas 2023 - August 20

- **Sadbhavana Diwas** is celebrated on 20 August every year.
- The birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi is observed as “Sadbhavana Diwas” on August 20.
- **Rajiv Gandhi's initiatives resulted in the establishment of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL) in 1986.**
- The first **Sadbhavana Diwas** was observed in 1992, a year after Rajiv Gandhi died in a suicide bomb attack in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur.

### World Mosquito Day 2023: August 20

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- **World Mosquito Day** is observed annually on **20 August**.
- **World Mosquito Day** was first established in 1897 by **Sir Ronald Ross** who discovered that female mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans.
- **World Mosquito Day** is dedicated to the memory of **Sir Ronald Ross**.
- **Sir Ronald Ross** was first observed on **20 August 1897**.

### **International Day for the Remembrance Of Slave Trade And Abolition 2023: August 23**

- **International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Abolition** is celebrated on **23 August** every year.
- This day is designated by **UNESCO** to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
- **International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Abolition** is observed to commemorate the uprising on **August 23, 1791, in Santo Domingo, Haiti**, which played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

#### **About UNESCO:**

- Established : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director General : Audrey Azoulay
- Parent Organisation : United Nations Economic and Social Council
- UNESCO is a **specialised agency** of the United Nations (UN) aimed at **promoting world peace** and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

### **Women's Equality Day 2023 - August 26**

- **Women's Equality Day** is observed on **August 26** every year to commemorate the right of women to vote in the United States.
- This year's (2023) **theme for Women's Equality Day** is **#EmbraceEquity**.

### **National Sports Day 2023 - August 29**

- **National Sports Day or Rashtriya Khel Divas** is celebrated on **29 August** every year.
- This day is celebrated on **Dhyan Chand's birthday** to honour the hockey legend.

### **Small Industry Day 2023 - August 30:**

- The **Small Industry Day** is an **annual celebration** observed on **30th August**.
- This day is dedicated to **promoting small businesses nationwide** and offering job opportunities to unemployed males and females for the betterment of their life.
- Small Industry Day is celebrated since **2017** following a resolution passed in the Assembly during the year.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **The government has approved the import of 470 aircraft for Air India Limited and 500 for Indigo:**

- The union government has granted in-principal approval to import **470 aircraft to Air India Limited and 500 aircraft to Interglobe Aviation Limited (Indigo)**.
- This information was given by the **Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (Dr.) V. K. Singh**.
- He said the aircraft is **proposed to be imported by 2035**.

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- On the question of parking space, the minister said the airline operators have been advised by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to share their induction plan with airport operators for ensuring the availability of parking slots.

### About IndiGo

- Founders: Rahul Bhatia, Rakesh Gangwal
- CEO: Pieter Elbers
- Headquarters: Gurugram
- Founded: August 2006

### The Think20 Summit, organized by India as part of its G20 Presidency, is set to take place in the city of Mysuru, Karnataka.

- Observer Research Foundation (ORF), as the **Think20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency**, will host the **Think20 Summit in Mysuru** till August 2.
- Think20 is the G20's official engagement group that serves as an 'ideas bank' for the multilateral grouping by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20.
- The three-day conference will be a gathering of distinguished members of the seven Think20 Task Forces and policy experts from around the world.

### The deadline for submitting applications for PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware has been extended until August 30, 2023:

- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware** was notified vide notification No. CG-DL-E-30052023-246165 dated May 29, 2023, with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 17,000 crore.
- The scheme is aimed at broadening and deepening the IT hardware manufacturing ecosystem in the country.
- The Operational Guidelines of Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware has been notified on 14.07.2023 and are available at the following URL: <https://www.meity.gov.in/esdm/production-linked-incentive-scheme-pli-20-it-hardware>

### The G20 EMPOWER Summit in Gandhinagar will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani:

- The G20 EMPOWER Summit is set to take place on August 1, 2023, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The summit, organised around the theme- "Women-Led Development: ensuring a Sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth", will witness the participation of delegates from across G20 nations, guest countries and international organisations in addition to many global experts, policymakers and stakeholders.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for EMPOWER** which is the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progress of Women's Economic Progression.

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### About Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- NP: Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park, Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Vansda National Park, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gaga Wildlife Sanctuary

### India Post to sell National Flag through its 1.6 lakh post offices to celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga

- **Government of India under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) introduced the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.**
- The campaign was an immense success in 2022 when 23 crore households hoisted the Tiranga at their homes physically and six crore people uploaded selfies on HGT Website.
- **The Department of Posts (DoP) took this campaign to the last mile and ensured the availability of the national flag in the remotest corner of the country.**

### About India Post :

- Established: 1 October 1854
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- India Post is a government-operated postal system in India, part of the Department of Post under the **Ministry of Communications.**

### The 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign will be launched to honour our martyred braveheart men and women

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his address to the people of the country during the popular programme 'Mann ki Baat' has always accorded prominence to the beautiful cultural fabric of the country and how diversity also acts as a unifying force.**
- Under this campaign, 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will also be organised across the country.”
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.

### Dr Jitendra Singh launches India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable, lightweight, Ultrafast, High Field (1.5 Tesla), Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable, lightweight, Ultrafast, High Field (1.5 Tesla), Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.**

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has officially launched the mobile application for ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram on the third anniversary of NEP 2020.

- The Prime Minister inaugurated **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023** at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on the 3rd anniversary of NEP 2020.



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- On the sidelines, the Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, launched the logo, slogan-Jan Jan Sakshar and mobile application of **ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram** at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

### **The Clean Ganga Mission has approved seven projects worth a total of Rs. 692 crores**

- The 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was held under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG, **Shri G. Asok Kumar** where Seven projects worth around **Rs. 692 crore** were approved.
- Out of the seven projects, **four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.**
- NMCG has so far sanctioned a total of 452 projects worth around Rs. 38,126 crore out of which 254 have been completed.
- 

### **The G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment will take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat:**

- The **Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment under the G20 Indian Presidency**, chaired by Union Minister of Women & Child Development, **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** is set to take place in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 2nd to 4th August 2023.**
- Gandhinagar is an exquisite example of a vibrant fusion of centuries-old architecture with modernity and cultural vibrancy and is known for its historical legacy, artefacts, handicrafts, arts, festivals, grand temples and museums and a rich civilization that flourished on the western bank of the river Sabarmati.

### **About G20:**

- The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union.
- It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
- Founded: 26 September 1999

### **About Gujarat**

- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- NP: Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park, Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Vansda National Park, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gaga Wildlife Sanctuary

### **PM lays foundation stone and inaugurates various development projects in Pune, Maharashtra**

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi** flagged off metro trains marking the inauguration of **completed sections of Pune Metro.**
- He also handed over more than 1280 houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana by Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and more than 2650 PMAY houses constructed by Pune Municipal Corporation to the beneficiaries.
- **He laid the foundation stone for around 1190 PMAY houses** to be constructed by PCMC and over 6400 houses constructed by Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority.

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- The Prime Minister also inaugurated a Waste to Energy Plant under PCMC developed at a cost of about Rs 300 crores.

### About Maharashtra

- Governor: Ramesh Bai
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

### Union Government to launch e-CARe portal tomorrow to facilitate the transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad

- The Union 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.
- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, the portal is being introduced to avoid delay during the transportation of the deceased human remains across international borders.
- The designated nodal officer will scrutinise and get approval within 48 hours.

### President Of India Inaugurates 'Unmesha' And 'Utkarsh' Festivals In Bhopal

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. President said that literature connects with people and also connects people with each other.

### About MP :

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal
- National Park: Satpura National Park, Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Shri S. Jaishankar jointly launched Study in India (SII) Portal in New Delhi

- The Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Union External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar jointly launched Study in India Portal in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar; Minister of State for Education, Smt Annapurna Devi; Minister of State for Education and External Affairs Shri Rajkumar Singh; Member of Parliament, Dr

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Mahesh Sharma; senior officials of Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Ambassadors of more than 10 countries attended the event.

- The website portal will present information about the academic facilities, research support, and related information.

### **NHAI Launches 'Rajmargyatra' a Unified Mobile Application for National Highway Users**

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience with the launch of 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application.
- This user-friendly app is now available for download on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store, empowering travellers with comprehensive information on Indian National Highways while also offering an efficient complaint redressal system.
- The app is currently available in Hindi and English.

### **Union Minister of Steel Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveils the new logo of NMDC**

- Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation **Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveiled the new logo of NMDC in New Delhi.**
- Sh. Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Sh. Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, NMDC and other officials of the Ministry of Steel and NMDC were also present.
- The Minister congratulated Team NMDC on their dynamic new logo and added that the unveiling of the logo is a seminal part of the journey of any organization, symbolizing its values and goals.
- The Union Minister said that **NMDC's new logo represents how India's largest producer of iron ore, is all set for mining at a global scale in a sustainable and green environment.**

### **Govt land worth Rs 2000 cr to become garbage-free under Smart City Mission in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**

- Under the waste-to-wealth concept given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **the Coimbatore Smart City Mission has taken the initiative of cleaning the waste accumulated over decades and earning from it.**
- Smart City Mission officials say valuable government land worth about 2,000 crore rupees will also become garbage-free.

#### **About Tamil Nadu :**

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance : Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve : Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

### **PM Modi to lay foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country**

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country** through video conferencing.
- **The stations will be redeveloped under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of over 24 thousand 470 crore rupees.** Master Plans are being prepared for the development of these stations as City Centres, with proper integration of both sides of the city.
- This includes 55 stations each in **Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, and 25 in Odisha among others.**

### Centre allocates over Rs 1,39, 500 crore to extend Bharat Net in 6,40,000 villages

- **The government has allocated one lakh 39 thousand 579 crore rupees to extend Bharat Net in six lakh 40 thousand villages** across the country.
- The Communications Ministry said that **the extension project of the Bharat Net will be achieved in nearly two years.**
- Built under the Make in India initiative, **Bharat Net is one of the world's largest rural broadband connectivity programs, being implemented by Central PSUs including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.**

### NHA extends Digital Health Incentives Scheme till 31 Dec 2023

- **The National Health Authority (NHA) has announced the extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission till the 31st of December** this year.
- The Union Health Ministry said **the scheme offers incentives of up to four crore rupees based on the number of digital health records** created and linked to Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers of the patients.
- Under the scheme, incentives are provided to hospitals and diagnostic labs and the providers of digital health solutions.
- **The DHIS was launched in January 2023.**

### About NHA

- The National Health Authority or the NHA is responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. NHA has been set up to implement the PM-JAY at the national level.
- **Founded: 2018**

### MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar to attend 'Digital India RISC-V' Symposium, organised by IIT Madras

- Union Minister for State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics and IT **Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be taking part in the 'Digital India RISC-V' Symposium, being organised by IIT Madras and IIT-M Pravartak Technologies Foundation in Chennai.**
- The event showcasing **'The future of Electronics in India through the RISC-V pathway'**, will be attended by students, industry professionals, researchers and all those keen to gain insights about the growing RISC-V ecosystem in India

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### About IIT Madras :

- Established: 1959
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Director : Pawan Kumar Goenka

### President of India inaugurates 'Festival of Libraries'

- The **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the 'Festival of Libraries' in New Delhi.
- This Festival is being organized by the Ministry of Culture to promote the development and digitization of Libraries and cultivate the culture of reading.
- President said that the development of libraries is correlated to the development of society and culture.

### Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurates the second edition of the Inter-Ministry Bar & Bench Badminton Championship

- Ministry of Law and Justice organised **the second edition of the Inter-Ministry Bar & Bench Badminton Championship at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex, New Delhi**
- The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from judges, lawyers, and officials of various ministries of the government of India.
- The event was inaugurated by **Union Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal**.

### PM Modi To Participate in National Handloom Day Celebration

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said that Vocal for Local has become a mass movement that **has given a new impetus to the textile sector in the country**.
- Addressing the **9th National Handloom Day celebration** at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, **Delhi** Mr Modi said that the schemes that have been initiated in the textile sector bring justice to weavers and artisans.
- The Prime Minister also urged the people to their **commitment to popularise local products on National Handloom Day**.
- Prime Minister Modi said that India's vibrant handlooms exemplify the country's diversity.
- During the programme, **Mr Modi launched the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh' - a Repository of Textiles and Crafts that has been developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology NIFT**.

### President of India inaugurates conference on 'Aspiring for supermind in the city of evolving consciousness' at Auroville

- The **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated a conference on 'Aspiring for Supermind in the City of Evolving Consciousness' at Auroville.
- Earlier, she also visited the Matrimandir and a city exhibition at Auroville.
- Sri Aurobindo believed that Supermind can enable human beings to transform into divine beings. He gave the philosophy that supra-mental consciousness has the power to make this material world divine.
- The President said that the idea of a Cosmic Being as propounded by Maharishi Aurobindo has a great relevance to the issues the world is facing.

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- It is by understanding and adopting the concept of cosmic consciousness that many issues the world faces today can be resolved with harmony.
- The concepts of the Supreme Being and the cosmic mind lead to the realization of the ultimate purpose of life.
- These ideals can help in making the world a harmonious and peaceful place to live in.

### TRAI releases recommendations on 'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization under Unified License (UL)'

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has issued its recommendations on **'Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider Authorization under Unified License (UL)'**.
- **National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP-2018)** emphasizes digital infrastructure stating that **"Digital infrastructure and services are increasingly emerging as key enablers and critical determinants of a country's growth and well-being"**.
- Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI) is essential for the growth of the global data economy.
- A robust DCI contributes significantly to economic development both by increasing productivity and by providing amenities that enhance the quality of life.

### 3rd G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting and G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting will be held in Kolkata

- **The third and final meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) under India's Presidency** will be held from 9 to 11 August 2023 **in Kolkata**.
- Over 154 delegates from G20 Members, 10 invitee countries, and various international organizations will be attending the meeting.
- It will be followed by the **G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting** on 12th August 2023, which will be **chaired by Dr Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space of Government of India.
- **This will be the second-ever Ministerial meeting of G20 ACWG and the first in-person ACWG Ministerial meeting.**

### Centre for Trade and Investment Law at IIFT, celebrates its 6th Anniversary

- **The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi celebrated its 6th anniversary** and released the Sixth Anniversary issue of CTIL Magazine in New Delhi.
- The event was graced by **Attorney General of India, Shri R. Venkataramani**; Secretary, Department of Commerce, **Shri Sunil Barthwal**; Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, **Shri Peeyush Kumar** and Vice-Chancellor, IIFT, Prof. Satinder Bhatia.
- The event marked **six years of the foundation of CTIL.**

### About CTIL

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- CTIL was established by the Department of Commerce, for enhancing capacity on legal issues about international trade and investment law.
- CTIL serves as a repository of information on trade and investment law and has emerged as a thought leader in engaging in and influencing the evolving discourse on global economic law issues.

### 21-day nationwide Meri Mati Mera Desh campaign to honour martyred brave hearts launch

- The nationwide Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign will be launched to pay tribute to the Bravehearts who laid down their lives for the country.
- The campaign will continue till the 30th of August.
- It will include programmes at national, state, village and block levels as well as local urban bodies.
- This 'Amrit Vatika' will symbolize the commitment to 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- The campaign is the concluding event of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav which began on 12th March 2021 and has witnessed widespread public participation, with over two lakh programs organized across India.

### Parliamentary Standing Committee recommends mandatory declaration of assets by Supreme Court and High Court judges

- A Parliamentary Committee has recommended bringing legislation to make it mandatory for Supreme Court and High Court judges to declare their property returns on an annual basis.
- The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in its report 'Judicial Processes And Their Reforms', said that as a general practice, all constitutional functionaries and government servants must file annual returns of their assets and liabilities.

### Dr P.K. Mishra chairs 7th meeting of the Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency in New Delhi

- Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P.K. Mishra chaired the seventh meeting of the Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The meeting covered the Summit preparedness in substantive as well as logistical aspects.
- Progress and outcomes on both Sherpa and Finance tracks were reviewed.
- A discussion was held on the Indian Presidency's priorities including Green Development, accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strong sustainable balanced, inclusive growth, digital public infrastructure, gender equality and reform of multilateral institutions.

### Valid license for import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers to be required from November 1

- The Union Government has said that a valid License for imports of laptops, tablets, and personal computers will be required from the 1st of November this year(2023).
- In a notification, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said, import consignments can be cleared till the 31st of October 2023 without a license for restricted imports.
- The Centre has said that there is no ban on the import of IT Hardware like tablets and laptops as such devices can be imported after obtaining a valid license by companies or traders.

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- The scheme is expected to lead to a total production of nearly three lakh 29 thousand crore rupees worth of IT Hardware and create 75 thousand additional jobs in five to six years.

### **NIA intensifies its crackdown on PFI for its alleged anti-national activities**

- The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** has intensified its crackdown on the **Popular Front of India (PFI)** for its alleged anti-national activities.
- NIA arrested one more accused, identified as **Shahid Reza** from Bihar's East Champaran district, in the Patna case relating to radicalization and indoctrination of youth.
- The NIA's investigation revealed that the PFI members were involved in anti-national agenda.

### **Vice President addresses the Valedictory Ceremony of the Festival of Libraries at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**

- The **Valedictory Ceremony**, on the second day of the first-ever '**Festival of Libraries 2023**', witnessed the gracious presence of the **Vice-President of India, Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar**.
- **The festival, organised by the Union Ministry of Culture**, was inaugurated by the President of India, **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**.
- MoS, Culture and External Affairs, **Smt Meenakshi Lekhi**, and Secretary, Culture **Shs Govind Mohan**, Joint Secretary, Culture **Smt. Mugdha Sinha** was among those present on the occasion.

### **Lok Sabha membership of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi restored**

- The **Lok Sabha secretariat** restored **Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's membership in the Lower House**.
- **The decision was taken after the supreme court** stayed Mr Gandhi's conviction in a criminal defamation case.
- **Mr Gandhi is a Lok Sabha member from the Wayanad constituency in Kerala**.
- He was disqualified from the Lok Sabha in March this year.

### **Ministry of Tourism identifies 'Prayagraj' and 'Naimisharanya' in UP as destinations for development under 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)**

- The **Ministry of Tourism** has identified '**Prayagraj**' and '**Naimisharanya**' in **Uttar Pradesh** as destinations for development under '**Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)** to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.
- Minister of Tourism **G. Kishan Reddy** said that the State Perspective Plan (SPP) prepared by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh did not include **Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary** for development.
- He further added that **the government launched the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' (SDS) in the year 2014-15 for the integrated development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits** in the country and there are 08 projects of identified thematic circuits in Uttar Pradesh.

### **Ministerial Conference of Ministry of WCD on Women's Empowerment Celebrates Actions to Accelerate Women-Led Development**



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- The **G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment** was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 2nd to 4th August 2023, with **participation by Women and Gender Equality Ministers** from across the **G20 and Guest countries**.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development as the Nodal Officer for G20 Empower and W20 organized seven international meetings including the Ministerial Conference for Woman Empowerment.
- The Conference had a total participation of over 138 International delegates from 15 G20 Countries namely **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and USA** and 5 Guest Countries namely **Bangladesh, Mauritius, Netherlands, Singapore and UAE**. There have been over 60 speakers at the Conference.

### **DG, NMCG gives a presentation on Namami Gange to World Bank EDs during an impact assessment meeting in Agra**

- A meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh as part of a visit by the **Executive Directors of the World Bank** to understand the **transformational impact of the Bank’s projects in the country**.
- Director General of, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) **Mr. G. Asok Kumar** gave a **detailed presentation on Namami Gange to the Executive Directors** of the World Bank from around the world.
- **Mr. Auguste Kouame**, Country Director, **World Bank, India** was also present on the occasion.
- Nine EDs of the World Bank Group were present during the meeting: Mr Jack Kurski, Poland; Mr Khalid Bawazier, Saudi Arabia; Ms Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed, Nigeria; Mr Junhong Chang, China; Mr Erivaldo Gomes, Brazil; Mr Ernesto Acevedo, Mexico; Ms Cecilia Nohan, Argentina; and Mr Robin Tasker, United Kingdom. Shri Bhaskar Dasgupta, ED, Finance, NMCG and Shri D.P. Mathuria, ED, Technical, NMCG were also present.
- A tour of the iconic Taj Mahal was also organised.

### **IIT - Hyderabad and Kathmandu University agreed to offer JDP at a PhD level in all areas of research**

- **The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad and Kathmandu University (KU)** have agreed to offer a **Joint Doctoral Programme (JDP)** at the PhD level in all areas of research.
- Several decisions to strengthen the ties between **the two Institutes** have been taken during the recent **visit of the IIT-H delegation to KU**.
- According to an official release, students from India and Nepal will have the opportunity to work on frontier areas of science, technology, design, and medical innovations under the programme.
- This association is aimed at developing successful academic and research collaborations in the areas of common interest and complementary capabilities.

### **Parliament approves Bill to simplify birth and death registration and make it digital**

- **Parliament has approved the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023**.
- **Rajya Sabha passed the bill while Lok Sabha cleared it on the 1st of this month**.
- Replying to a discussion on the bill, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said, the bill has been brought to simplify the birth and death registration and it will be completely digital.
- **The Bill seeks to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, of 1969 which provides for the regulation and registration of births and deaths**.
- The Act provides for the appointment of a Registrar-General, India who may issue directions for registration of births and deaths.

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### NeGD Organises the 39th CISO Deep Dive Training Programme Under MeitY's initiative Cyber Surakshit Bharat

- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative of MeitY was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials**, across all government departments, for ensuring adequate safety measures to combat the growing menace – Organisations need to defend their digital infrastructures and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks.
- **National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its Capacity Building scheme, organised the 39th CISO Deep-Dive training programme** from August 7th-11th 2023 with 25 participants from Central Line Ministries at the Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi.

### Parliament passes the Govt of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023, empowering Centre to make rules for Delhi

- **Parliament has passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023** with Rajya Sabha approving it.
- **The Rajya Sabha cleared it by voting 131 MPs in favour of the bill, while 102 MPs were against the bill.**
- **The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha last week. It seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991.** It empowers the Central Government to make rules in connection with the affairs of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi including the functions, terms and other conditions of service of officers and employees. It also has a provision in the constitution of the National Capital Civil Service Authority.
- **The Centre had brought an ordinance in this regard in May this year.**

### The government disbursed 2,900 crore rupees till March 2023 under the Production Linked Incentive scheme

- **The government has disbursed 2,900 crore rupees till March 2023** under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.**
- Secretary in the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** Rajesh Kumar Singh said that the government is expected to disburse about **13 thousand crore rupees to eligible firms seeking benefits under the scheme** and this regard an exercise is going on to tweak the scheme for those sectors which have not yet picked up well.
- Mr Singh said that the disbursement number will be significantly increased from the current year onwards.
- **The scheme was announced in 2021 for 14 sectors** including telecommunication, white goods, textiles, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles, drones and Pharma with an outlay of 1.97 lakh crore rupees.

### PM lays foundation stone and dedicates to nation development projects in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation, development projects in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.
- The projects include laying the foundation stone of Sant Shiromani Gurudev Shri Ravidas ji Memorial to be constructed at a cost of more than Rs 100 crores, two road projects to be developed at a cost of more than Rs 1580 crores and dedicating to the nation doubling of Kota-Bina rail route to the nation developed at a cost of more than Rs 2475 crores.
- The Prime Minister observed that the foundation stone of Saint Ravidas Ji Memorial and Museum is taking place at a time when the nation has completed 75 years of independence and the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal lie ahead of us.

### DPIIT and Ministry of Rural Development jointly launch ‘One District One Product’ Wall at SARAS Ajeevika Store

- One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched its collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi.
- This strategic collaboration was unveiled with the inauguration of the ODOP Wall at SARAS Aajeevika Store by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Charanjit Singh and Director, DPIIT, Smt. Supriya Devasthali yesterday.
- The ODOP Wall at SARAS Aajeevika Store stands as a symbol of the harmonious partnership between these two vital ministries.
- SARAS Aajeevika is an initiative by Deendayal Antyodaya (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

### Shri Amit Shah performed the Bhumi Pujan and laid the foundation stone of IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant at Gandhidham, Gujarat

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah performed the Bhumi Pujan and laid the foundation stone of the IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant at Gandhidham, Gujarat.
- On this occasion, several dignitaries including the Chairman, of IFFCO, Shri Dileep Sanghani, were also present.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has set a target of making 15 crore farmers of the country prosperous with the vision of ‘Sahkar se Samridhi’ by forming the Ministry of Cooperation.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that in order to realize Prime Minister Modi’s vision of “Sahkar Se Samridhi”, the Ministry of Cooperation has formed three multi-state cooperative societies and these three societies will fulfil these three goals.

### Smt Meenakashi Lekhi inaugurates the Women In Focus: Visualizing Feminine Constructs in an Indian Art exhibition at National Museum

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- The exhibition titled **Women In Focus: Visualizing Feminine Constructs in Indian Art** was **inaugurated by Smt Meenakashi Lekhi**, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, at the National Museum.
- The exhibition will remain open for public viewing from August 12, 2023, onwards at Ajanta Hall, First Floor, **National Museum, Delhi**.
- This exhibition focuses on examining the multifaceted traditional notions of Power, Patronage, and Piety through the lens of femininity.
- The **inauguration ceremony of the exhibition titled ‘Women in Focus’ also coincided with the book release of two additional publications brought out by the National Museum.**
- The first is the Hindi translation of the book: **Buddha, Bauddha Dharma and Bauddha Kala** by **Dr. BuddhRashmi Mani and Shri Sanib Kumar Singh** and the second is the third edition of the book titled **An Introduction to the Indus Valley Civilisation** by Sanjib Kumar Singh and Gunjan Kumar Srivastava.

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen the apprenticeship ecosystem in India

- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship **launched Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).**
- **An amount of approx Rs. 15 crores was disbursed to one lakh apprentices by the Minister** marking the **launch of DBT in NAPS.**
- A total of 25 lakh youth have been engaged as apprentices since the inception of **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in 2016, till 31st July 2023. Around 2.6 lakh Apprentices have completed training in FY 23-24.**
- The Government of India’s proactive efforts to promote quality training across sectors, led to the number of active establishments subsequently increase from 6,755 in 2018-19 to 40,655 in 2023-24.

### Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Common Service Centre (CSC) launches “Niveshak Sarathi” Vans for Delhi-NCR

- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Ms. Anita Shah Akella launched two Investor Awareness Vans titled “Niveshak Sarathi”, from IEPFA's headquarters as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aligning with the theme “From Unawareness to Financial Independence.”**
- This **strategic initiative aims to disseminate crucial financial education and raise awareness against fraudulent schemes across the Delhi NCR region.**
- These specially equipped vans are equipped with a TV screen running “Hisab Ki Kitab,” a series of investor awareness movies meticulously developed by IEPFA.

#### About IEPFA

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) was set up on September 7, 2016, under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, for administering the Investor Education and Protection Fund for making refunds of shares, unclaimed dividends, and matured deposits/debentures, among other things, to investors.

#### About CSC

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- Based on the assessment of the erstwhile Common Services Centre (CSC) Scheme, the Government of India has initiated CSC 2.0 Project in August 2015, under the Digital India.
- The objective of the CSC 2.0 project is to set up at least one CSC in 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats (GP) across the Country to deliver various citizen-centric services. The project is being implemented by CSC-Governance Services India Limited (CSC Special Purpose Vehicle, CSCSP).
- It is a self-sustainable entrepreneurship model which is run by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLES).

### Postal Life Insurance (PLI) Launches Direct Incentive Disbursement for Sales Force: A Transformational Step

- **Postal Life Insurance (PLI), a distinguished name in the insurance sector since 1884, is taking a momentous leap forward in its customer-centric approach.**
- Recognising the pivotal role of its sales force, **the PLI is proud to introduce the pilot program for “Direct Incentive Disbursement” in the Delhi and Uttarakhand Circles.**
- The cornerstone of PLI's success has always been its sales staff, the driving force behind the department's accomplishments.
- Their dedication profoundly influences PLI's ability to acquire and retain clients, making them indispensable brand ambassadors.
- Through the "Direct Incentive Disbursement" feature, agents will experience the seamless transfer of their hard-earned commissions from the previous month directly to their Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

### Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal participates in the 13th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, **Shri Piyush Goyal attended the 13th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting held under the BRICS Presidency of South Africa virtually.**
- The **theme of BRICS this year is “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.**
- Shri Piyush Goyal, touched upon issues related to WTO, Supply chain, Digitalisation, MSMEs and on the issue of Mispricing and under-invoicing in the meeting.
- The Minister lauded the South African Presidency for having an ambitious Agenda and completing outcome-oriented activities under the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI).

### Personal data of every citizen is to be protected in the digital domain by the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill

- The Union Electronics and IT Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has said **the personal data of every citizen will be protected in the digital domain by the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill.**
- The **Bill was passed by the Parliament.**
- Mr Vaishnaw said, the digital world will now become safer, and more trustworthy and it will have a significant impact on the lives of common citizens.
- 140 crore countrymen are part of the digital journey, which was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.

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### Centre releases additional guidelines for Health and Wellness Celebrities, Influencers and Virtual Influencers

- The Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has released Additional Guidelines for celebrities, influencers and virtual influencers in the field of health and wellness.
- These guidelines are an important extension to the Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022 released on 9th June 2022, and instead of the "Endorsement Know-hows!" guide booklet released on 20th January 2023.
- The Additional Influencer Guidelines for Health and Wellness Celebrities, Influencers and Virtual Influencers have been developed after detailed discussions with all stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ayush, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

### Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates the second phase of the annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative for Lymphatic Filariasis

- India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target through mission mode, multi-partner, multi-sector targeted drive.
- This was stated by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya as he inaugurated the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative, in the presence of Dr Bharti Pravin Pawar, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Prof. S.P. Singh Bhagel, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The second phase, commencing on August 10, 2023, will cover 81 districts in 9 endemic States (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh).

### Parliament passes Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023

- Parliament passed the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- The Lok Sabha passed the bills without discussion with a voice vote.
- Later, the Rajya Sabha also returned the Bills with a voice vote. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced these bills.
- The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the Central Goods and Services Tax Act 2017 while, the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to amend the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act 2017.
- The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to define the expressions of online gaming, online money gaming and virtual digital assets.
- According to the provisions of the Bill, online gaming means an offering of a game on the internet or an electronic network and includes money gaming.

### Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurates National Conference on ERMED Consortium: Empowering Libraries for Digital Health Transformation

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- **Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar**, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **inaugurated the National Conference on Electronic Resources in Medicine (ERMED) Consortium: Empowering Libraries for Digital Health Transformation at National Media Library.**
- **ERMED stands for collaborative excellence and transformative impact within the medical landscape of India** and for its unwavering commitment to cater to the diverse information needs of the medical fraternity.
- ERMED consortium access facility has been **extended to 74 selected government institutes including 14 AIIMS and even AYUSH Research Colleges/ Extend it to institutions as well.**

### Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme being implemented till 2025-26

- The Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power has informed that the “**Technology and Innovation Report 2023**” brought out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, has ranked India at 46th position in its “**Frontier Technologies Readiness Index**”.
- The Minister informed that while the Government has not conducted any research/survey on R&D investment during the last year towards green energy transition, **a committee was constituted earlier with an external panel of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr Anil Kakodkar, (Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission).**
- It provides up to 100% financial support to government/non-profit research organizations and up to 70% to industry, startups, private institutes, entrepreneurs, and manufacturing units.

### 53rd National Planning Group Meeting under PM GatiShakti recommends 6 infrastructure projects

- **The 53rd National Planning Group (NPG) was held in New Delhi**, under the chairpersonship of Special Secretary, Logistics, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Smt. Sumita Dawra.**
- The meeting saw active participation from member Department and Ministries, i.e., the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Power and NITI Aayog.
- During the meeting, six projects, 3 M/o Railways projects and 3 M/o **Road Transport and Highways projects with a total project cost of Rs. 28,875.16 Cr. were evaluated.**
- This **Railway alignment connects the major mines of Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts of Odisha State and Paschimi Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.**

### Ministry of Culture to Organise ‘HAR Ghar Tiranga’ Bike Rally of MPs in Delhi

- Under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) “Har Ghar Tiranga” will be celebrated across the Nation from 13th August 2023 – 15th August 2023** wherein people will be encouraged to hoist flags on their premises.
- To ensure massive outreach of the **Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and ensure high Jan Bhagidari, a Tiranga Bike Rally with Members of Parliament and Ministers is being organized at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**
- The bike rally will be flagged off by the Vice President of India **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar.** Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region, **Shri G. Kishan Reddy** will also present remain on the occasion.

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### MeitY Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma inaugurates Renewable Energy Microgrid Power Plant for electrical energy requirements of rural communities

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary **Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma** launched the indigenous Technology of Hybrid Green Energy Microgrid for Electrical energy requirements of the Rural communities developed by C -DAC, Thiruvananthapuram, as part of National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET) Program, at Elephant Rehabilitation Centre (ERC), Kottoor, Thiruvananthapuram.
- MeitY is prioritising and putting enormous efforts to realise unique technology development and deployments through C-DAC.
- The reliable green energy-based microgrid seems to be providing the power solution for critical systems in the Veterinary hospital systems in ERC.

### The meeting of the General Council of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) was held in Delhi

- **Shri Saurabh Garg**, Secretary, D/o SJ&E, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and the President of GC, NISD chaired the meeting of the General Council of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in the presence of other senior officials.
- The main purpose of the meeting was to review the structure, functions and status of programs of NISD.
- The meeting also covered the agenda items of Annual Report- 2020-2021, 2021-2022, Balance Sheet 2022-23, Status of Training Programs during the Financial Year 2022-23, NISD Course Calendar for 2023-24, MoU with Delhi Police Academy, Reviving Research Division with manpower, Research activities planned by NISD during 2023-24, Commissioning of Broadcast Studio at NISD, Proposed Structure of NISD, Reviving the Publication of National Journal of Social Defence etc.

### WHO and the Ministry of Ayush to host the first-ever Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- A first-of-its-kind global summit on Traditional Medicine, organised by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and co-hosted by the **Ministry of Ayush**, is set to take place on **August 17-18, 2023**, at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The summit will take into account the vast experience and expertise of the country and this highly anticipated event will serve as a platform for experts and practitioners to delve into the latest scientific advancements and evidence-based knowledge in the sector, with the ultimate goal of ensuring health and well-being for all.
- The esteemed Director-General of WHO, **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, will inaugurate the event in the presence of Minister of Health **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya** and Minister of Ayush **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- The ministry will also be organising yoga and meditation sessions at the Convention Centre.

### MeitY Secretary Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma launches the ‘Graphene-Aurora Program’



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- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary **Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma** launched the ‘**Graphene-Aurora program**’ at a function in **Maker Village Kochi, Kerala**.
- **The program shall be implemented by Digital University Kerala with joint funding from the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), the Government of India and the Government of Kerala and Industry partners, with a total budget outlay of Rs 94.85 Crore, wherein, Carborundum Pvt Limited joined as one of the main industry partners.**

### **Union Ministers Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Smt Nirmala Sitharaman launch Kuwi and Desia books at Bhubaneswar**

- **Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched Kuwi and Desia books at Bhubaneswar.**
- **The event also witnessed the special cover release on behalf of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.**
- **This marks a collaborative effort with the Central University of Odisha, Koraput, Department of Posts, and NCERT.**

### **Central Water Commission Launches Mobile App ‘Floodwatch’ To Provide Real-Time Flood Forecasts to Public Using Interactive Maps**

- **The Chairman, of Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri Kushvinder Vohra launched the mobile application, "FloodWatch" to use mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.**
- **The in-house developed user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast and all the information is available in 2 languages, viz. English and Hindi.**

### **Union Power Minister to Dedicate NTPC’s 660 MW Super Thermal Power Project in Barh, Bihar**

- **The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh will dedicate to the nation a 660 MW unit of NTPC’s Barh Super Thermal Power Project in Barh, Bihar.**
- **The 660 MW unit being inaugurated is Unit #2 of Stage I of the project.**
- **The commissioning of this unit would be another milestone in the government’s endeavour to provide reliable and affordable power to the nation.**
- **The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy will also lay the foundation stone for the extension of POWERGRID’s 400/132 kV Lakhisarai Sub-station, later in the day on 18th August 2023.**
- **This sub-station has been built by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.**

### **Ministry of Tourism to organize the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Food Festival in New Delhi**

- **The Ministry of Tourism in association with the different State Governments / UTs is organizing the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Food Festival in the capital.**
- **The festival aims to celebrate the rich culinary diversity of India.**
- **The Food Festival is being held with the enthusiastic participation of 23 States and UTs The festival will be organised in State Sadans/Bhawans of the participating States in New Delhi.**

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- Some of the participating States and UTs include **Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Gujarat, Assam, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Punjab, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Nagaland** etc.

### 'A-HELP' Programme and Infertility Camp for Livestock under Inclusive Development at Narmada, Gujarat launched by Shri Parshottam Rupala

- Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Parshottam Rupala has unveiled the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme along with an Infertility Camp, in the State of Gujarat.**
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, is spearheading these initiatives as part of the Pashudhan Jagrati Abhiyaan under Inclusive Development.
- The 'A-HELP' programme aims to empower women by engaging them as trained agents who contribute significantly to disease control, artificial insemination under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), animal tagging, and livestock insurance.

### Shri Amit Shah hoisted the Tiranga atop his residence in New Delhi, under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and shared his selfie with the Tiranga

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah hoisted the Tiranga atop his residence in New Delhi, under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and shared his selfie with the Tiranga.**
- He appealed to all the citizens of India to hoist the National Flag at their homes and upload selfies on <http://harghartiranga.com>.
- Home Minister also shared a Certificate of Appreciation received for taking part in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

### PM-eBus Sewa” for augmenting city bus operations; priority to cities having no organized bus service

- The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a bus scheme “PM-eBus Sewa” for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on the PPP model.**
- The Scheme would have an estimated cost of **Rs.57,613 crore**, out of which support of **Rs.20,000 crore** will be provided by the Central government.
- The Scheme will support bus operations for **10 years.**

### Expansion of the Digital India programme with an outlay of ₹ 14,903 crore

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi, approved the expansion of the Digital India programme.**
- The total outlay is **₹14,903 crores.**
- This would enable the following:
- 6.25 lakh IT professionals will be re-skilled and up-skilled under the FutureSkills Prime Programme;

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- lakh persons will be trained in information security under the Information Security & Education Awareness Phase (ISEA) Programme;

### Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Authorised Economic Operators between India and Australia

- The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the signing and ratification of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Government of India and the Department of Home Affairs incorporating the Australian Border Force, Australian Government.
- The arrangement is aimed at providing reciprocal benefits to accredited and trusted exporters of both the signatories in the clearance of goods by the Customs authorities of the importing country.

### Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports between India and Australia

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Sports between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports of the Republic of India and the Department of Health and Aged Care of the Government of Australia.
- Bilateral exchange programmes in the field of sports between India and Australia will help in expanding knowledge and expertise in the area of sports sciences, technologies and infrastructure; athlete and coach training and development; sports governance and integrity; grassroots participation in sport; major sporting events; diversity and inclusion in sport which would result in improvement in performance of our sportspersons in international tournaments and strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Australia.

### MoU between India and Suriname in the field of Medical Products Regulation

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Suriname on cooperation in the field of Medical Product Regulation.
- This was signed during the visit of the President of India to Suriname.
- The MoU will promote the exchange of information and cooperation in areas pertinent to medical products and relevant administrative and regulatory matters within the jurisdiction of the parties.

### MoU between India and Suriname in the field of the regulation of medicines

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- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed between the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Suriname for **Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname**.
- This was signed during the visit of the President of India to Suriname.
- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)** is officially recognized by five (5) countries: **Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius and the Republic of Suriname**.
- The Ministry seeks to expand the nations which recognize the IP.

### Seven Multi-tracking Projects totalling 2339 Kms. across Indian Railways, amounting to around Rs 32,500 crore

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi approved **Seven projects of the Ministry of Railways** with an estimated cost of around **Rs.32,500 Crore**, with **100% funding from Central Government**.
- The proposals of multi-tracking will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways.
- The projects covering 35 Districts in 9 States i.e. **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal** will increase the existing network of **Indian Railways by 2339 Kms.** and will employ 7.06 crore man-days to the people of the states.

### Union Government to open 25000 Jan Aushadhi Kendra's to make medicines available at affordable prices

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** during his Independence Day speech at Red Fort said that **the government has plans to increase the number of 'Jan Aushadhi Kendra's' from 10,000 to 25,000**.
- **Through Jan Aushadhi Kendra's, the medicines that cost Rs 100, we are giving at Rs 10 to Rs 15.**
- **The Government will launch the Vishwakarma scheme with an allocation of ₹13,000 to 15,000 crore in the next month for those with traditional skills.**
- The government is working to increase the number of 'Jan Aushadhi Kendra' (subsidized medicine shops) from 10,000 to 25,000.

### Government approves Rs 57,613 crore for 10,000 e-buses across 169 cities

- The **Union Cabinet**, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **has approved "PM-eBus Sewa"** for augmenting city bus operations. **Priority has been given to cities with no organized bus service.**
- **The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs 57,613 crore, of which Rs 20,000 crore will be provided by the Central government and the rest will be provided by state governments.**
- **The scheme will run till 2037.**
- **Cabinet also approved a proposal to provide a major boost to railway infrastructure by approving seven projects of the Ministry of Railways with an estimated cost of around Rs 32,500 crore.**

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- These new Railway projects will cover 35 districts in nine states, namely **UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Telangana**
- **Cabinet approved the extension of the Digital India project with an outlay of Rs 14,903 crore**

### **G20 Film Festival to begin in New Delhi with a screening of Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali**

- **The G20 Film Festival will begin in New Delhi, on August 16.**
- **Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali "** will be the opening film.
- The festival aims to celebrate and showcase a vibrant and collaborative partnership existing amongst the G20 and invited countries in the field of cinema.
- **The festival is organised by the India International Centre (IIC) and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs.**
- It will be **inaugurated by veteran actor Victor Banerjee and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.**
- The event **will continue till 2nd September.**

### **PM Modi welcomes WHO Director-General in India**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi, welcomed the Director General of the World Health Organisation, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who arrived in India to attend the WHO-global Summit.**
- Mr Modi used the name 'Tulsi Bhai' for Dr Tedros, a name the Prime Minister gave to the Director General on his last visit.
- **Dr Tedros will take part in WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine to be held from the 17th to the 18th of this month at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.**
- The Ministry of Ayush has shared a video on its Twitter handle in which Dr Tedros was seen performing dandiya.
- Prime Minister Modi said that his good friend Tulsi Bhai is well prepared for Navratri.

### **Cabinet approves Rs 13,000 crore for PM Vishwakarma scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople**

- **The Government has approved PM Vishwakarma's scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban India with a financial outlay of 13 thousand crore rupees.**
- Briefing reporters in New Delhi after the **Union Cabinet meeting, Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, eighteen traditional trades will be covered in the first instance under the scheme.**
- They **include Carpenters, Boat makers, Sonar, Raj Mistry, Toymaker, Lohar, and potters.**

### **12th Report on States/UTs performance on CPGRAMS released by DARPG for the month of July 2023**

- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) 12th monthly report for States for July 2023.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- A total of **69,523 Grievances** were redressed by States and Union Territories in July 2023.
- The pendency of grievances of States/UTs received on the CPGRAMS portal has been reduced to 1,79,077 grievances across the States/UTs Governments.
- The Grievance Redressal Index includes 2 dimensions and 4 indicators.

S. No.	Group	States/UTs	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
1	Group A	North-Eastern States	Sikkim	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh
2	Group B	Union Territories	Lakshadweep	Andaman & Nicobar	Ladakh
3	Group C	States with grievances $\geq 20000$	Uttar Pradesh	Jharkhand	Rajasthan
4	Group D	States with grievances $< 20000$	Telangana	Chhattisgarh	Kerala

**NHAI Sets up Design Division to Review the Design & Construction of Bridges and Other Structures**

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**HAI has set up a Design Division** that will formulate policy and guidelines for planning, designing, construction and maintenance of bridges, structures, tunnels and RE walls on National Highways across the country.

- The division will review the project preparation, construction of **new bridges, condition surveys & rehabilitation of existing old/distressed bridges**, and instrumentation to check the health of critical bridges, structures, tunnels and RE walls.
- It will also review standalone bridges and specialized structures, **which are at a DPR stage where DPRs started post-June 2023.**

### G20 Trade & Investment Ministerial Meeting to be held in Jaipur

- **The G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting in Jaipur** is a significant event focusing on global trade and investment discussions among representatives from G20 nations and beyond.
- It underscores the importance of the rules-based multilateral trading system and supports India's objectives of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

**IEPFA and NCAER are jointly organizing a webinar on "Investor Protection Framework in India: Challenges and Road Ahead."**

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- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), in partnership with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), successfully conducted a significant webinar under the theme 'Investor Protection Framework in India: Challenges and Road Ahead'.
- The webinar witnessed the convergence of diverse stakeholders including government entities, academic institutions, and industry experts.

### Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma Launches Mega Conclave for Raising Awareness Among SC-ST Entrepreneurs at Gumla, Jharkhand

- The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, organized the National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Conclave in Gumla, Jharkhand
- The purpose was to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the NSSH Scheme and other Ministry initiatives.
- Union Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, and Shri Jitendra Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Department of Industries in the Government of Jharkhand, were present.
- Government bodies like KVIC, MSME-DFO, TRIFED, and GeM also took part, sharing insights into their schemes for MSMEs.

### Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying will receive 25 million USD grant under Pandemic Fund for strengthening Animal Health System of India

- The G20 Pandemic Fund has sanctioned a \$25 million proposal from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) in India.
- The proposal centres on "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response."
- The Pandemic Fund received an overwhelming response, with approximately 350 Expressions of Interest (EoI) and 180 complete proposals in its initial call for funding. However, the requested grant amounts exceeded the fund's initial allocation of \$338 million, reaching over \$2.5 billion.

### Shri Nitin Gadkari to launch the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, will unveil the much-anticipated Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP).
- This initiative marks a significant stride in the Indian Government's commitment to enhancing road safety by elevating the safety standards of motor vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes.
- The primary objective of Bharat NCAP is to offer car customers a tool to assess and compare the crash safety of various motor vehicles available in the market.

### Three-day National Thematic Workshop on Localization of (LSDGs) Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats begins in Srinagar

- Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India, in close collaboration with Panchayati Raj & Rural Development Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, is organizing the National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats through Adopting Thematic Approaches on Theme 8: Panchayat with Good Governance during 21-23 August 2023 in Srinagar J&K.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The Union Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Giriraj Singh will inaugurate the 3-day Workshop.

### Madhya Pradesh's Datia Airport Gets Green Light: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Lay Foundation Stone

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia,** joined hands to lay the foundation stone for **Datia Airport in the state.**
- **Cost and Timeline:** This upcoming airport comes with a price tag of approximately Rs. 50 crore and is projected to be operational by February 2024.
- **Facility Enhancements:** The development work encompasses multiple aspects, including refurbishing the existing 1810-meter runway, constructing an apron capable of accommodating two nineteen-seater aircraft, erecting a 750-square-meter terminal building, and setting up an ATC tower.

#### About MP :

- Governor : Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister : Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital : Bhopal
- National Park : Satpura National Park, Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

### Shri Giriraj Singh Inaugurates Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Panchayats:

- **Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj,** inaugurated the 'Three-day National Thematic Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Panchayats' in **Srinagar.**
- **Key Focus:** In his address, the Minister highlighted that India's commitment to achieving SDGs by 2030 is a collective responsibility, not just of policymakers but also of elected representatives, particularly at the Panchayat level.
- **Mobile App Release:** During the workshop, the Minister unveiled the 'Meri Panchayat Mobile App,' developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Additionally, the Operating Guidelines of NCBF (National Community Based Forest Management and Livelihoods), Service-level Benchmarks, Self-Assessment mechanisms, and a Model Contract were also released.

### 5th Edition of the 'NeSDA – Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs' released

- **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)** has released the **5th edition of 'National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) – Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs'**, which provides a detailed overview of the status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.

#### Best Practices

- The Government of **Gujarat** has developed **G-Shala (Gujarat Students' Holistic Adaptive Learning App) which is a Learning Management System (LMS) with e-Content for Grade I-XII**
- The Government of **Madhya Pradesh** is the **first State in the country to have used an online and centralized system for allotment of 100% seats through their Right to Education (RTE) portal**
- The Government of **Nagaland** has established a **Common Scholarship portal,** serving as a centralized platform for all State Scholarships



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- The Government of **Himachal Pradesh** has initiated online admission-related processes for Polytechnic as well as ITI candidates through their Himachal Pradesh Takniki Shiksha (HPTech) Board portal
- The Government of **Karnataka** has digitized the whole examination process in the state through their Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board portal

### **TRAI Recommends Changes to DTH Services License Fees and Policy Matters:**

- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has issued recommendations **concerning License fees and Policy Matters for Direct-to-Home (DTH) Services.**
- These recommendations by TRAI aim to bring about changes in the License Fee structure for DTH services, fostering an environment that encourages growth and development within the sector while aligning with the nation's broader digital broadcasting goals.
- **Annual License Fee:** DTH Licensees are advised to pay an annual license fee equivalent to **3 percent of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)**.

### **About TRAI**

- Founded: 20 February 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi

### **The National Health Authority launched the first ABDM Microsite as a part of its 100 Microsites Project in Aizawl, Mizoram.**

- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** announced **100 microsite projects** for accelerated adoption of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** across the country.
- **Mizoram becomes the first state in India to operationalize an ABDM Microsite in its capital city Aizawl.**
- Besides **Mizoram**, other states including **Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh** have also made significant progress regarding the implementation of ABDM Microsites.

### **Varanasi will host the fourth meeting of the G20 Culture Working Group (CWG):**

- The **4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting** will begin in **Varanasi** culminating in the Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM).
- Building upon the success of the previous three CWG meetings in **Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar and Hampi**, as well as the four Global Thematic Webinars, the **4th CWG meeting in Varanasi**, from 23-25th August 2023, aims to arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy-making.
- The insights and recommendations from the expert-driven Global Thematic Webinars on the priority areas of the CWG have been collated in a comprehensive report titled **"G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth"**.

### **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna scheme**

- **Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** will inaugurate **Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna**.
- The implementation of the **Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna (Chief Minister's Learn-Earn scheme)** began on **22 August 2023**.
- The scheme has facilitated **on-the-job training** along the lines of **learn and earn** along with **skill development**.
- It has been started for the **youth in the age group of 18 to 29 years**.

### **India To Get \$25 Million Grant From G20 Pandemic Fund For Strengthening Animal Health System**

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- **India will receive USD 25 million from the G20 Pandemic Fund for strengthening the animal health system of the country.**
- According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **the G20 Pandemic Fund has approved India's USD 25-million proposal for strengthening animal health security in the country for pandemic preparedness and response.**
- **The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the lead implementing entity with The World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).**

### **India and the ASEAN countries agreed to review their free trade pact for goods by 2025.**

- **India and the ASEAN countries agreed to review their free trade pact for goods by 2025.**
- **A Joint Committee of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) created a roadmap for the review of the pact and to finalize the terms of reference for the fresh negotiations.**
- **The AITIGA review will now take place at the India-ASEAN Leaders' Summit scheduled in early September.**
- **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed and entered into force on January 1, 2010.**
- **ASEAN and India signed the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods (TIG) Agreement in 2009.**

### **About ASEAN :**

- **The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries.**
- **It was established in 1967 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.**
- **Members:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- **The first summit meeting of the ASEAN union was hosted in 1976 on Indonesia's most prominent island Bali.**

### **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW) developing the Next-Gen Container Terminal at Tuna Tekra, Gujarat**

- **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), a leading Major Port on the West Coast of India in Gujarat, is signing a concession agreement for the development, operation and maintenance of a new mega container terminal at Tuna-Tekra, Gujarat (near Kandla) with DP World, a multinational logistics company based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**
- **The concession agreement will be signed between Deendayal Port Authority and DP World.**
- **The project involves the construction of a mega-container terminal at Tuna-Tekra near Kandla, at a cost of Rs 4,243.64 crore through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.**
- **The project aligns with Vision 2047 of the Government of India to quadruple port handling capacity and develop multimodal logistics infrastructure to promote economic growth.**

### **Union Government to launch Tele-Law - 2.0 Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App in New Delhi**

- **The Union Government will launch Tele-Law - 2.0 which Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to Justice in New Delhi.**
- **This will enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law.**

### **26th National Conference on e-Governance to begin in Indore**

- **The 26th National Conference on e-Governance began in Indore to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens.**

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- The conference was **inaugurated** by **MP Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Science & Technology Minister Om Prakash Sakhalecha**.
- The 2-day conference is being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The conference is being brainstormed on the topic '**Developing India: Empowering Citizens**'.

### **B20 Summit India 2023 to commence in New Delhi**

- The **B20 Summit India 2023 will commence in New Delhi**.
- During the three day Summit, Union Ministers **Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, Dr. S Jaishankar, G20 India Sherpa, Amitabh Kant**, Trade Ministers of various countries, and several business leaders will share their ideas on the issues concerning businesses globally.
- The Summit is based on the theme of **B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses**.

### **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with Australian Government hosts a roundtable on “Enhancing health workforce training and skill pathways”**

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, in collaboration with the Australian Government**, successfully hosted a roundtable on "Enhancing Health Workforce Training and Skill Pathways" on **August 21, 2023, in New Delhi**.

### **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signs an MoU with Numaligarh Refinery Ltd for export of Petroleum Cargo**

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and **Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** attended the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) to use National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) for export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and other south east Asian countries in Guwahati, Assam**
- The MoU is aimed at powering PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to boost India's Act East Policy.
- This MoU is aimed at fulfilling 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.

### **Launch of Invoice Incentive Scheme “Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar” from 1st September 2023 by Central Government**

- The **Government of India, in association with State Governments**, is launching an 'Invoice incentive Scheme' by the name 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' to encourage the culture of customers asking for invoices/bills for all purchases.
- The objective of the scheme is to bring a cultural and behavioural change in the general public to 'Ask for a Bill' as their right and entitlement.

### **Shri Amit Shah inaugurates the two-day National Security Strategies Conference-2023, in New Delhi**

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, the Government of India is committed to ensure a safe and secure nation by strengthening all aspects of national security mechanisms.
- In pursuance of this, **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated the two-day National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2023, in New Delhi.

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### Third International Conference on Structural Integrity inaugurated at Mamallapuram

- The **Third International Conference on Structural Integrity (ICONS 2023)** was inaugurated at **Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu** virtually by **Dr. N Kailaiselvi**, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research & Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- **ICONS 2023** is jointly organized by the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam** and the Society for Failure Analysis, in association with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Society for Non-destructive Testing, Kalpakkam Chapter, Indian Institute of Metals Kalpakkam Chapter and Indian Structural Integrity Society.

### Pune Military College Becomes India's First Carbon-Negative Garrison

- **PUNE-based College of Military Engineering (CME)** with the commissioning of a **5-megawatt (MW) solar power plant** taking its solar power generation capacity to **7 MW** has become **India's first carbon-negative garrison or military formation**.
- The CME, which was established in 1948 as a premier institute of the armed forces, trains all ranks of the **Indian Army, Navy and Air Force**, including those from friendly foreign countries in various technical and tactical aspects with changing character of warfare.
- A **plethora of projects** have been undertaken in the recent past at CME by the **Military Engineering Services (MES)** through the office of **Garrison Engineer (CME), Khadki**, in order to reduce the institute's carbon footprint.

### Union Minister of Civil Aviation & Steel Releases Book on AAI Airports' Terminal Building Architecture

- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** released a coffee table book on **traditional and local architecture of various terminal buildings** at **AAI airports**.
- The book showcases the facade of terminal buildings at **19 Senior civil aviation ministry officials** and heads of **AAI, DGCA, and BCAS**, among others were present at the launch of the book titled **“Traditional & Local Architecture on Elevation & Design of Upcoming New Terminal Buildings”** in the national capital.

#### About AAI:

- The Airports Authority of India, or AAI, is a **Statutory body** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, Government of India.
- AAI was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995 by merging the erstwhile **National Airports Authority** and the **International Airports Authority of India**.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1 April 1995
- Chairman: Sanjeev Kumar

### CBDT launches a revamped National Website of the Income Tax Department:

- The **Income Tax Department** has revamped its National website **www.incometaxindia.gov.in** with a user-friendly interface, value-added features, and new modules.
- The newly revamped website was launched by **Shri. Nitin Gupta**, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), at the 'Chintan Shivir', organised by the Directorate of Income Tax (Systems) at **Udaipur**.

#### About CBDT:

- Founded: 1963
- Headquarters: New Delhi

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- Chairman: Nitin Gupta

### **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan lays the foundation stone for Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh**

- The Union Government has proposed to start a Tribal University in the Parvatipuram Manyam district of the northern region of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone for the Central Tribal University at Saluru.

### **About Andhra Pradesh**

- Capital: Amaravati
- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

### **Indian Mission in Bahrain Launches a New Mobile App to Ease Consular Access**

- The Embassy of India in Bahrain hosted an open house session under the guidance of Ambassador Designate Vinod Kurian Jacob.
- The event marked the introduction of the novel mobile application, **EoIBh-Connect**, designed to facilitate online appointment booking for a spectrum of consular and visa services, accessible through both the Indian Embassy at Manama, Bahrain.

### **Shri Amit Shah chairs Western Zonal Council in Gandhinagar**

- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah chaired the 26th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Gandhinagar, in Gujarat.
- The meeting was organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Gujarat.
- Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated an e-resource web portal of the Inter-State Council Secretariat.
- The digital portal can be used by Central Ministries and departments as well as State governments and UTs for policy intervention.

### **About Gujarat :**

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park : Vansda National Park, Gir National Park, Marine National Park, Velavadar National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary

### **The second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meet begins in Gandhinagar**

- The second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting began in Gandhinagar.
- The meeting began with the opening remarks by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood.
- There will be a total of Four sessions on themes such as 'Opportunities in One Health, Synergizing Global Efforts to expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge', Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Science & Technology and Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive Global S&T Policy Dialogue.

### **India hand over B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024**

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- India has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024.
- **B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran** said that India's B20 Presidency under its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of **Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future)**.

### About Brazil :

- Capital: Brasília
- Currency: Real

### Ministry of Heavy Industries to organise a Conference on “Review of PLI-Auto Scheme - Excellence through Aatmanirbharta”

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is organizing a conference on “Review of PLI-Auto Scheme - Excellence through Aatmanirbharta” at India Habitat Centre.
- The conference will be chaired by **Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey**, Union Minister for Heavy Industries.
- In the automotive sector, the Ministry has launched various flagship programs, one of which is the PLI scheme for Automobile & Auto Components (outlay of ₹25,938 crore).

### Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari launches the world's 1st 100% Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi

- Road Transport and Highways Minister **Shri Nitin Gadkari** launched the world's first 100% Ethanol-fueled car in **New Delhi, Delhi**.
- Mr. Gadkari termed this day as historic saying that the **world's first BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle** has been launched which can function fully on **ethanol-based fuel**.

### Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur unveils infrastructure projects worth Rs 13 crores in Patiala

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** graced the **Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in Patiala** with his presence.
- He inaugurated a number of renovation projects aimed at strengthening sports infrastructure.
- The Union Minister **inaugurated the projects worth Rs. 13 Crores**, which included **state-of-the-art Weightlifting Hall, Fitness centre, modern hostels and Guest House**.

### Bilateral meeting held between Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister for Trade and Export Growth, New Zealand

- **Shri Piyush Goyal**, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Textile and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution of India and **Hon Damien O'Connor**, Minister for Trade and Export Growth of New Zealand, had a **bilateral meeting** at **New Delhi**.
- This meeting is part of a sustained effort by both governments to **develop a broad-based relationship, building on the excellent meeting** between the Prime Ministers of both countries in Port Moresby on 22 May 2023.

### About New Zealand:

- Prime Minister : Chris Hipkins
- Capital : Wellington
- Currency : Dollar

### President Droupadi Murmu releases commemorative coin on NT Rama Rao on his centenary year

- **President Droupadi Murmu** released the **commemorative coin on NT Rama Rao** on his centenary year at **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi, Delhi**.
- The Late NT Rama Rao enriched **Indian cinema** and culture through Telugu films.

### Khanan Prahari App Helping to Curb Illegal Coal Mining Activities Through Public Participation

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- The **environment and India's economy** are seriously threatened by **illegal coal mining**.
- The government has launched the **Khanan Prahari App** in response to this problem.
- With the help of this mobile application, local residents may **report any suspicious coal mining activity** that they see, helping to stop this unlawful practice.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### **Bhutan announces successful elimination of rubella**

- The **World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region** announced that **Bhutan and Timor-Leste** have successfully **eliminated rubella**, a highly contagious viral infection that can cause severe illness and irreversible birth defects in newborns when contracted during pregnancy.
- The achievement was made possible through widespread vaccination efforts in these countries.

#### **About Bhutan :**

- Prime Minister : Lotay Tshering
- Capital : Thimphu
- Currency : Bhutanese ngultrum

#### **The India-Japan partnership is a defining partnership for the future of Asia, Indo-Pacific & the world**

- Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar** virtually addressed the **1st India-Japan Skill Connect** conference, held in Tokyo at the **Indian Embassy**.
- He emphasized the **strong partnership between India and Japan, which has expanded beyond traditional areas like security, trade, and economics to include technology and talent**.
- The conference was attended by various **Japanese government ministers**, officials, and representatives from Japanese companies, along with the **Indian Ambassador Sibi George and a delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.

#### **About Japan :**

- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

#### **India provides financial assistance of Rs 45 crore to support Sri Lanka's digital identity project**

- In a significant stride towards bolstering **Sri Lanka's digital transformation**, **India has provided financial assistance of 45 crore rupees to support the island nation's unique digital identity project**.
- The step is likely to play a pivotal role in the successful **implementation of Sri Lanka's digitisation programme and will be propelled under the framework of Indian grant assistance**.
- The President's office in Colombo confirmed the receipt of the funds from the Indian government, marking a crucial milestone in the partnership between the two nations.

#### **About Sri Lanka**

- Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee
- Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

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### Japan's PM Fumio Kishida observes a moment of silence in a ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing

- **Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, observed a moment of silence during a ceremony marking the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan.**
- Mr Kishida said, Japan, as the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings in war, will continue efforts towards a nuclear-free world.
- **On August 6, 1945, during World War II, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 1,40,000 deaths.**
- **Every year on the 6th of August, people around the world reflect on the impact of nuclear warfare and the call for global unity towards peace and disarmament.**

### 5th India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting in New Delhi

- **The 5th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission (JTSC) was held in New Delhi.**
- **The meeting was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Rajesh Agrawal from the Indian side and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms Phan Thi Thang from the Vietnam side.**
- **This meeting was held after a gap of more than four years since the 4th JTSC meeting held in January 2019, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.**
- **Vietnam is the 23rd largest global trade partner of India and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of USD 14.70 Bn during 2022-23.**

### APEDA facilitates the export of the first trial shipment of fresh pomegranate to the US via air

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), which works under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has facilitated the export of the first trial shipment of fresh pomegranate to the USA through an air route.**
- **The first export consignment of pomegranate to the USA was initiated by APEDA in collaboration with the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of India, the US's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (US-APHIS), Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), ICAR-National Research Centre on Pomegranate, Solapur (NRC-Solapur) and others.**

### Construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre begins in Lumbini, Nepal

- **In Nepal, the construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre has begun in Lumbini after the Bhumi Pujan ceremony with special recitation by Buddhist monks.**
- **The 1.60 billion rupee heritage Centre is expected to be lotus shaped which will be built in zero-net technology and may be completed in one and a half years.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba, had jointly laid the foundation stone during Mr Modi's Lumbini visit in 2022.**
- **Our Kathmandu correspondent reports, India and Nepal share cultural heritage, and constructing a monastery at international standards in Lumbini will promote spiritual and religious tourism.**

### France sets a target of facilitating the entry of 30 thousand Indian students by 2030:



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- In a major push to Indian students and alumni, **France has announced new initiatives to bolster academic excellence, cultural understanding, and long-lasting friendship between the two nations.**
- This comes as **Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited France as Chief Guest on the country's Bastille Day.**
- An official release from the French Embassy said **President Emmanuel Macron announced France's goal to welcome 30,000 students from India by 2030.**
- It further said, Indian students with a French Master's degree also have the opportunity to work and explore professional alternatives in France during their two-year post-study work visa.

### **Pakistan President approves a premature dissolution of National Assembly at outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice**

- Pakistan President **Arif Alvi has approved the premature dissolution of the National Assembly.**
- Pakistan President's announcement came after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent him a summary for the dissolution of the National Assembly.
- Shehbaz Sharif's move formally started the process for the appointment of a caretaker setup.
- **The elected government in Pakistan has completed its five-year constitutional term.**
- Now **the general elections will have to be held within 90 days.**
- The Election Commission of Pakistan will announce the date of the polls.

### **Bilateral trade between India and Angola grows from 2.14 billion dollars in 2020-21 to 4.22 billion dollars during 2022-23**

- **The bilateral trade between India and Angola has grown from 2.14 billion dollars in 2020-21 to 4.22 billion dollars during 2022-23.**
- **India is also the third largest trading partner of Angola sharing about 10 percent of Angola's external trade.**
- During the first **India-Angola Inaugural Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Luanda** two sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations.
- They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Detailed talks were held on available opportunities for enhanced cooperation in the fields of rough diamonds trade, agriculture, food processing and defence cooperation.

### **US President Joe Biden bans American investments in key technology industries that could enhance China's military capabilities**

- **US President Joe Biden has signed an executive order banning American investments in key technology industries that could be used to enhance China's military capabilities.**
- President Biden declared the move a national emergency to deal with the threat of advancement by countries of concern in sensitive technologies and products critical to the military, intelligence, surveillance, or cyber-enabled capabilities of such countries.

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- The order will ban venture capital and private equity firms from investing money into Chinese efforts to make semiconductors and other microelectronics, quantum computers and certain artificial intelligence applications.
- Administration officials said that the decision was taken to protect national security.

### Bangladesh Floods have brought much of the Chittogram division to a standstill

- **Due to incessant rain and the onrush of water from hilly areas of India and Myanmar**, almost the entire **Chattogram Division of Bangladesh is grappling with floods**. Bangladesh's government deployed the army to deal with the havoc wreaked by flood in the country's largest division, which is home to 3 crore people.
- According to government authorities, at least 10 people have died in landslides, drowning, and snake bites in the division in the last 24 hours.
- Thousands are left without access to safe drinking water, power, and mobile networks and around 35000 people are sheltering in educational institutions and government facilities, said officials on duty.

### Poland starts sending troops to the border to curb the entry of illegal migrants

- Amid rising threats from Belarus and Wagner fighters, **Poland has started sending troops to the border to reinforce its control and curb the entry of illegal migrants**.
- Poland is sending two thousand soldiers to its border with **Belarus to stem illegal crossings and maintain stability**.
- According to reports, **Poland has seen an increased inflow of Middle Eastern and African migrants** trying to enter the country illegally through Poland.
- Warsaw has been accusing Belarus of sending illegal migrants to Poland to foment instability.

### Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio killed during a rally in the capital Quito

- **Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio was killed during a rally in the capital Quito**.
- **Current President Guillermo Lasso has confirmed the incident**.
- According to reports, Mr Villavicencio was getting into a car when a gunman stepped forward and shot him in the head.
- **The incident comes amid violence in the South American nation, with drug trafficking and violent killings on the rise**.
- The first round of the presidential election is scheduled to take place on 20 August.
- A recent rise in violent crime in Ecuador has been a central issue in the presidential campaign.

### Dubai Launches Indian Independence Day Celebrations With Vibrant Kickoff

- The spirit of **India's independence has ignited in Dubai as the city embarks on a series of vibrant events to celebrate the nation's freedom**.
- This year, **Dubai has taken the lead in kick-starting the Indian Independence Day festivities**, uniting its diverse population and the thriving Indian expatriate community in a grand celebration.

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- The Consulate General of **India** has partnered with the iconic **Burjuman Mall** to spearhead these **festivities**.
- With an impressive figure of **3.554 million Indians** currently contributing to its workforce, the **United Arab Emirates** stands proudly as the **leading employer of Indian expatriates**.

### **UAE Leads in Employing Indians Abroad, Reveals MOS V Muraleedharan**

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has secured the **top spot** as the **leading employer of Indian expatriates**, with an impressive figure of **3.554 million Indians** currently working within its borders, **V Muraleedharan**, the Minister of State for External Affairs, disclosed this in the Lok Sabha.
- The Minister also revealed that in the previous year, **the UAE hosted 3.419 million Indians**, indicating a **steady upward trajectory in overseas employment**. This surge has further solidified the UAE's status as a global hub for Indian expatriates, mirroring a trend observed across other Gulf nations as well.
- Within the Gulf region, **the UAE's prominence is complemented by four other nations - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman - in descending order of Indian workforce numbers**. These five nations combined employ 7.932 million Indians, according to MOS' statements.
- Recognizing the importance of supporting Indian expatriates, **the Indian government has established Overseas Indian Help Centres in strategic locations such as Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Kuala Lumpur**.

### **Indian High Commission celebrates Independence Day in Bangladesh**

- The **77th Independence Day of India** was celebrated by the **High Commission of India in Bangladesh** on 15th August 2023.
- A large number of Indian community members took part in the celebrations at the Chancery building in **Dhaka**.
- This year, the Independence Day celebrations were held with great fervour as part of the ongoing celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- High Commissioner, **Shri Pranay Verma** unfurled the national flag and read out excerpts from the Hon'ble President's Address to the Nation.

### **India & China agree to resolve remaining issues along LAC in eastern Ladakh**

- The **19th round of the India- China Corps Commander Level Meeting** was held at the **Chushul-Moldo border meeting point** on the **Indian side** on the 13th and 14th of August.
- The two sides had a positive, constructive and in-depth **discussion on the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector**.
- External Affairs Ministry said that they exchanged views in an open and forward-looking manner in line with the guidance provided by the leadership.
- Both sides agreed to resolve the remaining issues expeditiously and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through military and diplomatic channels.
- The festival will feature films from various participating countries, including the US, South Korea, Turkey, and the UK.

### **UK PM Rishi Sunak participates in the recitation of the Indian epic Ramayan at Cambridge University**

- **UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** participated in the recitation of the Indian epic 'Ramayan'.

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- The Programme was led by spiritual leader Morari Bapu at the Cambridge University event.
- Beginning his address with the chant "Jai Siya Ram," PM Sunak expressed his honour to be present at Morari Bapu's Ram Katha on Indian Independence Day.

### The United States has approved for the transfer of F-16 fighter jets from Denmark and the Netherlands to Ukraine:

- **The United States has approved the transfer of F-16 fighter jets from Denmark and the Netherlands to Ukraine.**
- **Significance:** This is a significant milestone for Ukraine in its conflict against Russia.
- **F-16 Reliability:** The F-16 is widely considered one of the world's most reliable fighter jets.
- **Ukraine's Defense Minister's Response:** Ukraine's Defense Minister, Oleksii Reznikov, welcomed the decision and expressed confidence in Ukraine's inevitable victory.
- **Previous US Position:** Initially, the US had refrained from providing F-16s to Ukraine due to concerns about escalating tensions with Russia.

### MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar conducted bilateral meetings with ministerial delegations from Bangladesh, South Korea, France, and Turkey.

- **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister, held meetings with Bangladesh, South Korea, France, and Turkey during the G20 Digital Economy Working Group. Discussions included India Stack, Cyber Security, and Skilling collaboration with Bangladesh.**
- Minister Chandrasekhar discussed **India-Bangladesh collaboration on India Stack, Cyber Security, and Skilling.**

### India participates in the 20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting in Semarang, Indonesia

- Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry represented India in the **20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting held on 21st August 2023 in Semarang, Indonesia** and co-chaired the meeting with Dr. Zulkifli Hasan, Minister of Trade, Indonesia.
- The Economic Ministers or their representatives from all the **10 ASEAN** countries viz. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the meeting. **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste also joined the Meeting as an observer.**
- The Ministers also interacted with the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) and took note of the activities undertaken by AIBC in 2023, including the **5th ASEAN-India Business Summit held on 6th March 2023 in Kuala Lumpur.**

### United States Food and Drug Administration Approves the first Pfizer's maternal vaccine for Pregnant Individuals to Prevent RSV in Infants

- The **United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved Abrysvo (**Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccine**), the first vaccine approved for use in pregnant individuals to **prevent lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD)** and severe LRTD caused by **respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** in infants from birth through **6 months of age.**

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- **Pfizer** has developed this respiratory syncytial virus vaccine.
- With this, the **United States (US)** became the **1st country** to approve a vaccine for pregnant women that prevents severe disease caused by RSV in their babies.
- The **United States of America's Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has approved the **first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine** for use in women during pregnancy to protect the baby.
- The Pfizer shot, which was already approved for use in older adults, has now been greenlighted for use as a single injection from **32 through 36 weeks** of pregnancy, to protect infants from birth through 6 months.

### What is RSV?

- RSV is a **highly contagious virus** that causes respiratory infections in individuals of all age groups.
- It is the **most frequent cause of lower respiratory tract illness** in infants worldwide.

### About FDA :

- Established : June 30, 1906
- Headquarters : United States
- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA or US FDA) is a federal agency of the **Department of Health and Human Services**.

### About USA:

- **Capital:** Washington, D.C
- **Currency:** Dollar
- **President:** Joe Biden

### About Pfizer:

- **Pfizer Inc.** is an American multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology corporation headquartered at The Spiral in Manhattan, New York City.
- The company was established in 1849 in New York by two German entrepreneurs, Charles Pfizer (1824–1906) and his cousin Charles F. Erhart (1821–1891).

### Pakistan President Arif Alvi denies signing Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 & Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023

- **Pakistan President Arif Alvi denied signing the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023** into law due to his strong disagreement with the legislation.
- **President Alvi accused his staff of undermining his will and command.**

### About Pakistan:

- **Capital:** Islamabad
- **Currency:** Rupee
- **President:** Arif Alvi

### Saudi Arabia Launches AI-Powered Program to Combat Desertification

- **The Saudi Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI).**
- The program, which is a collaboration between the ministry, the National Center for Vegetation Development and Combating Desertification, and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, aims to study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the **"Green Saudi"** initiative.
- **The forthcoming Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) Forum, to be held in Riyadh** on 23-24 October, 2023

### About Saudi Arabia:

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- **Capital:** Riyadh
- **Currency:** Riyal
- **King:** Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

### **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Conferred With Greece's Grand Cross Of The Order Of Honour**

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **prestigious Grand Cross of the Order of Honour** by **Greek President Katerina N Sakellaropoulou**, a special honour reflecting the strength of the India-Greece partnership.
- Shri Narendra Modi became the **first foreign Head of Government** to receive the Grand Cross of the Order of Honor.
- The Grand Cross of the Order of Honor, an award established in **1975** to honour individuals for their contributions to Greece.
- The Star of the Order features the head of the goddess Athena and the inscription "**ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS SHOULD BE HONOURED**," representing the values of honour and righteousness.

### **Other Honours received by PM Modi :**

- In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the **King Hamad Order of the Renaissance** (top honour in the Gulf country) by Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.
- He was honoured with Russia's highest civilian award, **Order of St Andrew Award**, in 2019.
- Also in 2019, he also received the **Order of Zayed Award**, the highest civilian honour of the UAE.
- In 2020, Prime Minister Modi was conferred with the **Legion of Merit award** by then-President Donald Trump.

### **About Greece :**

- President : Katerina Sakellaropoulou
- Prime Minister : Kyriakos Mitsotakis
- Capital : Athens
- Currency : Euro

### **Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt are among 6 new nations set to join the BRICS**

- The **15th BRICS summit** was held from the **22nd to 24th August, 2023** at the Sandton Convention Centre in **South Africa**.
- A major outcome of the BRICS Summit was the decision of the BRICS leaders to expand its membership to include 6 new members.
- These countries are - **Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, and Ethiopia** were set to enter BRICS from **Jan. 1, 2024**, joining current members **Brazil, Russia, India, China** and **South Africa** to make an **11-nation bloc**.

### **About 15th BRICS summit :**

- The 15th BRICS summit was hosted by **South Africa**.
- South Africa became Chair of BRICS on **1 January 2023**.
- **Theme** - BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism
- At the end of the summit, member countries adopted the Johannesburg II Declaration.
- Chinese President **Xi Jinping** chaired the **14th BRICS Summit** on June 23, 2022 in Beijing, China
- Theme of the 14th BRICS Summit: **Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development**.

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### About BRICS :

- BRICS is a regional grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- South Africa was added in **2010**.
- BRICS decisions are unanimous, that is, all members have to agree for any move to go ahead.

### China-Bhutan hold first meeting on 'delimitation of boundary'

- **China and Bhutan** held their **first meeting of the Joint Technical Team** on the Delimitation of the China-Bhutan Boundary in Beijing.
- They agreed to speed up a boundary resolution and decided to hold the next meeting as soon as possible.
- The two countries also agreed to hold the **25th round of boundary talks** to maintain the positive momentum in their dialogue.

### About China :

- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

### About Bhutan :

- Prime Minister : Lotay Tshering
- Capital : Thimphu
- Currency : Ngultrum

### Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Participates in BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** took part in the **BRICS (encompasses Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue** in **Johannesburg, South Africa**.
- He delivered an address during this dialogue session, highlighting India's economic resilience and growth amidst global economic challenges.

### Shri Parshottam Rupala chairs the 2nd National Advisory Committee meeting for Animal Husbandry and Dairying:

- Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD), **Shri Parshottam Rupala** chaired the **2nd National Advisory Committee meeting for Animal Husbandry and Dairying** formed under the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.

### Shri Arjun Munda launches 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers for the Elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia'

- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, **Shri Arjun Munda** launched the **'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers'** as a part of the **'Mission for Elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia'** in New Delhi.
- The Government declared a **Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia** by 2047 in the budget of 2023-24.
- This Mission will entail awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of **0-40 years** in affected tribal areas and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.
- The Mission was formally launched by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, on 1st July 2023 in the Shahdol District of **Madhya Pradesh**.

### Shri Anurag Singh Thakur announces the third edition of the Fit India Quiz

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** launched the **3rd edition** of the **Fit India Quiz**, among other initiatives, at an event at the JLN Stadium.
- The Minister also launched an **Information booklet on Sports Infrastructure Projects sanctioned** under the **Khelo India Scheme** as well as launched a **National Sports Federations portal**, while also felicitating

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the 4x400m men's relay team, fresh after creating an Asian record at the World Athletics Championships held at Budapest.

### Centre extends mixed route of wage payment including National Automated Clearing House & Aadhaar Based Payment System route till Dec 31

- The Centre has extended the mixed route of wage payment including the National Automated Clearing House and Aadhaar Based Payment System- ABPS route till the 31st of December, 2023..
- Referring to the National Payments Corporation of India data, the Ministry added that there is a higher success percentage of **99.55% or above** where the Aadhaar is enabled for **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
- The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** has **not adopted** Aadhaar-enabled payment as the scheme has opted for an Aadhaar Based Payment system.

### Centre announces up to Rs 50 lakh grant for technical textiles startups

- The government 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**.
- The Startup Guidelines for Technical Textiles - **Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)** providing grant-in-aid of up to **Rs 50 lakh** for up to a period of **18 months** has been approved.
- The **textile ministry** will additionally provide **10%** of total grant-in-aid to incubators.
- To strengthen authenticity and commitment towards the project, a minimum investment of **10%** of the funding from the incubator in 2 equal instalments is mandated.

### Centre extends PLI for autos by another year till FY28

- The **Indian government** has **extended the deadline** for the **production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** for the **automobile and auto component industry** by another year, until **2027-28**.
- The scheme, originally set to run from 2022-23 to 2026-27, aims to **promote local manufacturing of advanced automotive technology (AAT) products**, including electric vehicles, through subsidies.
- Currently, tests are conducted at the **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)** and the **International Centre for Automotive Technology (iCAT)**, but the addition of the **Global Automotive Research Centre (GARC)** and the **National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX)** will help facilitate faster testing.
- So far, **95 companies** have been **admitted under the scheme**, with an investment of **₹10,755 crore** reported.

### Who gets the PLI?

- Under the Automotive PLI scheme, incentives are applicable for **determined sales of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products** (vehicles and components) manufactured in India from April 1, 2022, onwards for a period of 5 consecutive years.

### BPCL to spend Rs 1.5 lakh crore as capex in next 5 years

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited ("BPCL")**, a prominent 'Maharatna' and Fortune Global 500 Company, unveiled its **ambitious roadmap** for the **next 5 years** at the **70th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** held.
- The company has planned a capex outlay of around **Rs. 1.5 Lakh Crore** in the next 5 years.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- With an aim to expand BPCL's infrastructure network, BPCL will be setting up **POL (Petroleum Oil & Lubricants) & LOBS (Lube Oil Base Stock) installations** along with receipt pipelines at Rasayani, with investments of approximately **Rs. 2,753 crore**.

### About BPCL :

- Founded: 1952
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: G Krishnakumar.
- BPCL is an **Indian central public sector undertaking** under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, Government of India (GoI).

### STATE NEWS

#### AP-Genco & NHPC to set up a joint venture for implementing pumped storage hydropower projects in Andhra Pradesh

- The **Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (AP-Genco)** and **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC)** will soon be floating a **Joint Venture (JV)** for implementing **Pumped Storage Hydropower Projects (PSPHs)** with a total generation capacity of **6,000 Megawatt (MW)** in Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- Of these, a **1,350 MW (9x150 MW) PSHP** at **upper Sileru in GK Veedhi mandal** of **Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR)** district will be prioritised as the **first project** under the aegis of the JV.

### About AP :

- Governor: S. Abdul Nazeer
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- National Park : Papikonda National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Rameshwaram) National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries : Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary

#### Government of Odisha announced interest-free ₹1 lakh crop loans for farmers to enhance Agricultural Growth

- In a significant move to support the agricultural community and boost productivity, the **Odisha State Cooperation Department** announced the implementation of the **State Sector Scheme "Interest Subsidy-Subvention."**
- For this, the State Cabinet has approved a provision of **Rs 5700 crore** with an **aim to ensure adequate credit flow** in agriculture at an affordable rate of interest to farmers in the State over **5 years** from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

### About Odisha :

- Governor : Ganeshi Lal
- Chief Minister : Naveen Patnaik
- Capital : Bhubaneswar

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

**The biggest and most prestigious national pageant for males in the world, Rubaru Mr India, will be held in Goa in August 2023.**

- The beautiful Indian state of **Goa** has been chosen to host the world's biggest and most prestigious national pageant for men, the **Rubaru Mr India** competition.
- This renowned event will take place this August with the national finals taking place at the **Bogmallo Beach Resort on August 5**.
- The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** is hosting a three-day **SAI20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency in Goa**.
- **The second summit of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the G20 countries will begin in Panaji**, the Capital of Goa.

**Nagaland has been officially declared as a Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State:**

- **Nagaland has been officially declared as a Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State.**
- The declaration is made following the detection of the Lumpy skin disease in four districts of the state, **under The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009**.
- The Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services will enforce all necessary preventive measures with the concerned state department as per the advisory and guidelines issued by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

**About Nagaland:**

- Capital: Kohima
- Official flower: Rhododendron arboretum
- Chief minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Governor: Shri La Ganesan

**Government of Uttar Pradesh to expand Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana to cover all 75 districts**

- To reach out to **5,000 children**, the **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** government decided to **expand** the '**Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana**' to all 75 districts.
- To **educate child labour**.
- It is currently being implemented in 20 districts and benefitting 2,000 children.
- Selected Children of the age group of **8 to 18 years** involved in agriculture, self-employment, home-based establishments, domestic work, and other forms of labour will get financial assistance.

**About UP :**

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhwa National Park  
Wildlife Sanctuary : Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary

**Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren launches mobile app to track elephant movement**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Jharkhand Chief Minister (CM) **Shri Hemant Soren** launched **Jharkhand elephant tracker**, a mobile application-based elephant movement tracking system on the occasion of the **74th Van Mahotsav** in Ranchi to reduce human-elephant conflicts in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The mobile app will help villagers and departments to **track elephant movements** so that precautionary measures could be taken in advance.

### About Jharkhand :

- Governor : C. P. Radhakrishnan
- Chief Minister : Hemant Soren
- Capital : Ranchi
- Tiger Reserve : Palamu Tiger Reserve
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Gautam Budha Wildlife Sanctuary, Udhwa Lake Bird Wildlife Sanctuary

### In Tamil Nadu, a 4,000 MW renewable energy power project is being built.

- **The union minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power has informed that under Green Energy Corridor Phase-II**, a project has been approved for setting up of **624 km of transmission lines and 2200 MVA capacity substations by FY 2025-26, for evacuation of renewable energy power of approx. 4000 MW capacity in the state of Tamil Nadu.**
- The project has been approved by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, **at an estimated cost of Rs. 719.76 crore with a central government grant of Rs. 237.52 crore at 33% of the project cost.**

### About Tamilnadu

- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- NP: Guindy National Park, Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park (Annamalai), and Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

### Nirmala Sitharaman lays the foundation stone for the 'Iconic Site Museum' at Adichanallur archaeological site in Tamil Nadu

- Union Finance Minister Tmt. **Nirmala Sitharaman visited Adichanallur, an ancient and historical Iron-age burial site located in Thoothukudi District Tamil Nadu**, set along the banks of the Tamirabarani (Porunai) river and **also laid the foundation stone for the 'Iconic Site Museum' at the Adichanallur site.**
- This archaeological site was one of five declared to be developed as 'Iconic Sites' in the Union Budget 2020-21.

### Shri Amit Shah will launch the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office in Pune

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah will launch the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office in Pune.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Showing firm belief in the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi"**, the Ministry of Cooperation has taken several initiatives to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.
- The **new portal will also incorporate the recently passed amendments to the MSCS Act, 2002 and its rules.**
- The portal will have the processing of applications/service requests in a time-bound manner through the electronic workflow.

### About Maharashtra

- Governor: Ramesh Bai
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

### Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates the 132nd Durand Cup in Kokrajhar, Assam

- **The 132nd edition of the Durand Cup kicked off in Kokrajhar, Assam, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh graced the opening ceremony, which marked the grand beginning of the annual football competition for the first time in the Assamese city.**
- The tournament is organised by the Armed Forces and supported by the Government of Assam.
- The **inaugural ceremony was followed by the opening match of the tournament between Bodoland FC and Rajasthan United FC.** Kokrajhar will witness eight group matches and one quarter-final to be played on August 24, 2023.

### About Assam :

- Governor : Gulab Chand Kataria
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Guwahati
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary

### Special art exhibition dedicates to G-20 member countries to commence in Bihar

- **In Bihar, a special art exhibition dedicated to G-20 member countries will commence in the Bihar Museum, Patna.**
- **The title of the two-month-long exhibition is Together We Art** and it will conclude on 7th October 2023.
- Director General of Bihar Museum Anjani Kumar Singh said **the exhibition will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The DG said 29 countries including India are participating in the exhibition which is organized by the Union Art and Culture Ministry as part of India's presidency of G-20 countries.
- Mr Singh said along with the commemoration of the foundation day a five-month-long Bihar Museum Biennale 2023 will also begin.

### 126 stations in Maharashtra to be developed as world-class railway stations

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations at a cost of over 24 thousand 470 crore rupees under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme across the country through video conferencing.**
- In Mumbai, **Central Railways organised events at Parel, Vikhroli, and Kanjurmarg stations.**
- Governor of Maharashtra Ramesh Bais said while addressing the gathering, that 126 stations in Maharashtra are planned to be developed as world-class railway stations.
- Maharashtra Governor remarked that there has been a radical change in the Indian Railways as railway journey has become very pleasant and comfortable.

### Gujarat Government implement the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees

- **Government of Gujarat has implemented the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees to promote its indigenous products at the international level.**
- **The Gujarat State Handicrafts and Handicrafts Development Corporation (GSHHDC) has started the implementation of this scheme.**
- Under this scheme, more than 25 handicraft products and those from the handicrafts sector have been selected from 21 districts of the state, **including traditional handicrafts like Gamthi Block Print and Mata-ni-Pachhedi.**
- The objective is to focus on the district of the country as a unit for converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.

### Union Minister Amit Shah launches digital portal of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Pune

- Union Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah said that the cooperative movement cannot progress without transparency and the digital portal will serve that purpose.**
- He asserted that **the digital portal would be useful in promoting cooperative-based economic progress**, as well as strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- Mr Shah was speaking in **Pune after launching the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies**
- Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadanvis and Ajit Pawar, Union MoS for Cooperation B L Varma and Minister of Cooperation of Maharashtra Dilip Walse Patil were also present on the occasion.

### Details of Land Acquisition and Compensation Given by NLCIL in Tamil Nadu

- **The lands required for NLC India are acquired by the District Administration as per the Land Acquisition Act prevailing at the time of acquisition.**
- The entitled compensation and other rehabilitation and resettlement benefits are fully provided to the land owners and livelihoods are protected.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Currently, the lands are acquired as per the “**Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Act, 1997**”, with the provisions relating to the determination of compensation as specified in **the First Schedule, rehabilitation and resettlement as specified in the Second Schedule and infrastructure amenities as specified in the Third Schedule of RFCTLARR Act, 2013.**

### **17 new districts and 3 new divisions come into existence in Rajasthan**

- **17 new districts and 3 new divisions have come into existence in Rajasthan.**
- **Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated new districts and divisions through video conference in a program organized at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.**
- Inauguration programs were also organized in all the new districts and divisions, where the minister in charge participated.
- The Chief Minister also launched the website of all the new districts.
- Before the inauguration program, Havan, Puja and Yagya were performed in all the districts. Addressing the programme, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the state has created history.

### **Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren summoned by Enforcement Directorate in connection with land scam case**

- The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** has **summoned the Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren in the alleged land scam case.**
- The central probe agency has asked the Chief Minister to appear before its Ranchi office on 14th August.
- Earlier, the ED had summoned the Chief Minister in November 2022.
- The agency questioned Mr Soren for more than 10 long hours in connection with the illegal mining case on November 18, 2022.
- Meanwhile, **suspended IAS officer and former Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi, Chhavi Ranjan, including many businessmen have been arrested and sent to jail by ED in this case.**

### **Director General, BSF, Nitin Agrawal visits International Border in Samba, Jammu**

- **Director General, of Border Security Forces (BSF), Nitin Agrawal visited the International Border in the Samba district of Jammu division.**
- He was briefed about the alertness of the troops to thwart drone and smuggling activities from Pakistan.
- Akashvani Jammu Correspondent reports, **Mr Agrawal arrived at the Jammu frontier headquarters of the BSF on a three-day visit to review the security scenario along the International Border in the Union Territory.**
- The BSF chief was given a detailed presentation covering all critical aspects of border security and domination along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC) by the Inspector General, BSF Jammu Frontier.

### **State Tourism Department organises Awareness-cum-Cleanliness Drive in Ladakh**

- **In Ladakh, the State Tourism Department is organising an Awareness-cum-Cleanliness Drive under Mission Travel for Life and Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign at Holiyal Drass in collaboration with Roots Ladakh, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department (RD&PRD), Wild Life Department, Education Department and local women Self Help Groups.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The awareness programme focuses on the importance of wildlife, forests and promotion of eco-friendly tourism.

### Haryana Government extends temporary suspension of mobile Internet services in Nuh district:

- The Haryana Government has extended the temporary suspension of mobile Internet services in Nuh district till 11th August.
- An official spokesperson said the measure has been taken to stop the spread of disinformation and rumours through various social media platforms, such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, etc. on mobile phones and SMS.
- All telecom service providers of Haryana have been directed to ensure the compliance of this order and any person found guilty of the violation of the aforesaid order will be liable for legal action under relevant provisions

### The Haryana government planning to build a dam for 6,134 crore rupees

- The Haryana government is planning to build a dam for 6,134 crore rupees.
- It will have a 14-km-long reservoir and will be built 4.5 km upstream from the Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar district.
- Once the project is completed, the state will have greater availability of irrigation water, groundwater recharge, and aquaculture, apart from the generation of 250 MW of electricity.
- Its reservoir will have a capacity of 10.82 lakh cusecs.
- This is likely to prevent floods caused by the Yamuna in Delhi and adjoining areas of the river in Haryana.
- The dam area also shares borders with Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- Last month the Chief Minister informed that the proposal to construct a dam behind the Hathnikund Barrage is being taken up with the Himachal government.
- He said that it will help to check the floods caused by excessive rains.

### Arunachal government allots 12 'stalled' hydropower projects to three Central PSUs

- Arunachal Pradesh Government has allotted the 12 'stalled' hydropower projects to three Central Public Sector Undertakings by signing a Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with them.
- The MoAs were inked in the presence of Union Power Minister RK Singh, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and State's Deputy Chief Minister cum Minister in-charge Chowna Mein of Power & Hydropower.
- The total operational capacity of these 12 projects, withdrawn from the private players, will be to the tune of 11,523 MW.
- The three CPSUs are National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO).

### Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates Youth 20 Summit

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** and Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** jointly **inaugurated the Youth 20 Summit -2023 at Rudraksha International Cooperation and Convention Centre at Varanasi.**
- On the second day of the four-day Y20 Summit which is being held at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- The **Youth 20 (Y20) Summit has been organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the framework of India's G20 Presidency.**
- **The Y20 Summit is the culmination of various meetings including the Inception Meeting at Guwahati, Pre Summit at Leh, Ladakh,** and various Jan Bhagidari events conducted across the country in the run-up to this main Summit.

### Prime Minister hails India's first 3D printed Post Office at Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi has called India's first 3D printed Post Office at Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru,** a testament to our nation's innovation and progress.
- Earlier **Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's first post office constructed using 3D printing technology.**
- The **inauguration of the 1100 square feet post office was held at Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout near Ulsoor Bazaar.**
- 3D printing technology is a fast-emerging way of constructing structures.
- It uses computer-aided design to create three-dimensional objects through a layering method.
- 

### Shri Nitin Gadkari Unveils Rs. 800 Crore Nandura to Chikhli National Highway 53 Section in Buldhana District, Maharashtra

- The Union Minister for Roads Transport and Highways, **Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the quadrangement of the Nandura to Chikhli section of 45 km length on National Highway 53 worth Rs.800 crore at Malkapur in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.**
- The section spans 45 kilometres in length.
- The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 800 crore.
- The inauguration ceremony took place at Malkapur in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.

### Union Power Minister Inaugurates NTPC's 660 MW Super Thermal Power Project in Barh, Bihar

- Union Power Minister **Shri R. K. Singh inaugurated a 660 MW Unit of the Barh Super Thermal Power Project in Bihar.**
- The Union Minister felicitated engineers and workers involved in completing Unit #2 (660MW) of the Barh project.
- The dedicated unit, Unit #2 of Stage I, is a part of the larger Barh Super Thermal Power Project.
- This commissioning is a significant step towards providing reliable and affordable power to the nation.

**West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan wherein some of the districts are yet to achieve the target of 75 Amrit Sarovars per district**



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- States have taken efforts to achieve the District level target of 75 Amrit Sarovar in each of the districts of the State with an exception in the case of West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan wherein some of the districts are yet to achieve the target of 75 Amrit Sarovars per district.
- **States Involved:** West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar, and Rajasthan.

### NLC India Limited enters into Long Term Power Usage Agreement for a 300 MW Solar Project with Rajasthan

- **NLC India Limited**, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal has entered into **Long Term Power Usage Agreement with Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited for the supply of 300 MW Solar Power under the CPSU Scheme at Rajasthan.**
- **NLCIL is presently having 1,421 MW of Renewable Energy Capacity.**
- As per the Corporate Plan of the company, **it contemplates establishing 6,031 MW capacity by 2030.**
- The company has secured 510 MW Solar Project capacity in the CPSU Scheme Phase-II Tranche-III floated by **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) through competitive bidding.** **300 MW Solar project capacity is under execution at Barsingsar, Bikaner District, Rajasthan.**

### Shri Amit Shah, plants the 4 Croreth tree under the All-India Tree Plantation Campaign of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the CRPF Group Center in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah, planted the 4 Croreth tree under the All-India Tree Plantation Campaign of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the CRPF Group Center in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated 15 newly constructed buildings, built for Rs. 165 crores, across 8 different campuses of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).**
- These **include the construction of 220 family accommodations at 102 Rapid Task Force for Rs. 57 crores, construction of a 50-bed hospital in Group Center, Raipur for Rs. 17 crores, administrative building, quarter guard and parade ground at Recruit Training Center Jodhpur for Rs. 16 crores, construction of a 240-men barrack in Group Center Raipur built for Rs. 11 crores, and construction of hospitals, gyms, mess, sewage treatment plants, canteens, etc**

### Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to chair two-day 19th Meeting of the Maritime State Development Council at Kevadia, Gujarat

- The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to chair the 19th meeting of the Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) scheduled on 18th and 19th August at Kevadia in Gujarat.**
- During this, discussions will be focused on significant issues about the overall progress of the maritime sector.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The meeting will be attended by the Chief Ministers, concerned Senior Ministers of the Coastal States and Administrators of UTs.
- The concerned Secretaries and Senior officials of all the 9 Coastal States and 4 UTs will also present there along with Senior Officials from various Ministries and Departments of the Union Government.

### West Bengal to receive an investment of ₹1 Trillion in the maritime sector; transforming it into a regional trade hub shortly

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** attended the roadshow organised by **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMPK)** for the ensuing **Global Maritime India Summit, 2023 (GMIS)** in **Kolkata**.
- The roadshow was attended by the captains of India Inc in the city as well as top officials, technocrats as well as social leaders with an intent to encourage their participation meaningfully to “**Connect, Collaborate and Create**” with global investors at the forthcoming summit in **New Delhi**.
- **West Bengal is poised to receive investment worth ₹1 trillion in the maritime sector and that will make the state a maritime hub shortly.**

### Telangana government announces farm loan waiver up to Rs 99999

- **The Telangana government has announced a farm loan waiver of up to 99 thousand 999 rupees. It will be cleared within the next 45 days.**
- **The Government has released over 5,800 crore rupees** towards this end. The decision will benefit over 9 lakh farmers.
- It will fulfil the electoral commitment made by **Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao** to waive farm loans of up to one lakh rupees.
- The amount will be transferred directly into the 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.**

### Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde launches a mobile app & WhatsApp helpline for the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** launched a mobile app and WhatsApp helpline for the **Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund**.
- A programme also was organized at the Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai for patients who have successfully overcome chronic and serious diseases.
- **A helpline number 8650567567** has been started for patients and their relatives.
- On this occasion, **the fifth edition of the medical aid manual and the book 'Rokhthok'** based on the ideology of **Balasaheb Thackeray** was launched.
- Deputy Chairman of Legislative Council **Dr Neelam Gorhe**, Skill Development Minister **Mangal Prabhat Lodha** and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

### DMRC unveils CarbonLite Metro Travel initiative to make passengers aware of CO2 emissions reduction

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** unveiled a pioneering initiative called **CarbonLite Metro Travel** to **educate passengers** about their significant contribution towards **reducing carbon emissions** by choosing metro trains.
- It is a new initiative of the DMRC to help people understand their contribution to reducing CO2 emissions by opting for metro rail services.
- With this initiative, daily commuters will now be able to understand and learn about the average amount of **Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions** they are decreasing with their simple step of selecting the metro as their means of transportation.

### Chairman KVIC inaugurates several KVI activities in Tamil Nadu

- **Shri Manoj Kumar**, Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), **inaugurated multiple Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) initiatives during his visit to Tamil Nadu.**

### West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee Increases Grant To Durga Puja Committees To ₹70,000

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee**, after holding a meeting with Durga Puja committees announced an increase of **₹70,000 grant** to puja committees in the state.
- The Chief Minister also announced that the Durga Carnival (the annual immersion of idol's making processions) will be held on **October 27.**

### About West Bengal:

- **Capital:** Kolkata
- **Chief Minister:** Mamata Banerjee
- **Governor:** C V Anantha Bose
- National Parks: Neora Valley National Park, Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara National Park, Gorumara National Park, Sunderbans National Park

### Uttarakhand government going to organize Global Investors Summit-2023

- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama chaired a meeting with officials of his advisory group constituted with an aim to provide guidance for the upcoming **Global Investors Summit, 2023.**
- CM Dhama has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the summit which is scheduled to be held **in Uttarakhand in November 2023.**
- In the Export Preparedness Index for the year 2022 released by NITI Aayog, the state of **Uttarakhand ranks first** among the Himalayan states, while it ranks 9th in the entire country.
- In the "LEADS" ranking of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Uttarakhand is included** in the State Achievers category in the year 2022 ranking.

### About Uttarakhand:

- **Capital:** Dehradun
- **Chief Minister:** Pushkar Singh Dhama
- **Governor:** Gurmit Singh
- National Parks: Govind National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Gangotri National Park, Rajaji National Park, Jim Corbett National Park

### India's first AI school launched in Kerala

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Kerala got its **first Artificial Intelligence (AI) school** at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The inauguration was done by Former President **Ram Nath Kovind**.
- As per the School authorities, the AI School is designed and molded by one of the world's most advanced educational platforms **iLearning Engines (ILE) USA** in collaboration with **Vedhik eSchool**, managed by a committee of veteran professionals including former Chief Secretaries, DGPs and Vice Chancellors.

### About Kerala:

- **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor:** Arif Mohammad Khan
- National Parks: Periyar National Park, Mathikettan National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Indira Gandhi National Park

### Tamilnadu Government Begins Breakfast Scheme in 31 thousand Schools

- **The Tamilnadu Government began the breakfast Scheme in 31 thousand schools.**
- More than 17 lakh students studying first to fifth standard will benefit from it.
- State Chief Minister **M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the program at a Panchayat School in Thirukkuvalai, Nagapattinam district.

### Meri Mati Mera Desh: Gujarat CM launches online platform for Panchayati Raj institutions

- To ensure transparency, the Gujarat government launched a new software that will make online payment compulsory for Panchayati Raj institutions in the state, ending the practice of cheque payment to contractors and vendors.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the Panchayati Raj Accounting Information System Automation, or PRAISA, at a state-level programme of 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' in Gandhinagar.
- From now onwards, financial transactions worth Rs 34,000 crore of these Panchayati Raj institutions, local self-governed bodies, will be handled in a transparent manner through PRAISA.

### Government of Uttar Pradesh Launches 'Manav Sampada Portal' to Bring Employees' Activities Into Public Domain

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government introduced the 'Manav Sampada Portal' with the objective of instilling transparency and accountability in the functioning of officers and employees across all 74 departments in the state.
- To oversee these operations and manage the portal, a new division (Section-5) will be established within the Personnel Department, with the Project Management Unit (PMU) operating at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) level.

### About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister : Yogi Adityanath
- Capital : Lucknow
- National Park : Dudhwa National Park Wildlife Sanctuary : Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary

### Telangana government partners with UNESCO to implement Recommendation on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

- The Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana has joined hands with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

**Organisation (UNESCO)** to implement the **UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** by signing a Letter of Intent to drive efforts and action.

- The collaboration focuses on **promoting the ethical development** and use of AI awareness raising, capacity building, and contributions to UNESCO's Global Observatory on AI Ethics.

### About Telangana:

- Capital: Hyderabad
- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

### About UNESCO :

- Founded: 16 November 194
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director General : Audrey Azoulay
- UNESCO is a **specialised agency** of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences and culture.

### Sri Lanka hosts its very first Karnataka cultural festival

- **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**.
- **Aim:** To celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Karnataka and acknowledge the shared cultural heritage between India and Sri Lanka.

### Madhya Pradesh announces Ladli Behna Yojana aid hike, 35% job reservation for women

- The **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** government has **increased** the **financial assistance** provided to women under the **Ladli Behna scheme** from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month.
- This scheme aims to offer economic support and empowerment to women in MP.

### Eligibility Criteria :

- Women aged **23 to 60 years** are eligible for financial assistance Rs 1,000 per month under the Ladli Behna Yojana.
- This assistance is offered to women who are not income tax payers and come from families with an annual income of **less than Rs 2.5 lakh**.

### Other Initiatives :

- He also announced a substantial increase in women's reservation in government jobs from the current **30% to 35%**.
- Notably, the reservation in teachers' recruitment will be set at 50%.
- The government has also taken steps to provide gas cylinders to women at a reduced price of **Rs 450**, contributing to their economic well-being.

## BUSINESS NEWS

### The Combined Index of Eight Core Industries rises by 8.2 per cent (provisional) in June 2023 compared to June 2022:

- The **combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** increased by 8.2 per cent (provisional) in **June 2023** as compared to the **Index of June 2022**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The production of Steel, Coal, Cement, Refinery Products, Natural Gas, Fertilizers and Electricity increased in June 2023 over the corresponding month of last year.
- ICI measures combined and individual performance of the production of eight core industries viz. **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity**.
- The **Eight Core Industries** comprise **40.27 per cent** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

**The gross GST revenue collected for July 2023 is Rs. 1,65,105 crore, representing an 11% year-on-year increase:**

- The **gross GST revenue collected in the month of July 2023 is ₹1,65,105 crore** of which **CGST is ₹29,773 crore**, **SGST is ₹37,623 crore**, **IGST is ₹85,930 crore** (including ₹ 41,239 crores collected on import of goods) and **cess is ₹11,779 crore** (including ₹ 840 crores collected on import of goods).
- The government has settled ₹39,785 crore to CGST and ₹33,188 crore to SGST from IGST.
- **The total revenue of the Centre and the States in the month of July 2023 after regular settlement is ₹69,558 crore for CGST and ₹70,811 crore for SGST.**
- The revenues for the **month of July 2023 are 11% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.**

### **About Goods and Services Tax (GST):**

- The goods and services tax (GST) is a tax on goods and services sold domestically for consumption.
- The tax is included in the final price and paid by consumers at the point of sale and passed to the government by the seller.
- The GST is usually taxed as a single rate across a nation.
- The GST was launched on 1 July 2017 by the President of India and the Government of India.

### **July Coal Production Goes up by 14.11% to 68.75 Million Tonne**

- **The Ministry of Coal has achieved a substantial surge in overall coal production during the month of July 23, reaching 68.75 Million tonnes (MT), surpassing 60.25 MT of the month of July 22, representing an increase of 14.11%.**
- **The production of Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased to 53.63 MT in the month of July 23 as compared to 47.29 MT on July 22 with a growth of 13.41%.**
- **The cumulative coal production (up to July 23) has seen a quantum jump of 292.12 MT (Provisional) in FY 23-24 as compared to 265.94 MT during the same period in FY 22-23 with a growth of 9.84%.**

### **MOIL achieves record-breaking production and sales in July 2023**

- **MOIL Limited**, the largest producer of manganese ore in India, **has recorded its best-ever performance for the month of July since its inception.**
- **The company produced 1.20 lakh tonnes of manganese ore in July 2023, registering a remarkable growth of 71% compared to the same period last year.**
- The sales performance reflects the strong demand for manganese ore in the domestic and international markets.

**28 % GST on online gaming & casinos to be effective from October 1, 2023**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Finance Minister Smt. **Nirmala Sitharaman** has said, **28 per cent GST on casinos and online gaming will be levied on the face value.**
- Addressing media after **the 51st GST Council Meeting in New Delhi**
- **The 28 per cent GST on online gaming and casinos is expected to be implemented from the 1st of October, 2023.**
- GST Council in its last meeting had recommended that the law may be amended in this regard to provide clarity in the matter. It recommended certain amendments in the CGST Act 2017 and IGST Act 2017 to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing, and online gaming.

### About Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- The goods and services tax (GST) is a tax on goods and services sold domestically for consumption.
- The tax is included in the final price and paid by consumers at the point of sale and passed to the government by the seller.
- The GST is usually taxed as a single rate across a nation.
- The GST was launched on 1 July 2017 by the President of India and the Government of India.

### 8.51% Increase in Coal Production till June 2023

- During **the current year till Jun 2023, domestic coal production has increased by over 8.51% compared to the same period of last year.**
- Most of the requirement for coal in the country is met through indigenous production/supply.
- The focus of the **Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal and eliminating the non-essential import of coal** in the country.
- In the year 2022-23, **coal production increased by 14.77% over the previous year.**
- No worker is retrenched from the services of Coal companies (Coal India Limited/Singareni Collieries Company Limited) on the closure of coal mines.
- Workers are relocated/transferred to other units /establishments for their effective utilization, with providing sufficient training.

### TDB-DST supports M/s Alchemy Recyclers Private Limited, Gujarat, for the development of an Integrated Plant for the Recovery of Precious Metals from E-waste, Jewellers Waste and Automobile Catalyst Waste

- The **Technology Development Board signed the second agreement** under the initiative "**Technology intervention towards 'Garbage Free Cities'**".
- TDB signed an **agreement with M/s Alchemy R recyclers Private Limited, Gujarat, for the development of an Integrated Plant for the Recovery of Precious Metals from E-waste, Jewellers Waste, and Automobile Catalyst Waste'.**
- **The board has agreed to provide support of ₹1.14 Crores out of the total project cost of ₹1.90 crores.**
- The Technology intervention call is aimed at encouraging proposals that will not only eliminate waste from Indian cities but also utilize technological interventions to generate wealth from waste.

### Total Power Generated in the Country grows by more than 8% year-on-year in 2021-22 and by 9% in 2022-23

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy has provided the details of State/UT-wise power generation in the country from Renewable and Non-Renewable sources, during the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and the current year 2023-24 (up to June 2023).
- This information has been given by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy **Shri R. K. Singh**.

• Year	• Power Generation from Renewable Energy Sources • in the Country		
	• Hydro (Large) • (MUs)	• Other Renewable Energy Sources • (MUs)	• TOTAL • (MUs)
• 2020-21	• 150,299.52	• 147,247.51	• 297,547.03
• 2021-22	• 151,627.33	• 170,912.30	• 322,539.63
• 2022-23	• 162,098.77	• 203,552.17	• 365,650.94

### Electricity Generated by Coal-based Power Plants Grows by 10% between 2021-22 and 2022-23

- The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy has informed that the electricity generated by coal-based power plants in the country during the last two years 2021-22 and 2022-23 is as given below.

• Year	• Generation (in MUs)
• 2021-22	• 1041487.43
• 2022-23	• 1145907.58

- There is no decline in coal-based electricity generation in the year 2022-23 over the year 2021-22.
- There is no report of the shutdown of any coal-based power plant due to a shortage of coal during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

### Gross Direct tax collections rise 16 % to Rs 6.53 lakh crore this fiscal so far

- The gross direct tax collection has registered a growth of around 16 per cent to 6 lakh 53 thousand crore rupees compared to the corresponding period last year.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT said the provisional figures of Direct Tax collections continue to register a steady growth.
- Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at 5 lakh 84 thousand



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

crore rupees, which is over 17 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period last year.

- **This collection is over 32 per cent of the total Budget estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24.**
- CBDT said, the refunds amounting to 69 thousand crore rupees have been issued between 1st April to 10th August this year, which is 3.73 per cent higher than the refunds issued during the same period in the last year.

### IREDA reports All-Time High Quarterly PAT of Rs. 295 Crores; Net NPAs down to 1.61%

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has achieved a remarkable milestone with an all-time high Quarterly Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 295 crores and Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 440 crores in the 1st Quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24.**
- **This achievement marks a notable growth of 30% and 29% respectively**, compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year 2022-23.
- IREDA has also demonstrated a significant reduction in Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), bringing them down to 1.61% in Q1, FY 2023-24 from 2.92% in Q1, FY 2022-23, representing a remarkable 45% reduction (in percentage terms) on a year-on-year basis.

### Reliance Jio completes work related to connecting Maldives with High-Speed Optic Fibre cable

- Indian telecommunications major, **Reliance Jio has completed the work related to connecting Maldives with a High-Speed Optic Fibre cable.**
- **A ceremony was held in Hulhumale in Maldives to land the Ocean Connect Maldives-India Asia Express (OCM-IAX) Submarine Cable System.**
- **The 22.5 million dollar project has been executed** in a little over one year since the signing of the agreement in February 2022 with Ocean Connectivity Maldives.
- **The IAX cable system originates in Mumbai and connects Singapore, with branches and landings in India, Malaysia, and Thailand.**
- The IAX together with the India Europe Express cable system will be one of the most important developments in telecommunications infrastructure in this decade, linking India, Europe to Southeast Asia, and the Maldives.

### All India Wholesale Price Index for July 2023 stands at (-) 1.36% over July 2022

- **The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers is (-) 1.36% (Provisional) for the month of July 2023 (over July 2022) against (-) 4.12% recorded in June 2023.**
- **WPI Food Index (Weight 24.38%):** The Food Index consisting of 'Food Articles' from the Primary Articles group and 'Food Product' from the Manufactured Products group have increased from 175.2 in June 2023 to 187.7 in July 2023. The annual rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index increased from (-)1.24% in June 2023 to 7.75% in July 2023.
- **Response Rate:** The WPI for July 2023 has been compiled at a weighted response rate of 85.2 per cent, while the final figure for May 2023 is based on the weighted response rate of 94.4 per cent.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Final Index for the month of May 2023 (Base Year: 2011-12=100):** For the month of May 2023 the final Wholesale Price Index and inflation rate for 'All Commodities' (Base: 2011-12=100) stood at 149.4 and (-)3.61% respectively.

### India's overall exports in July 2023 are estimated at USD 59.43 Billion, despite global headwinds

- **India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in July 2023\*** are estimated to be **USD 59.43 Billion**, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 5.06 per cent **over July 2022**.
- **Overall imports in July 2023 are estimated to be USD 67.77 Billion**, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 12.92 per cent **over July 2022**.
- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-July 2023 are estimated to exhibit a negative growth of (-) 5.98 per cent over April-July 2022.
- Overall imports in April-July 2023 are estimated to exhibit a negative growth of (-) 11.09 per cent over April-July 2022.

### Foreign Investors pump in over Rs 13,000 crores into Indian capital markets so far in August

- **Foreign Investors pumped over 13,000 crore rupees into the Indian capital markets so far in August.**
- **Equity Investment:** FPIs allocated 8,394 crore rupees to Indian equities during this period, showcasing a positive net inflow into the equity market.
- **Debt Market Interest:** Additionally, FPIs put in 4,646 crore rupees in the Indian debt market, indicating interest in fixed-income securities

### EPFO adds 17.89 lakh net members in June 2023

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** recorded an impressive **growth of 17 lakh and 89 thousand net members in June 2023**.
- Notably, there was an addition of 9.71 percent net members compared to the previous month of May 2023.

#### About EPFO :

- Established : 4 March 1952
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC) & CEO : Neelam Shami Rao
- The EPFO is one of the **two main social security organisations** under the **Government of India's Ministry of Labour and Employment** and is responsible for regulation and management of provident funds in India, the other being Employees' State Insurance.

### L&T secures orders worth ₹2,500 crores for urea plant in Australia

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has secured an order worth **₹2,500 crore** for the fabrication and supply of pipe rack modules for a 2.3-MMTPA urea plant for **Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilizers Pty in Australia**.
- The contract was awarded to **L&T Energy Hydrocarbon by Saipem & Clough JV (SCJV)** and the plant will be constructed in the Burrup Peninsula, **about 20 km north of Karratha, Western Australia**.

#### About L&T

- Larsen & Toubro Ltd, commonly known as L&T, is an Indian multinational conglomerate company, with business interests in engineering, construction, manufacturing, technology, information technology and financial services, headquartered in Mumbai.
- Anil Manibhai Naik is the Group Chairman of Larsen & Toubro Limited.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About Australia

- Capital: Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar
- Prime minister: Anthony Albanese

### IRDAI cuts capital for foreign reinsurance branches for Rs 50 crores

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has decided to **decrease the minimum capital requirement** for **Foreign Reinsurance Businesses (FRBs)** from Rs 100 crores to **Rs 50 crores** with an aim to attract more foreign reinsurers to operate in India and participate in the Indian insurance market.
- During its 123rd Authority meeting, the IRDAI sanctioned a series of amendments to the Reinsurance Regulations to harmonise and streamline the existing regulations applicable to Indian insurers, Indian reinsurers, Foreign Reinsurance Branches (FRBs), and International Financial Services Centre Insurance Offices (IIOs).

### About IRDAI :

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson : Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a **statutory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### The government of India & Asian Development Bank signed a 200 million dollar loan to enhance urban services in Rajasthan

- The **Government of India (GoI)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$200 million loan** as **additional financing** for the ongoing **Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project** to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns.
- The loan agreement was signed between, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs **Vumlunmang Vualnam**, and the Country Director of Asian Development Bank, India Resident Mission, **Takeo Konishi**.

### About ADB :

- Established : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa

### About Rajasthan :

- Governor : Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister : Ashok Gehlot
- Capital : Jaipur
- National Park : Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary : Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### SEBI mandates foreign portfolio investors to disclose Legal Entity Identifier(LEI) code

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated the **submission of legal entity identifier (LEI) details** for all non-individual foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).
- Presently, FPIs are required to provide their **LEI details in the Common Application Form (“CAF”)**, used for registration, KYC and account opening of FPIs on a voluntary basis.
- It has now been decided to mandate the requirement of providing **LEI details for all non-individual FPIs.**

#### About SEBI :

- Established : **12 April 1988** as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the **SEBI Act, 1992**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman : **Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)**
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI.

### RBI's Digital Payments Index jumps to 395.57 in March from 377.46 in September

- The Reserve Bank of India's **Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)**, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, **rose to 395.57 in March 2023** from **377.46 in September 2022** and **349.30 in March 2022.**
- Digital payments across the country registered a **growth of 13.24%** in a year through **March 2023**, as per RBI's index that measures the **adoption of online transactions.**
- “The RBI-DPI index has **increased across all parameters** driven by significant growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period.

#### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

### Paytm launches 2 new innovative devices - Paytm Pocket Soundbox and Paytm Music Sound Box to help India's small shops

- One97 Communications Limited (OCL), the parent company of **Paytm**, India's prominent payments and financial services company, launched **two payment devices – Paytm Pocket Soundbox and Paytm Music Sound Box** to provide **enhanced payment experiences** for merchants while being non-promotional.
- The Paytm Pocket Soundbox is a **first-of-its-kind Made in India portable device**, as small as a debit card, that conveniently fits in the pocket of merchants on the move.

#### About Paytm :

- Founded : August 2010
- Headquarters : Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Founder & CEO : Vijay Shekhar Sharma

### Banks' non-food credit grows 16.3% in June 2023 - RBI data

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Bank credit** registered a robust growth of **16.3% year-on-year (y-o-y)** in June 2023 as compared with 15% a year ago on the back of strong demand for credit from sectors such as services, retail and agriculture, and allied activities.
- As per RBI's data on sectoral deployment of credit, credit growth to the services sector accelerated to **26.7% (y-o-y)** in June 2023 from 12.8% a year ago, primarily due to the improved credit offtake to **'non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)' and 'trade'**.

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar

### SBI raises ₹10,000 crore via 15-year infrastructure bonds at coupon rate of 7.54%

- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised **₹10,000 crore** after issuing **15-year infrastructure bonds** at the coupon rate of **7.54%**.
- The proceeds will be directed towards bolstering long-term resources for funding critical infrastructure projects and supporting the affordable housing segment.
- This is the **first issuance** of a long-term bond of this tenor by any bank in the current financial year.
- The bank offered bonds at an interest rate slightly better than the interest rate given by standard government bonds.

### About SBI :

- Established : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- CFO : Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti

### India's Per capita women deposits increased by ₹4,618 in last 5 years to ₹42,503

- According to the **State Bank of India's (SBI) Economic Research Department (ERD)**, **per capita women deposits** increased by **₹4,618** in the last 5 years from ₹37,885 in FY19 to ₹42,503 in FY23.
- As per ERD's "Ecwrap" report, which is based on RBI data, the maximum increase of **₹9,758** has been registered in the urban areas, where per capita women deposits moved up from ₹51,980 to ₹61,738.

### Jana Small Finance Bank Refiles draft red herring prospectus with SEBI for initial public offering Worth Rs 575 Crores

- **Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd (Jana SFB)** has filed its **Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP)** with the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- The bank has resubmitted papers 2 years after pulling its previous plan due to the pandemic, and in 2022 it could remain private according to local market regulations.
- **Axis Capital, ICICI Securities and SBI Capital Markets** are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while KFin Technologies has been appointed as the registrar.

### About Jana Small Finance Bank :

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Founded : 2018
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO : Ajay Kanwal

### India's food delivery giant Swiggy Launches Co-branded Credit Card With HDFC Bank

- Foodtech giant **Swiggy** has launched a **co-branded credit card** in partnership with **HDFC Bank** to lure customers and get an upper hand over its rival Zomato.
- The credit card, which will be hosted on Mastercard's payment network, would be rolled out in a phased manner over the **next 7-10 days**.
- With this move, Swiggy has joined the likes of **Flipkart, Myntra** and **Paytm** in terms of providing co-branded credit cards.
- Swiggy's competitor Zomato also used to offer co-branded credit cards with **RBL Bank**.

#### About HDFC Bank :

- Founded : 1st July 2023 (via the merger between HDFC-HDFC bank)
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We Understand Your World

### Razorpay launches MoneySaver Export Account for Indian exporters to save 50% on international bank transfers

- Payments and banking platform for businesses **Razorpay** launched a **MoneySaver Export Account** specifically for **small and mid-size exporters**.
- With this product, Indian exporters will now **open a smart account** in any country of their choice and **receive payments locally via bank transfers** on the Razorpay platform.
- This will be **India's first smart account to offer 50% savings on international bank transfers for Indian exporters**.

### Russia's largest lender Sberbank to establish IT centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- Russia's largest lender **Sberbank's** branch in India has received permission from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to establish an **information technology (IT) unit** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** where it plans to employ up to 200 IT specialists.
- The new IT office would house Sberbank's in-house data processing centre.
- It would also handle the technological needs of the Indian branch.
- Bengaluru is **India's third biggest city** and the country's leading scientific and industrial center, specializing, amongst other things, in aerospace, engineering and electronics industries and development of IT products.

#### About Sberbank :

- Headquarters : Moscow, Russia

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Sberbank is a Russian majority state-owned banking and financial services company.

### **SIDBI Accelerator Fund to be set up at IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship startup incubator**

- **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, the principal financial institution for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, announced its partnership with the **Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's (IIM-A)** startup incubator **Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE)** to set up a SIDBI Accelerator Fund at the incubator with an initial corpus of Rs 20 crores.

#### **About Small Industries Development Bank of India :**

- Established : 2 April 1990
- Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann
- The SIDBI is the **apex regulatory body** for overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance** , Government of India (GoI).

### **Max Life Appointed as Lead Insurer for Uttar Pradesh Under IRDAI's State Insurance Plan**

- **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life)** has been appointed as the **"Lead Insurer"** for the State of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- Under the **State Insurance Plan**, IRDAI has initiated a collaborative platform with insurers by assigning two states to each insurer to enhance financial awareness and drive insurance inclusion.
- Max Life has also been appointed as the lead insurer for **Arunachal Pradesh** and aims to expand its presence within the state in a phased manner.

#### **About Max Life Insurance Company Limited :**

- Founded : 2001
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Mr Prashant Tripathy
- It is a Joint Venture between **Max Financial Services Limited** and **Axis Bank Limited**.

#### **About IRDAI :**

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson : Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a statutory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with **regulating and licensing** the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

### **Fintech company CRED launched RuPay credit card-based UPI payments**

- **Fintech firm CRED** in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, introduced **RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments** for its members.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- CRED supports RuPay credit cards issued by banks including **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, Axis Bank, BOB Financial Solutions, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank.**

### About CRED :

- Founded : 2018
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO : Kunal Shah

### International Monetary Fund raises India's FY24 GDP growth forecast by 20 basis points to 6.1%

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has raised India's **GDP growth forecast** for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) by **20 basis points to 6.1%** from earlier 5.9% after the country's stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022.
- The IMF has also revised the upward growth forecast for the global economy by 20 basis points for 2023 to 3%.
- India's economic growth increased by **6.1%** in the March quarter of FY23.

### About IMF :

- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva
- Membership : 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

### Fino Payments Bank to apply for small finance bank licence

- **Fino Payments Bank Limited** has approved a proposal to **transition** into a **small finance bank (SFB)**.
- However, the transition is **subject** to necessary approvals.
- The Payments Bank has also got a letter from its holding company Fino PayTech regarding a group corporate restructuring proposal.
- After this, the board has formed a committee to explore the possibility of group corporate restructuring.
- With this, Fino has become the **first such entity** to move towards becoming a small finance bank (SFB) since the Reserve Bank of India in **2019** allowed payments banks to apply for conversion into SFB after 5 years of operations.

### About Fino Payments Bank :

- Started operations ; 2017
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rishi Gupta
- Fino Payments Bank is a **wholly-owned subsidiary** of **Fino Paytech Limited (FPL)**.
- It is currently the **highest profit-generating payments bank**.
- In the June quarter of FY24, the payments bank registered a net profit of ₹18.7 crore, up **85%** year-on-year.
- However, profit declined 15% sequentially.
- The Mumbai-based bank said its revenue increased 21% year-on-year to ₹348 crore.

### Financial frauds in India rose 65% between 2021 and 2022 - Finance Ministry



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- As per the Finance Ministry, over **65% growth** has been seen in 2022 from 2021 in the **frauds reported for ATMs** and others.
- The amount involved in the frauds has nearly doubled.
- According to **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)**, **2000 customers** are, on an average, impacted every month due to cyber fraud.
- Parliamentary committee's report on '**Cyber security and rising incidence of cyber/white collar crimes**' was recently tabled in Parliament by its Chairman Jayant Sinha.

### About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhar

### Bajaj Finance partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance to offer motor insurance policies

- Indian non-banking financial services company, **Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL)** has partnered with **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** along with other partners to provide **car and two-wheeler insurance plans** on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall.
- Offers **Comprehensive coverage**: Get complete coverage for the insured vehicle as well as for the third party.
- Offers **own damage cover**: These policies cover damages caused to the insured vehicle by accidents, thefts, natural calamities and fire.

### About BFL :

- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Sanjiv Bajaj

### About ICICI Lombard General Insurance :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD : Bhargav Dasgupta

### UPI transactions grow 44% to ₹15-lakh crore in July

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** in July 2023 have grown **44% to ₹15.34-lakh crore**.
- UPI transactions in July 2023 reached a record **high level** both in terms of volume and value.
- It has grown 4% month over month (m-o-m) and 44% year on year (y-o-y).
- The number of transactions in July 2023 reached a record high level of **996 crore**.
- The number was higher by **6.6%** from the previous month and 58% compared to July 2022, according to **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data**.

### About UPI :

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application.
- It is developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- It was introduced in April **2016**.

### Star Health inks 'strategic corporate alliance' with Standard Chartered Bank to offer its insurance products

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- Private sector health insurance provider **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd** has signed a "**strategic corporate bancassurance**" with **Standard Chartered Bank** to provide its **insurance products to customers**.
- The partnership is to provide health insurance solutions across 100 branches of the private bank present in 42 cities across the country.
- Customers now require comprehensive policies that cater to their medical requirements, encompassing benefits such as **OPD Care, Hospi Cash, and Critical Illness covers**.
- According to the **Standard Chartered's Wealth Expectancy Report for 2022** revealing that over **54%** of respondents in India have prioritised health and wellness post the pandemic."

### About **Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd** :

- Established : 2006
- Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO : Anand Roy

### About **Standard Chartered Bank India** :

- Established : 18 November 1969
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Zarin Daruwala

### **RBI fines ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil, GAIL and Oil India for late reporting of overseas investments**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed **late submission fees (LSF)** of **₹2,000 crore** on **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, and Oil India Ltd** for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.
- RBI has imposed a late submission fee of ₹500 crore each on them for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** is the **authorised dealer bank** for the foreign transactions of these PSUs.
- The PSUs are trying to get time from the RBI to avoid any disruption in operations and for the smooth functioning of their overseas subsidiaries.
- According to **RBI's Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Regulations, 2022**, those failing to submit investment evidence within the stipulated time frame can do so with late submission fees.

### About **RBI** :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### **Mastercard Launches CVV-Free Payment Feature For Tokenized Transactions**

- Payments giant **Mastercard** announced the introduction of **Cardholder Verification Value (CVV)-less online transactions** for its **debit and credit cardholders** who have tokenized their cards on merchant platforms.
- To **reduce the checkout time** and make virtual transactions **hassle-free and more secure**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- CVV is the **3-digit number** printed on the back of debit and credit cards.

### About Mastercard :

- Founded : 1966
- Headquarters : New York, U.S
- CEO : Michael Miebach

### Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launches the AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL) and Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)** and initiated the trading on **Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) mechanism** called **AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL)**, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Both the initiatives intend to deepen the functioning of the **corporate debt markets**.
- CDMDF is a backstop facility for **specified debt funds** during market dislocations.
- The fund is intended to **provide liquidity support** in the event of a financial crisis.
- It will be in the form of an **alternative investment fund (AIF)**, meant to instil confidence among the participants in the Corporate Bond Market during times of stress
- The fund has **Rs 33,000-crore backstop facility** for Mutual Funds.
- Of the Rs 33,000 crore, Rs 30,000 crore will come from the **government**, while the balance Rs 3,000 crore will be contributed by the **Asset Management Companies (AMCs)**.

### NABARD sanctions Rs 1,974 crores to the Government of Rajasthan for Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for 2023-24

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned **Rs 1,974.07 crore** to the **Rajasthan government** under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24**.
- **Rs 930.44 crore** has been sanctioned for 3 rural drinking water supply projects in Ajmer, Jalore, and Kota districts.
- **Rs 926.48 crore** are sanctioned for the construction of 676 rural roads in the desert and tribal areas of Rajasthan.
- This comes after **Rs 117.15 crore** had been sanctioned for the construction of **104 veterinary hospitals** and 431 sub-centers in all districts of the state.

### About NABARD :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Shri. Shaji K V
- It was established on the recommendations of **B. Sivaraman Committee** (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) on 12 July 1982 to implement the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981**.
- NABARD is an **apex regulatory body** for the overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI).

### Banks wrote off ₹14.56 lakh crores non-performing assets between FY15 and FY23

- As per the RBI provisional data, **₹14-lakh crore worth Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** were written off by **Scheduled commercial banks (SCBs)** between FY15 and FY23 (9 years).

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Out of these, nearly half (**₹7,40,968 crore/ ₹7.40 lakh crore**) were related to **large industries and services**.
- The SCBs have recovered an aggregate amount of **Rs 2,04,668 crore** in written-off loans, including corporate loans, since April 2014 and up to March, 2023.
- The net recovery in written-off loans during the financial year (net write-off) in public sector banks (PSBs) was **Rs 1.18 lakh crore** in FY18, which declined to Rs 0.91 lakh crore in FY22 and to Rs 0.84 lakh crore (RBI provisional data) in FY23.
- Net write-off loans by private sector banks was **Rs. 73,803 crore** (RBI provisional data) in FY 2022-23.

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Banks wrote off over ₹10.5-lakh crores during FY19 and FY23: Finance Ministry

- The Finance Ministry informed Rajya Sabha that **scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) wrote off over ₹10.5-lakh crores** in the 5 years ending March 31, 2023.
- The Ministry added that the top 10 wilful defaulters owe over **₹43,000 crore** to the banks.
- SCBs have written off an aggregate amount of ₹10,57,326 crore during the last 5 financial years.
- As per RBI guidelines and policy approved by the bank's Boards, NPAs (Non-Performing Assets), including those in respect of which full provisioning has been made on completion of 4 years, are removed from the balance sheets of the banks concerned by the way of write-offs.

### IRDAI asks 15 Insurance Companies to adopt Indian Accounting Standards from April 2024

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has asked the **top 15 insurance companies** to adopt the **new Indian Accounting Standard (IND-AS)** accounting framework from 01 April 2024 (FY25).
- This is the **first such partial roll-out** of accounting standards for the insurance industry in many decades, and the move is aimed at bringing Indian accounting practices closer to global standards.
- State-run insurance companies, including **LIC** have been **excluded** from the adoption of the new accounting rules for now.
- IRDAI has identified **15 companies** that have foreign equity partners and strategic collaborations for the purpose.
- Some of these companies are **ICICI Prudential Life, ICICI Lombard General, TATA AIG General, Niva Bupa Health, HDFC Life, and HDFC Ergo General**.
- Over 140 countries have adopted **International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17**, effective January 2023.
- IND-AS 117 is designed in coordination with IFRS-17.
- The new accounting standard will replace **Ind AS 104, Insurance Contracts**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About IRDAI :

- Established : 1999
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairman : Debasish Panda
- The IRDAI is a **statutory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, Government of India (GoI) and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

### IndusInd Bank partners with Tiger Fintech to launch co-branded credit cards

- **IndusInd Bank** and **Tiger Fintech Private Limited**, a Bajaj Capital Group company, announced the launch of the **IndusInd Bank Tiger Credit Card**, a co-branded credit card powered by **Visa**.
- With this launch, customers will get access to **best-in-class credit cards** to meet their lifestyle needs.
- The credit card comes with benefits including the '**Magnificent Rewards Program**' where customers earn up-to 6X accelerated rewards.

### About IndusInd Bank :

- Founded : April 1994
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia.
- Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

### SEBI allows Offers for Sale for units of privately listed InvITs through the Stock Exchange

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, allowed **Offer For Sale (OFS)** for units of **private listed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** through a stock exchange mechanism.
- This circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992** to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities market.

### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI.

### Swiss Investor responsAbility signs Agreement to Fund \$15 Million to Electronica Finance

- **Electronica Finance Limited (EFL)**, a leading Pune based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specialising in **financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** with a focus on financial inclusion and energy efficient machine financing, has signed a **US\$15 million deal** from **Global Climate Partnership Fund (GCPF)**, managed by responsAbility Investments AG to promote green financing in India as part of its sustainability goal.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Electronica Finance Limited will use the funding for financing **energy-efficient machines** and promote rooftop solar installation.
- The NBFC received **\$7.5 million** from responsibility in July 2023, and plans to draw the remainder later 2023.
- The fund was raised at a **11.4% yield**.

### About Electronica Finance Limited :

- MD & CEO : Shilpa Pophale
- It is supported by the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.

### SEBI & APMI jointly set standards for performance audit of PMS players

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and **Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI)** will jointly set standards for performance audit of **portfolio management services (PMS)** players effective from **October 01, 2023**.
- In order to have uniformity, it has been decided that APMI, in consultation with SEBI, shall specify standardised **Terms of Reference ('ToR')** for aforesaid audit of firm-level performance data.
- The standard ToR will include a requirement for Portfolio Managers to consider clients' portfolios under all services for the purpose of audit of firm-level performance data.

### Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the review meeting of Regional Rural Banks from Southern Region, in Chennai

- The Union Finance Minister **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired a meeting with **Chairpersons** and senior officials of **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** from **Southern Region, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**, India.
- The meeting was also attended by the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and senior RBI officials Reserve Bank of India, with representation by the Finance/Special Secretaries/senior officers of the Finance Department of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Puducherry, and Karnataka.

### About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

### State Bank of India Q1 Results: Net profit grows 178% to Rs 16,884 crores & Net interest income rises 25%

- **State Bank of India's (SBI) first quarter (Q1FY24) standalone net profit** soared **178% year-on-year (yoy)** in the first quarter to **₹16,884 crore**, buoyed by a **5-fold increase** in other income, robust net interest income, and a decline in loan loss provisions.
- The Q1FY24 net profit is SBI's **highest ever net profit** for the fourth quarter in succession.
- The bottomline surpassed broking firms estimates', which ranged from **₹13,200 crore to ₹16,500 crore**.

### About SBI :

- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### IRDAI allows insurers to hold HDFC investments till maturity

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has allowed **insurance companies'** bond holdings in erstwhile **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC)** to be treated as **'housing and infrastructure'** investments till maturity.
- Till its merger, HDFC was the largest issuer in the bond market, raising around **₹64,000 crore** each in FY22 and FY23, accounting for **10%** of the total funds raised via **EBP (electronic bidding platforms)**.

### SEBI changes IPO rules & listing time cut to 3 days from 6 days

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** halved the timeline for **listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to 3 days from 6 days at present.**
- The **new listing timeframe will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after September 1, 2023**, and mandatory for all the issues which come after December 1, 2023.
- Under the new guidelines, **IPOs** will have to mandatorily list after 3 days of the issue closing date.
- The move came after SEBI's board cleared a proposal regarding the same in June 2023.

#### About SEBI :

- Established: 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, GoI.

### Axis Bank to raise stake in Max Life to 16.2% through Rs 1,612-crore investment

- **Axis Bank stated that to raise its stake in Max Life Insurance Company Limited to 16.22% from 9.99% by infusing Rs 1,612 crore** through a preferential allotment of shares.
- Axis Bank, along with its entities (**Axis Securities and Axis Capital**), **acquired a 12.99% stake in Max Life in 2021, and through this new investment, they will own 19.02% of the insurer.**
- The bank will now enter into a share subscription agreement with Max Life for the proposed acquisition through subscription to the preferential issue of 14,25,79,161 fully paid-up equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each at a fair market value of Rs 113.06 per share.
- (PFRDA) and Competition Commission of India (CCI). Following the share purchase, the board of Max Life will include 5 nominee directors of Axis Entities and 3 nominee directors of Max Financial.

#### About Axis Bank :

- Established : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

### RBI proposes to raise UPI-Lite payments limit to Rs 500 per transaction

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced to **increase** the **transaction payment limit** from **Rs. 200** to **Rs. 500** for **UPI Lite** in offline mode to promote digital transactions.
- However, the overall limit of small-value digital transactions is kept unchanged at **2,000 rupees**.
- Earlier, a limit of Rs 200 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 per payment instrument had been prescribed by the RBI for small value digital payments in offline mode, including for **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** and **UPI Lite**.

### **National Company Law Tribunal approved National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd's resolution plan for 2 Srei group firms**

- The **National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) Kolkata bench** has approved **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited's (NARCL) resolution plan** for **2 Srei group companies**.
- NARCL emerged as the winning bidder for the 2 Srei group firms -- **Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd (SIFL)** and **Srei Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL)** through an insolvency resolution process in February, 2023.

#### **About NARCL :**

- MD & CEO : Natarajan Sundar
- The National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) was incorporated in **July 2021** as a 'bad bank' to help dispose of the stressed assets of the commercial banks.
- NARCL is the name of the **asset reconstruction company (ARC)** incorporated to take over and dispose of the stressed assets of commercial banks.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have a **51% ownership** of NARCL.

#### **About NCLT :**

- Established: June 2016
- Formed Under: Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi Committee
- President: MM Kumar
- NCLT is a quasi-judicial body in India that adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies.

### **Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card**

- India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license, **Airtel Payments Bank**, becomes the **1st Indian Bank** to launch **eco-friendly debit cards** for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.
- The launch comes in alignment with the Bank's commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices within the financial sector.
- The debit cards will come in **recycle-Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material**, a certified eco-friendly material.
- Airtel Payments Bank is coming up with **2 cards** under Classic variant – **Personalised Classic Card** and **Insta Classic Card**.

#### **About Airtel Payments Bank :**

- Founded : January 2017.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas.

### Kotak Life tie Up With ESAF Small Finance Bank For Customer Life Insurance

- **Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company (Kotak Life)** stated that its corporate agency **ties-up** with **ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF Bank)** to offer life insurance to customers.
- The tie-up plans to benefit 68 lakh customers of ESAF Bank that will offer a wide range of tailor-made life insurance products and solutions provided by Kotak Life, including protection, savings, investment and retirement through ESAF Bank's 700 banking outlets spread across 21 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs).

#### About Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company :

- Established : 2001
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Managing Director : Mahesh Balasubramanian

#### About ESAF Small Finance Bank :

- Established : 10 March 2017
- Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala
- MD & CEO : Kadambelil Paul Thomas

### RBI Monetary Policy Highlights: Keeps Repo rate unchanged at 6.5%; Retail inflation for FY24 pegged at 5.4%

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** announced that the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** unanimously decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%** for the 3rd time in a row.

• Category	• Rate
• Repo Rate	• 6.5%
• Reverse Repo Rate	• 3.35
• Standing Deposit Facility	• <b>6.25%</b>
• Marginal standing facility	• 6.75%
• GDP growth projection	• 6.5%
• C Consumer Price Index (CPI) i	• 5.4%
• Bank Rate	• 6.75%
• Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	• 4.50%

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 18%</li></ul>
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### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### ADB approves USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development programme & Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 40.5 million loan** for integrated **early childhood development (ECD)** and **maternal mental health** in **Meghalaya**.
- The Meghalaya government is also contributing **USD 15.27 million** to the project.
- A **USD 2-million technical assistance grant** from the **Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific** will help develop guidelines and training curricula for AWC staff and ECD educators.

### About ADB :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 members, including 49 regional members (countries in Asia and the Pacific) and 19 non-regional members (countries outside the region)

### Canara Bank launched Canara Jeevan Dhara - Tailored Savings Account for Pensioners

- **Canara Bank** has introduced a **specialised savings bank account** named "**Canara Jeevan Dhara**" aimed at catering to the unique financial needs of pensioners and prospective pensioners, including those who have retired on a voluntary basis or through normal retirement.
- **Diamonds account** is for up to **Rs 50,000** and **Platinum account** is for above **Rs 50,000**.
- The interest rate on Canara Jeevan Dhara savings account mirrors the regular savings account rate, ranging from **2.90% to 4%** based on the account balance.

### About Canara Bank :

- Established : 1906
- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : K. Satyanarayana Raju
- Tagline : Together We Can

### SBI plans to open 300 branches across India in the current financial year

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** plans to open **300 new branches across India** in the current financial year.
- It currently operates 22,405 branches across the country & it has 235 foreign branches and offices.
- In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, SBI reported its **highest-ever quarterly profit** at **₹16,884 crore**.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- This is a substantial increase compared to the net profit of **₹6,068 crore** in the same quarter of the previous year.

### About SBI :

- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Tagline : The Banker to Every Indian.

### PFRDA integrates the NPS Statement of transaction with Consolidated Account Statement

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** and the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** have collaborated to provide **National Pension System (NPS) subscribers** with an enhanced and consolidated view of their personal investments in the securities market, including updated mark-to-market values under a single **consolidated account statement (CAS)**.
- The consolidated view encompasses the subscribers' **Demat account holdings** and **mutual fund investments**.
- Currently, Consolidated Account Statement (CAS), provided by **National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL)** and **Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL)**, furnishes a consolidated and updated investment view in the securities market.

### About PFRDA :

- Established : 2003
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chairman : Deepak Mohanty
- PFRDA is the **regulatory body** for the overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance** in the Government of India.

### About NSDL :

- Established : August 1996 as the first electronic securities depository in India with national coverage.
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

### NPCI launches UPI Chalega 3.0 campaign to promote safe and easy digital payments

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the **3rd edition** of the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Safety Awareness Campaign, “UPI Chalega”** with an 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; and **UPI Interoperability**, which facilitates seamless money transfers between all UPI-enabled applications.

### About NPCI :

- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is an umbrella organization for operating **retail payments** and **settlement systems** in India.

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- It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

### **RBI to launch pilot project on Public Tech Platform for frictionless credit**

- In a step towards enhancing India's financial landscape, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the launch of the **Pilot Project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- To **enable delivery of frictionless credit** by facilitating a seamless flow of required digital information to lenders.
- The initiative will soon be rolled out as a pilot project in a phased manner, beginning **August 17, 2023**.

#### **About RBI :**

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### **RBI launches centralised web portal UDGAM for searching unclaimed deposits across multiple banks**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched a centralised web portal to help citizens search for their unclaimed deposits, known as **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits to Gateway to access information)**.
- The portal has been developed by the central bank for the public to help them search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.
- **Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS)**, and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal.
- Earlier, the RBI had announced the development of the centralised web portal on **April 6, 2023**.

### **Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards & MSME loans**

- **Axis Bank**, one of the largest private sector banks in India has launched **2 lending products Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) loans** powered by the **Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC)**, introduced by the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Axis Bank will offer KCC & unsecured MSME loans to small business customers, powered by the platform.
- Both the products will be offered in a completely digital manner and require **no submission** of documents by customers.

#### **About Axis Bank :**

- Established : 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi ("Progress is the Name of Life")

#### **About RBIH :**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Founded : 2022
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO : Rajesh Bansal

### Credit card default rises 1.94% to `4,072 cr at end of March 2023

- **Credit card default rose to Rs 4,072 crore or 1.94%** at the end of March 2023.
- As per the inputs received from RBI, in respect of defaults in credit cards, the **gross non-performing assets (GNPAs)** in credit cards was Rs 3,122 crore in March-2022 and **Rs 4,072 crore** in March-2023, while credit card outstanding in March-2022 and March-2023 was Rs 1.64 lakh crore and Rs 2.10 lakh crore, respectively.
- GNPAs in credit cards have declined from 3.56% in March 2021 to 1.91% in March 2022, and stand at **1.94%** in March 2023 against the scheduled commercial banks' GNPA of 3.87% in March 2023.
- The total number of frauds as reported by the cooperative banks during FY23 was **964** with amount involved to the tune of Rs 791.40 crore.

### RBI imposes monetary penalty on 4 co-operative banks for violating rules

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalties on **4 cooperative banks - Mangal Co-operative Bank, The Mahabaleshwar Urban Co-operative Bank, The Islampur Urban Co-operative Bank and The Tapindu Urban Co-operative Bank** for violating rules.
- A monetary penalty of **₹1,00,000** has been imposed on The Tapindu Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Patna.
- This penalty is for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Exposure Norms and Statutory / Other Restrictions – UCBs'.
- A penalty of **₹2.00 lakh** has been imposed on Islampur Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Maharashtra.

### IIITD-IC signs MoU with YES BANK to step up Indian Startups

- **IIITD Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC)**, a section 8 company promoted by the **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD)**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Yes bank** with an aim to enable enterprise banking, personal banking and beyond banking solutions required by the Startups.

#### About Yes Bank :

- Established : 2004
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : Experience our expertise

### Helios Capital gets SEBI's approval to launch mutual fund business

- Samir Arora-promoted **Helios Capital Management** has received **final approval** from capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** to launch a **mutual fund (MF)** business.

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Once launched, Helios Mutual Fund will become the **46th entity** to enter this most buzzing industry with an asset under management of ₹46-lakh crore.

### Indian Banks' Association Forms Sectoral Committee in GIFT City

- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has constituted a **sectoral committee** for member banks operating within the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- IBA has constituted the Sectoral Committee to address the **unique regulatory landscape and challenges** faced by banks operating within GIFT City.
- GIFT City currently accommodates **26 banks**.

#### About IBA :

- Established : September 1946
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chief Executive Officer : Sunil Mehta

### Bank of Maharashtra tops list of public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth of 25% in Q1 2023

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has emerged as the **top performer** among public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth of **25%** in percentage terms during the first quarter of the current financial year.
- The deposit and advances of the Pune-based lender are the **highest by any public sector bank (PSB)** during the April-June quarter.
- With a growth rate of **24.98%**, the gross domestic advances of the bank rose to **Rs 1,75,676 crore** at the end of June 2023
- It was followed by **UCO Bank** with **20.70% growth**, while **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** with **16.80%** and **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** with **16.21%** growth were at 3rd and 4th spot respectively.
- State Bank of India (SBI)** stood at the **5th spot** with **15.08%** rise in domestic advances growth.

#### About BoM :

- Established : 16 September 1935
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : A. S. Rajeev
- Tagline : One Family One Bank

### 5 banks offering Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, post office scheme earning 7.5% interest rate

- Finance Minister **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** introduced the **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC)**, a small savings scheme for women and girls in August 2023.
- Currently **5 Banks** offering Mahila Samman Savings Certificate include **Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India, Canara Bank and Bank of India (BoI), Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.
- The MSSC is a **government-guaranteed limited-period small savings scheme** aimed at empowering women and fostering their financial inclusion.
- MSSC is a **2-year deposit scheme**, which offers an interest rate of **7.5% per annum**.
- It is a one-time program that runs from **April 2023 to March 2025**.

### RBI Partners With McKinsey and Company & Accenture Solutions to Use Artificial Intelligence &

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### Machine Learning to enhance Regulatory Supervision

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has selected global consultancy firms **McKinsey and Company India LLP** and **Accenture Solutions Private Limited India** to develop systems using **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine learning** for its supervisory functions.
- RBI is planning to use advanced analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning for analyzing a huge database and improve regulatory supervision over banks and NBFCs.
- RBI had shortlisted **7 applicants** to participate in the request for proposal process (RFP) for the selection of consultant(s).
- The 7 firms were **Accenture Solutions Private Limited; Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd; Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP; Ernst and Young LLP; KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP; McKinsey and Company; and PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.**

#### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### SBI leads debit cards market & HDFC continues to top Credit cards in June 2023

- India's largest public sector lender, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, remained the **front runner** in the **Debit cards market**, holding a whopping **28%** share in June 2023, revealed latest data by **1 Lattice (Previously PGA Labs)**.
- Top banks followed the list like **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** which held about 9% market share, followed by **Bank of India (BoI), Canara Bank, Union Bank and HDFC Bank** with approximately 5% market share each.
- **ICICI Bank** registered the highest degrowth of **11%**, followed by **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** with a **10% degrowth**.
- **CitiBank's market share** went down to **zero**, after the Axis-Citi deal.

### Bandhan Bank & Government of Odisha Partnered to facilitate OTDC payment solutions

- India's leading private lender **Bandhan Bank** has announced its **strategic partnership** with the **Odisha Government** to enhance payment solutions for **Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) Limited**.
- To introduce improved convenience for tourists and streamline payment processes.
- As a part of this partnership, Bandhan Bank has introduced **Point of Sale (PoS) machines** at key tourist destinations including Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Chilka, and Gopalpur.
- The **Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machines** will also help prevent revenue loss for OTDC, which may be caused by the lack of cash carried by the tourists. This initiative aligns with the nation's vision of becoming a cashless economy.

#### About Bandhan Bank :

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

### Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology to launch long-range wireless tech-based solution for better rural reach

- A new technology developed by the **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, an arm of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is now all set to be deployed to **increase last-mile connectivity of banking services in remote areas**.
- The financial network technology, based on LoRa (Long Range) wireless protocol, has been successfully tested at the field level and is now being looked into by the RBI and other stakeholders.
- The new dedicated **low-cost financial network** based on LoRa protocol can be used privately by banks to send encrypted financial packets to conduct financial transactions.

### RBI asks banks to provide individual borrowers option to switch from floating to fixed interest rate

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed regulated entities, including **banks and Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)**, to offer **personal loan borrowers** the choice to switch from a **floating interest rate to a fixed rate** when resetting interest rates.
- The move is expected to **enhance borrower flexibility** and align with changing financial conditions.
- In a circular on '**Reset of floating interest rate on equated monthly instalments (EMI)** based personal loans the RBI stated the borrowers will also be given the choice to opt for enhancement in EMI or elongation of the tenor.
- RBI has set a deadline for banks and lenders to implement these personal loan instructions by **December 31, 2023**.

### What is Floating Interest Rates ?

- A floating interest rate is an interest rate that changes **periodically**.
- The rate of interest moves up and down, or "floats," reflecting economic or financial market conditions.
- **Floating Interest Rate = Base Rate + Spread**

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### YES Bank introduces new mobile banking app 'iris' to transform mobile banking experience for consumers

- Private lender **YES Bank** introduced its state-of-the-art mobile banking application named '**iris**' with an aim to **redefine digital banking** for its customers.
- 'Iris' is a **comprehensive financial platform** co-created with valued customer feedback.
- The app is designed to serve **both existing and new customers**.

### About YES Bank :

- Established : 2004
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- Tagline : Experience our Expertise



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### India's banking system liquidity slips into deficit first time in FY24

- **India's banking system liquidity** has slipped into **deficit** for the **1st time** this financial year(2023) after the Reserve Bank of India's temporary liquidity withdrawal move and tax outflows.
- As of August 21, 2023, the liquidity of the Indian banking system was reported at **Rs 236 billion (\$2.84 billion)**, according to data provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- This marked a significant departure from the scenario at the beginning of August 2023 when the banking system enjoyed a surplus liquidity of **2.8 trillion rupees**.
- However, liquidity has been declining especially after RBI asked banks to hold an **incremental cash reserve ratio (CRR) of 10%** on an increase in deposits between May 19 and July 28, 2023.
- This has led to the withdrawal of over **1 trillion rupees**.

### What is Banking System Liquidity?

- Liquidity in the banking system refers to **readily available cash** that banks need to meet **short-term business and financial needs**.

### LIC acquires 6.66% shareholding in Jio Financial Services through demerger action

- **Life Insurance Corporation announced that it has acquired 6.660 per cent** shareholding in **Jio Financial Services**, the demerged financial entity of Reliance Industries that made its stock debut.
- The insurer stated that the cost of the acquisition done through the demerger of the non-banking financial entity is **4.68 percent** of the pre-demerged cost of Reliance Industries as per the notice of the company dated July 19.

### About JFS:

- Jio Financial Services is a **financial services company with investments in six companies**: Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings (RIIHL), Reliance Payment Solutions, Reliance Retail Finance, Jio Payments Bank, Jio Information Aggregator Services, and Reliance Retail Insurance Broking Ltd.
- **Founded:** 2017
- **Founder:** Mukesh Ambani

### About LIC:

- **Established:** 1st September 1956
- **MD:** Siddhartha Mohanty
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India

### Total banking transactions at GIFT IFSC reach USD 508 billion by July 2023

- Total banking transactions at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) here reached **USD 508 billion till July 2023**.
- **GIFT IFSC Executive Director Dipesh Shah** stated that till July 2023, the total banking asset size at GIFT IFSC stood at USD 41.20 billion, and cumulative derivative transactions booked by banks were worth USD 632 billion.
- There were a total of over **545 IFSCA registered entities at GIFT IFSC** till July 2023, including 25 aircraft and shipping entities, and monthly turnover on the IFSC international stock exchange in July 2023 was USD 60.33 billion.

### Cashfree Payments introduced 'Vendor Payments' to streamline businesses' purchase-to-pay cycle

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Cashfree Payments, India's leading provider of payments and API banking solutions, introduced '**Vendor Payments**,' a comprehensive platform that enables businesses to optimize and manage their purchase-to-pay cycle, increasing efficiency and lowering processing time.
- 'Vendor Payments' streamlines not only vendor payments, but also other account payables such as **utility bill payments, other business expenses, and tax payments.**

### About Cashfree Payments:

- **Established:** 2015 by IIT Kharagpur
- **Headquarters:** Bangalore, Karnataka
- **CEO & Co-founder:** Akash Sinha

### Union Bank of India to raise up to Rs 5,000 crores through qualified institutional placement

- A Committee of Directors on Raising Capital Funds approved the raising of funds for an amount **not exceeding Rs 5,000 crores** through the issue of equity shares through **Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP)**, **Union Bank** stated in a regulatory filing.
- According to the exchange filing, the committee "approved the opening of the issue" and "approved the floor Price of **Rs 91.10 per equity share.**"

### About Union Bank of India:

- **Established:** 1919
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** A. Manimekhalai
- **Tagline:** Good People to Bank with

### Punjab National Bank inaugurates PNB Pensioner's Lounge on World Senior Citizen's Day

- On **World Senior Citizens Day (Aug 21, 2023)**, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, the nation's leading public sector bank, has introduced the "**Pensioner's Lounge**", a dedicated space within the branch that serves pensioners and senior citizens with all their banking needs.

### Aim :

- To provide a **specialised and comfortable space** for pensioners and senior citizens, offering comprehensive banking services.
- On this occasion, PNB's Managing Director and CEO, Atul Kumar Goel, unveiled an informative **booklet** named "**Spandan**" to provide detailed information about various bank schemes specifically designed for senior citizens and pensioners.

### About PNB :

- **Founded :** 19 May 1894
- **Headquarters :** Dwarka, Delhi, India
- **MD & CEO :** Atul Kumar Goel
- **Tagline :** You Can Bank Upon

### SBI Life Insurance becomes the 1st Indian private life insurer to launch a 24X7 inbound contact centre to offer before and after sales services to consumers

- **SBI Life Insurance**, one of the most trusted private life insurance companies in the country, launched its dedicated **24X7 inbound contact centre** through **toll-free number 18002679090** to address before and after purchase queries related to comprehensive insurance solutions provided by the company.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- SBI Life, thus, becomes the **first private life insurance company** in the country to have such extensive customer care support.
- This number is set to see a positive rise going forwards, given the goal of **‘Insurance for all by 2047’** set by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)**.

### About SBI Life Insurance :

- Incorporated in October 2000 and was registered with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in March 2001.
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Mr. Mahesh Kumar Sharma
- Tagline : Apne liye, Apno ke liye

### IFC invests \$100 million in IIFL Home Finance to help boost Economically Weaker Sections and low-income Groups housing

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a member of the World Bank Group is set to invest up to **\$100 million** in **IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL)**, a leading housing finance company, in a move aimed at increasing access to housing finance for **economically weaker sections (EWS)** and **low-income groups (LIG)**, including women borrowers in India.
- This investment is poised to catalyse **India's affordable housing sector, foster eco-friendly construction practices**, and contribute to India's climate objectives.

### About IFC :

- Established : July 20, 1956
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- Managing Director : Makhtar Diop
- Membership : 186 countries
- The IFC is an **international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services** to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.

### Central Vigilance Commission reconstitutes advisory board on bank frauds

- The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has reconstituted the New Delhi headquartered **Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)** to **address fraudulent activities** in the banking and financial sectors.
- **Suresh N Patel**, former Central Vigilance Commissioner, will be the Chairman of the reconstituted ABBFF.
- In addition to the Chairman, the ABBFF will also have 4 members, including **Ravikant, Rajnikant Mishra, David Rasquinha, and Partha Pratim Sengupta**.
- The term of the Chairman and Members of ABBFF will be for **2 years**, effective from August 21, 2023.

### CAMSfinserv onboards 17 Asset Management Companies on account aggregators platform

- CAMSfinserv, one of the **first RBI-licensed Account Aggregators (AA)** in India, has onboarded all **17 Asset Management Companies** serviced by CAMS as financial information providers on the AA platform, making it the 1st in the industry to provide access to mutual fund data.
- This will help Asset Management Companies to attract and retain customers by simplifying the access and management of their **financial data, improve risk management, ensure compliance, personalise financial offerings** and **improve or innovate existing operational processes**.

### What is an Account Aggregator ?

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- An Account Aggregator is a **non-banking financial company** engaged in the business of providing, under a contract, the service of retrieving or collecting financial information pertaining to its customer.

### About CAMS :

- Managing Director : Anuj Kumar
- CAMSfinserv is leading Account Aggregator with **54 entities** including banks, MFs, insurers, depositories and GSTN live on its platform as Financial Information Providers.

### Axis Bank announces partnership with Cleartrip to give travel benefits to credit card holders

- **Cleartrip**, a subsidiary of Flipkart, has joined forces with **Axis Bank**, a prominent private sector bank in India, to introduce an **innovative travel proposition** for Axis Bank credit cardholders.

### Aim :

- To provide a range of **travel benefits** to both **existing** and **new cardholders** who book through Cleartrip.

### About Cleartrip :

- Founded : July 2006
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO : Ayyappan R
- Cleartrip is a **global online travel company**, operates an online travel aggregator website for booking flights, train tickets, hotel reservations, and activities in India and the Middle East countries.

### BoB introduces Video Re-KYC Service for Hassle-Free KYC Updation

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)**, a state-owned bank, has launched the '**Video Re-KYC**' service to simplify the periodic update of **customer identity documents**.
- This service allows individual resident customers to update their '**Know Your Customer**' (KYC) details without needing to visit a physical branch.
- To avail the Video KYC facility, customers must be Indian residents, **above 18 years of age** and must have their Aadhaar number and original PAN Card.

### About BoB :

- Established : 20 July 1908
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- Tagline : India's International Bank

### RBI approves merger of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank Limited with Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **merger** of **Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank Limited**, located in Akola, Maharashtra, with The **Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank Limited**, situated in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.
- This strategic move was authorized by the RBI under Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A along with Section 56 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

### About Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank :

- Established : 1933
- Headquarters : Jalgaon, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Rohit Pandurang Bhujbal

### About RBI :

- Established : 1 April 1935

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors : Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

### Axis Bank introduces UPI interoperability on its Digital Rupee app

- As a part of the Reserve Bank of India's ongoing **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) initiative**, **Axis Bank** has launched a **new UPI interoperability functionality** on its '**Axis Mobile Digital Rupee App**' to enhance the use of Digital Rupee among its customers.
- With this, the bank aims to help customers use **Digital Rupee for payments** on UPI QR codes.

### What is a central bank digital currency (CBDC)?

- CBDC, e₹ or Digital Rupee, is a **legal tender** issued by the Reserve Bank of India initiative.
- On **1 November, 2022**, the apex bank started a pilot on CBDC in the wholesale segment, and rolled out retail testing on 1 December, 2022.
- The e₹ offers features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality with atomicity (i.e. immediate settlement of transactions) in the Digital mode.

### HDFC Bank joins hands with Marriott International to launch India's 1st co-branded hotel credit card

- **HDFC Bank** has become the **1st bank in India** to launch the '**Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card**', India's first co-branded hotel credit card in partnership with Marriott Bonvoy, Marriott International's award-winning travel programme.

### Aim :

- To enhance the travel experiences of our valued cardholders by offering exclusive benefits, rewards, and seamless access to Marriott International's award-winning travel program.
- The co-branded credit card will run on **Diners Club**, part of the Discover Global Network.

### About HDFC Bank Ltd :

- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

### State Bank of India (SBI) Introduces Non-Callable Term Deposits - "Sarvottam"

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched its **non-callable term deposits** called SBI '**Sarvottam**' for deposits above **Rs 15 lakh**.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks can offer **higher interest rates** on deposits of over Rs 15 lakh wherein the customers do not withdraw prematurely.

### What is a non-callable deposit?

- Non-callable deposit is a **term deposit product** wherein premature withdrawal is not allowed during the tenure of the deposit.
- Under the "Sarvottam" term deposits, the bank is providing depositors with a rate of interest of **7.40%** for a two-year period.
- The deposit rate is **7.10%** for a one-year term.

### ICC partners with Mastercard for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced an association, with **Mastercard** becoming a **Global Partner** for the **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023** to be held in India between **5 October and 19 November 2023**.
- With this, Mastercard joins ICC's other global partners **MRF Tyres, Booking.com, Aramco** and **Emirates**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 :

- The 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be the **13th edition of the Cricket World Cup**, a quadrennial One Day International (ODI) cricket tournament contested by men's national teams and organised by the ICC.
- It will be the **first men's Cricket World Cup** to be hosted solely by India.
- The final is scheduled to be played at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on 19 November 2023**.

### About Mastercard :

- Established : 1966
- Headquarters : New York, United States
- CEO : Michael Miebach

### About ICC :

- Established : 15 June 1909
- Headquarters : Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- CEO : Geoff Allardice
- The ICC is the global governing body for cricket representing **108 members**.

### Bandhan Bank opens branch in Leh, Ladakh

- To celebrate the **8th foundation day**, **Bandhan Bank** opened its branch in the **Leh district** of Union Territory (UT), **Ladakh**, marking its presence in 35 of the 36 states and UTs of India.
- Bandhan Bank also opened another branch in **Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)**.

### About Bandhan Bank :

- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Founder, MD and CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh.

### Airtel Payments Bank enables Fastag-based parking payments at Patna airport

- **Airtel Payments Bank**, a prominent player in the digital banking space, has introduced a **Fastag-based parking payments**, streamlined solution for parking payments at Jayprakash Narayan International Airport in Patna.

### Centre & Asian Development Bank to set up climate change and health hub in Delhi

- India in partnership with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is set to open a **climate change and health hub** in New Delhi.
- The establishment of a climate change and health hub in New Delhi signifies a significant commitment towards knowledge **sharing, collaboration**, and **innovation** in tackling the challenges posed by climate change on health systems, especially in developing countries.

### About ADB :

- Established : 19 December 1966
- Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership : 68 countries

### Airtel Payments Bank partners with Frontier Markets, Mastercard to Support 100,000 Women-owned Small Businesses in India

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Airtel Payments Bank**, in collaboration with **Mastercard Center** and **Frontier Markets**, has introduced a **first-of-its-kind initiative**, transformative initiative named **She Leads Bharat: Udyam**, an initiative to elevate 100,000 women-owned small businesses.
- In the first phase, this initiative will enable 100,000 women-owned small businesses in **Rajasthan** and **Uttar Pradesh** to learn and earn through **Frontier Markets' proprietary, flexible Meri-Saheli platform**.

### What is meant by frontier markets?

- Frontier Markets is a **social enterprise** that focuses on bringing products and services to rural and underserved communities in India.
- The organization is dedicated to providing **rural households**, particularly women, with access to clean energy products, such as solar products, efficient cookstoves, and other household essentials.

### About Airtel Payments Bank :

- Established : 23 November 2016
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas

### IDFC First Bank gets rights for international matches in India for 3 years

- **IDFC First Bank** has secured the title rights to the **home international series** of the **Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI)** for a duration of **3 years**.
- The bank acquired these rights at a cost of **Rs 4.2 crore per international match**.

### About IDFC First Bank :

- Founded : October 2015
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- IDFC FIRST Bank is an Indian private sector bank formed by the merger of the banking arm of **Infrastructure Development Finance Company** and **Capital First**, an Indian non-bank financial institution.
- It is the first universal bank to offer monthly interest credit on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates.

### Yes Bank partnered with Zaggie to launch next-generation corporate credit card

- **Yes Bank** in collaboration with spend management platform **Zaggie** launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card named **Yes Bank Zaggie Corporate Credit Card** to empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage company expenditures.

### Asian Development Bank & Fourth Partner Energy sign \$14.7mn loan agreement to build solar power plant in Tamil Nadu

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner)** an Independent Power Producer (IPP) signed a long-term loan of up to **1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million)** to construct and operate a **25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant** to increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers.
- The power plant, located in Tirunelveli district in the state of 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.
- This is ADB's **1st direct financing** to a renewable energy plant.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About Fourth Partner :

- Established : 2010
- Headquarters : Hyderabad, Telangana
- Fourth Partner is **India's leading renewable energy solutions platform**, focused on building and financing renewable energy projects for commercial and industrial consumers.
- It offers end-to-end capabilities including evaluation, design, planning, procurement, construction, operation, maintenance, and financing of critical solar, wind, and battery storage infrastructure.

### Axis Bank launched 'Infinity Savings Account' with zero domestic transaction fees

- **Axis Bank**, one of the largest private sector banks in India launched a first-of-its-kind new savings account variant – '**Infinity Savings Account**' to cater to digitally savvy customers who are frequent adopters of subscription-based models.
- Opening the 'Infinity Savings Account' is entirely **digital**, facilitated by the **Video Know Your Customer (KYC) process**.
- This account introduces **2 subscription-based plans - Monthly and Annual**.

### RBI Authorised Bandhan Bank For Disbursing Civil Pension

- In a significant move, **Bandhan Bank** has received **authorization** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to serve as an **authorised pension disbursement bank**.
- This authority is granted on behalf of the **Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO)** of the Ministry of Finance, with a **specific focus on civil pensioners**.
- Notably, this scheme **excludes pensioners** from the **railways, posts, and defence sectors**.
- The scope of **beneficiaries extends to retired judges of high courts** and the Supreme Court, All India Service Officers, former Members of Parliament, as well as former Presidents and Vice Presidents of India.

### SEBI issues disclosure norms for FPIs kick in from November 1, 2023

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced new **disclosure norms** for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)**, which are set to be implemented from **November 1, 2023**.

### Aim :

- To enhance transparency, prevent concentration of holdings, and ensure better oversight of FPI activities.
- The regulatory changes come in response to the **Hindenburg-Adani case**, which underscored the need for stricter regulations in this domain.

### About SEBI :

- Established : 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch (first woman to lead the SEBI)
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), GoI.

### DBS partners with Maptrascos to finish the 1st eBL transaction between India and Singapore

- **DBS Bank Limited**, in collaboration with **Singapore's commodities trader Maptrascos (Khaitan International Pte Limited-KIPL)**, has achieved a significant breakthrough by successfully executing the **1st "live" electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) transaction** for shipments between Singapore and India.

### Objective :

- To facilitate digital trade finance for real-time shipments of goods between these two countries.



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- The transaction was implemented under the TradeTrust framework, an initiative by the **Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)** and supported by **Enterprise Singapore**.

### About DBS Bank Limited :

- Established : 16 July 1968
- Headquarters : Singapore
- CEO : Piyush Gupta

### AWARDS AND HONOURS

#### Ministry of Steel invites applications from Individuals from Industry Research & Academia for National Metallurgist Awards-2023

- **The Ministry of Steel, Government of India confers National Metallurgist Awards 2023 to recognise outstanding contributions in the metallurgical field, covering Operations, Research & Development, Waste Management and Energy Conservation.**
- Applications for Metallurgist Awards (NMA) - 2023 are invited from Individuals from Industry Research & Academia.

#### Union Home Minister Amit Shah hails the team of NAFIS of NCRB for winning Gold Award

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** hailed the **team of National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) of NCRB for winning the Gold Award** under the Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 of the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) makes its mark as the shining example of efficient governance as it wins DARPG's gold award in Category-1.
- Ministry of Home Affairs communiqué said that **NAFIS has created a central database of fingerprints of criminals, which can be accessed by users from all States, Union Territories, and Central Agencies.**
- This has resulted in a qualitative improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal detection and investigation process.

#### Pallathuruthy Boat Club lifts the 69th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race

- **Veeyapuram Chundan (Snake Boat), rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club lifted the 69th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race held on Punnamada Lake** in Kerala's Alappuzha district.
- This is the **fourth straight win for the Club, which lifted the trophy in 2018, 2019 and 2022.**
- The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid 19 pandemic.
- More than 70 boats participated in the boat race, named after the first Prime Minister of the country.

#### President approves one President's Tatrakshak Medal & five Tatrakshak Medals to Indian Coast Guard personnel

- President **Smt Droupadi Murmu** has approved **one President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) and five Tatrakshak Medals (TM) to the Indian Coast Guard personnel** for their act of conspicuous gallantry,

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exceptional devotion to duty and distinguished/meritorious service on the occasion of Independence Day 2023.

- Following is the list of the personnel:

### **President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)**

- IG Manoj Vasant Baadkar, TM

### **Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)**

- Comdt (JG) Anurag Shukla
- Sultan Singh

### **Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)**

- DIG Manoj Bhatia
- DIG KR Deepak Kumar
- Deobrat Kumar Mishra

### **President approves 76 Gallantry awards, including nine posthumous, to Armed Forces & CAPF personnel**

- **President Smt Droupadi Murmu has approved 76 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel** on Independence Day 2023.
- These include four Kirti Chakra (posthumous), **11 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumous, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).**
- The President has also approved 30 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army, including to Army dog Madhu (Posthumous), and one to Air Force personnel for their significant contributions to different military operations.

### **Veteran Entrepreneur Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Receives Maharashtra Government's Inaugural 'Udyog Ratna' Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Industry Sector, Presented by CM Eknath Shinde**

- The Maharashtra Government's inaugural 'Udyog Ratna' award was presented to veteran entrepreneur **Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata** by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- The award ceremony took place at Ratan Tata's residence in Colaba, Mumbai, with the presence of deputy chief ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, Industries Minister Uday Samant, and Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar.
- 'Udyog Ratna' Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the industry sector.
- The award signifies Ratan Tata's remarkable impact on both national and global industrial sectors.

### **954 Police personnel were awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023**

- A total of **954 Police personnel** have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023.
- President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to **01 CRPF personnel**, Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to **229**, President's Police Medal for Distinguished

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

Service (PPM) awarded to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service has (PM) has been awarded to 642.

- Among the majority of the 230 Gallantry Awards, 125 personnel from Left Wing Extremism affected areas, 71 personnel from Jammu & Kashmir region and 11 personnel from North East region are being awarded for their gallant action.
- Among the personnel receiving Gallantry Awards, 28 are from CRPF, 33 are from Maharashtra, 55 are from J&K Police, 24 are from Chhattisgarh, 22 are from Telangana and 18 are from Andhra Pradesh the remaining from the other States/UTs and CAPFs.

### 69th National Film Awards for the year 2021 announce; Rocketry: The Nambi Effect bags Best Feature Film

- The Jury for the 69th National Film Awards announced the winners for the year 2021.
- The Best feature film award has been given to Rocketry: The Nambi Effect and the Best Non-Feature Film has been bagged by Ek Tha Gaon directed by Srishti Lakhera.

### SVAMITVA Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj won National Award for e-Governance 2023

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj won the National Award for e-Governance 2023 (GOLD) for Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services.
- It is a recognition of excellent and exemplary work done by Team SVAMITVA and supported by Team NIC-MoPR.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### IAS officer Lokesh M takes over as the CEO of Noida authority

- A 2005 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Lokesh M took over as the Noida Industrial Development Authority's (NOIDA) chief executive officer (CEO) from Ritu Maheshwari.
- Meanwhile, Maheshwari, a 2003-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), will join as Divisional Commissioner of Agra, replacing IAS officer Alok Gupta, who will be joining as the Divisional Commissioner of Kanpur.

#### Ashish Desai sworn in as new Chief Justice of Kerala High Court

- Justice Ashish J Desai was sworn in as the 38th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.
- Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice, at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.
- He succeeds Justice S V Bhatti who was recently elevated to the post of Supreme Court judge.
- Prior to his elevation as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, Justice Desai was a Judge of the Gujarat High Court.

#### Indian-American policy expert Nisha Biswal appointed as new Deputy Chief Executive Officer of US DFC

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- The United States Senate confirmed **Indian-American policy expert and businesswoman Nisha Desai Biswal** as the **Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**.
- In March 2023, US President Joe Biden had announced the nomination of Biswal as the deputy CEO of the DFC.
- Biswal has over 30 years of experience in US foreign policy and international development programs within the Executive Branch, Congress, and the private sector.

### About United States International Development Finance Corporation :

- Established : December 20, 2019
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C. United States of America
- CEO : Scott Nathan
- It is a development finance institution and agency of the **United States federal government**.
- It was formed by merging the **Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)** with the **Development Credit Authority (DCA)** of the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, as well as with several other smaller offices and funds.

### Prof Ganesan Kannabiran appointed as a new director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council

- The **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** has appointed educationist **Professor Ganesan Kannabiran** as its **new director** for 5 years.
- Prof Kannabiran is a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli, and has served in the education sector for over 30 years.
- He was also the **Dean of Research and Consultancy, and Director-in-Charge of NIT Trichy and NIT Puducherry**.

### About NAAC :

- Founded : 1994
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- The NAAC is a government organisation in India that assesses and accredits Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- It is an autonomous body funded by the **University Grants Commission**.
- The NAAC assessment results in a grade awarded to the institution, ranging from 'A++' (**highest**) to 'C' (**lowest**).
- Institutions that do not meet the minimum criteria receive an '**Unaccredited**' status.

### Shivendra Nath Appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of Engineering Projects India Ltd

- **Shivendra Nath**, a distinguished 1994-batch IAS officer, has been chosen by the esteemed Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) panel to assume the pivotal role of **Chairman & Managing Director at Engineering Projects India Ltd (EPIL)**, a significant Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the aegis of the **Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises**.
- PSEB is vested with the crucial task of identifying and appointing key personnel, including **Chairman, Managing Director, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, and Functional Director**, in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), as well as positions at other designated levels as specified by the Government.

### About Engineers India Limited (EIL) :

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- Founded : 1965
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- EIL is an **Indian public sector engineering consultancy** and technology licensing company.

### Indian-American Shohini Sinha Appointed as FBI's Special Agent In Charge Salt Lake City

- **Indian-American Shohini Sinha** has been appointed as the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) special agent** in charge of the **Salt Lake City Field Office in Utah state, United States (US)** by FBI Director Christopher Wray.
- She becomes the fortieth sovereign to undergo the prestigious coronation ceremony at the renowned Westminster Abbey.

#### About FBI :

- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- The FBI is the **domestic intelligence and security service** of the United States and its principal federal law enforcement agency.

### MFIN elects Udaya Kumar Hebbar as chairperson, Manoj Nambiar as Vice-Chairperson

- **Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN)**, the premier association and RBI-recognised Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry elected **Udaya Kumar Hebbar** as **Chairperson** and **Manoj Kumar Nambiar** as the **Vice Chairperson** of the organisation in its 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Delhi.
- Hebbar took the reins from **Devesh Sachdev**, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Fusion Micro Finance Ltd while Nambiar from **Vivek Tiwari**, MD & CEO of Satya MicroCapital Ltd on completion of their respective term.
- Udaya Kumar Hebbar is the **MD & CEO of Credit Access Grameen Ltd** while Manoj Kumar Nambiar is **MD of Arohan Financial Services Ltd**.

#### About MFIN :

- Founded : 2009
- Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana, India
- CEO & Director : Alok Misra
- MFIN is a **premier industry association** comprising **55 NBFC-MFIs** and 44 Associates including Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and NBFCs.

### Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla gets a one-year extension till Aug 22, 2024

- **Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla** has been given a **one-year extension till 22nd August 2024**.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved his extension.
- His term was **scheduled to end on the 22nd of August**.

#### About Ajay Kumar Bhalla

- Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed home secretary in August 2019.
- He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age.

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- His tenure was first extended on October 17, 2020, till August 22, 2021.

### Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni appoints Hun Manet- as the new Prime Minister of Cambodia

- **Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni has appointed former Prime Minister Hun Sen's son - Hun Manet- as the new prime minister of the country.**
- A royal decree was issued by the King stating that he appoints **Dr Hun Manet as the prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the 7th mandate of the parliament.**
- While the King has appointed Hun Manet as the PM, the leader and his cabinet must win the confidence vote on August 22 to assume office.
- During the **Cambodian Elections 2023, Hun Sen's party - the Cambodian People's Party - won with a landslide victory.**
- Days after their victory, former PM Hun Sen announced that he will be stepping down as the Prime Minister, after assuming office in 1998.

### Tesla appoints Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its new CFO

- **Tesla appointed Vaibhav Taneja as its new Chief Financial Officer.**
- The **45-year-old will take over the new position, also known as 'Master of Coin', in addition to his role as the electric vehicle company's Chief Accounting Officer (CAO).**
- Vaibhav Taneja was announced as the new CFO after **Zachary Kirkhorn, who previously held the post, stepped down.**
- Taneja's appointment comes as Elon Musk's Tesla is looking to grab a foothold in the Indian market.

### Commander (Eastern Seaboard) S Paramesh appointed as Additional Director General Coast Guard

- **Commander (Eastern Seaboard) S Paramesh has been appointed as Additional Director General Coast Guard at Indian Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.**
- **The Flag Officer was at the helm of the Coast Guard Region (East), Coast Guard Region (West), and Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) before assuming Additional Director General Coast Guard.**
- The Flag Officer is an alumnus of the National Defence College, New Delhi, and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.
- The Flag Officer is specialised in Navigation & Direction and his sea commands include all major vessels of ICG which include Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel Samar and Offshore Patrol Vessel Vishwast.
- **He is a recipient of the President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished Service, Tatrakshak Medal and was also awarded the Director General Coast Guard Commendation in 2012 and FOCINC (East) Commendation in 2009.**

### General Manoj Pande, Chief Of The Army Staff, Left For The United Kingdom, To Review the 201st Sovereign's Parade At Sandhurst Academy

- **General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff left for the United Kingdom, to review the 201st Sovereign's Parade of Commissioning Course 223 at the prestigious Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst as the Sovereign's Representative.**
- The Sovereign's Parade at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is a reputed event, known for its illustrious history and the passing out of officer cadets from across the globe.

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- **General Manoj Pande is the first Chief of the Army Staff from India to be the Sovereign's Representative for the parade.**
- During his visit, the General will also be visiting the Indian Army Memorial Room which occupies a place of pride in the Royal Military Academy.
- During his visit to the UK, General Manoj Pande will interact with General Sir Patrick Sanders, Chief of General Staff of the British Army and General Gwyn Jenkins, Vice Chief of Defence Staff of the UK Armed Forces.

### Justice Subhasis Talapatra takes oath as 33rd Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

- **Justice Subhasis Talapatra took oath as the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court.**
- Odisha Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal administered him the oath.
- Justice Talapatra, who was working as a judge in the Orissa High Court, succeeded Justice Dr S Muralidhar following his superannuation.
- The name of Justice Talapatra, as the Chief Justice, was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium last month which was later approved by the Central Government.

### Government Of India Appoints R Doraiswamy As Managing Director of LIC

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has appointed **R Doraiswamy** as **managing director (MD)** of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** with effect from the date of assumption of office on or after 1 September 2023 and continuing until his superannuation on 31 August 2026, or until further instructions, whichever is earlier.
- He has been appointed as MD of LIC in place of **Ipe Mini**.
- Doraiswamy is currently the **central office's executive director** in Mumbai.
- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**, which recruits directors for state-owned banks and financial institutions, proposed Doraiswamy as MD in June, 2023.

#### About LIC :

- Established : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Siddharth Mohanty
- Current MDs : Ipe Mini, M Jagannath, Tablesh Panday, Sat Pal Bhanoo

### Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh appointed SEBI whole-time members

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has appointed **two new full-time directors**.
- The government has appointed **Kamlesh Chandra Varshney and Amarjeet Singh** as **full-time members**.
- Their appointment, according to the announcement, **will be valid for three years** from the date of assumption of taking responsibility or until future orders, whichever comes first.
- **Varshney is currently a joint secretary at the Department of Revenue**, and **Singh is the SEBI executive director**.
- **SEBI now has two full-time members, Ashwani Bhatia and Ananth Narayan G**, and four part-time members, **Ajay Seth, Manoj Govil, M. Rajeshwar Rao, and Dr V. Ravi Anshuman**.

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### Axis Bank's Neelkanth Mishra named part-time chairperson of UIDAI

- **Neelkanth Mishra has reportedly been appointed by the Union government as the part-time chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the nodal body in charge of issuing Aadhaar numbers.**
- **He is the Chief Economist at Axis Bank and Head of Global Research at Axis Capital.**
- Mishra is the **4th chairperson** of UIDAI, and the **2nd non-bureaucrat** to be appointed at the top post in the nodal authority.
- Nandan Nilekani, the **first chairperson of UIDAI**, was also the only other non-bureaucrat to have helmed the body, as part of his stint of over 4 years from which he stepped down in **March, 2014**.

### Other Appointments :

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) also appointed **Nilesh Shah, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (AMC)**, and **Mausam**, associate professor of computer science and founder of Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, as **part-time members** of the UIDAI board.

### About UIDAI :

- The UIDAI is a **statutory authority** established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (Aadhaar Act 2016)** on July 12, 2016, by the Government of India, under the MeitY.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- UIDAI was created to issue **Unique Identification numbers (UID)**, named as "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
- The authority consists of a **Chairperson, two part-time Members** and the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, who is also the Member-Secretary of the Authority.

### About Axis Bank:

- Former name: UTI Bank
- Established: 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Tagline: Badhti ka Naam Zindagi
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

### SBI chief Dinesh Khara likely to get 10-month extension

- SBI chairman **Dinesh Khara** is likely to get an extension until **August 2024**, giving him almost another year at the helm as his current tenure is to end in October.
- Under existing norms, SBI chairman is given a term up to 63 years but Khara reaches that age next August.
- **Ashwini Kumar Tewari**, whose term as MD is due to end in January, 2024, is also in line to get another two years on the job.

### About SBI:

- **Founded:** July 1, 1955
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

### Citi dealmaking head for South Asia and India Ravi Kapoor retires

- Citigroup stated **Ravi Kapoor** will retire as head of banking, capital markets and advisory (BCMA) for South Asia and India after 18 years with the U.S. bank.
- **K Balasubramanian**, currently head of corporate bank for Citi India, will take on Kapoor's role.



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### About Citi Bank:

**Established:** 1812

**Headquarters:** New York, US

**CEO:** Sunil Garg

**Chairman:** Barbara Desoer

### Srettha Thavisin wins vote to become 30th prime minister of Thailand

- Former real estate tycoon **Srettha Thavisin** of **Pheu Thai Party (PTP)** has been elected as the **30th Prime Minister of Thailand**, succeeding **Prayuth Chan-Ocha** who retired from politics in July 2022.
- Srettha is a **former president** and **chief executive of real estate developer Sansiri Plc**, the second largest real estate company in Thailand.

### About Thailand :

- Capital : Bangkok
- Currency : Thai Baht (THB)

### Tennis icon Rafael Nadal is Infosys' brand ambassador

- **Infosys** has roped in tennis icon **Rafael Nadal** as an ambassador for the **Infosys** brand and its **Digital Innovation**.
- As the digital innovation partner for the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour, Roland-Garros, Australian Open, and The International Tennis Hall of Fame, **brand Infosys** has helped reimagine the tennis ecosystem for a billion fans globally leveraging AI, cloud, data analytics and digital experiences, said a company communique.

### Tata Capital appoints Shubman Gill as its brand ambassador

- **Tata Capital**, a prominent financial services entity under the Tata Group, has announced the selection of **Shubman Gill**, a promising young cricket talent, as its **brand ambassador**.
- Tata Capital is one of **India's largest Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** backed by a diverse range of lending and wealth management products and operating across customer segments.

### Justice Prakash Shrivastava Sworn in as chairperson of National Green Tribunal

- Former Chief Justice (CJ) of the Calcutta High Court, **Justice Prakash Shrivastava** has been appointed as the new **chairperson** of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**.
- This was followed by Justice **Sheo Kumar Singh**, the outgoing acting chairperson.

### About National Green Tribunal (NGT) :

- Established : 2010 (under the National Green Tribunal Act in 2010)
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- The NGT is a **statutory body** in India that deals with expeditious disposal of cases related to environmental protection and other natural resources.
- India is the **3rd country** in the world, after Australia and New Zealand, to set up a statutory body for environmental protection.

### Kartik Aaryan is the new face of Dabur Red Bae Fresh Gel

- Indian multinational consumer goods company, **Dabur India Limited** has signed the youth sensation **Kartik Aaryan** as the face of its newly launched gel toothpaste- **Dabur Red Bae Fresh Gel**.

### About Dabur Ltd :

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- Headquarters : Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO : Mohit Malhotra
- Chairman : Mohit Burman

### Guardian Life Insurance of America appoints Shiney Prasad as Country Head

- New York-based one of the world's largest mutual life insurance companies, **Guardian Life Insurance of America** has appointed **Shiney Prasad** as **Country Head - India**, who will report to Chief Information and Operations Officer Dean Del Vecchio.

### Emmerson Mnangagwa wins 2nd term as president of Zimbabwe

- **Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa** was re-elected for a **second and final 5-year term (2023-2028)**.
- The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) declared Mnangagwa the winner, with **52.6%** of the vote, beating Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC), who trailed at 44%.
- The election comes **6 years after longtime ruler Robert Mugabe** was removed from power in a military coup.

#### About Zimbabwe :

- President : Emmerson Mnangagwa
- Capital : Harare
- Currency : Zimbabwean dollar

### Shriram Finance's Umesh Revankar takes charge as chairman of Finance Industry Development Council

- The **Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)**, the representative body of asset and loan financing of the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in India, has appointed **Umesh Revankar** as its **new chairman** for a **2-year term**.
- **Kamlesh Gandhi**, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of MAS Financial Services, and **K V Srinivasan**, chief executive officer of Profectus Capital, will act as the **co-chairmen of FIDC**.

#### About Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) :

- Established: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Director General: Mahesh Thakkar

### Kaziranga National Park to Get Its 1st Woman Field Director - Sonali Ghosh

- Indian Forest Service officer & Chief conservator of forests **Dr Sonali Ghosh** set to become the **1st woman field director** of 118-year-old **Kaziranga National Park** in Assam from Sep 1, 2023.
- She will take the place of **Jatindra Sarma**, who will retire on August 31, 2023.

### MOUS AND AGREEMENT

**The Ministry of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship has signed 106 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with different well-respected organizations and institutions in New Delhi.**

- The **Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** signed **106 MoUs** with **various esteemed organizations and institutions in New Delhi**.
- The event took place on the occasion of the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 and the 3rd anniversary of the National Education Policy.

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- The MoUs aim to foster innovation, research, and knowledge exchange in multiple domains, **promoting collaboration** in education and industry-academia linkages.
- These partnerships involve both public and private entities and cover school education, literacy, and higher education.

### DGT collaborates with Amazon Web Services India to offer skilling programs on emerging technologies

- The **Directorate General of Training (DGT)**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is **collaborating with Amazon Web Services (AWS) India to upskill students in cloud computing, data annotation, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML), to boost their capabilities and employability.**
- This initiative will benefit students enrolled in the institutions under the DGT, an apex organisation responsible for implementing long-term institutional skill training through an extensive network of about 15,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and 33 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), across India.

### About Amazon

- CEO: Andy Jassy
- Founded: 5 July 1994
- CFO: Brian T. Olsavsky
- Founders: Jeff Bezos, MacKenzie Scott
- Hq: Seattle, Washington, United States

### TRAI and C-DoT sign MoU to establish the mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** and the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)** signed a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU).
- The MoU has been signed by **Shri Anil Kumar Bhar dwaj**, DG (TRAI CSR) and **Shri Rajeev Kumar**, Registrar, C-DoT in the presence of Secretary DoT, Secretary TRAI, CEO C-DoT and other senior officials of TRAI and C-DoT.
- The TRAI Centre of Studies and Research (TRAI CSR) was established as an entity within TRAI to **conceptualise, coordinate, and enable technological studies in the telecom and broadcasting sectors.**

### AIIMS Partners with IREDA for Solarization of AIIMS New Delhi:

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** and **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to initiate the technical assessment of the AIIMS New Delhi campus for converting it into one which is powered by solar energy.**
- Towards this, IREDA will undertake a techno-commercial assessment of the AIIMS campus.
- The MoU was signed at AIIMS, New Delhi, by **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, Shri Pradip Kumar Das** and **AIIMS Director Dr. M Srinivas**, in the presence of senior officials of both organisations.

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### About IREDA

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited is formed in 1987 as a Mini Ratna Government of India Enterprise under the Government of India and administratively controlled by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: New Delhi

### About AIIMS

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, also known as AIIMS Delhi, is a public medical research university and hospital in New Delhi, India. The institute is governed by the AIIMS Act, of 1956 and operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### Bureau of Indian Standards signs MoU with 35 institutions for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment

- **Bureau of Indian Standards**, the National Standards Body of India signed a **Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with 35 prestigious institutions across the country for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment.**
- The institutions included some prominent NITs, Government and Private Engineering colleges from different states across the country.
- The **MoU 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, getting infrastructure support for relevant R&D Projects, jointly organizing events on Standardization and Conformity Assessment, exchanging publications, introducing standardization curricula in academics, exploring a Centre of Excellence for Standardization, testing, and Conformity Assessment, and sharing laboratory facilities.

### About BIS:

- The Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standards Body of India under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- Founded: 23 December 1986
- Founder: Parliament of India

### NHPC and ALIMCO sign an MoU for providing aids and assistive devices to Divyangjans

- **NHPC Limited and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding**, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for the 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.**
- The **MoU was signed at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, under the CSR initiative of NHPC.**

### About NHPC:

- NHPC Limited is an Indian public sector hydropower company that was incorporated in 1975 to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power. Recently it has expanded to include other sources of energy like solar, geothermal, tidal, and wind.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Headquarters: Faridabad, India

### About ALIMCO:

- Headquarters: Kanpur
- Founded: 1972

### Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Navars Edutech successfully launched the National Space Innovation Challenge 2023

- **NSIC 2023 is a National-level campaign** designed to ignite next-generation space enthusiasts to understand and contribute towards the growing Indian space economy and future space workforce.
- **It's a National platform to get inspired by industry leaders, seek opportunities for exploration and showcase one's innovation to the world.**
- to foster innovation and curiosity among school students across the nation, the **Atal Innovation Mission is proud to announce the National Space Innovation Challenge (NSIC) open to all school students across the country.**
- Students (from ATL and Non-ATL schools) can submit their entries on the automated **technology platform implemented by Navars Edutech through the link -<https://navarsedutech.com/nsic/>.**
- Each student, based on their interest and understanding, must select one problem which falls under any one of the Challenge themes.

### India Signs MoU with Trinidad and Tobago on sharing INDIA STACK

- **India and Trinidad and Tobago** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **on sharing INDIA STACK** — a collection of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of officials from the **Ministry of Electronics and IT, the National E-Governance Division, MeitY** and also from the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- A **similar MoU was signed with Papua New Guinea** also last month, showcasing the growing interest and acceptance of the initiative on a global scale.
- The UPI which is also a part of India Stack, has been accepted in France, UAE, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

### NHA and IRDAI jointly organized a workshop for Insurance Companies and TPAs for helping them complete integration with ABDM and National Health Claims Exchange

- **The National Health Authority (NHA) and IRDAI** (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) **jointly organized an exclusive three-day Accelerator Workshop to help insurance companies complete their ABDM integration and to facilitate the adoption of Health Claims Exchange (HCX) specifications and e-Claim standards for insurance companies and Third-Party Administrators (TPAs).**
- **The workshop was organized from 10th to 12th August 2023 in New Delhi** and saw participation from over 150 professionals representing 29 insurance companies and 16 TPAs.

### 14 States And UTs Yet To Sign MoU For Implementation Of National Education Policy

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are among 14 States and Union Territories which are yet to sign a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Education Ministry, which mandates the implementation of the National Education Policy to avail funds worth almost ₹13,000 crore for the next three years, under the Centre's flagship scheme for State-run higher education.**
- **40% of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) budget must be borne by the States themselves, and no extra funds have been earmarked for NEP reforms**

### **MoU between IREDA and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy:**

- **The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), categorized as a Mini Ratna (Category – I) enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, has entered into a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.**
- **It lays out strategic targets that IREDA aims to accomplish during the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.**
- **Revenue Targets:** In line with the MoU, the Government of India has set ambitious Revenue from Operations targets for IREDA: ₹4,350 crores for the financial year 2023-24 and ₹5,220 crores for 2024-25.
- **The MoU was officially signed by Shri Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Secretary of MNRE, and Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairperson & Managing Director (CMD) of IREDA.**

### **NHPC and RITES Collaborate for Railway Siding at Dibang Multi-Purpose Project:**

- **NHPC Limited, India's leading hydropower company, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RITES, a Miniratna Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways.**
- **The MoU focuses on the construction of a railway siding at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, to support NHPC's 2,880 MW Dibang MultiPurpose Project.**

### **About NHPC Limited :**

- **Founded : 1975**
- **Headquarters : Faridabad, Haryana, India**
- **Chairman & Managing Director : Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi**
- **NHPC Limited (erstwhile National Hydroelectric Power Corporation ) is an Indian government hydropower board under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India (GoI).**

### **The Indian Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard signed a memorandum of understanding for increased maritime cooperation, and the two governments met for the first time.**

- **In a significant step towards bolstering the bilateral cooperation between India and the Philippines, the Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on enhanced maritime cooperation.**
- **The MoU was signed by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General Indian Coast Guard and CG Admiral Artemio M Abu, Commandant, PCG at the Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi on 22 August 2023.**
- **The MoU inked seeks to enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR) and Marine Pollution Response (MPR).**

### **About ICG :**

- **Established: February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.**
- **It operates under the Ministry of Defence.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### **A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region and UNDP.**

- The **United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region** signed an MoU formalising the collaboration
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has committed to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) to speed up India's sustainable development goals (SDGs).

#### **About UNDP :**

- Established: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Administrator : Achim Steiner
- The UNDP is a **United Nations agency** tasked with helping countries **eliminate poverty** and **achieve sustainable economic growth** and human development.
- It was founded with the merging of the **United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA)** and the **Special Fund**.

### **NHPC and APGENCO join hands for implementation of Pumped Storage Hydropower Projects and other Renewable Energy Projects in Andhra Pradesh**

- **NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) Limited** (an undertaking of the Government of Andhra Pradesh) for the implementation of Pumped Hydro Storage Projects and Renewable Energy Projects in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- In the first phase, the MoU envisages the implementation of two identified Pumped Hydro Storage Projects with a total capacity of 1,950 MW.

### **India and Greece have reached an agreement to increase bilateral trade by 2030 and enhance their partnership to a strategic level.**

- **India and Greece plan to double their bilateral trade by 2030**, announced Prime Minister Modi during his official visit to the country.
- The bilateral trade stood at nearly \$2 billion in 2022-23.
- In the first Prime Ministerial visit to Greece after 40 years, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis decided to elevate bilateral ties to strategic partnership, promised to double bilateral trade by 2030 and agreed to firm up a migration and mobility pact soon.**

### **IIT Bombay partners with HSBC to support innovation-led green hydrogen initiatives**

- **IIT Bombay has partnered with HSBC to pursue technological advancements towards making green hydrogen production** more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable
- This partnership will help boost the government's National Green Hydrogen Mission focused on providing policy support towards achieving global leadership in the green hydrogen transition.

#### **About HSBC Bank India :**

- Incorporated in India: 1 January 1983.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Hitendra Dave

### **Deendayal Port, DP World sign a agreement for construction of mega-container terminal**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Deendayal Port Authority and DP World** have signed a **concession agreement** in the presence of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** in **New Delhi**.
- The project involves the construction of a **mega-container terminal** at **Tuna-Tekra** near the existing **Deendayal Port**, at a cost of over **4,243 crores rupees** through a **Public Private Partnership**.

### **NITI Aayog and UNDP sign Memorandum of Understanding on fast-tracking SDGs**

- **NITI Aayog and UNDP India** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to formalise a **framework of cooperation** on a range of areas, including **SDG localisation, data-driven monitoring, Aspirational Districts and Blocks**, among others.
- The MoU was signed for a period of **5 years**.

#### **About UNDP :**

- Established : **22 November 1965**
- Headquarters : **New York, United States**
- Administrator : **Achim Steiner**
- The UNDP is a **United Nations agency** tasked with helping countries **eliminate poverty** and **achieve sustainable economic growth** and human development.
- It was founded with the merging of the **United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA)** and the **Special Fund**.

### **India and New Zealand sign MoU to boost cooperation in Civil Aviation**

- The **Government of India** and the **Government of New Zealand** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to **boost cooperation in civil aviation**.
- This will cover the **scheduling of new routes, code share services, traffic rights and capacity entitlement**.
- The MoU was signed by **Shri Rajiv Bansal**, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and **HE Mr David Pine**, the **New Zealand High Commissioner**.
- According to the MoU, the designated airline(s) of New Zealand may operate any number of services with any type of aircraft, with 3rd and 4th freedom traffic rights to/from 6 points in India, namely **New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata**.

## **RANKING AND INDEX**

### **Haryana's Nuh secures 2nd position in Niti Aayog's Delta ranking under Aspirational Districts Programme**

- The **Aspirational Districts Programme** has yielded **positive results** in the **Nuh district** of Haryana as **the district** has moved from the **30th position to the second position** in **Niti Aayog's Delta ranking**.
- Sharing details in this regard, Deputy Commissioner, Sh. Dharendra Khadgata said that the **Aspirational Districts Programme** aims to **uplift and develop the most socio-economically challenged districts in India**, and **this progress in the Nuh district is certainly a step in the right direction**.
- Similarly, **the district is ranked second in health and nutrition parameters** with an increase from **64.9 to 71.3**.

### **India's Performance at the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)**

- **India secured the second rank** at the **16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)** held in **Chorzów, Poland** from August 10 to 20, 2023.
- **Medal Tally:** The Indian team earned a remarkable **four Gold medals** and **one Silver medal** at the competition.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Leadership:** The United Kingdom clinched the first position with five Gold medals, putting India in a commendable second place.
- **Global Participation:** A total of 236 students from 50 countries took part in the Olympiad, collectively amassing 27 Gold, 41 Silver, and 50 Bronze medals in various categories
- **Indian Awardees:** The Gold medalists from India include Rajdeep Mishra from Kota, Rajasthan; Koduru Tejeswar from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh; Md. Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata, West Bengal; and Akarsh Raj Sahay from Nagpur, Maharashtra. Sainavaneet Mukund from Bangalore, Karnataka, secured a Silver medal.

### **ICICI Prudential Life has the Best ESG Rating amongst the Indian Listed Insurance Companies**

- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has focused initiatives in place for each dimension of the ESG framework** under the Environment (Transitioning towards Green and Sustainable Operations), Social (Empowering Employees, Adopting Customer Centricity, and Helping Communities) and Governance (Enabling Robust Governance Structure and Effectively Managing Risks) pillars.
- As a result of these initiatives, **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance received an ESG Risk Rating of 16.9 and was assessed by Sustainalytics to be at Low risk of experiencing material financial impact arising from ESG factors.**
- **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has received a rating of A (on a scale of AAA-CCC) in the MSCI ESG Ratings assessment.**

### **Amul ranked the world's strongest dairy brand, second strongest food brand in the world**

- **Amul has been ranked as the world's strongest dairy brand by the Brand Finance Food and Drink Report 2023.**
- The report evaluates and ranks the strongest and most valuable food, dairy, and non-alcoholic beverage brands.
- **The report, conducted by UK-based Brand Finance**, the world's leading brand valuation consultancy, affirms Amul's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and consumer trust.
- **The Amul brand has also been ranked among the top 30 most valuable food brands out of 5000 brands in the world.**
- Amul proudly stands as the only farmer-owned brand among the world's top 100 brands.
- **Amul has also secured the seventh spot on the list of the world's most valuable dairy brands, with an impressive valuation of \$3 billion.**

### **Smart Cities awards: Madhya Pradesh is the best state, Indore retains the top spot**

- **The central government declared 66 winners of the fourth edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) which was launched in April 2022 at the Smart Cities-Smart Urbanisation event in Surat.**
- Madhya Pradesh emerged as the top performing state under the fourth edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC), organised under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Smart Cities Mission to upgrade the country's cities.
- **Indore retained its top position, bagging the National Smart City Award.**
- Among states, **Tamil Nadu was in the second position, and Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh shared the third spot jointly.**
- Among cities, **Surat and Agra followed Indore at the second and third positions respectively.**

[Click here to know about India Smart Cities Awards Contest \(ISAC\) 2022- Winners](#)

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### Jal Shakti Ministry releases report on 6th census on minor irrigation schemes

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti released the report on the sixth census on minor irrigation schemes.
- As per the report, 23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes have been reported in the country, out of which 21.93 million are Ground Water (GW) and 1.21 million are Surface Water (SW) schemes.
- Out of all the individually owned schemes, 18.1% are owned by women.
- Uttar Pradesh possesses the largest number of MI schemes in the country followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The same ranking of states follows for the GW schemes.
- Maharashtra leads in SW schemes followed by Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand.

### DEFENCE NEWS

#### Indian Army applies common uniform for Brigadier, above rank officers

- The Indian Army implemented a common uniform for Brigadier and above rank officers irrespective of the parent cadre and appointment.
- The decision was taken after detailed deliberations during a recently concluded Army Commanders Conference and extensive consultations with all stakeholders.
- To promote and strengthen the common identity and approach in service matters amongst senior leadership, beyond the boundaries of regimentation.

#### About Indian Army :

- Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff : General Manoj Pande

#### Air forces of China & UAE to conduct first joint training exercise Falcon Shield-2023 in August 2023

- The air forces of China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will conduct their first joint training exercise FALCON Shield-2023 in China's Xinjiang in August 2023.
- Xinjiang has hosted combined military exercises earlier as well.
- The infantry of China and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation bloc trained in Korla in 2016.

#### About China :

- Capital : Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

#### About UAE :

- President : Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime Minister : Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Capital : Abu Dhabi
- Currency : UAE dirham

#### Myanmar junta extends state of emergency by another 6 months

- Members of Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) decided to extend the state of emergency in the country and the term of the junta led by Min Aung Hlaing for another 6 months.
- This step is expected to delay the elections which Junta had pledged to hold by August 2023.
- The decision to extend the state of emergency was announced by acting president Myint Swe.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About military junta :

- A military junta is a government that is led by a committee of military leaders.
- The term junta means "**meeting**" or "**committee**".
- A junta frequently comes to power as a result of a coup, which is an attempt to unseat the incumbent leader.

### About Myanmar :

- President : Myint Swe
- Capital : Naypyidaw
- Currency : Kyat

### National Security and Defense Services think tank to organise Military Heritage Guided Tour

- **National Security and Defense Services think tank, the United Services Institution of India (USI), is organising a historic Military Heritage Guided Tour to illuminate the country's rich military legacy among the citizens.**
- **The first leg of this tour** is scheduled to commence on the 12th of August at **Hussainiwala in Ferozepur district of Punjab.**
- A website dedicated to the tour will be launched on the same day where interested persons can register themselves.

### INS Visakhapatnam & INS Trikand arrive in Dubai for a bilateral exercise

- **Two Indian Navy ships, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand, arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai for a bilateral exercise with the UAE Navy.**
- The exercise, which will be held from August 8 to 11, **aims to share best practices and increase synergies between the two navies.**
- Under Rear Admiral Vineet McCarty's command, the ships will engage in professional interactions with the UAE Naval Force, focusing on maritime operations.
- **'Zayed Talwar,' a bilateral exercise,** is scheduled to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies, contributing to regional security.
- Led by Captains **Ashok Rao and Pramod G Thomas, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand showcase advanced maritime capabilities.**
- This visit underscores growing diplomatic collaboration between the Indian and UAE navies.

### Indian and UAE Navies Begin Bilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise

- **India and the UAE have initiated a bilateral Naval Maritime Partnership Exercise** off the coast of the UAE.
- The exercise, being held on August 11th, **involves the participation of two Indian Naval Ships, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand.**
- This joint endeavour, meticulously planned over two days, since the arrival of the ships at Port Rashid Dubai on August 8th, **aims to enhance interoperability and synergy between the Indian and UAE navies, fostering cross-training on tactics, techniques, and procedures while cultivating stronger professional bonds.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **INS Visakhapatnam**, commanded by **Captain Ashok Rao**, is one of the largest operational **Destroyers in the Indian Navy** and is a completely indigenous warship made by Mazagaon Docks Limited.
- **INS Trikand**, commanded by **Captain Pramod G Thomas**, is an advanced stealth frigate commissioned in 2013.
- The ship is a contemporary warship with state-of-the-art technology incorporated in every facet of its design to make her stable, stealthier, fast and formidable.

### Indian Navy's indigenous frontline warships **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata** to participate in Exercise **MALABAR 2023**

- Indian Navy's indigenous frontline warships **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata** will participate in Exercise **MALABAR 2023**.
- The **11-day exercise will commence in Sydney, Australia**.
- Defence Ministry said, **ships and aircraft from the US Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, and the Royal Australian Navy will also participate in the exercise**.
- MALABAR series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and US Navy.
- It has grown in stature over the years to include four prominent navies in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- The exercise provides an opportunity for the Indian Navy to enhance and demonstrate interoperability and also gain from the best practices in maritime security operations from its partner nations.

### **Paradip Port Authority becomes the fastest major port to handle 50 MMT Cargo in the current fiscal year (2023)**

- **Paradip Port Authority has become the fastest major port to handle 50 million metric tons of Cargo** in the current fiscal year(2023).
- It has **exhibited 6.5 per cent growth over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year**.
- The Port has also handled a record 942 Vessels in comparison to 812 handled in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.
- Chairman of Paradip Port Authority, P.L. Haranadh said that with the unwavering support of a dedicated workforce, Paradip Port has exemplified a story of growth, sustainability, and a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

### **President Murmu to launch frigate 'Vindhyagiri' in Kolkata on August 17**

- The **Indian Navy** will launch **Vindhyagiri**, named after a mountain range in **Karnataka**, on August 17,2023 at the hands of President Droupadi Murmu, at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal (WB)**.
- Vindhyagiri is the **6th ship** of the Project 17A Frigates.
- These warships are follow-ons of the **Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class)**, with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About Indian Navy :

- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of Defence Staff : General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Naval Staff : Admiral R. Hari Kumar

### President Murmu launches the country's stealth warship 'INS Vindhyagiri' in Kolkata

- **President Droupadi Murmu launched India's newest warship 'INS Vindhyagiri' at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd's (GRSE) facility on the banks of Hooghly River at Kidderpore in Kolkata.**
- Named after the mountain range in Karnataka, the advanced stealth frigate **INS Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates.**
- The state-of-the-art ship will be fitted with the latest gadgets and undergo extensive trials before being handed over to the Indian Navy for commissioning into service.
- **P17A ships are guided missile frigates.**
- **Vindhyagiri is the last of the three ships being built by Defence PSU GRSE for the Indian Navy.**
- The first five ships of the project were launched between 2019 and 2022.

### BRO commences construction of the world's highest motorable road in Eastern Ladakh

- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has commenced the construction of the world's highest motorable road, the Likaru-Migla-Fukche road close to Hanle in Eastern Ladakh.**
- The **64-km long road will connect Likaru to Fukche which is situated three kilometres away from the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.**
- The **new highest motorable pass will set a new world record of being the motorable road at an altitude of 19,400 feet.**
- Presently, the Umlingla pass at the height of 19,024 feet, is the world's highest motorable pass, constructed by BRO in the year 2021.

### Indian Naval Ship INS Visakhapatnam docks at Al-Shuwaikh Port as part of three-day stay in Kuwait

- **Indian Naval Ship INS Visakhapatnam docked at Al-Shuwaikh Port as part of a three-day stay in Kuwait.**
- **Purpose of Visit:** Indian Naval Ship INS Visakhapatnam recently docked at Al-Shuwaikh Port in Kuwait for a three-day stay, fostering naval cooperation between India and Kuwait.
- **Ambassador's Visit:** **Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Adarsh Swaika,** visited the ship and was briefed about its operations and advanced systems by Rear Admiral McCarthy and Captain Rao.

### Defence Correspondents Course – 2023 Commences at ENC, Visakhapatnam

- The **2023 edition of Defence Correspondents Course (DCC), a three week course conducted by the Ministry of Defence** for select journalists from National and Regional Media organisations, commenced at **Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Visakhapatnam** on 21 August 2023.
- The aim of DCC is to bring media and military closer and enable a pool of journalists at all levels to have better appreciation of the Armed Forces and are cognizant of the domain when reporting on stories relating to the maritime environment.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### **DAC approves proposals worth Rs 7,800 crores to enhance operational capabilities of the Armed Forces**

- A Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting, held under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 7,800 crores.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Indian Air Force, the DAC has granted AoN for procurement and installation of Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite on Mi-17 V5 Helicopters under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category which will enhance better survivability of Helicopters.
- The EW Suite will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

### **IAF To Hold Multinational Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in 2024**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to host a significant multilateral military exercise named 'Tarang Shakti' in the upcoming year(2024).
- The exercise originally slated for **October,2023** has been **rescheduled** to the middle of **2024** due to the participation constraints faced by several air forces.

#### **Primary Focus :**

- To bolster military cooperation among participating air forces.
- It will be the **biggest air exercise** being organised in India.

#### **Participating Nations :**

- Air forces from countries such as **France, the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, the United States (US), and Japan** are expected to be part of the exercise.
- These 6 nations bring their aerial assets, including fighter jets, military transport aircraft, and mid-air refuelling capabilities.

#### **About IAF :**

- Established : 1932
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of the Air Staff : Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

### **Iran Unveils Armed Drone Mohajer-10- Resembling America's MQ-9 Reaper**

- During a conference commemorating Defence Industry Day, **Iran's Defence Ministry** unveiled its **new domestically built drone** named **Mohajer-10**, resembling America's armed MQ-9 Reaper.
- "Mohajer" means "**immigrant**" in Farsi and has been a drone line manufactured by the Islamic Republic since 1985.
- The Mohajer-10 has enhanced capabilities like flying at a higher altitude, for a longer duration and the ability to carry a greater payload.
- The Mohajer-10 is considered an upgraded version of the "Mohajer-6" drone, can carry a **150-kilogram payload**, operate for 12 hours, and reach a maximum altitude of 5,400 metres (17,716 feet).

#### **About Iran :**

- President : Ebrahim Raisi
- Capital : Tehran
- Currency : Iranian rial

### **Indian Air Force to Participate in Exercise Bright Star-23 at Cairo Air Base in Egypt**

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent departed, for participating in **Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23**, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise scheduled to be held at Cairo (West) Air Base, **Egypt** from **27 August to 16 September 2023**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- This is for the **1st time** that IAF is participating in Ex BRIGHT STAR-23.

### Objective :

- To practise planning and execution of joint operations, foster strategic relations, and encourage bonding across borders.

### Indian Participants :

- The IAF contingent will consist of **five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.**
- Personnel from the IAF's Garud Special Forces, as well as those from the Numbers 28, 77, 78 and 81 Squadrons will be participating in the exercise.
- The IAF transport aircraft will also provide airlift to approximately **150 personnel** from the Indian Army.
- The exercise will also see participation of contingents from the **United States of America (USA), Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.**

### About Egypt :

- President : Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister : Moustafa Madbouly
- Capital : Cairo
- Currency : Egyptian pound

### About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister : Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State : Ministry of Defence
- Defence Secretary : Giridhar Aramane

### Defence ministry & Hindustan Shipyard Limited ink Rs 19,000 crore deal for 5 fleet support ships

- In a major boost to indigenisation, the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract with **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** for the acquisition of **5 indigenously built Fleet Support Ships (FSS)** for the **Indian Navy** at an overall cost of around **Rs 19,000 crore.**
- The acquisition of these Fleet Support Ships was endorsed by the **Cabinet Committee on Security** on August 16, 2023, during one of its meetings.

### About HSL :

- Established : 21 June 1941
- Headquarters : Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Hemant Khatri

### Indian Navy participates in 5th 'AUSINDEX-23' held in Australia

- The **5th edition of AUSINDEX**, a significant bilateral maritime exercise between the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)**, was conducted from **22-25 August 2023** in **Sydney, Australia.**

### Participants :

- **Indian Navy:** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri and INS Kolkata were the participating ships from the Indian side.
- **Royal Australian Navy:** HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane were the participating ships from the Australian side.
- Fighter aircraft and maritime patrol aircraft were also part of the exercise.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- AUSINDEX is a bilateral naval exercise jointly conducted by India and Australia, which was first initiated in 2015.

### Other Exercises conducted between Australia and India :

- **Exercise AUSTRAL HIND** (Bilateral Exercise with Army)
- **Exercise PITCH BLACK** (Australia's multilateral air combat training exercise)

### About Australia :

- Prime Minister - Anthony Albanese
- Capital - Canberra
- Currency : Australian Dollar

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: ENVIRONMENT

### Tropical storm to hit Los Angeles in more than 80 years unleashed floods across parts of Southern California

- The first tropical storm to hit Los Angeles in more than 80 years unleashed floods across parts of Southern California.
- According to the National Hurricane Centre tropical storm **Hilary** has been downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone but the ongoing and historic amount of rainfall could still lead to life-threatening and catastrophic flooding.

### About California:

- A state on the west coast of the United States
- **Director General:** Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Pixxel wins defence ministry grant to build miniaturised multi-payload satellites for Indian Air Force

- Bengaluru-based space startup **Pixxel** secured a **multi-crore rupee** grant from the **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** to manufacture **miniaturised multi-payload satellites** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- To develop technologies addressing every stage of a space mission, right from **mission planning and manufacturing to satellite data analytics and more**.
- To encourage technology development in space for defence applications by **startups and young entrepreneurs** via various Defence Ministry initiatives including **iDEX**.
- The **SPARK** grants - offered to startups selected through the **iDEX (Prime) & DISC** initiatives - are aimed at **catalysing innovation** enabling **Indian innovators and entrepreneurs** to deliver **technologically advanced solutions** as well as **propel deep-tech innovations in India**.

### About Pixxel :

- Founded : February 2019
- Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Co Founder & CEO : Awais Ahmed

### Elon Musk's SpaceX launched World's largest private communications satellite Jupiter-3



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Hughes Network Systems**, an EchoStar (Nasdaq: SATS) company, announced its **JUPITER 3 ultra high-density satellite** has successfully launched on a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket** from historic **Kennedy Space Center Launch Pad 39A in Florida, United States of America (USA)**.
- It also known as EchoStar XXIV, JUPITER 3 was built by **Maxar Technologies** in Palo Alto, CA, and is engineered to deliver gigabytes of connectivity to customers across North and South America
- This will mark the **7th launch** for SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, which debuted to much fanfare back in **2018**.

### About SpaceX :

- Founded : March 14, 2002
- Headquarters : Hawthorne, California, United States
- CEO & Chairman : Elon Musk
- SpaceX, is an American spacecraft manufacturer, launch service provider and satellite communications company.

### NASA launches streaming service NASA+

- **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** has introduced an **on-demand streaming platform, name NASA+**.
- NASA's new platform will provide **live coverage of space events, original content and documentaries**, which will be available exclusively on the platform where content will be ad-free and without any charge.

### About NASA :

- Established : July 29, 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C, United States of America
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

### United States to help Australia develop guided missiles by 2025

- The **United States (US)** will **help Australia** to **produce guided multiple-launch rocket systems** by **2025**.
- Austin and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken are in the Australian state of Queensland for the annual Australia-US ministerial dialogue (AUSMIN), with their Australian counterparts Defence Minister Richard Marles and Foreign Minister Penny Wong.
- It is the **first time** Australia has hosted the high-level meeting since 2019 due to the COVID-19 disruption.

### About United States :

- President : Joe Biden
- Capital : Washington, D.C
- Currency : U.S. dollar

### ISRO all set for Lunar Orbit Injection of Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** has **all set for the Lunar Orbit Injection of Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft**.
- The spacecraft to the **moon has covered about two-thirds of the distance to the moon**.
- ISRO has executed a series of strategic moves, progressively increasing the spacecraft's distance from Earth.
- Notably, on **August 1, a crucial slingshot manoeuvre was successfully employed to propel the craft from Earth's orbit towards the Moon**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S. Somanath

### ISRO successfully carries out orbit reduction manoeuvre of moon mission Chandrayaan-3

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully carried out the lunar-orbit reduction manoeuvre of India's third moon mission Chandrayaan-3, a day after ing it into the lunar orbit.**
- **ISRO said the spacecraft successfully underwent a planned orbit reduction manoeuvre which brought it closer to the Moon's surface now to 170 km x 4313 km orbit means the spacecraft's farthest point from the moon is 4313 km and the closest point is 170 km only.**

### Successful commissioning of GSAT-24 unlocks one more step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat: I&B Secy Apurva Chandra

- **New Space India Limited NSIL has collaborated with Tata Play and launched the GSAT-24 satellite in June 2022 aligned with the Make in India vision of the Government.**
- **Tata Play commenced the use of this satellite, now in its orbital position, starting.**
- **In the inauguration ceremony in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra expressed happiness and said, this event unlocks one more step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat and self-reliance in the field of space and communication.**
- **Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said, GSAT-24, a 4-tonne class communication satellite built by ISRO for providing DTH services is fully operational at its maximum satellite capacity, following exhaustive in-orbit testing.**
- **Tata Play's MD and CEO Harit Nagpal said, the collaboration with NSIL will provide their DTH subscribers with even better video and audio quality and many more channels and services.**

### Russia announced a plan to launch a lunar lander this week after several delays, hoping to return to Moon for the first time in over 50 years

- **Russia has announced that it planned to launch a lunar lander this week after several delays, hoping to return to the Moon for the first time in over 50 years.**
- **Russia's space agency Roscosmos said, the Luna-25 lander would be launched in the early hours.**
- **The launch is the first mission of Moscow's new lunar programme, and it comes as President Vladimir Putin seeks to boost space collaboration with China after relations with the West deteriorated following the start of Moscow's attack in Ukraine last year.**

### India develop the manned scientific submersible MATSYA6000

- **India has developed a manned scientific submersible MATSYA6000.**
- **It can carry three humans for a period of 12 hours up to a depth of 60,000 meters in the ocean for deep sea mining and manned submersible.**
- **Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju said that an integrated mining machine has been developed for exploratory mining of poly-metallic nodules from the sea bed and a demonstration of locomotion trial was conducted at Central India Ocean.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- He further added that under the Deep Ocean Mission, significant progress has been made in the development of the technology for deep-sea mining.

**The government has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by ISRO**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra, the Indian Space Policy – 20 23 has been approved and released in the public domain.**
- The **Policy opens up the sector for enhanced participation of Non-Government Entities (NGEs) across** the entire value chain of the space economy while delineating the roles of various **stakeholders viz. IN-SPACe, ISRO, NSIL and DOS.**
- Government has set up the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) as a single-window agency for the promotion and authorization of space activities. **The budget allocations for IN-SPACe:**
  - ✓ 2021-22 Rs. 10 Cr
  - ✓ 2022-23 Rs. 33 Cr
  - ✓ 2023-24 Rs. 95 Cr

- Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory – **India (LIGO-India) project has been approved by the Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 2600 Crore,** with the Department of Atomic Energy as the Lead Agency.

**ISRO successfully conducted a fresh orbit reduction manoeuvre of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft**

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation - ISRO successfully conducted a fresh orbit reduction manoeuvre of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft,** bringing it closer to the Moon's surface.
- Chandrayaan-3 was launched on the 14th of last month, and **it entered into the lunar orbit on the 5th of August.**
- Since it entered into the lunar orbit, **the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft has been engaged in a series of orbit manoeuvres.**
- With this smooth landing on the Moon's surface, India will become the fourth country in the world to achieve this feat, following the US, Russia, and China.

**TDB-DST partners with Chemlife Innovations for Innovative Bio-Trace Minerals Project**

- **The Technology Development Board (TDB),** operating under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), is **thrilled to announce its strategic partnership with M/s Chemlife Innovations Pvt. Ltd., headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- This collaboration marks a significant stride in advancing the **project titled "Commercialization and Manufacturing of Bio-Trace Minerals Used in Feed for Animals,"** a visionary endeavour that harmonizes seamlessly with TDB's commitment to fostering impactful scientific innovation.
- Amid the present urgency for innovative solutions propelling sustainable progress, a crucial dimension of this collaboration aligns harmoniously with the National Livestock Mission—a cornerstone of India's strategic framework.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- TDB's unwavering support is evidenced by its commitment of ₹ 84 lacks, significantly contributing to the total project cost of ₹ 142.60 lakhs.

### The Fifth & final Lunar bound orbit manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-3 was performed successfully

- The final and fifth Lunar bound orbit manoeuvre for the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was performed successfully.
- The spacecraft is now revolving in an orbit of 153 km x 163 km, as intended.
- ISRO tweet says that the separation of the Lander Module from the Propulsion Module is planned for 17th August 2023.

### The first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun - Aditya-L1, is ready for launch In September 2023

- The first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun - Aditya-L1, is getting ready for its launch next month.
- ISRO said that the satellite, developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre Bengaluru, has arrived at its spaceport in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- 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 kilometres from the Earth.
- A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any eclipses.

### Chandrayaan 3 mission by ISRO assumes near-circular orbit

- The Chandrayaan 3 mission by ISRO has assumed a near-circular orbit.
- The spacecraft that was moving around the moon in an elliptical orbit of 174 km into 1437 km was moved closer to the M moon by retrofitting onboard engines last night to take a nearly circular orbit of 151 km into 179 km.
- ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru will take up the next orbit reduction manoeuvre on 16th August 2023 at around 08:30.
- Afterwards, the spacecraft will enter a lunar circular orbit of 100 km into 100 km.
- ISRO aims to land Chandrayaan 3 lander softly on the surface of the Moon on August 23rd at the south pole.
- India will become the fourth nation to land its payload on the Moon.

### NASA spacecraft makes 1st Earth flyby after a 17-year journey

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO-A) spacecraft made its first Earth flyby nearly 17 years after its launch.
- The pair of STEREO spacecraft were launched on October 25, 2006, from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.
- The two spacecraft were situated in the Sun's orbit, STEREO-A ("Ahead") and STEREO-B ("Behind").

### About NASA :

- Founded : July 29, 1958

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Headquarters : Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

### Russia's Moon mission fails after Luna-25 crashes into moon

- **Russia's Moon mission ended in failure** after its spacecraft, **Luna-25** spun out of control and crashed into the moon.
- In accordance with the Luna-25 flight programme, an impulse was provided to form its pre-landing elliptical orbit.
- At about 14:57 Moscow time, communication with the Luna-25 apparatus was interrupted.

### Indian Navy submarine, INS Vagir to reach Fremantle, Australia

- The Indian Navy submarine, **INS Vagir**, a Kalvari-class submarine, has embarked on an extended-range deployment that began in June 2023.
- It is scheduled to reach Fremantle, Australia.
- **Commissioning and Base:** INS Vagir, the fifth submarine of the Kalvari class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2023. Its home base is Mumbai.
- **Ongoing Exercises:** Currently, Indian Naval ships and aircraft are participating in Exercise MALABAR 23 (11th-21st August) and AUSINDEX 23 (22nd-24th August) on the East coast of Australia.

### ISRO said the Chandrayaan-3 is set to land on the moon on the 27th of August instead of 23<sup>rd</sup> of August

- **ISRO Chairman Dr S. Somnath met Atomic Energy and Space Minister Dr Jitendra Singh** and apprised him about the status and readiness of Chandrayaan-3 for the moon landing.
- Chandrayaan-3 Mission was launched on the 14th of July month via the GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavy-lift launch vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.

### About ISRO:

- **Formed:** 15 Aug 1969
- **Headquarters:** Bangalore, Karnataka

### Chandrayaan-3: India lunar rover Pragyaa takes a walk on the Moon

- India has created history as it became the first country to land on the South Pole of the lunar surface.
- The Vikram lander successfully touched down as planned on 23 August 2023 at 6.04 pm.
- India joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.
- The 26kg rover called Pragyaa (the Sanskrit word for wisdom) was carried to the Moon in the Vikram lander's belly.
- Project Director of Chandrayaan 3: **P Veeramuthuvel**.
- Project Cost: **Rs. 615 crores**

### China successfully launched new satellite for Earth observation

- China has successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite **Gaofen-12 04** into space from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwest China
- The satellite was carried into space using a Long March-4C carrier rocket and achieved its planned orbit.
- The launch marks the **484th flight mission** of the Long March series carrier rocket.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### IIT Madras develops Next-Generation Photonic Analog-to-Digital Converters to transport of radio frequency via optical methods

- **Next-Generation Photonic Analog-to-Digital Converters (NG-PADC)** was developed by **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** with support from the **IMPRINT programme**, which is equipped with a time-stretched photonic ADC.

#### What are ADCs ?

- Analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) are **critical components** for developing the next generation of advanced digital receivers.
- The limitation of electronic ADCs (EADCs) is that their vertical resolution is compromised at **high bandwidths**.

### ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

#### Future Generali India Life Insurance partnered with JM Financial for wider insurance reach

- **Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILI)** has tied up with **JM Financial Services**, a prominent financial services group with an aim to **elevate its insurance product offerings** and extend its market presence across the country.
- The collaboration will help the insurer diversify its product portfolio and leverage JM Financial's distribution and financial advisory capabilities to offer innovative products.
- JM Financial's distribution network includes 54 branches, 725 Business Affiliates, over 9,000 active financial distributors and a base of **2.2 lakh customers** which includes individuals, corporations and financial institutions.

#### About Future Generali India Life Insurance Co. Ltd :

- Founded : 2006
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Bruce de Broize
- It is a joint venture (JV) between the **Future Group** and **Generali Participations Netherlands N.V.**

#### Maruti Suzuki to acquire Suzuki Motor Gujarat from Japanese parent company Suzuki Motor Corporation

- **Maruti Suzuki India**, the country's largest automaker, has announced a significant strategic move to **acquire Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG)** from its Japanese parent company, Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC).
- The board of Maruti Suzuki approved this acquisition on July 31, 2023 & set to be completed before March 31, 2024.

#### About Maruti Suzuki :

- Established : 24 February 1981
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : RC Bhargava
- MD & CEO : Hisashi Takeuchi

#### CCI approves the proposed combination involving the acquisition of 90% of the shareholding and voting

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

**rights of HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited by Kopvoorn B.V., Moss Investments Limited, Infinity Partners and Defati Investments Holding B.V.**

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the proposed combination involving the **acquisition of 90% of the shareholding and voting rights of HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited by Kopvoorn B.V., Moss Investments Limited, Infinity Partners and Defati Investments Holding B.V.**
- The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition by the Acquirers, collectively, of equity shares comprising approx. 90% of the shareholding and voting rights of HDFC Credila by way of purchase by each Acquirer of equity shares from HDFC Limited as well as a subscription by each Acquirer to equity shares of HDFC Credila (Proposed Combination)
- HDFC Credila Financial Services Limited (HDFC Credila) is a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, of 1956.

**CCI approves merger of Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL) and Tata Capital Financial Services Limited (TCFSL) into Tata Capital Limited (TCL)**

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the merger of **Tata Cleantech Capital Limited (TCCL) and Tata Capital Financial Services Limited (TCFSL) into Tata Capital Limited (TCL).**
- The proposed **combination is a merger of TCFSL and TCCL into TCL.**
- TCL is registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Systematically Important Non-Deposit Accepting Core Investment Company (CIC) and primarily holds investments in its subsidiaries, which are engaged in lending and offering a wide array of services and products in the financial services sector, including advising and/or management of private equity funds, as are permitted under the directions and guidelines issued by the RBI for CICs from time to time.

**HDFC Capital, Abhinandan Lodha Group ink JV to invest Rs 1,500 crore in low-rise projects**

- **HDFC Capital Advisors and the House of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL)** have formed an alliance to set up a joint venture platform with investments of over **Rs 1,500 crore** to undertake land projects including plotted developments and low-rise projects across key property markets in India.
- HDFC Capital Advisors will be investing in this new platform through HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund-3 and the Investment is expected to result in a gross development value (GDV) of **over Rs 4,500 crores.**

**About HDFC Capital:**

- **Established:** 2016
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CEO:** Vipul Roongta

**Saraswat Cooperative Bank to sell LIC products under bancassurance tie-up**

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** and Mumbai-headquartered **Saraswat Cooperative Bank** have entered into a partnership under which the bank will sell the insurance major's products.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS AND AUTHOR**

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches Comic Book Developed by NCERT and UNESCO “Let’s Move Forward”

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, launched a novel comic book titled "**Let’s Move Forward.**" at **Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi.**
- This comic book is a collaborative effort between the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** and **UNESCO New Delhi.**
- The "Let’s Move Forward" comic book is designed to cater to the diverse requirements of **adolescents** and encapsulates crucial information pertaining to the **11 thematic components** of the School Health and Wellness Programme.
- These encompass a comprehensive range of subjects, including **emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, gender equality, nutrition and health, substance abuse prevention, healthy lifestyles, reproductive health, internet safety.**

### SPORTS NEWS

#### The Indian women's team emerged victorious in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament held in Terrassa

- In **Hockey**, the **Indian women’s team won the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament in Terrassa**, with a 3-0 victory over hosts Spain.
- **Vandana Katariya** in the 22nd minute, **Monika** in the 48th minute and **Udita** in the 58th minute scored goals as the team remained undefeated in the tournament.
- With this win, **India took the top spot** in the standings, earning five points from three matches.
- England finished their campaign, with four points from four games.
- **Hosts Spain came second**, with four points.

#### About Spain

- Capital: Madrid
- King: Felipe VI of Spain
- Prime Minister: Pedro Sánchez

#### India bags six medals including four Golds at World University Games in Chengdu, China

- **Indian shooters and archers bagged six medals including four golds** at the World University Games in Chengdu, China.
- Shooters **Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Divyansh Singh Panwar and Arjun Babuta** joined forces to outclass local favourites China to win the 10m air rifle men’s team gold.
- **India have won 17 medals, nine gold, three silver and five bronze, and are second** in the tournament.
- **Hosts China lead the standings with a haul of 21 medals.**

#### About China:

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

#### Norwegian woman, Nepali Sherpa become the 'fastest' to climb the world's 14 tallest peaks



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- In an enthralling turn of events, a Norwegian woman named Kristin Harila, 37 and her guide, Nepal's Tenjen (Lama) Sherpa, 35, have bagged the record as the fastest climbers to ascend all 14 highest peaks in the world.
- The duo climbed their last peak, Mount K2 in Pakistan, completing their record in just three months and one day.

### 7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy to begin in Chennai: Hockey

- In hockey, the 7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy will begin in Chennai.
- Six teams - India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China, and Malaysia will vie for glory in the prestigious 10-day tournament.
- Three matches will be played.
- While India will take China, Pakistan will clash with Malaysia.
- South Korea is scheduled to play against Japan

### About FIH :

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 January 1924, Paris, France
- Membership: 140 national associations

### Asia's oldest football tournament Durand Cup has begun

- Asia's oldest football tournament Durand Cup has begun
- A total of 43 matches will be played across four venues in Assam and West Bengal, which include Guwahati, Kokrajhar and Kolkata.
- The Durand Cup will feature 24 teams.
- The roster includes teams from the Indian Super League, I-League and the Armed Forces.
- Army teams from Nepal and Bangladesh have also been included this season.

### About FIFA:

- The Fédération Internationale de football association is the international governing body of association football, beach soccer, and futsal.
- President: Gianni Infantino,
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland,
- Founded: 21 May 1904.

### Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society sign an MoU with AIFF to promote football at the grassroots level

- For the first time, Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) today signed MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level.
- SMSES, which has been conducting the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament since 1960, will form a Subroto XI (eleven) team under Junior Boys (Under-17) from this edition onwards.

### About AIFF

- All India Football Federation (AIFF) is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Kalyan Chaubey is the current president of the All India Football Federation

### FISU World University Games: India wins 26 medals including 11 gold, five silver, and 10 bronze:

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- In FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, India have won 26 medals including 11 gold, five silver, and 10 bronze.
- **India is now in fourth position** in the medal table.
- The ongoing **World University Games in the sixth largest city of China is the 31st edition** of the biennial multi-sport event.

### About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency : Renminbi

### Aditi Swami becomes 1st Indian to clinch individual World Title at World Archery Championships

- **Aditi Swami** created history by becoming the **first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final in Berlin.**
- Less than two months after clinching the junior world title, 17-year-old Aditi, became the senior world champion when she defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico, 149-147 in the summit clash of the compound women's event.
- With the win, the **Satara teenager** became **the first Indian world champion in an individual event at the Senior World Championships.**
- **At the Special Olympics World Games 2023 in Berlin, Germany, India added 21 medals to their overnight tally to take it to 76 (26 gold, 30 silver, 20 bronze) by the end of the action.**

### SAI launches short movie series 'Halla Bol' on a journey of Asian Games-bound athletes

- **Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes** to motivate them for the Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.
- Mr Thakur added that these athletes are once again set on the mission to bring pride and laurel to the nation. **A similar movie series, 'Olympics ki Aasha,' was launched before the Tokyo Olympics.**

### About SAI:

- The Sports Authority of India is the Apex National Sports Body of India, established in 1984 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India for the development of sports in India.
- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: Delhi, India

### DD Sports to start State Final Rounds of Fit India Quiz 2022

- **DD Sports will start the State Final Rounds of Fit India Quiz 2022.**
- Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry said, **a total of 36 episodes will be aired, one for each State.**
- The episodes will be aired at 11 AM each day, with the **Madhya Pradesh finals being scheduled as the first episode.**
- The episodes will also be uploaded on **Prasar Bharati Sports YouTube Channel.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### Indian men's team reclaim top spot in ongoing Asian Champions Trophy competition in Chennai defeating Malaysia

- In Hockey, the Indian men's team reclaimed the top spot in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy after they defeated Malaysia by 5-0 in their round-robin clash at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai.
- India had drawn 1-1 with Japan.
- They had started the campaign at home with a huge 7-2 win over China.
- India is at the top spot, with two wins and a draw in three matches and a total of seven points.
- India will face South Korea at 8:30 this evening before wrapping up the group stage against Pakistan.
- Malaysia is in the second spot with two wins and a loss in three matches and a total of six points and defending champions South Korea are third with four points.

### Tennis: Prarthana Thombare clinches women's doubles title in Barcelona, Spain

- Prarthana Thombare has clinched the doubles title at the women's tennis hardcourt event in Barcelona, Spain.
- The Asian Games bronze medallist, combined with Russian Anastasia Tikhonova, edged out France's Estelle Cascino and Latvia's Diana Marcinkevica 3-6, 6-1, 10-7 in the final.
- It is the second title of the year and 26th overall for Prarthana, who bagged bronze with Sania Mirza in 2014 at Incheon.
- Siddhant Bantia and Sai Karteek Reddy won their second title this season in the ITF men's event in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- They defeated Estonia's Daniil Glinka and Karl Kiur Saar 7-5, 6-7, 10-4 to lift the trophy in the hard-court event.

### World No. 1 men's doubles pair Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category

- World No. 1 men's doubles pair of Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category in the Four Nations Para-Badminton International- 2023 in Sheffield, England, defeating compatriots Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-17 21-17.
- Bhagat also secured silver in the singles SL3 category, as also as silver in the mixed doubles SL3- SU5 category with Manisha Ramdass.
- Kadam won a bronze in the singles SL4 category.

### World Badminton Championships 2023 to begin at Copenhagen in Denmark

- World Badminton Championships 2023 will begin Copenhagen in Denmark on the 21st of August, 2023.
- Indian shuttler PV Sindhu was handed a first-round bye in the Women's Singles draw for the Championships held at the Badminton World Federation headquarters in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- In the Men's Singles, Indian shuttlers received favourable draws.
- Ninth seed HS Prannoy will open his campaign against Finland's Kalle Koljonen.

### India to play their third T-20 International against West Indies at Providence Stadium in Guyana

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- In Cricket, **India will clash against West Indies in their third T-20 International at Providence Stadium in Guyana.**
- Till now West Indies have a lead of 2-0 against India in the five-match series.
- The last two matches will be played in the United States.
- The fourth match will be held on the 12th of August in Florida and the 5th match of the series will be played on the 13th of this month at the same venue.

### **India beat Pakistan 4-0 in the final group stage match to enter the semi-finals of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai**

- In Hockey, **India defeated Pakistan 4-0** in the final game of the group stage to enter the semi-finals of the **Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai.**
- **Indian Skipper Harmanpreet Singh struck twice, while Jugraj Singha and Mandeep Singh** scored one each as India finished the group stage as the only unbeaten team in the tournament.
- India now leads the standings with 13 points after four wins and one draw while Pakistan are eliminated from the tournament.
- Earlier, Malaysia beat Korea 1-0 and secured their semifinal berth.
- **India will face Japan in the semifinals, while Malaysia will face Korea**

### **World Athletics Championships 2023: javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to lead Indian contingent**

- In the upcoming **World Athletics Championships 2023, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will lead the Indian contingent.**
- The **Championships are beginning in Budapest** on August 19th.
- In a statement, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced that it will fund 28 Indian athletes for the mega event.
- Matches will be played till the 27th of August.
- Out of 28 competing athletes, 15 would be competing at the World Championships for the very first time.
- Former Under 20 silver medalist, Shaili Singh, is the youngest member of the contingent.

### **Shakib Al Hasan replaces Tamim Iqbal as ODI Captain of Bangladesh Cricket team**

- After much anticipation, **Shakib Al Hasan has been appointed as the captain of the Bangladesh One-Day International cricket team, replacing Tamim Iqbal**
- **Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan Papon announced** the board's decision to reporters in Dhaka.
- **Shakib is currently the team's Test and T20I captain** and has the experience of leading Bangladesh in the 50-over format too.

### **India defeats Malaysia 4-3 to win Asian Champions Trophy 2023 Final:**

- **The Indian hockey team on 12 August defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win for the fourth time at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, **India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament.**
- Pakistan, with three titles, is at the second spot now.
- Earlier, **India's Gurjant equalised the score, which resulted in 3-3 in thriller against Malaysia.**
- Earlier, **Japan clinched Bronze Medal, defeating South Korea by 5 goals to 3.**
- The teams were playing for the third and the fourth place in the Championship.

### Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports funds 34 Indian Shooters for the ISSF Shooting World Championships 2023 in Baku

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) is funding the participation of the Indian contingent for the upcoming ISSF World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan where a total of 34 Indian shooters, including 17 men and 17 women would be participating.**
- Out of 34 shooters competing at the event, **24 are Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Athletes and 7 are Khelo India Athletes.**
- In the **2022 edition of the ISSF Shooting World Championships, India won 34 medals including 12 Gold, Nine Silver and 13 Bronze medals** and finished second on the overall medals tally behind China.

### Indian men's hockey team jumps to third spot in FIH Men's Hockey World Rankings

- **Indian men's hockey team has jumped to the third spot in FIH Men's Hockey World Rankings following their Asian Champions Trophy title win in Chennai.**
- **India has reached the third spot with 2771.35 points.**
- They gained 8.61 points following their win.
- The rankings are **topped by three-time World Champions Netherlands with 3095.90 points. Belgium is in the second position with 2917.87 points.**
- Meanwhile, the **Indian Junior Men's and Women's Hockey Team** departed for their European tour from Bengaluru.
- **Vishnukant Singh will Captain the Indian Junior Men's Team**

### Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is organizing Youth 20 Summit in Varanasi

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing Youth 20 Summit-2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The Summit will continue till the 20th of August.
- More than 100 delegates from G20 countries, Guest countries and International Organizations will discuss five identified themes of Y20.
- These **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.**

### Former England pacer Steven Finn announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

- **Former England pacer Steven Finn has announced retirement from all forms of Cricket following a chronic knee injury.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- A knee injury that he suffered almost a year ago kept him out of action from most of the activity this year.
- Finn has had a decent career with England, having featured in 36 Tests, 69 One-Day Internationals and 21 T20 Internationals.
- Making his debut in 2010, he grabbed 14 wickets during the 2010-11 Ashes, which his side famously won 3-1 in Australia.

### Indian national shooting squad begins its campaign in ISSF World Championships starting in Baku, Azerbaijan

- The **Indian national shooting squad begins its campaign in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championships starting** in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- All Events officially begin on the 17th of August.
- Among the **53-member Indian contingent, 34 shooters will be participating in the 15 Olympic events while 19 will compete in non-Olympic events.**

### India's Mohit Kumar becomes Under 20 World Champion in Men's 61 kg Freestyle category

- **Indian wrestler Mohit Kumar has become the Under 20 World Championship in men's 61 Kg Freestyle category** at Amman City in Jordan.
- **Mohit defeated Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinov** by 9-8 in the final to become the fourth Indian Freestyle Wrestler to win a Junior World Championship.
- **Mohit 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, and Deepak Punia in 2019.
- The Indian men's freestyle team has so far won five medals.

### ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings: Star batter Suryakumar Yadav retains top spot, Shubman Gill rises to 25th rank

- In the **ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings** released, **star batter Suryakumar Yadav has retained the top spot while Shubman Gill has risen by 43 spots to reach the 25th rank.**
- While **Suryakumar tops the list** with 907 points, way above **Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan who is occupying the second spot with 811 points.**
- Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam is at the third spot** with 756 points while South African cricketer Aiden Markram is at the fourth spot with 748 points.
- No other Indian batter is there in the top 10.

### England all-rounder Ben Stokes reverses retirement from ODI ahead of World Cup in India

- **In cricket, England all-rounder Ben Stokes reversed his decision to retire from One Day Internationals ahead of the ICC ODI World Cup scheduled for October** in India.
- Stokes will make his return to the 50-over squad for a series against New Zealand in September.
- According to England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement, Stokes returns to the England Men's ODI team after deciding to reverse his decision to retire from the format while uncapped Surrey quick Gus Atkinson is included in the 15-player squad.

### Priya Malik wins a Gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **Indian grappler Priya Malik won a Gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan.**
- **Priya became just the second woman wrestler from India to be crowned the 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.**

### **India Clinches Gold Medals in Men's and Women's Team Compound Archery at World Cup Stage 4 in Paris:**

- **India won gold medals in both men's and women's team compound events at Archery World Cup Stage 4 in Paris.**
- **The men's team defeated the American team 236-232, while the women's team beat Mexico with a score of 234-233.**
- **Jyothi Vennam won bronze in the women's compound event, after losing to Ella Gibson in the semifinal.**
- **Vennam secured bronze by shooting closest to the centre in a tiebreaker against Sara Lopez.**

### **The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced the mascots for the upcoming ODI World Cup during an event held in Gurugram.**

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the mascots for the upcoming ODI World Cup at an event in Gurugram.**
- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently introduced mascots for the upcoming ODI World Cup, reflecting its commitment to gender equality and diversity.**
- **These mascots serve as symbols of inclusivity and unity in cricket and aim to engage and inspire the next generation of cricket fans.**

### **India secured the gold medal in the mixed-team air pistol category at the ISSF World Championship held in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

- **Indian shooters Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal clinched the gold medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Championship held in Baku, Azerbaijan.**
- **This gold medal elevated India's medal count in the championship to two.**
- **India's current position is second on the medal leaderboard.**
- **Leading the medal standings is China, boasting an impressive tally of five gold medals and two bronze medals.**

### **Priya Malik secures the gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championships held in Jordan**

- **Indian wrestler Priya Malik has emerged victorious in the U20 World Wrestling Championships held in Jordan, attaining a significant milestone in her wrestling journey.**
- **Her accomplishment reflects the prowess of Indian athletes on the international stage.**
- **Priya Malik secured a gold medal at the ongoing U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Priya Malik is part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), an initiative aimed at nurturing and supporting elite athletes for international success.
- This further emphasizes India's all-around proficiency in various weight categories.
- India's current medal count stands at seven, including two gold, one silver, and four bronze medals.

### **Indian Men's Cricket team for upcoming Asia Cup 2023 announced, Rohit Sharma to lead the team**

- The Indian Men's Cricket team for the Asia Cup 2023 has been announced with Rohit Sharma as captain and Hardik Pandya as Vice Captain.
- R Praggnanandhaa first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup
- R Praggnanandhaa, the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup, drew against his higher-ranked opponent Fabiano Caruana, in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Magnus Carlsen, a former world champion, won his game against Nijat Abasov in the FIDE World Cup semifinals.
- The women's final of the FIDE World Cup featured Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia and Nurgul Salimova of Bulgaria.

### **FIFA Women World Cup: Spain defeat England 1-0 to become world champions**

- In Football, Spain made history by defeating England 1-Nil to lift the FIFA Women's World Cup title in Sydney on for the first time.
- Captain Olga Carmona's wonderful strike in the 29th minute proved to be the winner.

### **India's Anahat Singh clinches gold in Asian Junior Squash**

- India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, held in Dalian, China from August 16-20.
- The 15-year-old Anahat defeated Hong Kong's Ena Kwong 3-1 in the final on 20th August 2023 to win the gold medal.
- She had beaten Malaysian players Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson in the quarterfinal and semifinal, respectively.
- Last year in Thailand, the Delhi-based Anahat had won her first gold medal in this event.

### **Lionel Messi continues his golden run in United States football & shines again for Inter Miami**

- Lionel Messi, After leading his country to its third FIFA World Cup title last year, Lionel Messi shone again for Inter Miami, finding the net in a tense penalty shootout against Nashville SC and helping his team clinch their maiden Leagues Cup title.
- With this, Messi continued his golden run in United States football.
- The goal that helped his club clinch its maiden Leagues Cup title was Messi's 37th goal in a Cup final in his career.

### **India Junior Men's Hockey Team Triumphs Over England in Four-Nation Tournament**

- The India Junior Men's Hockey team secured a resounding victory over England, emerging triumphant with a scoreline of 4-0 in the four-nation Tournament held in Dusseldorf, Germany.
- Goal Scorers: The goals for India were scored by Rajinder Singh, Amir Ali, Amandeep Lakra, and Arajjeet Singh Hundal, with each contributing one goal to the tally.

### **Sports Minister Shri Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurates 33 Khelo India Centres across Rajasthan**

- The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sh. Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated 33 Khelo India Centres in the State of Rajasthan this morning at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.



## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The Union Minister announced that a **National Center of Excellence with a dedicated Sports Science Centre will be set up in Rajasthan** along with an additional **18 Khelo India centres**, thus taking the total number of Khelo India centres in the State to **51**.

### About Rajasthan :

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister : Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- National Park: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

### Legendary Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar declared as National Icon of the Election Commission of India

- Bharat Ratna Awardee, **Legendary Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been declared the National Icon of the Election Commission of India (ECI)** to create awareness among voters and encourage their participation **in the electoral process**.
- During the event, a **Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Sachin Tendulkar for three years in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar**.
- Through this partnership, **ECI aims to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy toward voting**.

### Indian's Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya, clinch first historic gold and silver medals in World Para Powerlifting Championships

- **Indian powerlifters Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya created history as they made an extraordinary start to the Dubai 2023 World Para Powerlifting Championships** by clinching the **gold and silver medals** respectively.
- **Dabbas clinched the nation's first-ever gold with lifts of 132 kg and then 135 kg displaying amazing grit, determination, and strength**.
- Meanwhile, **Jograjya followed his compatriot to secure the silver medal** with a final lift of 132kg in the fiercely contested men's -72 kg junior weight category.
- **India's only medal at a World Championships has been claimed by Parmjeet Kumar (men's -49kg) at the Tbilisi 2021 World Championships**.

### Arunachal Pradesh League launched in New Delhi

- **The Arunachal Pradesh League has been launched in New Delhi**.
- A new ball game aims to replicate the cheers of the fans in the North East, from the football fields to the cricket pitch.
- It has the support of **BCCI, Arunachal Cricket Association, and various State bodies, aiming to give cricket a much-needed boost in the hills**.

### World wrestling body suspends Wrestling Federation of India for not conducting elections

- The **United World Wrestling (UWW) has suspended the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with immediate effect for failing to conduct elections on time**.
- The move will **not allow Indian grapplers to compete at the upcoming World Championships under the Indian flag**.
- The **Indian wrestlers will have to compete as 'neutral athletes' at the Olympic-qualifying World Championships starting September 16, 2023**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### Indian shooter Amanpreet Singh clinches gold medal in Men's 25 metre standard pistol event at ISSF World Championship 2023 in Azerbaijan

- Indian shooter Amanpreet Singh won the gold medal in Men's 25-metre standard pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

### Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announces Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as Asmita Women's League

- The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as the Asmita Women's League.
- 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' and be part of Khelo India's march towards sporting excellence.

### Rajeshwari Kumari secures another shooting spot for India in Paris 2024 Olympics

- In shooting, Rajeshwari Kumari has secured another shooting spot for India in the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- She finished fifth in the women's trap final at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and won India's first spot in the women's trap event.
- The ISSF World Championship 2023 serves as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024.

### India's R. Praggnanandhaa settles for silver after losing to Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the World Cup final 2023

- In Chess, Magnus Carlsen of Norway beat India's R. Praggnanandhaa in tie-breaks to win the FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 title at Baku in Azerbaijan.
- In the final, Carlsen won the World Cup after drawing the second tie-break against Praggnanandhaa.
- Final score was Carlsen 1.5 and Praggnanandhaa 0.5. While Carlsen got Gold, Praggnanandhaa bagged silver.
- Praggnanandhaa had become the 1st Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the final and was a victory away from joining the Indian legend at the top.

### Visually Impaired Indian women's team wins IBSA World Cup final beating Australia in Birmingham

- Indian women's visually impaired team won the T-20 final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games at Birmingham.
- The Indian team defeated Australia by nine wickets in the rain-interrupted match.

#### About UK :

- Prime Minister: Rishi Sunak
- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

#### About IBSA

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## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- The International Blind Sports Federation is a non-profit organisation founded in 1981 in Paris, France. It was formerly known as the International Blind Sports Association.
- Founded: 1981
- Headquarters: Bonn, Germany
- President: Sandro Di Girolamo

### US Open tennis tournament to start in New York

- The fourth and final Grand Slam of the season, the US Open tennis tournament will kick off in New York.
- In women's singles, world No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland looked to defend their 2022 wins.
- Spain's Spanish Carlos Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic in the final of the 2023 Wimbledon, is the top seed at the competition.

### Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win Gold medal at World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary

- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won India's first-ever gold at the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
- In the men's javelin final, Neeraj Chopra won the Gold medal with a throw of 88.17 metres.
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem clinched Silver with a throw of 87.82 metres.
- Czech player Jakub Vadlejch got bronze Kishore Jena finished 5th and DP Manu at 6th in the javelin throw event.

#### About Hungary

- Capital: Budapest
- President: Katalin Novák
- Prime minister: Viktor Orbán
- Currency: Forint

### India defeats Thailand in Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier in Salalah, Oman

- In hockey, India defeated Thailand 5-4 at the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier in Salalah, Oman.

#### About Oman:

- Capital: Muscat
- Currency: Omani Rial

#### About Thailand:

- Capital: Bangkok
- Currency: Thai Baht

### HS Prannoy wins a bronze medal at BWF World Championships 2023 in Copenhagen

- In badminton, India's ace shuttler HS Prannoy had to settle for a bronze medal as he registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals of the ongoing Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2023.
- This is India's 14th medal at the World Championships. This includes one gold, four silvers and nine bronze medals.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- **China is the most successful team** in the tournament's history, with 196 medals, including 69 gold, 48 silver and 79 silvers.
- The BWF World Championships 2023 are being held from August 21 to 27 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### About BWF

- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Formation: 1934
- President: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen
- Membership: 194 member associations

### Indian men's Blind cricket team settles for silver medal after loss to Pakistan

- In Cricket, the **Indian men's visually impaired team settled for a silver medal after a defeat against Pakistan** in the final of the men's T20 cricket event at the **International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 at Edgbaston, Birmingham.**
- Earlier, **the Indian women's team beat Australia by nine wickets on the DLS method to claim the historic gold medal for India.**

### Sri Lanka Football Federation is no longer prohibited by FIFA:

- The **Sri Lanka Football Federation (FFSL) is no longer prohibited** by the world's football governing body **FIFA.**
- Government meddling in the federation's activities led to the ban's imposition in **January 2023.**
- The suspension was caused by **factional fighting** and **political interference** in the sport's body's administration.

### About FIFA :

- President: Gianni Infantino,
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- Founded: 21 May 1904

### About Sri Lanka

- Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee
- Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

## OBITUARIES

### Top Bollywood art director Nitin Desai Passed away

- **Noted Bollywood production designer & renowned art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai** has passed away at the age of 58.
- Desai was born in Mulund, Bombay, **Maharashtra** on 9 August 1965.
- He began his career as an **assistant art director** on the television film Tamas (1987).
- In 2016, he was awarded the **Padma Shri**, the fourth-highest civilian award in India.

### Filmmaker Siddique passed away in Kochi

- **Prominent filmmaker Siddique** passed away at a private hospital in Kochi.
- **He was 63.**

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

- Siddique's 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.

### Telugu, Sanskrit scholar Kandlakunta Alaha Singaracharyulu passes away

- Eminent **writer, scholar and academican Kandlakunta Alaha Singaracharyulu** passed away due to age-related ailments at his residence **in Hyderabad**.
- **He was 93.**
- The funeral was performed at the Autonagar crematorium near LB Nagar.
- He is survived by six children including four sons and two daughters.
- Senior journalist and Andhra Jyothi editor K Srinivas is his second son.

### Sulabh International's founder and social activist Bindeshwar Pathak passes away

- **Founder of 'Sulabh International' Bindeshwar Pathak** passed away at AIIMS, Delhi **due to cardiac arrest**.
- **He was 80.**
- He established the Sulabh International Social Service in 1970 and campaigned extensively against manual scavenging.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

### Renowned nuclear physicist & the recipient of Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan awardee Bikash Sinha Passed away

- Renowned nuclear physicist **Bikash Sinha** passed away at the age of 78 in Kolkata.
- Bikash Sinha was born on 16 June 1945 in Kandi, Murshidabad, **West Bengal**.
- He was the **former director** of the **Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre**.
- Sinha specialised in nuclear physics, high energy physics, Quark Gluon Plasma, and early cosmology.
- For the first time, he led the **Indian team** to participate in the experiments of the **European Atomic Research Organization in Geneva**.
- He also received the **Padma Shri** in 2001

### Padma Shri Scientist Manchanahalli Rangaswamy Satyanarayana Rao Passed away

- An eminent **Indian scientist** and **Padma Shri awardee Manchanahalli Rangaswamy Satyanarayana Rao**, popularly known as MRS Rao passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- MRS Rao Born on January 21, 1948, in Mysore, **Karnataka**.
- He was the **1st scientist** to **initiate Chromatin Biology research** in India.
- From 2003, 2013 he was **president** of **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bangalore, India**.

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2023

### A spell ends: Zimbabwean cricket legend Heath Streak passes away at 49

- Zimbabwean cricket icon **Heath Streak** has passed away at the age of 49 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

### Singer Raju Punjabi passes away at 40, 'irreparable loss' to Haryanvi music industry says CM Khattar

- Renowned Haryanvi singer **Raju Punjabi**, aged 40, has passed away at a private hospital in Hisar after battling jaundice.
- He was fondly called the “**King of Tunes**” by his fans.

### World's most eminent statisticians Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao Passed away

- An Indian-American **mathematician** and **statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao**, commonly known as C. R. Rao passed away at the age of 102.
- Dr. Rao pioneered several fundamental statistical concepts such as the **Cramer–Rao inequality** and **Rao–Blackwellization**, concepts that appear in undergraduate textbooks on statistics and econometrics.

### Awards & Honors :

- In 2023, he was awarded the **International Prize in Statistics**, often referred to as the "statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize."
- He received the prestigious **Padma Bhushan (1969)** and **Padma Vibhushan (2001)** awards, the highest civilian honours in India.

### Veteran Bollywood lyricist Dev Kohli passed away

- Renowned **lyricist** and poet **Dev Kohli Passed away** at the age of 80 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- He penned hundreds of songs in Bollywood films and wrote many hit songs such as **Maaye Ni Maaye, Yeh Kaali Kaali Aankhen, Geet Gaata Hoon, O Saki Saki etc.**

### Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin killed in plane crash

- Mercenary leader **Yevgeny Prigozhin**, who led a brief armed rebellion against Russia's military leadership in June, was **killed** in a **plane crash**.
- Prigozhin was among 10 passengers on board the plane that crashed in the northern region of Moscow on 23 August, 2023.

### 1st Indian Poet to Win Sahitya Academy Award for English Poetry Jayanta Mahapatra passed away

- Renowned Odisha-born English poet & the **1st Indian poet** to win a **Sahitya Akademi** (the 4th highest civilian honour in India) award for English poetry in **1981**, passed away at the age of 95 in Cuttack, Odisha.
- He was awarded a **Padma Shri**, the fourth highest civilian honour in India in 2009 for Literature & Education.