

Current Affairs of July 2023

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National

Govt's Ambitious Plan: National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat for an estimated cost of ₹4,500 Cr.

- Under the Sagarmala program, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has undertaken the development of a **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** in Lothal, Gujarat.
- This ambitious project, estimated to cost ₹4,500 crore, aims to establish a world-class facility that highlights India's maritime heritage from ancient to modern times.
- By adopting an "edutainment approach" utilizing cutting-edge technology, the complex intends to serve as an international tourist destination, spreading awareness about the country's rich maritime legacy.



India's biggest natural arch discovered in Odisha by GSI

- The Geological Survey of India's (GSI) state unit has discovered a magnificent "Natural Arch" located in the Kanika range of Sundargarh forest division.
- This geological marvel is believed to have originated during the Jurassic period. GSI has also proposed Geo Heritage tag for "Natural Arch". If it is done, it will become the biggest natural arch of the country to have the Geo Heritage tag. This oval-shaped arch has a length of 30 metres at the base and is 12 metre high.
- The alcove of the natural arch, has maximum height and width of 7 metres and 15 metres respectively.



Tamil Nadu regained the top spot in electronic exports in India

- In a significant achievement, **Tamil Nadu** has reclaimed its position as the leader in electronic exports in India. The state's electronic exports, valued at USD 5.37 billion in the 2022-23 financial year, now account for a 23% share in the electronics market.
- This remarkable growth can be attributed to various factors such as the establishment of major manufacturing facilities by Tata Electronics and the implementation of Indian government's production-linked incentives for electronic manufacturing.

India's External Debt Reaches \$624.7 Billion at End-March 2023

- India's external debt** has witnessed a slight increase, reaching USD 624.7 billion at the end of March 2023, according to data released by the Reserve Bank.
- However, the debt-to-GDP ratio has declined during the same period. Valuation gains resulting from the appreciation of the US dollar against major currencies, including the Indian rupee, yen, SDR, and euro, amounted to USD 20.6 billion.

Centre's Fiscal Deficit Narrows to 11.8% as Non-Tax Revenue Surges: CGA Data

- According to official data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the central government's fiscal deficit for the financial year 2023-24 stood at Rs 2.1 lakh crore or 11.8% of the full-year budget estimates at the end of May 2023.
- This marks a significant improvement compared to the previous year when the fiscal deficit was 12.3% of the budget estimates.

Chandrayaan-3: ISRO Completes Rocket Assembly, Final Tests Awaited for Launch

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has completed the assembly of



the **Chandrayaan-3** rocket and is now preparing for the final round of tests before the anticipated launch.

- The spacecraft, including the indigenous lander module, propulsion module, and rover, is fully integrated, and the payload fairing has also been completed. The launch is expected to take place between July 12 and July 19.

India's First Indigenous 700 MW Nuclear Reactor Starts Commercial Operation in Gujarat

- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)** in Gujarat has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector.
- The reactor, known as KAPP-3, began operating at 90 percent of its total power capacity on June 30, 2023, as confirmed by a senior official from KAPP.

Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 approved by the Cabinet

- The **Union Government** approved the draft **Digital Personal Data Bill** and come before Parliament in the monsoon season.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Bill)** in one of the four proposed legislations in the IT and Telecom sectors to provide the framework for the rapidly growing digital ecosystem.
- This bill empowers the **Data Protection Board (DPB)** to levy a penalty of up to Rs.250 crore on the organizations found to be in breach.

India launches Bharat 6G Alliance

- India has taken a significant stride forward in the field of telecommunications, with the acquisition of over 200 patents for **6G** technology.
- The announcement was made by the Communications and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, during the launch of the Bharat 6G Alliance in New Delhi.
- The alliance, consisting of industry, academia, and the central government, aims to spearhead all 6G-related initiatives in a systematic and methodical manner.

India's first 'Police Drone Unit' launched in Chennai

- The **Greater Chennai City Police (GCP)** has launched '**Police Drone Unit**' for aerial

surveillance over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities.

- The project, which costs approximately **Rs 3.6 crore** according a press release by the GCP, was inaugurated by outgoing Tamil Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) C SylendraBabu, in the presence of Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal at Besant Avenue, Adyar.

Amit Shah lays foundation stone of the first cooperative-run Sainik School

- The foundation stone-laying ceremony of ShriMotibhai R. ChaudharySagarSainik School in Boriyavi village of **Mehsana, Gujarat** marked a significant milestone in the education sector.
- This groundbreaking project, inaugurated virtually by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is set to become the **first Sainik School** in India to be operated by a cooperative organization.
- With an estimated cost of Rs 75 crore and spread across 11 acres of land, the school is being managed by DudhSagar Research and Development Association (DURDA), an entity of DudhSagarDair.



India handed over torch of Startup 20 to Brazil

- The **Startup20 Shikhar Summit**, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency, concluded successfully in **Gurugram**.
- This two-day summit served as a platform for fostering innovations, collaborations, knowledge sharing, and strategic alliances within the global startup ecosystem.
- The closing ceremony saw the official torch handover to Brazil, the next G20 presidency country, which committed to continuing the Startup20 initiative in 2024.



India and Malaysia can now trade in Indian rupee

- The Ministry of External Affairs declared that trade between **India and Malaysia** can now be conducted using the **Indian Rupee (INR)** as a mode of settlement, in addition to other currencies.



- This announcement follows the launch of the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023** by the Ministry of Commerce the day before, which reaffirmed the government's determination to establish the rupee as a global currency.
- This move is expected to boost bilateral trade between the two countries and reduce transaction costs for businesses.

Chandrayaan-3 to be launched on July 14

- India's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3** is going to be launched on July 14, at 2:35 P.M. from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota** announced by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.



- The date was later confirmed by Secretary of Space department and ISRO Chairman S. Somnath at a press briefing on the sidelines of the **G-20 Fourth Economy Leaders Meeting in Bengaluru**.

India Joins Champions Group of Global Crisis Response Group

- India has joined the Champions Group of the **Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG)** at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General.
- The GCRG was established in March 2022 to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a global response.

CMV and ToMV virus hit tomato crop in Maharashtra and Karnataka

- Tomato farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka** have attributed the decline in their yields earlier this year to two distinct viruses.
- Those in Maharashtra reported that their tomato crops were adversely affected by the **cucumber mosaic virus (CMV)**, whereas growers in Karnataka and other South Indian states attributed their losses to the **tomato mosaic virus (ToMV)**.
- In the past three years, farmers cultivating tomatoes have observed a rise in the prevalence of these two viruses, resulting in varying degrees of crop damage, ranging from partial to total loss.

Elena Introduces India's First NavIC

- In a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in navigation applications and services, **Elena Geo Systems**, a Bengaluru-based firm, has unveiled the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC)**.
- The device aims to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects such as railway, land survey, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration.
- With a cost of Rs 6,000, it can be easily attached to smartphones using an on-the-go (OTG) connector, enabling users to leverage data from any mapping application or satellite source.



Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva by SudhaPai&Sajjan Kumar

- SudhaPai and Sajjan Kumar** have authored a book called "**Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva.**"
- In this book, they provide a perceptive and thought-provoking examination of the interplay between Maya, Modi, and Azad in the realm of Dalit politics.
- Their analysis holds great importance in comprehending not only the dynamics of Dalit politics but also the broader democratic landscape of India, especially as we approach the highly contentious general election of 2024.

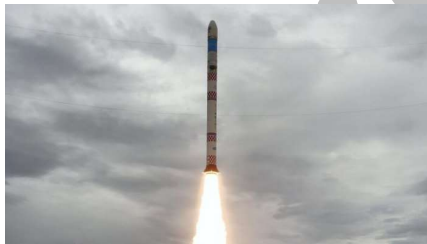
Third World Hindu Conference to be organized in Bangkok

- The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the **third** World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in **Bangkok** in November 2023.
- The three-day event, known as Vishwa Hindu Sammelan, will take place at the Convention Center in Bangkok.
- With the theme “**JayasyaAayatnamDharmah**” meaning “Dharma, the Abode of Victory,” the conference will focus on exploring opportunities and addressing challenges faced by the global Hindu community.



ISRO to transfer SSLV to private sector

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** is going to transfer its **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** to the private sector after conducting two development flights of the rocket that seeks to provide on-demand services to put satellites weighing up to **500kg in a low-earth orbit**.
- The commercial satellite launch services sector in India is projected to contribute \$13 billion to the economy by 2025, with the SSLV transfer expected to accelerate its growth.



The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023

- A Parliamentary committee has given a go-ahead to the **Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023** without objections.
- The bill proposes amendments to the **Forest Conservation Act 1980** and aims to exempt certain forest lands from legal protection.
- The bill is expected to be tabled during the monsoon session of the Parliament.

PModi to be guest of honour for French military parade

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour for France's **Bastille Day** celebrations, which will take place on **July 14**
- The Bastille Day military parade will witness the participation of Indian forces, emphasizing the strengthening strategic alliance between France and India



Highlights of the 50th GST Council Meeting:

Changes in GST Rates and Compliance Measures

- The **50th Meeting of the GST Council**, led by Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, marked a significant milestone in the journey of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The council discussed and recommended changes in GST tax rates, measures to facilitate trade, and streamline compliance processes. Here are the key highlights of the meeting.

ONGC Becomes India's First PSU to Achieve Anti-Bribery Management System Certification

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has recently made history by becoming the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its **Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)**.
- The certification was awarded by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert USA.
- ONGC's commitment to combat bribery was previously demonstrated in 2005 when it became the first organization in India to adopt the Integrity Pact (IP) initiated by Transparency International.



Lambani Art set Guinness World record in 3rd G20 CWC meeting

- As per the 3rd G20 culture working group (CWG) meeting held at Hampi, Kolkata, a Guinness World record was created for the largest display of 'Lambani Art.'
- This culture working group meeting was titled with 'Threads of Unity.'
- Total 1755 items were on display in 3rd G20 culture working group.



India welcomes its first regional AI news anchor, 'Lisa'

- In a significant milestone for the AI industry, Odisha TV, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor.
- Lisa's introduction marks a groundbreaking moment in TV broadcasting and journalism, with the potential to revolutionize the industry.
- With Lisa's emergence as India's first regional AI news anchor, the boundaries of AI in the media industry continue to be pushed, opening up new possibilities for engaging and dynamic news presentations in different languages and regional contexts.



SECTION 144 IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

- Delhi police has imposed Section 144 CrPC in the flood prone areas as the water level in the Yamuna River was recorded at 207.55 metres, which is the highest ever.
- Delhi's CM Arvind Kejriwal called for a high-level meeting on rising water level in Yamuna. He chaired the emergency meeting in Secretariat to monitor the flood situation and ministers, mayor and officials from various departments were present.

Telangana High Court Declares Telangana Eunuchs Act Unconstitutional: A Victory for Transgender Rights

- The Telangana High Court recently made a landmark judgment, declaring the Telangana Eunuchs Act as unconstitutional.
- The Act, which had been in place since 1919, was deemed discriminatory and a violation of the human rights of the transgender community.
- The court's decision has significant implications for the recognition and protection of transgender rights in Telangana.



India gets its 36th and Tamil Nadu its first flying training school

- India's aviation education landscape has witnessed a significant boost with the recent approval of the first Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd has been granted permission to operate from Salem Airport, marking a significant milestone for aspiring pilots in the region.

India's Retail Inflation Surges to 4.81% in June; May IIP Rises to 5.2%

- India's retail inflation experienced a surge of 4.81% in June, ending a four-month decline, as food prices increased due to uneven monsoon rains and supply disruptions.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was 4.31% in May, and food inflation rose to 4.49% in June.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is tasked with maintaining retail inflation within the range of 2% to 6% and will likely keep interest rates unchanged.



Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)2023 : India's Remarkable Progress in Poverty Reduction

- The latest update of the **global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** highlights India's extraordinary achievement in poverty reduction.
- The country has lifted a staggering 415 million people out of poverty within a span of 15 years, demonstrating significant progress in improving living conditions.

Cabinet Approves Changes to Jan Vishwas Bill to Decriminalize Offences in 42 Laws

- The Union Cabinet has reportedly approved amendments to the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023**.
- The proposed changes aim to decriminalize minor offences by amending 183 provisions across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries.
- The objective is to promote ease of doing business and reduce the backlog of court cases.

India to host ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines

- **India** will serve as the host for the ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines on July 20, 2023 at VigyanBhawan in New Delhi.
- A total of 75 participants will convene at this one-day conference which will include international delegates from **eight** ASEAN countries, with an additional **two** international delegates participating virtually.
- The purpose of the conference is to facilitate brainstorming sessions and idea sharing on the topic of **Traditional Medicines**.



Chandrayaan 3 Lifts Off For its Journey To the Moon

- **India** launched its ambitious **Chandrayaan-3 mission** to the Moon.

- The spacecraft launched aboard India's heaviest rocket, Launch vehicle **Mark-III a.k.a LVM3** on a journey to the Moon.
- The spacecraft will complete the **3,84,000** kilometers-long journey in nearly **45 days** to attempt a soft-landing on the Moon by end of August.

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

- The third edition of the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** for States/UTs of India for the year **2022** is set to be released by **NITI Aayog on July 17, 2023**.
- This index assesses the export performance of Indian states and UTs, considering the global trade context in FY22.
- The report emphasizes the importance of developing districts as export hubs and conducts a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.

Govt doubles income slab for EWS under PMAY

- The Centre has recently made a significant change to the income criteria for individuals falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the **PradhanMantriAwasYojana-Urban (PMAY-U)** in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)**.
- The income threshold has been raised from **Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh**, aiming to expand eligibility and accessibility to affordable housing. This article explores the impact of this decision and its implications for housing applicants in the region.

3rd Sherpas G20 meeting began in Hampi, Karnataka

- **Hampi**, located in Karnataka, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is hosting the **third** Sherpas meeting as part of India's G20 Presidency, with Amitabh Kant leading the meeting as the chairperson.
- The summit, organized by the **Ministry of Cultural and External Affairs**, anticipates the participation of more than 200 individuals representing 43 countries.

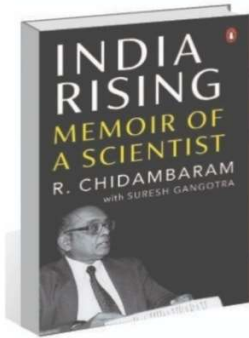
HDFC Bank breaks into \$100 billion market-cap club as world's 7th largest lender

- **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private lender, has achieved a significant milestone by entering the **\$100 billion market-capitalization club**.

- This accomplishment came after its reverse merger with its parent company, HDFC Ltd.
- Despite this achievement, the bank currently ranks third on the Indian stock exchanges, trailing behind Reliance Industries (RIL) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

A book titled “India Rising Memoir of a Scientist” authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra

- A book titled “India Rising Memoir of a Scientist” authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra.
- The book looks at the life of one of India’s foremost scientists, Dr R. Chidambaram, who served as principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the Government of India and as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C) from November 2001 to March 2018.
- As one of India’s most distinguished experimental physicists, Dr Chidambaram has made outstanding contributions to many aspects of basic science and nuclear technology



India and Indonesia to launch “India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue”

- Nirmala Sitharaman, during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting in Gandhinagar, announced the commencement of the “India – Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue.”
- This dialogue intends to strengthen cooperation and promote mutual understanding on global issues between the two nations. It will serve as a platform for discussing shared interests and exploring mutually beneficial matters.



Delhi’s IGIA Becomes 1st Airport In India With Four Runways; An Elevated Cross Taxiway

- Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved a significant milestone as it became India’s first airport to have four runways.
- The civil aviation minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, inaugurated the airport’s fourth runway, increasing its throughput capacity from approximately 1400-1500 air traffic movements per day to almost 2000 air traffic movements per day.
- The addition of the fourth runway will allow the airport to serve more than 109 million passengers annually.



PMModi inaugurates new integrated terminal building of Port Blair airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to virtually inaugurate the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair on July 18 at 10:30 am via video conferencing.
- The event will witness the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Road, Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) V K Singh, and other senior officials attending the ceremony in person.



India Needs Average Annual 7.6% GDP Growth To Become Developed By 2047: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India, in its monthly bulletin, has outlined the significant growth targets India must achieve over the next 25 years to become a developed economy with high per capita income.

- Currently estimated at \$2,500, India's per capita income needs to surpass **\$21,664 by 2047**, as per World Bank standards, to be classified as a high-income country.
- To achieve this ambitious goal, the country must maintain a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.6% in real GDP during 2023-24 to 2047-48.

Tamil Nadu topped NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022

- The third edition of the NITI Aayog's Preparedness Index 2022 has released on **17th July 2023**.
- Tamil Nadu topped the **third edition** of the **NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2022** with an overall score of **80.89**, piping **Maharashtra (78.20)** and **Karnataka (76.36)**.

Launch of 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' by Amit Shah

- **Shri Amit Shah**, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, officially inaugurated the CRCS – Sahara Refund Portal (<https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in/>) in New Delhi.
- This user-friendly portal has been specifically designed to facilitate genuine depositors of Cooperative Societies of **Sahara Group**, including Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited, and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, to submit their claims conveniently.

New guidelines for designation of senior advocates in the SC

- **The Supreme Court** has issued new guidelines for designating senior advocates, replacing the existing 2017 guidelines.
- Under the new regulations, lawyers with a minimum of **10 years** of standing and **aged 45 years or above** are eligible to apply.
- The applications will be reviewed by a committee comprising the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, two senior most judges, the **Attorney General**, and a bar representative, who will meet twice a year to assess the candidates.

Surat Diamond Bourse: India's Gem Capital Overtakes US with World's Largest Office

- **Surat, Gujarat**, the gem capital of India, has surpassed the United States by hosting the world's largest office building – the **'Surat Diamond Bourse.'**
- Replacing the iconic Pentagon in the US, this interconnected office structure features nine rectangular buildings emanating from a central "spine."
- Boasting a vast floor space of 7.1 million square feet, the Surat Diamond Bourse now holds the crown as the largest office building globally, dethroning the Pentagon, which held this title for almost 80 years.



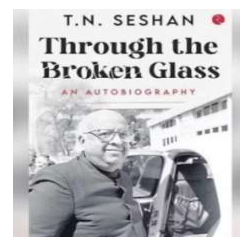
Reliance set to buy Alia Bhatt's brand Ed-a-Mamma

- Reliance Brands Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries' retail arm, Reliance Retail Ventures, is nearing the acquisition of actor Alia Bhatt's kidswear brand, **Ed-a-Mamma**, at an estimated value of ₹300-350 crore.
- The agreement is anticipated to be concluded in the next seven to ten days, and it is poised to transform the children's wear market.
- Reliance Brands' acquisition of Ed-a-Mamma not only broadens the retail powerhouse's children's wear offerings but also opens up new prospects for Ed-a-Mamma to strengthen its presence in physical stores.



"Through the Broken Glass: An Autobiography" authored by T.N. Seshan

- **'Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography'** authored



by **T.N. Seshan**, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, who made a significant difference to Indian elections.

- It was published by Rupa Publications India. This autobiography also covers his term as the CEC from 1990 to 1995 with a page count of 368. It has been published 4 years after he passed away in 2019.

QS ranking on world's best cities for students: No Indian city in top 100, Mumbai 118th

- **Mumbai** has been ranked as the best Indian city for students in the **QS Best Student Cities 2024 ranking**. However, its global ranking dropped to **118**, indicating a decline from the previous year's position.
- The QS Best Student Cities ranking compares 160 premier educational destinations, including 26 new entries
- Cities must have a minimum population of **250,000** and at least two universities in the **QS World University** rankings to be considered for the QS city ranks.

Gruha Lakshmi Scheme: Benefits, Registration Started

- Registration for Gruha Lakshmi starts on **19th July 2023**, an effective scheme launched by the **Karnataka Government** to provide financial assistance to women heads of a household.
- The beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi Yojana would be able to register for free without being lured by any middleman.
- Gruha Lakshmi Scheme is an effective scheme launched to provide financial assistance of **Rs.2000 per month** to the women head of a household.

International

New Zealand becomes first country to ban plastic produce bags

- **New Zealand** has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the **first** country to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags

commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases.

- Moreover, this move will extend beyond bags, as it also includes banning of plastic straws and silverware. This significant move aligns with the government's ongoing campaign against single-use plastics, which began in 2019 with the prohibition of thicker plastic shopping bags.

USA Independence Day 2023: Date, Background, Significance and Celebration

- The United States is celebrating its **247th Independence Day** this year on **4th July**. Independence Day is a federal holiday in the United States to commemorate the declaration of Independence.
- The celebration of Independence Day in U.S. is associated with parade, fireworks, carnival, fairs, picnics, political speeches, games and ceremonies. This day is considered to be a National Day of U.S.

Iran Becomes Full Member of SCO: Key Highlights from the India-Hosted Summit

- Iran has officially become a full member of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** during an India-hosted virtual summit of the influential grouping.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on this significant occasion.

King Charles III presented with Scottish Crown Jewels

- In a significant ceremony at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, **King Charles III** of the United Kingdom was presented with the Scottish Crown Jewels, solidifying his authority in Scotland.
- The event took place two months after his official coronation and included the unveiling of a new sword named after the late Queen Elizabeth.



2023 Global Peace Index: Iceland Tops as Most Peaceful Country

- The 2023 Global Peace Index, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, provides a comprehensive ranking of the most peaceful countries in the world.
- The **17th edition** of the annual Global Peace Index (GPI), the world's leading measure of peacefulness, reveals the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated for the ninth consecutive year, with 84 countries recording an improvement and 79 a deterioration.

World Investment Report 2023: FDI in Developing Asia Remains Flat at \$662 Billion in 2022

- The UNCTAD's **World Investment Report 2023** reveals that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to developing Asia remained unchanged at \$662 billion in 2022 compared to the previous year.
- FDI inflows to developing Asia were highly concentrated, with five economies accounting for nearly 80% of the total investment. These economies are **India, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates**

Dutch Government Collapses over Migration Row

- Dutch Prime Minister **Mark Rutte's** coalition government collapses due to "insurmountable" differences on handling migration.
- After days of crisis talks, the four-party coalition fails to reach a deal.
- Rutte, the **Netherlands'** longest-serving leader, announces the collapse at a press conference and presents his written resignation to the king.



Brain-Eating Amoeba in news

- A 15-year-old boy from **Alappuzha district in Kerala, India**, has passed away after contracting a rare infection caused by *Naegleria fowleri*,

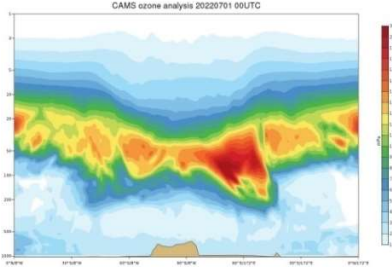


commonly known as the “**brain-eating amoeba.**”

- The young boy experienced a week-long period of high fever and rapid deterioration of his health. It is believed that he contracted the amoeba while bathing in a nearby stream, which is likely the source of the infection.
- For the first time ever, brain-eating amoeba was discovered in South Korea.

WMO Revives Ozone-UV Bulletin After 7 Years, Shows Steady Recovery of Ozone Layer

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has published an updated bulletin on the ozone layer, signaling promising signs of recovery.
- After a seven-year hiatus, the WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch bulletin has returned to provide the latest information on stratospheric ozone and ultraviolet radiation worldwide.
- The recovery of the **ozone layer** is crucial for safeguarding life on Earth from harmful **UV radiation** and ensuring the health of ecosystems.



Bangladesh and India Launch Trade Transactions in Rupees to Reduce Dollar Dependence

- **Bangladesh and India** have initiated trade transactions in rupees, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade.
- This **bilateral trade agreement** marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh, moving beyond the US dollar for trade settlement with a foreign country.
- The move signifies the growth and economic cooperation between India and Bangladesh, fostering mutual benefits.



Israel parliament approves bill that limits Supreme Court power

- Israel’s parliament has given approval to a bill that **would limit the powers of the Supreme Court.**
- **The vote resulted in a 64 to 56 majority** in favour of the limits, with **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s far-right governing coalition** overpowering the opposition.
- **Anti-government protestors were forcibly removed from the building** ahead of the vote which led a police complain against them.



UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asian-Pacific Money Laundering

- **UAE or United Arab Emirates** is participating with observer status in the plenary of the **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a **Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB)**, taking place this week in Vancouver, Canada.
- The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG. The UAE has placed international cooperation at the heart of its strategy and plans for countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- Observer status at FSRB events is granted to countries that demonstrate an active and collaborative approach to fighting financial crime.



PM Narendra Modi’s Visit to France and UAE: Strengthening Bilateral Cooperation

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is embarking on a visit to **France** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** from July 13-15, aimed at deepening cooperation between the countries.
- With a focus on areas such as defence, security, energy, and global partnerships, PM Modi’s visit holds significance for strengthening bilateral ties.

EIB keen to extend 1 bn euro for green hydrogen, RE projects in India

- The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** has announced its support for **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission** by offering a loan facility of up to **€1 billion**.
- The loan aims to assist India in developing its nascent green hydrogen ecosystem and renewable energy projects.
- EIB Vice-President **Kris Peeters** will confirm the lender's interest in providing the loan during his visit to India this week to attend G20 events.

Australia picks first female central bank head to shepherd through reform

- **Australia** has appointed the first female head of its central bank, passing over the current governor to elevate his deputy to the high-profile job amid a public backlash over steeply rising interest rates.
- Australian Treasurer **Jim Chalmers** and Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** announced **Michele Bullock** would head the **Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)** for the next seven years, having chosen not to reappoint Governor Philip Lowe for a second term.



Saudi Arabia becomes 51st country to sign ASEAN's TAC

- **Jakarta, Indonesia** – On the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, **Saudi Arabia** has officially become the **51st country** to accede to the **Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)**.
- The accession signing ceremony took place on July 12, and Indonesian Foreign Minister **Retno Marsudi**, on behalf of ASEAN, expressed her appreciation to Saudi Arabia for joining the treaty.



MoU signed to establish 1st



campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish the first IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi.
- The signing ceremony took place in the presence of **UAE President HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and **Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**. The MoU was signed by HE Mubarak Hamad Al Mheiri, ADEK Under Secretary, Shri Sunjay Sudhir, Indian Ambassador to the UAE, and Professor Rangan Banerjee, Director of IIT Delhi.

Typhoon Talim Disrupts Hong Kong

- **Talim** made landfall in Zhanjiang city, located in **Guangdong** province.
- The **South China Sea** witnessed the origin of Typhoon Talim, causing Hong Kong, Vietnam, and southern China to activate their disaster mitigation measures.
- Hong Kong hoisted the Tropical Cyclone **Warning Signal No 8**, the **third-highest** warning level first time this year.

China launched world's first methane-fuelled space rocket

- A private Chinese company launched the World's first **methane-fuelled space rocket** into orbit named "**Zhuque-2**".
- China's **Zhuque-2** has become the World's first methane propelled rocket to successfully fly into orbit.
- This landmark achievement signifies a paradigm shift in the race towards cleaner, safe and reusable space travel technology.



India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project

- The external minister of India **S. Jaishankar** met his Myanmar counterpart **Tha Swe** to discuss the expeditions projects especially the **India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral**



highway and the challenges faced in the smooth implementation of the project.

- India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway is a significant regional connectivity project aims to establish a road link between India, Myanmar and Thailand.
- The total distance of this highway is approximately **1,360 km (845 miles)** which starts from **Moreh in Manipur**, India and passes through Myanmar and ends at **Mae Sot in Thailand**.

U.S. hands over 105 antiquities to India following agreement

- In a significant gesture of cultural repatriation, the **United States** handed over **105 trafficked antiquities** to **India** during a repatriation ceremony at the Indian Consulate in **New York**.



- The restitution of these artefacts is a result of an agreement made during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** state visit to the U.S. last month.
- During the visit, India and the U.S. also reached an understanding to work on a **Cultural Property Agreement** aimed at preventing the illegal trafficking of cultural artefacts in the future.

Only 1% women live in countries with high gender parity, female empowerment: UN report

- A new global report, launched by UN **Women and UNDP** at the **Women Deliver Conference**, highlights the challenges in achieving gender parity and women's empowerment worldwide.
- The report introduces two indices – **Women's Empowerment Index (WEI)** and **Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI)** – as tools to assess progress in women's human development.

Singapore Passport Tops Henley Passport Index 2023 as World's Most Powerful

- According to the Henley Passport Index, **Singapore** now holds the title of the world's

most powerful passport, granting visa-free access to **192 out of 227 global travel destinations**.

- Three European countries, namely Germany, Italy, and Spain, have moved up one rank to share the second position, with visa-free access to 190 destinations.
- For the first time in five years, Japan has been dethroned from the top spot and now ranks third, with its passport providing visa-free access to 189 destinations.

What's the new Alzheimer's drug, Donanemab, all about?

- Donanemab, a new drug for **Alzheimer disease** has shown positive results in the clinical trial according to the study published in the **New England Journal of Medicine**.
- Donanemab drug has been tested on **257 participants** with early-stage Alzheimer, who were randomly assigned to receive either **donanemab or placebo** by intravenous infusion every **four weeks** for **76 weeks**.

Elon Musk Reveals xAI to Challenge OpenAI

- SpaceX founder, **Elon Musk**, the well-known billionaire entrepreneur recognized for his accomplishments in electric vehicles, space exploration, and social media, has introduced his highly anticipated artificial intelligence startup, **xAI**.
- The primary objective of the company is to disrupt the dominance of major technology corporations in the AI industry, with a particular focus on developing an alternative to **OpenAI's ChatGPT**.

Defence

IAF to hold biggest air exercise 'Tarang Shakti'

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to host its first-ever multi-national air exercise called '**TarangShakti**' in October-November this year. With the participation of several nations, including the United States, United



Kingdom, France, and Australia, this exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation and foster strategic alliances.

- ‘Tarang Shakti’ is anticipated to be the largest multi-national air exercise ever hosted by India, showcasing the IAF’s commitment to global engagement.

Indian Navy and US Navy Conduct Seventh Edition of SALVEX Exercise in Kochi

- The Indian Navy and the US Navy successfully concluded the seventh edition of the Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) **Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise**, SALVEX, held from June 26 to July 6, 2023, in Kochi.
- This joint exercise has been a regular feature since 2005, promoting collaboration and cooperation between the two navies in the fields of salvage and EOD operations.



United States holds title for world’s most powerful military make new title

- According to **Global Firepower**, a prominent data website specializing in defence-related information, the **United States** possesses the most powerful military force worldwide.
- **Russia and China** follow closely in second and third place, respectively, while **India secures the fourth position**.
- The recently released 2023 Military Strength list, which evaluates over 60 factors, also highlights nations with comparatively weaker military forces such as Bhutan and Iceland.



DAC Approves Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft and Additional Scorpene Submarines

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by RakshaMantriShriRajnath Singh, convened on July 13, 2023, has approved three significant proposals aimed at bolstering India’s naval capabilities.
- Under the first proposal, the DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of **26 Rafale Marine aircraft** from the French Government.
- This procurement will include associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulators, spares, documentation, crew training, and logistic support for the **Indian Navy**.

China and Russia to hold joint naval drills

- A joint naval exercise called “**Security Bond-2023**” has been initiated by China, Russia, and Iran in the **Gulf of Oman**. This exercise, spanning five days, aims to safeguard critical maritime routes.
- The exercise will encompass various activities such as aerial search operations, sea rescue operations, fleet formation exercises, and other assigned tasks.
- China’s military has deployed five warships, including a guided-missile destroyer called the ‘**Nanning**,’ to participate in the drills, which mainly focus on non-combat missions like sea rescue and search operations..



India-Mongolia joint military exercise “Nomadic Elephant – 2023”

- A group of 43 Indian Army personnel departed for Mongolia today to take part in the **15th edition** of the joint military exercise called “**NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23**.”
- The exercise is set to



occur in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 17th to July 31st, 2023.

- **NOMADIC ELEPHANT** is an annual training event between India and Mongolia, held alternately in both countries. The previous edition took place in October 2019 at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, India.

- The move is aimed at further strengthening the company's product strategy and market position. Dollner's extensive experience and leadership qualities position him well to steer Audi into a successful future.

NCP Leader Ajit Pawar Sworn In As Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra

- Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **Ajit Pawar**, who took oath as the **Deputy chief minister of Maharashtra** after joining the Eknath Shinde-led government, is the son of Sharad Pawar's elder brother Anantrao.
- He made his first foray into politics by being elected to the board of a sugar cooperative in 1982.

Brajendra Navnit to be India's ambassador to WTO for 9 months

- Indian government announced the extension of **Brajendra Navnit's** tenure as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by **nine** months.
- This decision comes ahead of the crucial 13th ministerial conference of the WTO in 2024. Navnit's extended term demonstrates India's commitment to promoting its key priorities on the global trade stage.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Audi appointed Gernot Dollner as new CEO of the Board of Management

- German luxury carmaker **Audi AG** has announced the appointment of **Gernot Dollner** as its new CEO. Dollner, currently heading Volkswagen Group's Product and Group Strategy, will succeed Markus Duesmann as Chairman of the Board of Management.

Lt Gen M U Nair appointed as new National Cybersecurity Coordinator

- The government has named **Lt Gen M U Nair** as the newly appointed **National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC)**. Lt Gen Nair, who took on the role of the 28th Signal Officer-in-Chief in July 2022, brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the areas of cyber warfare, signal



intelligence, and communication and information technology.

- Before assuming the position of NCSC, Lt Gen Nair held the position of commandant at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering.

China's Qu-Dongyu re-elected unopposed as head of FAO

- The 43rd session of conference of **United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** held at FAO's headquarter, Rome began on Saturday i.e. 1st July, 2023.
- In this conference of FAO Qu-Dongyu was re-elected as a Director General of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Cricketer Ajit Agarkar appointed chairman of Senior Men's Selection Committee

- The **Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI)** has appointed **Ajit Agarkar** as the chairman of the **Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee**.
- The decision was made by the **Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC)**, consisting of **Sulakshana Naik, Ashok Malhotra, and Jatin Paranjape**.
- After interviewing several applicants for the position the CAC unanimously decided to appoint **Ajit Agarkar** as the chairman.

Tushar Mehta reappointed as Solicitor General of India

- **Tushar Mehta**, the incumbent Solicitor General of India, has been reappointed for a three-year term by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC).
- Mehta's reappointment, along with six other law officers, was announced after their previous terms in the Supreme Court concluded. The ACC's decision reflects the government's trust in their capabilities to handle the extensive legal matters faced by the country.

Shraddha Kapoor appoints as brand ambassador of Asics

- **Asics India Private Limited**, a sports gear company, has appointed actor **Shraddha Kapoor** as its new brand ambassador.
- The company said it will focus on the theme of '**Sound Mind, Sound Body**' and the actor will endorse the brand's footwear and women's sportswear segment.
- The association will also see **ASICS India** strengthen its market presence with a shared vision to promote a balanced and active lifestyle while ensuring style and comfort are not compromised.

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman Appointed as New IFSCA Chairman by Centre

- Telecom Secretary **K Rajaraman** has been selected by the government as the new chairperson of the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**.
- Rajaraman will take over from **Injeti Srinivas**, who served as the inaugural chairperson since 2020.
- According to a gazette notification, Rajaraman's appointment is valid for three years starting from the date he assumes charge, or until he reaches the age of 65, or until further orders are issued, whichever occurs earlier.



ITC board reappoints Sanjiv Puri as chairman & managing director

- In a significant development, the board of ITC Ltd has re-appointed **Sanjiv Puri** as the company's Chairman and Managing Director for a period of **five years**.
- The decision, made on the recommendation of the committee, is set to take effect from **July 22, 2024**.
- **ITC Limited** is an eminent Indian conglomerate, which holds a prominent position among the largest companies in the country. Its operations encompass a diverse range of business sectors, such as tobacco manufacturing, food processing, retailing, and financial services.

President appoints two new judges in Supreme Court

- Telangana Chief Justice **Ujjal Bhuyan** and Kerala Chief Justice **S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti** have been appointed as judges of the **Supreme Court by the President**.
- These appointments were made shortly after the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India **DY Chandrachud**, recommended their names to the government.

Centre appoints IPS officer Manoj Yadava as DG Railway Protection Force

- **Manoj Yadava**, a senior IPS officer from the Haryana cadre, has been designated as the new **Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)**, according to an order from the Personnel Ministry.
- Yadava, who belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Police Service, will take over from Sanjay Chander, who is set to retire on July 31.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Yadava's appointment as DG, RPF, until his retirement on July 31, 2025.



Lone Naga woman MP Phangnon nominated as a vice chairperson of Rajya Sabha

- In a historic move, **S. Phangnon Konyak**, the lone Nagaland MP in the **Upper House**, has been nominated as one of the vice chairpersons of the Rajya Sabha.
- This appointment comes as a recognition of BJP's commitment to women empowerment.
- Under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the **Rajya Sabha**, Chairman



Shri **Jagdeep Dhankhar** nominated Phangnon on the Panel of Vice Chairpersons, effective from July 17.

Honours/ Awards

British children's writer Michael Rosen awarded the PEN Pinter Prize 2023

- Renowned children's writer and performance poet, **Michael Rosen**, aged 77, has been honored with the esteemed **PEN Pinter Prize 2023**.
- This prestigious award is bestowed upon a writer hailing from the United Kingdom, Ireland, or the Commonwealth, whose body of work fearlessly



uncovers and reveals truths about the realities of modern-day existence.

Rajindar Singh Dhatt Receives Points of Light Award

- **Rajindar Singh Dhatt**, the driving force behind the “Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen’s Association” has been honored with the prestigious **Points of Light** award for his exceptional service and relentless efforts to bring together British Indian war veterans.
- Dhatt demonstrated his dedication to serving his country by joining the British Indian Army during the Second World War.

NMDC wins ASSOCHAM Awards for Mineral Development and Employer Brand

- India’s mining major, NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), was honored with two prestigious awards at the ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023 held in Kolkata.
- The company received the ‘Mineral Development Award’ and the ‘Employer Brand of the Year Award’ in recognition of its significant contributions to the mining sector and its exemplary human resources practices.

Britain gave environmental award to Indian conservationists

- King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom recently presented the prestigious Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists.



- The award ceremony recognized filmmaker **Kartiki Gonsalves**, the creative mind behind the Oscar-winning documentary “The Elephant Whisperers,” and the Real Elephant Collective (TREC), a group of 70 Adivasi artists.

- Both Gonsalves and TREC were acknowledged for their exceptional storytelling, advocacy for coexistence, and dedication to preserving India’s natural world.

Lallianzuala Chhangte wins AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year award for 2022-23

- Indian football team midfielder **Lallianzuala Chhangte** was named the **AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year for 2022-23** while **Manisha Kalyan** won her second consecutive Women’s Footballer of the Year award.

PM Modi conferred with France’s highest award Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**, France’s highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron.



- Mr. Modi received the honour at the Elysee Palace here on, July 13, 2023, and joined the ranks of other prominent world leaders such as the former president of South Africa Nelson Mandela, King Charles – the then Prince of Wales, former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others.

President of India to present the “BhoomiSamman” 2023

- **On July 18, 2023**, the President of India will bestow the prestigious “**BhoomiSamman**” awards at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- The awards will be presented to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors, along with their teams, who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in implementing the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)** – a crucial component of governance.

Honorary doctorate to be conferred on Communist leader N. Sankaraiah

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin** has announced that veteran communist leader N. Sankaraiah will receive an Honorary Doctorate from **Madurai Kamaraj University**.
- Sanakaraiah, born on **15 July 1921**, is an Indian Communist Party politician and independence activist. On 15th July 2023 Sankaraiah has celebrated his **102nd birthday**.
- He is the last living freedom fighter of India. In **1931** when Sankaraiah was just **nine years old** attended a rally condemning the execution of Bhagat Singh- his first political activity.



Indian-origin 7-year-old schoolgirl wins UK PM's Points of Light award

- A seven-year-old girl of Indian origin has received the **British Prime Minister's Points of Light award** for her outstanding efforts in helping the environment.
- Moksha Roy** began volunteering for a United Nations sustainability initiative against microplastic pollution when she was only three years old. She is now recognized as the world's youngest sustainability advocate.

Prof Thalappil Pradeep wins the prestigious International Eni Award

- Prof. **Thalappil Pradeep** from the Department of Chemistry at the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** has been honored with the prestigious '**Eni Award**,' a highly regarded global recognition for scientific research in the fields of energy and environment.
- Established in 2007**, this is the **15th edition of the Eni Award**. The President of Italy is expected to present him with the award in the near future. Prof. T. Pradeep's exceptional work revolves around developing affordable and clean water solutions through the use of advanced materials.

Sports

Dream11 now principal jersey sponsor of Indian cricket team

- According to reports, the popular fantasy gaming platform **Dream11** has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the **Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026**, replacing **Byju's**.
- The deal was reportedly secured at a base price of Rs 358 crore. Byju's had become the principal sponsor in 2019 after the smartphone brand Oppo decided to transfer the remaining period of its sponsorship term, having been associated with Team India for two and a half years.

Olympian Neeraj Chopra wins Lausanne Diamond League 2023

- Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra** obtained the top spot in **Lausanne Diamond League 2023** with a best throw of **87.66 m**. The star Indian player is coming back from a muscle injury he had sustained during training.
- The injury forced Chopra to withdraw from three events in the month of June namely FBK Games, Paavo Nurmi Games and the Ostrava Golden Spike.
- Neeraj Chopra's attempts at Lausanne Diamond League 2023:** No mark, 83.52m, 85.04m, No mark, 87.66m, 84.15m.



Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023: India beat Iran in final to win title

- In the final of the **Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023** held at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center in Busan, Republic of Korea, **India emerged victorious, defeating Iran with a score of 42-32**.
- This marked India's eighth championship title in the past nine editions. Pawan Sehrawat, the captain of the Indian team, played a crucial role, delivering an impressive performance with ten successful raids. Initially, within the first five minutes of the match, India faced a deficit against Iran.

Max Verstappen wins Austrian GP 2023

- Max Verstappen**, the reigning Formula One champion, continued his impressive performance by securing a commanding victory at the **Austrian Grand Prix 2023**.
- This win further solidified his pursuit of a third consecutive world title. Starting from the pole position for the fourth consecutive race, Verstappen demonstrated his dominance by achieving his fifth consecutive win and seventh win out of nine races in the current season.

Shreyanka Patil becomes first Indian cricketer to be part of Caribbean Premier League

- Young spin bowler **Shreyanka Patil** has made history by becoming the first Indian cricketer to be signed for the **Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL)**. Interestingly, Patil is also the first Indian player to be offered a contract in an overseas league before making her international debut.
- Shreyanka Patil** made a name for herself when she was selected for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the inaugural edition of the WPL. In the 7 matches she played for RCB, the all-rounder took 6 wickets and scored 62 runs.



SAFF Championship 2023 Final: India wins 9th title

- The **Indian men's football team** emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout against **Kuwait 5-4** in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the **SAFF Championship 2023 title** at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium.
- Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions. This victory marked their second consecutive triumph after winning the Intercontinental Cup the previous month.

Aadhav Arjuna was elected as president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI)

- Aadhav Arjuna**, the president of the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association (TNBA), emerged victorious in the election held at Nehru Stadium and secured the position of president of the **Basketball Federation of India (BFI)**.
- Aadhav garnered an impressive 38 out of the 39 votes, defeating the incumbent president, K Govindaraj.

Netherlands men team wins second FIH Hockey Pro League title

- Netherlands men team** finish their season four campaign on 35 points, making them champions of the **FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season**.

- With this win, Netherlands become the first team in the men's competition to win a second title, successfully defending their first title, won in the competition last year.

World Cup 2023 Schedule, Date, Time & Location

- The schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023 Schedule has been released by ICC.
- The **2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup** will be held in India from **October 5 to November 19, 2023** which will feature a total of 10 teams.
- India, as the host nation, has secured direct qualification, along with Afghanistan, Australia, England, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, and South Africa.

Max Verstappen Claims Victory at British Grand Prix 2023

- **Max Verstappen** reeled off his sixth straight wins **British Grand Prix** with **Lando Norris** for McLaren in second. Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** completed the Silverstone podium.
- Verstappen's first-ever British Grand Prix win drew Red Bull level with McLaren's record run of 11 consecutive race victories in 1988.
- McLaren's Lando Norris started and finished in second place, while Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) stood on his home podium for a 14th time by finishing third. 2023 is the 74th season of the F1 world championship.



India bags 11 medals in World Archery Youth Championships, 2023

- **India** has secured the **second** position with an impressive haul of **11** medals, including **six** gold, **one** silver, and **four** bronze in the recently concluded biannual event, **2023 World Archery Youth Championships** in **Limerick, Ireland**.



- **ParthSalunkhe**, a rising Indian archer created history by becoming the first Indian male archer to win the Youth World Championship in the recurve category.
- A grand total of 518 archers (comprising 277 men and 241 women) from **58** different countries participated in both individual and team events.

Australia pull out as Commonwealth Games 2026 host

- **Australia's Victoria state** has withdrawn as host of the **2026 Commonwealth Games** because of a massive increase in the projected cost of staging the multi-sports event.
- Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said that his government had initially budgeted 2.6 billion Australian dollars (\$2.39 billion) to stage the Games in five regional cities but recent estimates put the potential cost as high as 7 billion Australian dollars (\$6.3 billion).

PrithvirajTondaiman wins bronze in trap in Shotgun World Cup

- India's lone medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, **Italy** came from **PrithvirajTondaiman**, who clinched the **bronze medal** in the **trap event**.
- **Nathan Hales** from Britain claimed the gold medal with 49 points, followed by **Qi Ying** from China who earned the silver medal with 48 points.
- The men's trap final included a total of **six** qualified shooters.

Indian contingent won 27 medals at 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023

- India achieved a historic milestone at the recently concluded **25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023** in Bangkok, **Thailand**.
- The Championship took place from July 12 to 16. With an impressive tally of 27 medals, including **six** gold, 12 silver, and nine bronze, **India**



secured the **third** position overall, following China and Japan.

- This remarkable achievement surpasses India's previous record set in 2017 at Bhubaneswar, where they secured nine gold, six silver, and 12 bronze medals.

DD Sports secures Television rights for FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

- DD Sports has partnered with 1Stadia to broadcast the highly anticipated **9th** edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup, bringing joy and excitement to fans.
- The tournament, starting on July 20, 2023, will mark the inaugural occasion when the World Cup is co-hosted by two countries, namely **Australia** and **New Zealand**.
- 1Stadia has granted streaming platform **FanCode** the sub-licensing rights for streaming the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, while public broadcaster **DD Sports** has been entrusted with the sub-licensing rights for television broadcasting.



Obituaries

LaLiga legend Luis Suárez passes away

- **Luis Suárez Miramontes**, also known as the "**Golden Galician**," has sadly passed away at the age of 88.
- He was the only Spanish man to receive soccer's most prestigious individual accolade, the **Ballon d'Or**.
- While originally from Galicia in northwest Spain, Suárez achieved most



of his notable successes in Italy with Inter, where he earned trophies such as the European Cup in 1964 and 1965, as well as three Italian league titles.

Veteran Marathi actor Ravindra Mahajani passes away

- Marathi actor **Ravindra Mahajani** has passed away at the age of 77, known for his notable contributions to Marathi cinema, had established himself as a respected actor and director.
- With a career spanning several decades, he had worked in numerous films and theater productions, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.
- His performances in movies like **Mumbaicha Faujdar**, **Aram Haram Ahe**, **Zoonj**, and **Bolo He Chakradhari** garnered critical acclaim and earned him a dedicated fan base.



Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away at 79

- **Oommen Chandy**, the former Chief Minister of Kerala, passed away at the age of 79.
- Oommen Chandy held the office of Chief Minister twice during his political career.
- **Oommen Chandy** led the Congress-led **United Democratic Front (UDF)** governments in Kerala on two occasions: from August 31, 2004, to May 12, 2006, and from May 18, 2011, to May 20, 2016.

Eminent mathematician Dr Mangala Narlikar passes away at 80

- **Dr Mangala Narlikar**, an eminent mathematician and the wife of Dr Jayant Narlikar who is the founder director of Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), passed away.



- Dr MangalaNarlikar carried out research in pure mathematics. She initially worked at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai before joining as a lecturer at Bombay and Pune universities. Her core fields of interest were real and complex analysis, analytic geometry, number theory, algebra and topology.

Well known Painter and sculptor Namboothiri passes away

- Renowned artist **Namboothiri**, recognized for his exceptional talent in painting and sculpture, has passed away at the age of 97 in **Kottakkal, Malappuram district**.
- He was widely acclaimed for his exquisite line art and copper relief works, which adorned the literary works of prominent Malayalam writers such as ThakazhiShivashankaraPillai, MT Vasudevan Nair, Uroob, and SK Pottakkad.
- Namboothiri's artistic prowess was acknowledged with prestigious accolades like the Raja Ravi Varma Award from the Kerala Lalitha Kala Akademi and the Kerala State Film Award for Best Art Director.



Basketball star and Olympic gold medalist Nikki McCray-Penson passes away

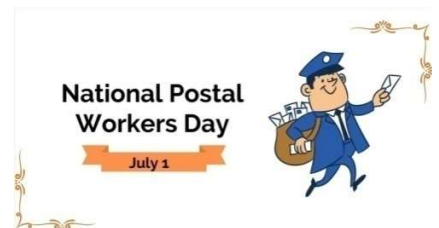
- **Nikki McCray-Penson**, a renowned basketball player and coach, has passed away at the age of 51.
- She was a two-time Olympic gold medalist and received the MVP award in the **American Basketball League (ABL)**.
- McCray-Penson achieved success on the international stage, winning gold medals with the U.S. women's basketball team at the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.



Important Days with theme

National Postal Worker Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

- On July 1, National Postal Worker Day is observed as a way to show gratitude and recognize the tireless efforts of postal workers.
- These often overlooked individuals play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth delivery of mail to its intended recipients, thereby fostering connections between people and communities. Whether it involves delivering letters or



packages or providing essential services, postal workers have been an indispensable component of our society for many years.

Chartered Accountants Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

- **National Chartered Accountants Day, also known as CA Day,** is observed on **July 1** to commemorate the establishment of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**.
- This significant day acknowledges the contributions made by the ICAI, India's oldest and most esteemed financial and accounting organization. In its 75th year of existence, the ICAI serves as the exclusive licensing and regulatory authority for the accounting profession and financial auditing in India.
- All accounting and finance organizations, including the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), are obligated to adhere to the accounting standards guidelines issued by the ICAI.

Dharma Chakra Day is celebrated to commemorate Buddha's first teaching

- At the **Dharma Chakra Divas (3rd July)**, President of India highlighted the importance of Buddha's teachings and called upon their attention to take inspiration from them.
- The Ministry of Culture, government of India in partnership with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day.



World Population Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Population Day** is commemorated annually on **July 11th** to raise awareness and educate individuals about the challenges and consequences associated with global population growth.



- It serves as a reminder to continuously work towards addressing these issues and improving the lives of everyone on the planet.
- The observance of World Population Day aims to promote understanding and encourage collective efforts in tackling the impacts of population growth.

World Paper Bag Day 2023

- **On July 12, World Paper Bag Day** is celebrated annually to promote the significance of utilizing paper bags instead of plastic.
- This observance serves as a reminder to prioritize environmentally conscious choices in our everyday lives and encourages individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable alternatives.



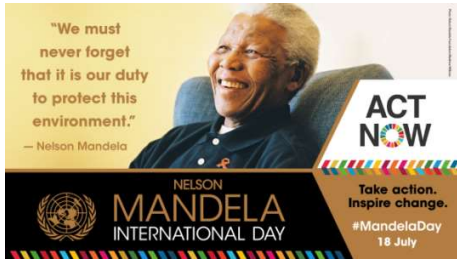
World Day for International Justice 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** observes the **Day of International Criminal Justice on 17 July each year.**
- This significant date commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute on **17 July 1998**, which established the ICC.
- On this day, people worldwide come together to stand for justice, advocate for the rights of victims, and collaborate in preventing crimes that jeopardize global peace, security, and prosperity.



Nelson Mandela International Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **Nelson Mandela day** is observed on **July 18** every year. The United Nations (UN) had in 2009 declared July 18 as Nelson Mandela Day to honour Nelson



Mandela, a South African anti-apartheid activist who served as the first President from 1994 to 1999

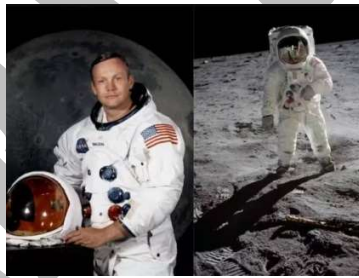
- Mandela was the first black head of state and was the first elected President in a fully democratic election in South Africa. The Day will also enlighten his transitional steps to defeat multiracial democracy in South Africa.

World Chess Day 2023

- Every year **20 July** is observed as **World Chess Day** to commemorate the establishment of **Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) or World Chess Federation in 1924.**
- Also known as International Chess Day, the day is celebrated by over six hundred million regular chess players around the world. Considered as old as 1500 years, it is speculated that the game of Chess originated in India and was known by the name 'Chaturanga'.

International Moon Day 2023

- **International Moon Day** is an annual day dedicated to the Earth's one and only natural satellite, the Moon.
- It's held every year on the **20th of July**, which is the anniversary of the day on which astronauts **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin** famously set foot on the Moon in 1969.
- The Moon landing is still considered one of humanity's greatest achievements, and so International Moon Day is all about commemorating the Apollo 11 mission while teaching people about the Moon and astronomy.



World Brain Day 2023

- **World Brain Day**, also known as **International Brain Day**, is a worldwide healthcare event that takes place annually on **July 22.**
- This observance has been going on for the past nine years and serves as a significant occasion to raise awareness about brain diseases.
- On this day, diverse local and global organizations and communities come together with the aim of promoting greater awareness, advocacy, and support for healthcare, education, and research related to neurological conditions.



National Mango Day 2023

- **National Mango Day** is annually observed on **July 22.**
- The roots of the International Mango Festival can be traced back to **1987** when the **National Horticulture Board of India** had a bright idea—to celebrate mango.