

Weekly Current Affairs 7th August to 12th August of 2023

National News

Privilege Motion in News

Recently, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jaydeep Dhankar raised complaints against two prominent opposition members- Derek O'Brien from the TMC and Raghav Chadha from Aam Aadmi Party. The complaints, which pertain to alleged breaches of parliamentary privileges, have further intensified the ongoing political tussle during the sittings. According to the Rajya Sabha secretariat, notice against Derek O'Brien was filed for publishing the clippings of his statement made in the House on his Twitter handle, despite those being removed from the record by the Chairman. The complaint against Raghav Chadha alleges an intentional and deliberate act of presenting misleading facts to the media with respect to the suspension of an Aam Aadmi Party's MP, Sanjay Singh, from the remaining period of the Monsoon session of the Rajya Sabha. All the Members of Parliament enjoy rights and immunities, individually and collectively, so that they can discharge their duties and functions efficiently. Any instance when these rights and immunities are disregarded by any member of Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha is an offence, called 'breach of privilege', which is punishable under the Laws of Parliament. Any member from either house can move a notice in the form of a motion against the member who he/she thinks is guilty of the breach of privilege.

Cabinet approves Rs 1.39 lakh cr for connecting 6.4 lakh villages with broadband

The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the BharatNet project. This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore. Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming two and a half years. The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the BharatNet project. Beyond its financial implications, this initiative bears the potential to generate a substantial employment opportunity, envisaging a staggering 250,000 jobs. This visionary project crystallized its form subsequent to a meticulously executed pilot program across four districts, achieving an impressive expansion to encompass 60,000 villages across the nation within a mere year.

Govt to investigate 'Havana syndrome' in India. Know all about mystery illness

The Indian government has recently taken a significant step by committing to investigate the potential existence of the perplexing 'Havana Syndrome' within its borders. This decision comes in response to a petition submitted to the

Karnataka High Court by A Amarnath Chagu, a Bengaluru resident. The petitioner sought an inquiry into the enigmatic syndrome's presence in India and strategies to thwart its transmission within the country. Acknowledging the gravity of the matter, the Centre's legal representatives have vowed to conduct a thorough investigation within a span of three months. Havana Syndrome, a term that has garnered attention worldwide, refers to a collection of psychological and physiological symptoms encountered primarily by United States intelligence and embassy personnel deployed across various nations. These symptoms encompass auditory sensations in the absence of external noises, vertigo, nausea, headaches, memory lapses, and issues with balance.

Government of India Forms New Standing Committee on Statistics to Enhance Oversight of NSO Data

In a recent development, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of the Government of India has taken a significant step by replacing the existing Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) with a more comprehensive entity called the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS). This new committee has been entrusted with a broader mandate, involving the review of both the framework and outcomes of all surveys conducted under the National Statistical Office (NSO). The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) came into existence in 1999 after the merger of the Department of Statistics and the Department of Programme Implementation. It consists of two wings: the Statistics Wing and the Programme Implementation Wing. The Statistics Wing includes the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the Computer Center, and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). Additionally, the National Statistical Commission (NSC) and the Indian Statistical Institute are also integral components of the statistical setup.

কর্তুজ Bengali

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Complete Preparation Batch
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Start Aug 21, 2023

'Har Ghar Tiranga' Bike Rally Flagged-off On Independence Day 2023

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has flagged off the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' motorcycle rally at Pragati Maidan in Delhi. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) initiative, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is scheduled to take place nationwide from August 13 to 15. The campaign aims to inspire individuals to proudly display the national flag at their residences. After the flag-off, the bike rally will reach the India Gate circle. The rally will then move in a circle around the India Gate complex, crossing the Kartavya Path and will culminate at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. AKAM is an ongoing celebration to commemorate 75 glorious years of a progressive independent India. This initiative by the Government of India aims to bring in focus on the freedom struggle, and the milestones this nation has achieved. In this nationwide campaign, an appeal is made to all citizens of Sikkim to join in the celebration of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign by hoisting the national flag at their houses, offices, etc, from August 13 to 15.

India Is Committed To Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis By 2027

Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, made the announcement to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative. With a focal point on 81 districts spread across nine endemic states, including Assam and Uttar Pradesh, this second phase marks a significant step forward in the battle against the crippling disease. Minister Mandaviya emphasized the comprehensive approach of "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" to combat Lymphatic Filariasis effectively. He stressed the necessity for a collaborative endeavor that encompasses not just the government but also every segment of society. Minister Mandaviya recommended the consumption of medicine diligently in order to ensure the MDA initiative's effectiveness. He suggested that healthcare professionals should supervise the administration of medication. This method ensures the correct dosage and adherence, ultimately maximizing the treatment's impact and speeding up the progress towards a filariasis-free India.

Government Employee Unions Rally for Pension Rights in Delhi

Government employee unions have organized a massive rally in Delhi, named the "Pension Rights Maharally," to voice their demand for the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme. The rally was orchestrated by the Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (JFROPS)/National Joint Council of Action (NJCA), representing central and state departments' employees. The event took place at Ramlila Maidan on August

10. The rally garnered participation from a diverse range of employees, including those from central and state departments, railways, public sector undertakings (PSUs), teaching professionals, defense personnel, and ex-paramilitary personnel from across the nation. This significant turnout highlighted the widespread concern regarding the pension scheme issue. Shiv Gopal Mishra, the NJCA's national convener and the general secretary of All India Railway Men's Federation (AIRF), addressed the media during the rally. He emphasized the dissatisfaction among employees who entered government service after January 1, 2004, due to their strong opposition to the New Pension Scheme (NPS). The primary contention lies in the uncertainty faced by employees under the NPS upon retirement, contrasting with the more secure Old Pension Scheme.

New Bill Proposes Changes in Appointment Process for Election Commissioners in India

The central government of India has recently introduced a bill in the Rajya Sabha that aims to modify the process of appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners of the country. The proposed bill includes significant changes to the composition of the selection committee responsible for these appointments. One of the notable changes proposed by the bill is the removal of the Chief Justice of India from the selection committee that determines the appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. This alteration is seen as a departure from the previous arrangement and has sparked discussions about the implications for the independence of the Election Commission.

India Aims to Triple Natural Gas Share to 15% by 2030: Minister

India is embarking on a bold journey to significantly enhance its current 6% share of natural gas within its energy mix to a robust 15% by the year 2030. This audacious endeavor is being spearheaded by Rameswar Teli, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The government is resolutely pursuing an array of far-reaching strategies to realize this vision, as elaborated by the minister in a written response to the Lok Sabha.

The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023: Revamping India's Criminal Justice System

Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three new bills in Lok Sabha to reform the criminal justice system in India. Among these bills is the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, which aims to replace the outdated Indian Evidence Act of 1872. This move is in response to the need for legal reforms that align with technological advancements and societal changes. The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, seeks to consolidate and establish general rules and principles of evidence to ensure a

fair trial in criminal cases. The current Indian Evidence Act is outdated and lacks provisions that cater to the modern landscape. The new bill aims to rectify this by modernizing the laws surrounding evidence and aligning them with the current needs and aspirations of the populace. In addition to the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, two other bills have been introduced: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). These bills collectively aim to revamp the legal framework pertaining to criminal justice.

International News

Iraq becomes 18th country recognised by WHO for eliminating Trachoma

Iraq has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone. Additionally, the WHO has acknowledged Iraq as the 50th country to eliminate at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) on a global scale. This accomplishment signifies a significant step towards the goal of having 100 countries achieve similar milestones by 2030, as outlined in the 2021-2030 NTD roadmap. This roadmap aims to address and combat 20 different diseases and disease groups through prevention, control, elimination, and eradication efforts.

New COVID variant Eris spreading rapidly in UK; know signs and symptoms

A new COVID variant Eris or EG.5.1 is rapidly spreading across the country United Kingdom. Startlingly, one out of every seven COVID-19 cases in the UK is now linked to this variant. The spread of Eris is not limited only to UK but also across Europe, Asia and North America, marking its impact globally. Eris is a new variant of COVID-19 virus that has been identified in the UK. It is also known as EG.5.1. This variant is causing concern as it is spreading at a faster rate not only in UK but also across Europe, Asia and North America, marking its impact globally. UK Health Security Agency's Findings. According to the UK Health Security Agency, around 11.8% of the sequences in the UK were identified as EG.5.1 in the second week of July. The agency began closely monitoring Eris on July 3, due to increasing reports globally, especially in Asia. It was later recognised as a variant on 31st July as it was spreading rapidly, even in the UK.

Iraq bans media from using term 'homosexuality'

The media regulatory body of Iraq has issued a prohibition on the usage of the term 'homosexuality' instructing both media and social media entities to employ the term 'sexual deviance' in its place. This directive encompasses all media and social media establishments functioning within the country, as specified by the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC). The use of these terms in any of their applications is now prohibited for all licensed CMC phone and internet companies. As a result, these companies are constrained from including "homosexuality" or "gender" in any of their mobile apps. This directive encompasses all media and social media establishments functioning within the country, as specified by the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC).

China's July Exports Experience Double-Digit Plunge, Adding Pressure to Bolster Ailing Economy

China, facing a significant economic challenge, saw its exports plummet by double digits in July, raising concerns for the Communist Party to steer the nation's economy out of its current slump. The decline, encompassing a 14.5% drop in exports compared to the previous year, is intensifying the urgency for policy measures to revive economic growth. In a stark demonstration of the economic challenges, China's exports witnessed a steep decline, totaling \$281.8 billion for July. This drop was even more pronounced than the 12.4% contraction recorded in June, as per recent customs data. This trend is indicative of the weakening global demand for Chinese goods.

Australia to be testing ground for US missiles

Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons. The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's unique contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact. While Australia's involvement in AUKUS includes the exchange of advanced defense technologies, Secretary Wormuth emphasized that its contribution doesn't solely revolve around financial commitments. Australia's strategic geographical attributes, including vast distances and sparsely populated land, make it an ideal testing ground for cutting-edge weaponry.

Pakistan's Parliament Dissolved: Setting the Stage for National Election Amidst Crisis

In a significant political development, Pakistan's President took the step of dissolving the country's parliament as per the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The lower house of the Parliament's five-year term is due to end on August 12. This move comes at a critical juncture as Pakistan grapples with both political and economic challenges. The decision to dissolve the parliament was executed just three days prior to the culmination of the current parliamentary term. As part of the process, a caretaker administration will be established, jointly chosen by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and a representative from the outgoing parliament's opposition leadership. This caretaker setup is designed to facilitate the holding of fresh elections within a span of 90 days. Sharif, addressing the parliament, announced his intention to advise the president to dissolve the body, setting this sequence of events in motion. Furthermore, discussions between Sharif and the opposition leader are slated to commence shortly, with a focus on selecting a caretaker prime minister from candidates proposed by both sides.

Escalating Tensions in Niger: ECOWAS Response and Regional Concerns

In the aftermath of a recent coup in Niger on July 26, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) faces a critical situation. The coup leaders have defied ECOWAS' deadline to reinstate the ousted president, prompting discussions among regional leaders. The coup leaders in Niger have refused to comply with ECOWAS' ultimatum to reinstate the ousted president, choosing instead to strengthen their grip on power. In a public statement, a junta representative expressed determination to defend Niger's territorial integrity. They also called upon the country's youth to rally behind the cause, which has garnered support from students. The closure of Niger's airspace has already affected flight paths across Africa, disrupting air travel. The landlocked nation's size and strategic location make it a key element in regional air routes.

Canada Starts Accepting PTE Scores For Student Direct Stream Applications

In a significant development for international students aspiring to study in Canada, the country's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has officially sanctioned the use of Pearson's PTE Academic test as an English language proficiency assessment. Earlier this year, the IRCC made a momentous decision by endorsing Pearson's PTE Academic test as a valid measure of English language proficiency. This move acknowledges the rigorous standards and accuracy of the PTE Academic assessment, further

enhancing the credibility and global recognition of this language proficiency test. Students who have taken the PTE Academic test before August 10 are eligible to benefit from this new directive. As long as these scores are submitted within the stipulated expiry period set by the IRCC, they can be used for Student Direct Stream (SDS) applications.

State News**Bihar to Constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for Reintroduction of Rhino Conservation Scheme**

The Bihar government to constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' in West Champaran district. The state's wildlife authorities have observed a substantial increase in the tiger population in VTR, prompting them to focus on reviving the rhino population in the region. Currently, there is only one rhino in VTR and 14 in Patna Zoo, but with the establishment of the 'Rhino Task Force', the authorities aim to bring back more rhino to the reserve. The Valmiki Tiger Reserve has been selected as a potential site under the National Rhino Conservation Scheme, where rhino from other reserves across the country may be brought in. A committee was set up about two years back to assess the habitat and security conditions in VTR and to suggest measures for the reintroduction of rhinos.

Rajasthan Govt. announces 19 New Districts, 3 New Divisions in State

Rajasthan Government recently approved a proposal to form 19 new districts and three new divisions with the purpose of improving governance and decentralizing administrative functions. As of now, Rajasthan has 50 districts and 10 divisions, earlier it had 33 districts and 7 divisions. A high-level committee chaired by retired IAS officer Ram Lubhaya formed in March 2022 to give recommendations about the formation of new districts in Rajasthan. The committee submitted its report and based on the interim report of the committee, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, on 17 March, made an announcement of the formation of 19 new districts in the state. After the announcement of the formation of the new states, representations were received from people, public representatives and various organizations regarding the demarcation of the new district boundaries. The representations were forwarded to the committee for re-examining the boundaries of the proposed districts. After examining the representations, the committee submitted its report to the state government on 2nd August, which was approved in the Cabinet meeting on Friday.

Gujarat launches 'Sinh Suchna' app for tracking lions

To celebrate World Lion Day, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat introduced a new mobile application called 'Sinh Suchna'. The launch event, held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, signifies a significant step towards modern wildlife conservation, enabling both the state's forest department and the general public to effectively monitor lion movements. The 'Sinh Suchna' app empowers individuals to directly report lion sightings to the forest department. This innovative approach facilitates real-time tracking and swift conflict resolution. During the launch, CM Patel highlighted the app's importance in bolstering public involvement in wildlife conservation. In addition to the app, plans are underway for a new lion safari park near Naliya-Mandvi village in the Una taluka of the Gir-Somnath district. This initiative aims to alleviate the strain on the Gir National Park in Sasan-Gir, which has been facing increased tourist numbers.

Kerala Assembly Approves Resolution to Rename State as 'Keralam'

In a significant move aimed at embracing its cultural and linguistic heritage, the Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'. In Malayalam, the state was denoted as 'Keralam', but in alternative languages, it is called as 'Kerala'. The necessity to unite the Malayalam-speaking communities into a harmonious Kerala gained significant prominence during the period of India's fight for freedom. The term 'Keralam' traces its roots to the fusion of two Malayalam words - "Kera," symbolizing coconut, and "Alam" denoting land. Thus, 'Keralam' intricately encase the essence of the "Land of Coconut Trees" paying homage to the state's prolific coconut cultivation, a pivotal contributor amounting to about 45% of India's overall coconut harvest. The proposal involves a modification of the current nomenclature to 'Keralam,' a change that is sought to be instituted through the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution. This alteration would encompass the adoption of 'Keralam' as the state's official name across all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

CM Solar Mission launched in power deficit Meghalaya

In a significant step towards harnessing renewable energy and reducing power deficits, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Chief Minister's Solar Mission, a pioneering initiative aimed at ushering in a new era of green progress for the north eastern hill state. The mission, backed by an investment of Rs 500 crore from the government over the next five years, is set to transform the state's energy landscape and contribute to its sustainable development. The state government has allocated an annual investment of Rs 100 crore to kickstart the solar mission. Additionally, plans

are underway to attract diverse funding partners, including contributions from corporate social responsibility, carbon credits, and international organizations sharing the vision of sustainable energy. This aggressive expansion plan is set to be supported by net metering, which will allow higher capacity hybrid solar units to feed energy into both local and national grids. The subsidy structure is designed to encourage a broad range of beneficiaries, with individual households eligible for a 70% subsidy and schools, hospitals, hotels, and commercial entities qualifying for a 50% subsidy.

Uttar Pradesh Records Maximum Cases Of Cancer

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research Cancer Registry data, Uttar Pradesh, registered the highest count of cancer cases in India. During the year 2022, the state documented an astonishing 210,000 new cases, marking a significant uptick from the 201,000 cases registered in 2020. The state of Uttar Pradesh also logged the highest count of fatalities linked to cancer, with a remarkable 116,818 individuals succumbing to this formidable ailment. The mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh was on par with the national average, while Maharashtra ranked second in terms of fatalities. Experts suggest that these figures likely underestimate the true trend, given that only 15 states mandate reporting of cancer as a notifiable disease. Notably absent from this list is Uttar Pradesh, which carries the highest burden of both cases and deaths.

West Bengal News**Prime Minister launches Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in West Bengal's 37 railway stations**

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) via video link to initiate the rejuvenation of 37 railway stations across the country. The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across the nation, enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs. As part of this initiative, work on 508 stations in various States commenced, with an investment of ₹25,000 crore. In the State, 37 railway stations will receive a modern makeover with an investment of ₹1,503 crore.

The railway stations selected for the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme are Barrackpore, Chandpara, Dalgaon, Falakata, New Alipurduar, Andal Junction, Asansol Junction, Bardhaman, Katwa Junction, Pandabeshwar, Bolpur Shantiniketan, Rampurhat Junction, Dinhat, Aluabari Road, Dalkhola, Kaliyaganj, Ambika Kalna, Sheoraphuli Junction, Tarakeshwar, Binnaguri, Dhupguri, Haldibari, Hasimara, Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri Road, Kamakhyaguri, New Mal Junction, Sealdah, Malda town, Samsi, Azimganj, Berhampore Court, New Farakka Junction, Bethuadahari, Krishnanagar City Junction, Nabadwip Dham and Shantipur.

22Se Shravan 1430 marks the death anniversary of the great poet Rabindranath.

22nd Shravan is being observed across the country as Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's death anniversary. He was a Bengali poet, novelist, musician, painter and dramatist who significantly changed Bengali literature and music. He died on 22nd Shravan 1348 bangabo which is 7th August 1941 as per English date. This year i.e. 22Se Shravan 1430 marks the 82nd death anniversary of Kabiguru. Kabiguru is remembered with respect on his 82nd death anniversary. Rabindranath Tagore was born on May 7, 1861 in Jorasanko, Calcutta. Incidentally he composed more than 2,000 songs which created a separate genre in Bengali music, known as "Songs of Tagore". His collection of poems, Gitanjali, created a paradigm shift in Bengali literature, while his songs did the same for Bengali music. He wrote eight novels, 84 short stories and numerous poems in a literary career spanning nearly seven decades. Notable among his compositions are Gitanjali, Gora and Garhe-Bayre.

The state education department is going to make it mandatory for government teachers to go to villages to teach by bringing changes in the education policy

The state government is thinking of implementing new rules for state government school teachers. According to this rule, teachers have to go and teach in villages for five years or a fixed period of their working life. This rule may be introduced in West Bengal very soon. The state government has proposed such changes in the education policy of the state. The new education policy of the state was approved in the state cabinet meeting on Monday. The state government has thought to keep the teacher-pupil ratio right. As mentioned in the draft education policy of the state, as in the case of doctors it is mandatory to go to the villages for treatment, similarly the teachers have to teach in the rural areas. The state government will decide on this at the time of teacher recruitment. On the other hand, the government wants to give more importance to Bengali language. English language is also given importance. According to the new education policy, Bengali and English must be read compulsorily by the students. Besides, Bengali, Hindi and Sanskrit as third languages have been given importance in the proposed new education policy of the state. Bengali should be taught from class I to class XII. Curriculum should be developed accordingly. Incidentally, the National Education Policy has said that the 10th class examination will be cancelled. However, the decision to hold the secondary examination has been made in the education policy of the state.

Bankura's Mecha Sandesh is about to get the GI tag

Mecha sandesh is one of the famous things of district Bankura. Note that mecha sandesh is made without milk and fresh, unripened curd cheese. Bankura's Mecha Sandesh is made without milk and chickpeas incomparable in taste. The famous Mecha Sandesh of Bankura's Beliatare is going to get the GI tag now. About 20 families here are involved in making this mecha sandesh. People of Bankura are very happy with the news of getting this GI tag, they said.

Padma Bhushan nuclear scientist Bikas Singh passed away this morning

The eminent nuclear scientist Vikas Singh passed away in a private hospital in Kolkata on Friday morning. He was 78 years old at the time of his death. According to family sources, he was suffering from physical problems for a long time. Over the past few days, his illness worsened and he was admitted to the hospital. There his physical condition further deteriorated. The entire country was shocked by the death of this senior scientist. It is to be noted that this Bengali nuclear scientist was working at the 'Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre'. He has made several significant contributions to atomic research. He was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' in 2010. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed grief over his death. Incidentally, he was a member of the royal family of Murshidabad. His father Bimalchandra Singh was a former minister of the state. He was born in 1945 in Kandi, Murshidabad. From childhood, he had an inexhaustible attraction towards science. He studied Physics from Presidency College. He graduated from the respective college in 1964. He then traveled abroad for higher education.

The self sacrifice anniversary of brave martyr Khudiram Bose is being celebrated across the state

Khudiram Bose was a brave young man who sacrificed himself in India's freedom struggle. His sacrifice left an indelible mark on the freedom struggle. On 11th August 1908, at the age of 18, Khudiram Bose was hanged. Incidentally, he was the youngest revolutionary of the Indian freedom struggle who was martyred on the gallows. On December 3, 1889, Khudiram Bose was born in Maubani village, Bengal. It is noted that one of the most defining moments of Khudiram Bose's life was the Muzaffarpur bombing. In April 1908, at the age of 18, Khudiram and his accomplice Prafulla Chaki attempted to assassinate District Judge Kingsford of Muzaffarpur. who was known for his harsh treatment of Indian nationalists. Hoping to strike against the tyrannical colonial administration, the duo hurled a bomb at his car in Muzaffarpur. Unfortunately, they died as two British women replaced Kingsford in the car. Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki escaped after the bombing but were eventually caught

by the British authorities. He was caught by the British authorities after the Muzaffarpur bomb attack. He died at the age of 18 for refusing to divulge any information about his collaborators. Khudiram Bose was hanged on 11 August 1908. As he stood on the brink of his last moments, his tenacity and conviction served as an inspiration to countless Indians, fueling the dream of an independent India.

Economy News

China's Economy Slips into Deflation: Implications and Countermeasures

Deflation, the inverse of inflation, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy. The recent occurrence of deflation in China, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing. Deflation can be succinctly described as a continuous reduction in overall price levels across an economy. This situation contrasts with inflation, where prices increase over time. In China's case, both the consumer price index (CPI) and producer price index (PPI) reported declines in July. Deflation can stem from multiple factors, such as reduced consumer demand, an oversupply of goods, technological innovations that lower production costs, or stringent monetary policies by central banks. In China's context, the primary drivers of deflation are diminished consumer demand and an economic slowdown.

Rankings & Reports News

World rice price index jumps to near 12-year high in July: FAO report

As reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the FAO All Rice Price Index witnessed a 2.8 percent escalation in July compared to the preceding month, with an average value of 129.7 points. This reflects an approximate 20 percent surge from the same period in the previous year and marks the most elevated level observed since September 2011. The escalation in rice prices is being propelled by various factors, including: Robust rice demand is among the key drivers behind the increasing rice prices. An additional factor is India's recent decision to limit exports, causing a reduction in the global rice supply. Unpredictable weather patterns in certain rice-producing nations have resulted in diminished yields, exacerbating the supply shortage. The escalating cost of rice is poised to exert a substantial influence on food security across numerous nations. Rice stands as a fundamental dietary item for millions of individuals worldwide, and the elevated prices could create challenges in affording this vital nourishment.

India ranks 6th in South Asia region for Internet Resilience

India, a rapidly developing nation in the realm of technology and connectivity, has achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI). This achievement positions India as the sixth-ranked country in the South Asian region. The IRI, developed by the global non-profit organization Internet Society, provides a comprehensive assessment of a country's internet ecosystem, taking into account factors such as security, performance, infrastructure, and market readiness. The country's security ranking has been deemed above average, largely attributed to its exceptional adoption of the latest Internet Protocol, IPv6. As the world grapples with the expansion of networks and the depletion of IPv4 addresses, India has taken a leading stance by embracing IPv6, which supports the ever-growing demand for internet-connected devices. While India's commendable internet resilience is noteworthy, several neighboring countries have exceeded it in the IRI ranking. Within the South Asian region, countries like Bhutan (58 percent), Bangladesh (51 percent), Maldives (50 percent), Sri Lanka (47 percent), and Nepal (43 percent) have achieved higher positions. These rankings offer valuable insights into the region's advancement and highlight areas where India has the potential to enhance its internet resilience.

Rank	Country	Internet Resilience Index (IRI) Ranking
1	Bhutan	58 percent
2	Bangladesh	51 percent
3	Maldives	50 percent
4	Sri Lanka	47 percent
5	Nepal	43 percent

Srinagar Tops JJM Implementation Among Har Ghar Jal Certified Districts

The Srinagar district has become the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023), outshining 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across India. This remarkable recognition solidifies Srinagar's commitment to the successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a visionary initiative aimed at ensuring universal access to clean and safe drinking water. The Jal Jeevan Mission, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, represents a monumental step towards securing water access for every rural household in India. The mission's ambitious goal of providing adequate quantities of clean, safe, and pressurized drinking water on a consistent basis is a testament to the government's dedication to improving the lives of millions.

Bihar, UP, TN top 3 states with maximum Jan Dhan beneficiaries

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has emerged as a significant tool in driving financial inclusion and empowering individuals across India. As per the statistics provided by the Finance Ministry for the fiscal year 2022-23, a total of 6.23 crore Jan Dhan accounts were initiated as part of this initiative. The core aim of the "Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is to ensure equitable access to a range of financial services, including the availability of fundamental savings accounts, access to customized credit, seamless remittance capabilities, insurance coverage, and pension benefits for underserved segments, notably weaker sections and low-income groups. Key aspects of PMJDY encompass a Rs. 5,000 overdraft provision for accounts linked to Aadhar, along with a RuPay debit card offering accident insurance coverage of up to Rs. 1 lakh. Furthermore, accounts opened between August 15, 2014, and January 26, 2015, are eligible for a Rupees 30,000 Life Insurance benefit for qualified beneficiaries.

Business News

SEBI Shortens IPO Listing Timeline to 3 Days Post Closure for Investor and Issuer Benefit

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken a significant step to enhance the efficiency of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) by halving the timeline for listing shares on stock exchanges after the IPO closure. This move aims to provide substantial benefits to both investors and issuers in the capital markets. SEBI's new directive entails a reduced listing timeline for shares. This adjustment, designed to expedite the listing process, will initially be introduced as a voluntary option for public issues commencing on or after September 1. However, it will become a mandatory requirement for all issues starting from December 1, 2023, onwards, as per the circular issued by the capital markets regulator. Under the revised guidelines, IPOs will now be mandated to list within three working days (T+3 days) after the closure of the IPO, in contrast to the previous requirement of six working days (T+6 days). The "T" symbolizes the issue closing date, which serves as the starting point for the new timeline. This new listing timeframe will need to be explicitly disclosed in the offer documents of public issues, as highlighted by SEBI.

NCLT Approves \$10 Billion Mega-Merger Between Zee and Sony

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has given the green light to the merger between India's prominent entertainment company, Zee Entertainment Enterprises, and

Culver Max Entertainment (formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India or SPNI). The favorable verdict paves the way for an exciting phase of integration and transformation in the Indian entertainment industry. (Securities and Exchange Board of India) SEBI is expected to deliver its final decision on the matter on 14th of August. The decision was handed down by the panel led by Justice HV Subba Rao alongside member Madhu Sinha. With this approval in hand, Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Culver Max Entertainment are ready to kickstart the integration process in the upcoming week. A crucial step in this journey involves ZEE filing with the registrar of companies within a 30-day window. While an official timeline for completion has yet to be announced, seasoned mergers and acquisitions experts anticipate a potential conclusion around mid-November.

Appointment News

Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its CFO

Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down. He was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major after Kirkhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post. Mr Kirkhorn's 13-year tenure with the Elon Musk-led American EV giant was described as one of "tremendous expansion and growth" in the company filing. Mr Taneja has served as Tesla's CAO since March 2019 and as the Corporate Controller since May 2018. He served as the Assistant Corporate Controller between February 2017 and May 2018, and from March 2016, served in various finance and accounting roles at SolarCity Corporation, a US-based solar panel developer acquired by Tesla in 2016.

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Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC Chairman

IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Agarwal succeeds Vivek Johri who superannuated as CBIC chief on May 31. In an order issued on August 5, the finance ministry had appointed Agarwal, who was holding charge of CBIC member compliance management, looking into investigations. The CBIC, which deals with policy making in indirect taxes — GST, customs, excise — is headed by a chairman and has six members in the board. The board is assisted by principal chief commissioners/ chief commissioners and principal director generals/ director generals. IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

Justice Subhasis Talapatra sworn in as new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

Justice Subhasis Talapatra was officially appointed as the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. The oath of office was administered by Governor Ganeshi Lal, marking his succession of Justice S Muralidhar. He is set to hold the position of Chief Justice for a relatively short period of under two months, concluding with his retirement on October 3, 2023. Born on October 4, 1961, in Udaipur, Tripura, Justice Talapatra began his judicial journey. He assumed the role of a judge in the Tripura High Court on September 13, 2013, having previously served as an additional judge in the same court from November 15, 2011. In 2018 and 2019, he had the honor of temporarily holding the position of acting Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court on two occasions. He was transferred to the Orissa High Court as a judge on June 1, 2022, where he officially took the oath of office on June 10, 2022.

Banking News**HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Highest Paid Bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55cr Pay**

In the fiscal year 2023, Sashidhar Jagdishan, the CEO of HDFC Bank has taken the top spot as the highest paid bank CEO. With an overall package of Rs.10.55 crore, Jagdishan's compensation stands out among his peers in the banking sector. Sashidhar Jagdishan took over as CEO of the HDFC Bank in late 2020 and has shown exceptional leadership during his tenure. His contribution to the bank's growth and profitability has been rewarded with a total remuneration of over Rs.10.55 crore in the FY23 which positions him as the highest-earning bank CEO in the country. Jagdishan's package included a basic salary of Rs.2.82 crore, allowances and perquisites of Rs.3.31 crore, provident fund of Rs.33.92 lakh and a performance bonus of Rs.3.63 crore. Kaizad Bharucha,

the deputy managing director of the HDFC bank, is another high-earning executive from HDFC Bank with the total earning of Rs.10 crore for FY23. Bharucha is likely the second highest grossing banker in India. His expertise and strategic contribution in the bank's operations have been duly recognised in his compensation.

Profit Of PSU Banks More Than Doubles To Rs 34,774 Cr In Q1

The public sector banks (PSBs) have registered an impressive profit of over Rs 34,774 crore in the first quarter of June 2023 showcasing a substantial increase that more than doubles their previous earnings. As per the quarterly data published by public sector banks, the collective profit reported by the 12 state-owned banks amounted to Rs 15,306 crore, during the corresponding April-June period in the prior fiscal year. The uptick in interest rates played to the banks' advantage, resulting in a favorable net interest margin (NIM) for the quarter. The majority of banks achieved NIMs surpassing 3 percent. Notably, Bank of Maharashtra, situated in Pune, secured the highest NIM at 3.86 percent, closely trailed by Central Bank at 3.62 percent and Indian Bank at 3.61 percent for the quarter. In the initial quarter, four lenders achieved a profit growth exceeding 100 percent. Punjab National Bank achieved the highest percentage growth, marking a substantial 307 percent increase in profit, from Rs 308 crore to Rs 1,255 crore, in comparison to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Following closely, the State Bank of India (SBI) reported a noteworthy 178 percent growth in its bottom line, reaching a profit of Rs 16,884 crore. Bank of India also demonstrated remarkable progress, experiencing a surge of 176 percent in profit to reach Rs 1,551 crore.

RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting Highlights

RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy meeting highlights encompass the RBI's decisions, economic assessments, inflation forecasts, and policy measures discussed during the August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting.

Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained the repo rate at 6.50% during its August 2023 monetary policy meeting. The decision was taken unanimously by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Inflation Trends and Forecasts:

Headline inflation, which dropped to 4.3% in May 2023, experienced a rise in June and is expected to further surge in July and August due to higher vegetable prices. The RBI has projected India's Q2 retail inflation at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2% for the current fiscal year. The CPI inflation forecast for FY2023-24 has been revised from 5.1% to 5.4% due to shocks in vegetable prices.

AU Bank Becomes India's First Bank To Provide 24x7 Video Banking Service

AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24x7 video banking platform. This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, as it provides round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays. AU Small Finance Bank has etched its name in history as the first financial services provider in India to present a 24x7 live video banking solution. Through this cutting-edge platform, customers gain unparalleled access to live video interactions with dedicated bankers at any hour, on any day. This leap in technology empowers not only tech-savvy millennials but also newcomers to banking, busy professionals, and senior citizens, delivering a personalized and hassle-free banking experience.

Science & Technology News

Chandrayaan-3 has been Successfully inserted into Lunar Orbit

Chandrayaan-3, the country's lunar mission, has been successfully entered the lunar orbit after a journey of twenty-three days. This milestone marks a significant step in India's endeavor to become the first nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon. In this article you will get to know about the recent developments of Chandrayaan-3 and its exciting journey. Twenty-three days ago, Chandrayaan-3 started its exciting journey from Earth towards the Moon. For the last five days, the spacecraft has been steadily moving closer to the moon, carefully adjusting its path to enter the moon's orbit. On Saturday's evening, Chandrayaan-3 successfully entered into the lunar orbit, making a significant milestone in the mission's journey. As the spacecraft started circling the moon, it began transmitting signals to the Mission Operators Complex (MOX) at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC). The successful entry of spacecraft shows its readiness for further maneuvers and operations in the lunar orbit.

Digital registry on organ transplants to streamline donations on cards

The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Health are actively engaged in the development of an Organ Donation Registry, aimed at introducing structural improvements to the National Organ Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO). The NOTTO is responsible for arranging organ transplantation operations throughout the nation. The establishment of this digital registry is anticipated to eradicate intermediaries within the system. The National Health Authority will transform these policies into a digital

framework. This transformation will encompass the complete digitization and transparency of all organ transplantation processes. The availability of recipient and donor records will streamline the process of organ allocation for patients in critical need. The registry will be integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission through the Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) program.

Russia set to make historic return to Moon with Luna-25

Russia is to launch its first lunar landing spacecraft, Luna-25, on August 11, marking a significant step in its renewed lunar exploration efforts. This mission follows closely after India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander launch, reflecting a global interest in exploring the moon's south pole, potentially rich in resources like ice for future human habitation. Luna-25, launching from the Vostochny cosmodrome, aims to explore the moon's south pole region, believed to hold substantial ice deposits. Despite the proximity in timing, Roscosmos assures no interference between Luna-25 and Chandrayaan-3 missions due to different landing areas. The spacecraft, weighing 1.8 tons and carrying 31 kg of scientific equipment, will orbit the moon for five to seven days before descending to one of three potential landing sites near the pole.

Schemes and Committees News

SC to Appoint All-Woman Panel to Oversee Relief in Manipur

Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud has announced the formation of an all-women panel to help bring healing and relief to the violence-stricken region in Manipur. The panel will consist of three former High Court judges, with Justice Gita Mittal as its head. The panel aims to provide healing touch to the situation in Manipur. The committee's main task is to oversee relief and rehabilitation efforts, restore homes and places of worship and improve the overall relief work in the violent-affected areas. This broad-based committee will focus on addressing the various aspects of the situation in Manipur and bring about positive changes. Chief Justice, D.Y. Chandrachud also appointed a retired IPS officer, Dattatray Padsalgikar to monitor the investigation of the cases that has been arisen from the violence. Over 6,500 FIRs have been filed from May to July in Manipur.

GOI says Crop Insurance Claims of worth Rs. 2,761.10 crore pending

According to the recent data, a significant backlog of pending crop insurance claims totally approximately Rs.2,716.10 crore was revealed till 2021-22 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). The maximum pendency of crop insurance claims is in Rajasthan, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat. The delays in settling these claims have stemmed from various factors, as noted by Agriculture Minister

Narendra Singh Tomer. These include the late transmission of yield data, delayed release of the government's premium subsidy share and disagreements over yield-related matters between insurance companies and states. These hurdles collectively contribute to the extended waiting period for farmers seeking their rightful compensation. Out of the pendency of claims, the maximum was in Rajasthan (Rs.1,378.34 crore), followed by Maharashtra (Rs.336.22 crore), Gujarat (Rs.258.87 crore), Karnataka (Rs.132.25 crore) and Jharkhand (Rs.128.24 crore).

Telangana launched Gruha Lakshmi Scheme 2023, Check Benefits and Apply online

The Telangana government is set to launch the Gruha Lakshmi scheme in 2023, a financial assistance program for women from SC, ST, and BC communities to help them build or improve their homes. The scheme will provide each beneficiary with a one-time grant of Rs. 3 lakh. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is part of the Telangana government's efforts to empower women and provide them with access to affordable housing. The scheme is expected to benefit over 1 lakh women in the state. Women who are interested in applying for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme can do so online or at the nearest district collectorate office. The application process will begin in early 2023. The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is a welcome initiative by the Telangana government. It will help to improve the lives of many women in the state and provide them with a sense of security and stability. The scheme is also expected to boost the state's economy by creating jobs in the construction sector.

Rajasthan government gives free smartphones to women: How to register, criteria and more

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan has launched the "Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023." This program provides free mobile phones, internet, and voice call services to women in the state. The distribution of smartphones will take place from August 10 to August 30, 2023, prioritizing widows and divorced women.

Women meeting the criteria can benefit from the scheme if they fall under the following categories:

School Students: Female students in grades 9 to 12 in government schools.

Higher Education: Female students in government higher education colleges.

Widows and Single Women: Those receiving government pensions.

Employment Guarantee Schemes: Women completing 100 days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee or 50 days under the Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee.

Summits & Conference News

Lt Governor Inaugurates 9th India International MSME Expo & Summit 2023

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of Jammu and Kashmir commenced the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi. This prestigious gathering, organized by the MSME Development Forum, served as a platform to foster collaboration between policymakers and entrepreneurs in the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, driving forward the nation's economic growth. Shri Manoj Sinha personally visited booths set up by MSMEs and various stakeholders. This gave him a direct experience of the indigenous products and inventive spirit originating from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Micro & Small enterprises play a crucial part in driving socio-economic transformation, especially for women entrepreneurs. In Jammu and Kashmir, over 74,000 SMEs are under the leadership of women, highlighting the empowerment and transformative influence these enterprises bring.

Awards & Honors News

Subhash Runwal receives the Lifetime Achievement Award RICS

Subhash Runwal, Chairman of Runwal, a leading real estate developer with a legacy of over four decades, has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards. RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is a global industry body representing professionals across the country. Hosting its first-ever awards, it aimed to recognize global and Indian industry-leading achievements and demonstrate the upholding of the highest standards of professionalism and ethics by individuals and teams across built and natural environments. This recognition is a testimony to Runwal's exceptional contributions, outstanding achievements, and unwavering dedication to the real estate sector.

Important Dates News

National Handloom Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

The Indian government has chosen August 7 as the annual National Handloom Day, with the key objective of fostering the handloom industry and acknowledging the dedication and expertise of the weaving community. This sector's artisans, weavers, and producers have been instrumental in safeguarding the rich cultural and traditional legacy of the nation. Additionally, the occasion aims to enhance the visibility and economic well-being of craftsmen and weavers by encouraging their active participation and support. This year nation celebrates 9th National Handloom Day.

India observes 3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 07, 2023

On August 7th, a remarkable chapter in Indian athletics history was etched into the annals of time. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex governing body for athletics in the nation, made a resounding decision to mark this day as National Javelin Day. This auspicious occasion is dedicated to celebrating the awe-inspiring achievement of Neeraj Chopra, a true champion who made an indelible mark on the global stage. This year nations observed 3rd Javelin Throw Day.

Hiroshima Day 2023: Date, Background and Significance

On 6th August 1945, the world witnessed the most devastating events in human history when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. This act resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives and forever altered the course of humanity. Since, then August 6th has been observed as Hiroshima Day, a solemn occasion to commemorate the victims and reflect on the horrors of nuclear warfare. 6th August 2023, 78th Hiroshima Day, holds a significant position in the history. Hiroshima, a city of cultural significance, was instantly transformed into a haunting landscape of death and destruction in the blink of an eye. The atomic bomb, named 'Little Boy', killed an estimated 140,000 people by the end of 1945, either directly or through the subsequent effects of radiation. Most of the people suffered severe injuries and the survivors endured lifelong health issues.

Quit India Movement: Date, History and Significance

The Quit India Movement was a historic event in India's struggle for Independence from British colonial rule. The year 2023 marks the 81st anniversary of this momentous movement that changed the course of India's history. As we commemorate this significant milestone, it is essential to reflect the ideals and sacrifices of the past, drawing inspiration for the present and the future. The Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement, was initiated by the Indian National Congress on 8th August, 1942, led by Mahatma Gandhi, who called for "Do or Die" in the struggle for India's independence. The primary objective of the Quit India Movement was to achieve immediate and complete independence from British colonial rule. It demanded to end the control of British over India and establish a sovereign and self-governing nation. The Quit India Movement adapted the principles of civil disobedience and non-violence, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha. The hallmarks of this movement were peaceful protests, non-cooperation and non-violent resistance.

World Nagasaki Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

Nagasaki Day, observed annually on August 9th, holds a somber significance in global history. It marks the day when the Japanese city of Nagasaki was devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II. This day serves as a reminder of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and the need for lasting peace.

The First Atomic Bomb: Hiroshima, another Japanese city, became the first target of an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945. The destruction caused by the bomb prompted global shock and horror, leading to calls for Japan's surrender.

The Fateful Day: On August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb, codenamed "Fat Man," was dropped on Nagasaki. The bomb detonated above the city, causing widespread devastation and loss of life.

Immediate Impact: The explosion obliterated large parts of Nagasaki, instantly killing tens of thousands of people. The intense heat and radiation unleashed by the bomb inflicted severe burns and injuries on survivors.

Long-Term Consequences: The survivors of the Nagasaki bombing, known as "hibakusha," faced enduring health issues due to radiation exposure, including cancers, birth defects, and other ailments. The city itself suffered from extensive damage, leading to economic and social challenges.

World Lion Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

Every year on August 10th, people worldwide commemorate World Lion Day. This global observance aims to increase understanding about the conservation and safeguarding of lions. It provides an opportunity to inform individuals about the difficulties these magnificent animals encounter across the globe and to endorse initiatives for their preservation. Additionally, the day is a chance to honor these grandiose felines, recognizing their importance in ecosystems and various cultures globally. World Lion Day plays a vital role in rallying support and action to ensure a future for these remarkable animals in the wild by shining a spotlight on lions and their conservation needs. There is an urgent need for their conservation hence, the day aims to educate people about the importance of lions in ecosystems and their cultural significance.

World Biofuel Day 2023 Observed Globally On 10 August

World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector. This day also honors the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel who ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893. His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines. The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.

World Steelpan Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

On July 24th, a significant step is anticipated as the United Nations prepares to adopt a draft resolution. This resolution will declare August 11th as World Steelpan Day, to be celebrated annually on the UN's calendar. Let's delve into the fascinating history and cultural importance of the steelpan, an instrument that emerged from the heart of Trinidad and Tobago. On August 11th, the world will resonate with the joyful notes of the steelpan, echoing the vibrant history of Trinidad and Tobago. World Steelpan Day stands not only as a celebration of music but also as a tribute to the resilient spirit of cultural diversity and sustainable development.

World Elephant Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

World Elephant Day, observed globally on August 12, is a significant event dedicated to raising awareness about the pressing challenges faced by elephants and advocating for their protection and conservation. This observance serves as a vital platform to highlight issues such as habitat loss, ivory poaching, human-elephant conflicts, and the urgent need for improved conservation efforts. This occasion aims to promote the importance of safeguarding these magnificent creatures for future generations and to encourage actions that contribute to their welfare and survival. It's a day to appreciate the vital role elephants play in maintaining ecosystems, as well as to support organizations and initiatives that work towards their preservation. From date to history here is everything you need to know about this day.

International Youth Day 2023: Date, Significance, and History

Every year, on the 12th of August, the global community comes together to celebrate International Youth Day. This annual occasion serves as a dedicated day of awareness and action, recognized by the United Nations (UN), to address pertinent issues affecting the world's youth population. The significance of International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, transcends mere symbolism. This occasion provides a platform to acknowledge and honor the inherent qualities of youth, recognizing their potential to shape the destiny of nations and the entire world. Simultaneously, the day serves as a poignant reminder of the hurdles that young individuals face. It emphasizes concerted efforts to alleviate these challenges.

Sports News**SAI launched short movie series 'Halla Bol' Under 'Cheer4India' Campaign**

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 Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games. In the upcoming weeks, SAI has ambitious plans to release a total of 12 short films. This initiative aims to not only motivate athletes participating in

the Asian Games 2023 but also to encourage the youth of the nation to embrace sports and pursue a career in the field. The first episode in the series was also unveiled which gave a glimpse onto the life of star Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra. The first video featuring Neeraj Chopra instantly became a hit on social media and has amassed massive views. The series is expected to rake in huge popularity as it focusses on the successful journey of athletes.

Obituarities News**Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away**

Renowned folk singer and activist Gaddar, who had been battling severe heart disease, passed away at the age of 74. He had been undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad for the past 10 days following a cardiac arrest. Gaddar, also known as Gummati Vittal Rao, gained popularity primarily through his stage name. He earned the title of the people's singer due to his songs that brought attention to various issues faced by the common people. Additionally, he showcased his acting skills in a few films, including "Maa Bhoomi" and "Rangula Kala". Gaddar was born into a Dalit family in Medak district of Telangana in 1949. During the 1980s, he went underground and became associated with the People's War Group, an underground communist party in India. He founded the Jana Natya Mandali, a Delhi-based theatre company which later evolved into the cultural wing of the naxalite outfit.

Defence News**India launches 'Neerakshi' - Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for mine detection**

The AUV named 'Neerakshi' is a collaboration of Kolkata-based warshipmaker Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and MSME entity AEPL. An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) designed to detect mines and a first of its kind in the country was launched. Named "Neerakshi" meaning "Eyes in the Water" is first of its kind in the country and is expected to undergo user trials by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army before a commercial launch.

Defence Ministry to switch to locally built OS in computers amid threats

In a significant step towards strengthening its cyber defenses, India's Ministry of Defence has taken a decisive step by opting to replace the Microsoft operating system with a domestically developed alternative named the 'Maya' operating system. This strategic move aims to elevate the nation's cybersecurity measures in the face of escalating cyber threats. Devised and formed by a government organization, the Maya Operating System stands as a testament to local innovation and dedication. It was created within a brief timeframe of just six months. The locally-developed OS was constructed using the open-source Ubuntu framework. Maya boasts an interface

and full functionality akin to Windows, ensuring a seamless transition for users. A trial run of the Maya operating system is set to commence by August 15. The preliminary phase will witness the deployment of the Maya OS on a limited number of ministry computers, with plans in place to scale its implementation across the entire spectrum of connected systems.

Swathi Mountains: A Compact Weapon Locating Radar

The Indian Army has recently inducted a new addition to its arsenal, the "Swathi Mountains," a lighter and more compact version of the indigenous Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M). This advanced radar system, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, holds a pivotal role in enhancing military operations, particularly in challenging terrains. The Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) has emerged as a cornerstone of modern military strategies, employing sophisticated signal processing techniques to autonomously detect and track hostile artillery, mortars, and rocket launchers. This radar's prowess lies in its ability to identify and monitor small projectiles across the battlefield, accounting for environmental conditions to estimate launch and impact points accurately. Notably, the WLR's mobility and swift deployment capabilities make it adaptable to evolving operational requirements. Its versatile design allows it to scan different areas without necessitating physical repositioning.

Books & Authors News

Poet- Diplomat Abhay K Launches his New Book 'Monsoon'

Indian -poet -diplomat Abhay Kumar (Abhay K), Deputy Director General of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), launched his new book titled "Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing", a book-length poem running across 150 fourline stanzas, at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi, Delhi. The book was published by Sahitya Akademi on the occasion of its 68th anniversary (13th March 2022). The book is a poem that follows the monsoon which originates from Madagascar and travels to the Srinagar in the Himalayas and back to Madagascar. In the preface to Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing, the poet traces how he came to write a love poem that connects India and Madagascar. One of Abhay K's books is a translation of Kalidasa's Meghaduta into English. So, this preoccupation with topos – topography, so to say – remains firmly in the poet's oeuvre.

Miscellaneous News

Rajouri's chikri wood craft, Anantnag's Mushqbudji rice receive GI tag

In a significant recognition of local craftsmanship and agricultural heritage, the Geographical Indication (GI) Tags have been bestowed upon Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft from

Rajouri district and the prized Mushqbudji Rice variety from Anantnag district. These labels signify the unique nature and exceptional qualities of these products, tracing their origins to specific regions. This achievement is a result of a collaborative effort involving NABARD, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, and the Department of Agriculture, commencing in December 2020.

Hailing from the elevated landscapes of Kashmir, particularly Anantnag district, Mushqbudji Rice takes center stage as a premium aromatic short bold rice variety. When cooked, this rice dazzles with a captivating fusion of flavor, aroma, and sensory properties that are truly distinct.

Nestled within the hill ranges of Jammu province's Rajouri district, the exquisite Chikri Wood Craft stands as a testament to intricate artistry. Admired for its pale, honey-colored softwood, Chikri is brought to life through meticulous carving and fine detailing.

New Amravati Station Becomes Central Railway's Third 'Pink Station'

Central Railway's New Amravati station has engraved its place in history as the first station in Bhusaval Division and the third station within the Central Railway to be designated a "Pink Station" – a station that is wholly managed by women staff. The New Amravati station boasts a team of 12 proficient women employees, each playing a crucial role in ensuring the seamless operation of the station. Among these accomplished individuals are 4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel, and 1 Station Ticket Booking Agent. Their collective efforts culminate in the efficient management of the station, fostering an environment of competence and inclusivity. Central Railway has consistently led the way in ensuring equitable opportunities for its female workforce. It proudly holds the accolade of being the inaugural zone within the Indian Railways to establish an all-women managed station, with Matunga Station on the Mumbai Division being the first, succeeded by Ajni Station on the Nagpur Division.

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