



Weekly Current Affairs-26th To 31st August 2024 English

National News

India Launches World's First Mobile Hybrid Rocket: RHUMI-1

India's space efforts received a significant boost with the successful launch of RHUMI-1, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket. This achievement also marks a milestone as the first reusable hybrid rocket in India. Developed by Chennai-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group, RHUMI-1 represents a leap forward in rocket technology, promising to enhance efficiency and reduce operational costs in space exploration.

India Celebrates National Space Day with Launch of 'Sapno ki Udaan' E-Magazine

On India's inaugural National Space Day, the nation witnessed a significant educational milestone with the release of 'Sapno ki Udaan', an innovative e-magazine. This launch, spearheaded by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, marks a fusion of science, creativity, and education, aimed at inspiring the next generation of Indian students.

Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils First Edition of E-Magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan'

On India's National Space Day, marking the 1st anniversary of Chandrayaan-3's landing on the lunar South Pole, the Department of School Education & Literacy, in collaboration with NCERT, launched the e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan.' Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, released the inaugural edition virtually, with Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education, also attending.

Union Government Launches New Guidelines for Effective Public Grievance Redressal

The Union Government has introduced new 2024 guidelines aimed at improving the handling of public grievances, focusing on citizen empowerment and streamlining the redressal process. These guidelines are designed to enhance clarity and efficiency in addressing grievances and incorporate technological advancements through a 10-step reform process.

ICAR-CIFE and VAMNICOM Sign MoU to Enhance Cooperative Management in Fisheries

In a significant development, the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE) and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 26, 2024. This collaboration aims to advance cooperative management in the fisheries sector and supports the vision of establishing 200,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy, and fishery cooperatives in every Panchayat.

PM chairs 44th PRAGATI Interaction

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi earlier on August 28, chaired the meeting of the 44th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments. This was the first meeting in the third term.

India's 2nd Nuclear Missile Submarine Commissioned by Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to commission India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighat (S-3), at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability. This submarine, armed with 750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles, will patrol the Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command.

Cabinet Approves Setting Up of 12 Industrial Smart Cities In 10 States

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given the green light to 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). This ambitious initiative, with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore, is set to transform India's economic geography, creating a robust network of industrial nodes and cities that promise to significantly boost economic growth and enhance global competitiveness.

Indian Army Launches Project NAMAN: SPARSH-Enabled Service Centres Nationwide

The Indian Army has launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, aimed at providing dedicated support and services to Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families. The project, inaugurated by Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and the President of the Army Wives Welfare Association, Mrs. Sunita Dwivedi, is a significant step toward enhancing the care and support for the Defence community.

NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted 'Navratna' status to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs): NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN). This brings the total number of Navratna CPSEs in India to 25. The Navratna status provides these entities with increased financial and operational autonomy.

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International News

North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un Unveils New 'Suicide Drones'

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently unveiled a new type of "suicide drone," with state media reporting that he personally oversaw a performance test of the weaponry. These drones, designed to carry explosives and crash into enemy targets like guided missiles, were showcased during a test conducted on August 24, 2024. The test was successful, with all drones accurately identifying and destroying their designated targets after flying along preset routes. Experts suggest that the technology behind these drones may have Russian origins.

India and Indonesia Resolve to Boost Anti-Terror Cooperation

India and Indonesia have reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism, including addressing the misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorists. During the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held in Jakarta, both nations condemned the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, particularly in light of Pakistan's support to terror groups targeting Jammu and Kashmir.

24th International Mother Teresa Awards Celebrated in Dubai

The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at Millennium Plaza Dubai, marking the 114th birth anniversary of the esteemed humanitarian. Organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, this event was held outside.

Singapore Hosts 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)

In a bid to enhance strategic ties, Singapore hosted the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) on 26 August 2024. This high-level platform, established to discuss and shape bilateral relations, follows the inaugural ISMR held in New Delhi on 17 September 2022. The first meeting, attended by four senior Singaporean ministers, set the stage for a robust dialogue between the two nations.

Typhoon Shanshan Makes Landfall On Japan's Kyushu Island

Typhoon Shanshan made landfall on Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu on August 29, the weather agency said, bringing heavy rain and strong winds that left at least 40 people injured in three prefectures. The Japan Meteorological Agency urged residents in affected areas to remain on high alert for natural disasters, while public transport operators canceled trains and flights, and some homes were left without power as the storm advanced.

Iran Appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani As First Female Government Spokesperson

In Iran, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson. At the suggestion of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, Fatemeh Mohajerani was appointed as the first female government spokesperson.

INS Tabar Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise with Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya

INS Tabar, a frontline frigate of the Indian Navy, visited Malaga, Spain, on 25 August 2024, for a two-day engagement. Upon departure on 27 August, it participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya in the Mediterranean Sea. This exercise is a significant milestone in the growing maritime cooperation between India and Spain, reflecting the strengthening of bilateral relations in the maritime domain.

State News

Mithun Recorded for the First Time in Assam

In a groundbreaking development, the state of Assam has officially recorded the presence of mithun (Bos frontalis) for the first time. This discovery comes generations after the semi-wild, gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribal communities in the state's hill district of Dima Hasao.

BPCL Launches Drone-Aided Aerial Seeding for Bihar Hills

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has introduced an advanced afforestation initiative named "Aranya" in Bihar, utilizing drone technology for aerial seeding. This project aims to enhance the state's green cover by deploying 100,000 seedballs across 50 hectares in three targeted forest regions.

Himachal Government Approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana'

The Himachal Pradesh government has allocated Rs 53.21 crore annually to fund the 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana,' aimed at supporting the education and well-being of children from vulnerable families. This initiative will provide financial aid to widows, destitute women, divorced women, and disabled parents.

Pakistani Christian Becomes First Goan to Obtain Indian Citizenship Under CAA

On August 28, 2024, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant awarded Indian citizenship to Joseph Francis Pereira, a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian, under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). This marks the first instance of a Goan receiving citizenship through this amendment.

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Rankings & Reports News

Hurun India Rich List 2024: Mumbai's Named as Asia's Billionaire Capital

The Hurun India Rich List 2024 has unveiled a significant shift in the landscape of wealth distribution across Asia, with Mumbai emerging as the new "billionaire capital of Asia". This development marks a pivotal moment in the economic narrative of India and Asia at large, showcasing the growing financial prowess of India's commercial hub.

Business News

Bharti Airtel Announces Content Partnership with Apple

Bharti Airtel has unveiled a new content partnership with Apple, set to offer exclusive Apple Music and Apple TV+ deals to customers in India later this year. As part of this collaboration, Apple TV+ will be integrated into Airtel's Xstream video-streaming service available through premium Wi-Fi and postpaid plans. Additionally, Airtel's Wynk Premium music-streaming service will offer special deals for Apple Music subscribers.

Agreement News

Infosys And NVIDIA Revolutionize Telecom With GenAl Solutions

Infosys has expanded its partnership with NVIDIA to develop generative AI solutions tailored for telecom operators. Utilizing NVIDIA's NIM inference microservices, NeMo Retriever models, NeMo Guardrails, and Riva. Infosys aims to enhance telecommunication operations and customer service. Early results show significant improvements in latency and accuracy.

Appointment News

Chirag Paswan Re-Elected As President Of LJP For 5 years

Union Minister Chirag Paswan was on August 25 re-elected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for the next five years. The decision was taken unanimously during the LJP(RV) national executive meeting held in Ranchi.

Arun Agarwal Named Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Arun Agarwal, a Dallas-based Indian-American entrepreneur, as the Chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) Board of Directors. This role involves marketing Texas as a premier business destination both domestically and globally. Agarwal's appointment highlights Texas's commitment to diversity and the increasing influence of Indian-American leaders in significant economic positions.

Nasscom Appoints Sindhu Gangadharan as New Chairperson

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), India's premier IT industry body, has announced a significant change in its leadership. Sindhu Gangadharan, the Managing Director of SAP Labs India, has been appointed as the new chairperson of Nasscom. This appointment marks a crucial moment in the organization's history and sets the stage for new directions in India's technology sector.

Jay Shah Elected as New International Cricket Council Chairman

Jay Shah has been elected unopposed as the new Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC), succeeding Greg Barclay. This appointment marks a significant moment in cricket administration, as Shah becomes the youngest person ever to hold this prestigious position.

Centre Appoints B Srinivasan as New NSG Director General

The Centre has appointed senior IPS officer B Srinivasan as the new Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), according to a Personnel Ministry order issued on August 27. Srinivasan, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Bihar cadre, will serve as the NSG DG until August 31, 2027, the date of his superannuation. He is currently the director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir.

Satish Kumar Appointed as Railway Board Chairman and CEO

In a significant development for Indian Railways, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a change in leadership at the highest level. This decision marks a new chapter in the administration of one of the world's largest railway networks.

Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar Takes Over as Director General Project Seabird

On August 28, 2024, Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, NM, assumed duties as the Director General of Project Seabird, taking over from Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti. He is now responsible for overseeing India's largest defense infrastructure project at the Karwar Naval Base. The change of guard took place at the Headquarters of Project Seabird in New Delhi.

Dr. T.V. Somanathan Takes Over as Cabinet Secretary

Dr. T.V. Somanathan, a senior IAS officer of the 1987 Tamil Nadu cadre, has assumed the role of Cabinet Secretary for the Government of India, succeeding Rajiv Gauba after his superannuation. Dr. Somanathan brings extensive experience from both central and state government positions, as well as international roles, notably at the World Bank. His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Economics, and he is a qualified Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant, and Company Secretary.

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Banking News

Jana Small Finance Bank Sweeps 4 Awards At ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave

Jana Small Finance Bank has once again cemented its status as a frontrunner in the Indian banking industry. The bank's commitment to excellence and innovation was recognized at the prestigious 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, where it clinched four coveted awards. Jana Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runnersup), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management.

Science & Technology News

India Welcomes First Civilian Space Tourist Gopichand Thotakura

Gopichand Thotakura, India's first civilian space tourist, received a warm welcome in Delhi upon his return on August 26, 2024. Thotakura made history by joining Blue Origin's New Shepard-25 (NS-25) mission, founded by Amazon's Jeff Bezos, becoming the second Indian citizen to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission. His trip lasted about ten minutes, reaching a maximum altitude of 105 km.

India Develops Indigenous RT-PCR Testing Kit For Mpox

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for detection of Mpox, a senior Health Ministry official said. The kits will be manufactured by the company's molecular diagnostics manufacturing unit in Vadodara, which has a production capacity of one million tests per annum.

Bharat Biotech Unveils Oral Cholera Vaccine Amid Global Shortage

Bharat Biotech International Ltd has launched Hillchol (BBV131), a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV) developed under license from Hilleman Laboratories. This launch is critical as global demand for OCVs exceeds 100 million doses annually, and there has been a deficit of approximately 40 million doses due to limited supply.

Schemes and Committees News

Cabinet Approves 'Vigyan Dhara' Scheme by Department of Science and Technology

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called 'Vigyan Dhara' under the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The scheme is designed to enhance efficiency in fund utilization

and ensure better synchronization among the sub-schemes and programs. With an outlay of ₹10,579.84 crore for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26), 'Vigyan Dhara' aims to bolster the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem in India.

23 Lakh Government Employees Will Benefit From UPS

In a big announcement ahead of assembly elections in one state and a Union Territory this year, the government has launched the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) amid protests by several non-BJP-ruled states over the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

Spices Board Launches SPICED Scheme to Boost Spice Exports and Productivity

The Spices Board of India has introduced the SPICED scheme, a strategic initiative to enhance spice exports and productivity. This scheme, officially named 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development,' will be implemented throughout the remainder of the 15th Finance Commission cycle.

Celebrating 10 Years Of Jan Dhan Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has completed a milestone 10 years today. Acknowledging this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to congratulate the beneficiaries.

Union Minister Launches SHe-Box Portal to Enhance Workplace Safety for Women

The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, launched the new SHe-Box portal, a centralized platform aimed at making workplaces safer for women by addressing complaints of sexual harassment. The launch event, held in New Delhi, also included the introduction of a revamped ministry website.

Summits & Conference News

2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable To Held In Singapore Today

The 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR), aimed at further strengthening trade and economic ties between the two countries, will be held in Singapore on August 26. For India, Singapore has been a major source of FDI (foreign direct investment).

Jitendra Singh Chaired Bilateral Meeting On US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has chaired a bilateral meeting on US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce in New Delhi. The Ministry of Science and Technology said that the meeting highlighted the deepening cooperation between the two nations in critical areas including science, technology, and clean energy.





2nd Meeting of Joint Russian- Indian Commission

The Second Meeting of the Joint Russian-Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held on 28th August 2024 in Moscow, Russia. Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, India is leading the Indian delegation.

INDUS-X Summit 2024

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum announced the third edition of the India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit at Stanford University on Sept 9-10, 2024. The summit will focus on leveraging private investment to advance defense innovation and will feature top policymakers, panel discussions, and a tech expo.

Awards & Honors News

FICCI Honours Ayushmann Khurrana and Neeraj Chopra as Youth Icons of India

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently organized its prestigious Young Leaders Awards in New Delhi, bringing together a diverse array of talented individuals from various fields.

The ceremony was graced by two outstanding personalities who received the coveted FICCI Young Leaders Youth Icon award:

Ayushmann Khurrana: Bollywood superstar and versatile actor Neeraj Chopra: Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw

Kerala Tourism Clinches PATA Gold Award 2024 for Innovative 'Holiday Heist' Campaign

In a significant achievement for Indian tourism, Kerala Tourism has once again put India on the global tourism map by winning the prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024. This accolade recognizes the state's innovative online contest, 'Holiday Heist', in the Digital Marketing Campaign category, further cementing Kerala's position as a leader in creative tourism promotion.

Important Dates News

World Water Week 2024: 25-29 August

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organising the next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024. World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991.

International Day against Nuclear Tests 2024 Observed on 29th August

Every year on August 29, the world observes the International Day Against Nuclear Tests. This significant day serves as a global reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and the urgent need for a world free from the threat of nuclear destruction. Since the dawn of the nuclear age in 1945, over

2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted, leaving a legacy of environmental damage and human suffering.

National Sports Day 2024, Date, Significance and History

Every year on August 29, India celebrates National Sports Day, a special occasion dedicated to honouring the spirit of sports in the country. This day goes beyond celebrating India's athletic achievements; it emphasizes the crucial role of sports in maintaining health, fostering community, and inspiring generations. At the heart of this celebration is the legacy of India's legendary hockey player, Major Dhyan Chand, whose extraordinary skills and contributions to the sport have left an indelible mark on the nation's sporting history. While the theme for 2024 has not been announced at the time of writing, the previous year's theme was "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

Sports News

India Shines at Asian Surfing Championships 2024: A Milestone for Indian Surfing

In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the national team secured a silver medal at the prestigious Maruhaba Cup, a team event at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024. The competition, held in Thulusdhoo, Maldives, concluded on Sunday, marking a new chapter in India's surfing history.

Indian Prodigy Triumphs at Asian U-15 Junior Badminton Championships 2024

In a remarkable display of skill and determination, 14-year-old Tanvi Patri from Odisha, India, has etched her name in the annals of badminton history. Patri clinched the women's singles title at the prestigious Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024, held in Chengdu, People's Republic of China, from August 20-25, 2024.

Karthik Venkataraman Clinches Second Indian National Title

Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the Indian National Championship after scoring 9/11 points at the event organised by the Haryana Chess Association. This is the second victory in a national championship for Karthik, who had also won the tournament in 2022. Surya Ganguly and Neelash Saha scored as many points as the champion, but finished in second and third place on tiebreaks.

Bangladesh Triumphs in SAFF U-20 Championship 2024

Bangladesh has emerged as the new champion of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-20 Championship football tournament. This victory marks a significant milestone in Bangladesh's football history, as it is the first time the nation has claimed this prestigious title. The tournament, which showcased the talent of young South Asian footballers, concluded with a thrilling final match that saw Bangladesh defeat the host nation, Nepal.





Mona Agrawal Won Her First Paralympic Bronze Medal

Mona Agarwal made history at the 2024 Paralympics by securing a bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event on August 30. Her journey to the podium was not just about athletic excellence but also a testament to her resilience as a mother of two. Challenges, she faced leading up to the competition, particularly the struggle of balancing her responsibilities as a mother with her ambitions as an athlete.

Obituaries News

Olympic Cyclist Daniela Chirinos Passes Away at 51

The cycling world mourns the loss of Daniela Larreal Chirinos, a celebrated Venezuelan Olympic cyclist who passed away at the age of 51. Chirinos, known for her remarkable career spanning over a decade, left an indelible mark on the sport of track cycling and represented her nation with distinction on the global stage.

Defence News

Indian Air Force's Sarang Team to Showcase at Egypt International Airshow 2023

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken a significant step in international aviation diplomacy by dispatching its renowned Sarang Helicopter Display Team to participate in the inaugural Egypt International Airshow. This event, scheduled from September 3 to 5, 2023, at the Al-Alamein International Airport in Egypt's El Dabaa, marks a crucial moment for India to demonstrate its indigenous aviation capabilities on the global stage.

India to Ink Repeat Order for 73,000 SiG 716 Rifles from the US

The Indian Defence Ministry is finalizing a repeat order for 73,000 SiG 716 G2 patrol assault rifles from the US to equip its frontline troops. This follows a 2019 procurement of 72,400 SiG 716 rifles (7.62 x 51mm calibre) under the 'Buy (Global)' category through a fast-track procedure, which were distributed across the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Indian Air Force's Sarang Team to Showcase at Egypt International Airshow 2023

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Indian Air Force Launches First Comic Book Series Celebrating Its Heroes

In a groundbreaking initiative to inspire and educate the youth about the rich history and heroic deeds of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari has launched the first comic book in a series dedicated to IAF heroes. This innovative approach to storytelling marks a significant step in the IAF's efforts to connect with younger generations and foster a sense of pride and duty towards the nation.

Miscellaneous News

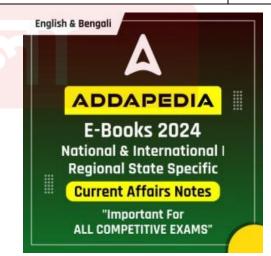
Ladakh Gets Five New District

The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh, said home minister Amit Shah on August 26. "In pursuit of Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, the MHA has decided to create five new districts in the union territory.

Five-Year-Old Teghbir Singh Conquers Mount Kilimanjaro

Teghbir Singh, a five-year-old boy from Ropar, Punjab, has etched his name in the annals of mountaineering history. Teghbir has become the youngest Asian to successfully scale Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, standing at an impressive 5,895 meters above sea level.

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