

Weekly One Liners 07th to 13th of August 2023

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.

History of Hiroshima Day

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.

The tragedy of Hiroshima serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked aggression and the devastating potential of nuclear weapons.

Pursuit of Peace

Over the decades, Hiroshima has become a symbol of peace, reconciliation and hope. The city, once a monument of destruction, has risen up from the ashes and rebuilt itself, focusing on fostering peace and understanding among nations.

Significance of Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima Day holds a significant position in the history as it remembers the day when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, causing immense destruction and loss of lives. This day reminds us the **devastating consequences of war and the need of peace and the nuclear disarmament**.

This day plays a significant role in promoting understanding, reconciliation and a more peaceful future.

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Quit India Movement

Quit India Movement: Introduction

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.

Launch and leadership

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.

Objective of Quit India Movement

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.

Civil Disobedience and Non-violence

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.

Mass Participation in Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement witnessed the participation from people of all ages, genders and backgrounds. This movement got the support from students, farmers, laborers and women which unite the diverse population of India under a common goal.

Regression and Arrests

The British colonial authorities responded to the movement with brutal repression. Many leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Mahatma Gandhi, were arrested, and the British administration resorted to violence to suppress the protests.

Acts of Resistance

Indians organized strikes, **boycotted British goods** and **launched acts of civil disobedience** across the country. Public servants resigned from their posts and students **boycotted educational institutional** run by the British government.

Unity and National Pride

The Quit India Movement fostered a **sense of unity and national pride among Indians**, who were determined to stand together in their fight for independence.

Significance of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement had a significant impact on India's struggle for independence. It represented the power of non-violent resistance and united people from all backgrounds stood together for independence. Despite harsh repression, the movement fuelled the demand for self-rule and forced the British government to negotiate with Indian leaders.

Legacy of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement left a lasting legacy which showed how **non-violent protests and unity can lead to big changes**. This movement played a crucial role in achieving independence on 15th August, 1947.

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.

1. 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)**.

2. 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.

3. Economic Outlook:

- Despite weak external demand, domestic economic activity remains robust and is likely to maintain its momentum.
- The RBI has retained the GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year at 6.5%, with balanced risks.

4. Monitoring Inflation Trajectory:

- The MPC remains committed to aligning inflation with the target of 4% and anchoring inflation expectations.
- The cumulative rate hike of 250 basis points implemented by the MPC is gradually affecting the economy.
- The MPC decided to stay vigilant and assess the evolving situation before making any policy changes.

5. Liquidity Measures:

- The RBI has instructed banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the growth in deposits between May 19 and July 28, effective from the August 12 fortnight.

6. UPI Payment Updates:

- The RBI announced changes in UPI payments, allowing offline payments using near-field communication.
- The payment limit via UPI Lite has been increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

7. Transition to Fixed-Rate Regime:

- Home loan and other borrowers are permitted to switch to a fixed-rate regime, according to the RBI's directive.

8. Consistent Policy Stance:

- This marks the third consecutive monetary policy meeting in which the MPC has chosen to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%.
- Previously, the MPC had increased the repo rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023.

9. Positive Indian Economic Outlook:

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted that the Indian economy remains a bright spot in the global landscape.

RBI's Strategic Announcements Set to Transform UPI and UPI Lite Landscape

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently unveiled a trio of groundbreaking initiatives poised to revolutionize the digital payments landscape in India through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and UPI Lite**. These initiatives were announced by Governor Shaktikanta Das during the RBI's bi-monthly policy review, emphasizing their potential to usher in a new era of the payments revolution.

Conversational Payments on UPI:

In a move to enhance the ease and reach of UPI, the RBI has unveiled plans to introduce Conversational Payments on the platform. This innovative feature empowers users to engage in transactions by conversing with an AI-powered system, ensuring safety and security throughout the process.

- **Enhancing Accessibility:** The integration of AI-driven conversational instructions is set to make UPI more user-friendly, thereby reducing barriers to adoption, particularly among senior citizens and people with disabilities.

- **Multilingual Support:** Initially available in Hindi and English, the Conversational Payments feature will subsequently extend to encompass various Indian languages, catering to the linguistic diversity of the nation.

UPI Lite Payment Limit Enhancement:

Acknowledging the evolving needs of users, the RBI has raised the transaction limit for UPI Lite from Rs 200 to Rs 500, aiming to facilitate more substantial and convenient transactions.

- **Optimized Processing:** UPI Lite, launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), allows swift small-value transactions by streamlining processing resources for banks. This optimization minimizes transaction failures and enhances overall efficiency.
- **Balancing Security:** While the transaction limit has been elevated, the balance ceiling for UPI Lite remains unchanged at Rs 2,000, ensuring a cautious approach towards relaxing two-factor authentication for higher transaction limits.

Offline UPI Payments with NFC Technology:

In a move to bolster the adoption of UPI Lite, the RBI is introducing offline payments using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. This pioneering approach not only enables retail digital payments in scenarios of weak or absent internet connectivity but also guarantees speed and minimal transaction declines.

- **Addressing Connectivity Challenges:** The incorporation of NFC technology allows users to conduct transactions even when internet or telecom connectivity is compromised, making digital payments more reliable and accessible.
- **Seamless Transactions:** The use of NFC technology not only circumvents connectivity issues but also ensures smoother and more efficient transactions, adding to the appeal of UPI Lite as a dependable digital payment solution.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023 full winners list

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards once again took center stage, honouring the finest cinematic gems from the Indian film industry. The 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards were held in Melbourne, Australia, on 11 August, honouring the best of film and OTT content from India globally.

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Filmmaker Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry as a Filmmaker. He received a huge round of applause for his immense contributions in the field of entertainment.

Here is the complete list of winners:

Category	Winner
Jury Awards	
Best Documentary	To Kill A Tiger
Best Indie Film	Agra
Best Performance in Film (MALE)	Mohit Agarwal for Agra
Best Performance in a film (FEMALE)	Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Director	Prithvi Konanur – Hadinelentu (Seventeeners)
Best Film	Sita Ramam
Best Performance (MALE) in a Series	Vijay Varma for Dahaad
Best Performance (FEMALE) in a series	Rajshri Deshpande for Trial By Fire
Best Series	Jubilee
Best Short Film – People’s Choice	Connection Kya Hain by Nilesh Naik
Best Short Film – Australia	Home by Mark Russel Bernard
Honourary Awards	
Equality in Cinema Award	Darlings
People’s Choice Award	Pathaan
Award to Karan Johar	For his 25 years as a filmmaker
Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema	Kartik Aaryan
Diversity in Cinema Award	Mrunal Thakur
Disruptor Award	Bhumi Pednekar
Rainbow Stories Award	Onir for Pine Cone

About IFFM

This annual event, held in the heart of Australia, honours the remarkable talents of the Indian film fraternity, spanning movies and OTT series. The prestigious awards night was an evening of glamour and recognition, where the best of Indian cinema and the OTT landscape were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions. The awards ceremony, held at the iconic Hamer Hall in Melbourne in all its grandeur, witnessed the convergence of artists, filmmakers, and enthusiasts. The 2023 IFFM awards night not only paid tribute to the excellence achieved in the past year but also showcased the dynamic and evolving landscape of Indian entertainment celebrating the diversity of the films and content from the subcontinent.

National Affairs

- **As of 5 August 2023**, it has been **four years since the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir**. The decision to abolish the special status of the region and end its autonomy was a significant and historic move made by the Indian Government on **August 5, 2019**. 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the revenue department has imposed an **anti-dumping duty** on Dispersion Unshifted **Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF)** imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Delhi Services Bill**, officially known as the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023** has been passed with total **131 votes in favour and 102 against in Rajya Sabha**. It aims to replace an existing ordinance that has caused conflicts between the **Aam Aadmi Party**, led by the Delhi **CM Arvind Kejriwal** and the **Central Government**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** scheme has reached a remarkable milestone as it completes **eight years** of successful implementation, gathering an impressive enrollment of over 5.25 crore subscribers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a proactive effort to modernize and streamline access to justice, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y Chandrachud unveiled the **'SuSwagatam'** portal. This innovative platform offers a convenient way for advocates, litigants, and citizens to secure **QR code-based ePasses**, granting them entry to the esteemed halls of the Supreme Court. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Bharti Institute of Public Policy**, a renowned think tank under the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the Government of **Goa** have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a **knowledge partnership**. This strategic alliance is geared towards advancing evidence-based policy formulation and **fostering impactful governance** in the state of Goa. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- According to a report on **Asian Elephant population and demography 2023**, the state of **Karnataka** has witnessed a remarkable increase in elephant population. The number of elephants in Karnataka has surged from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive **6,395**, making it the **highest elephant-populated region** in the country. The report was introduced ahead of the approaching World Elephant Day on **August 12**, with the aim of raising awareness about the critical need to conserve and safeguard these animals. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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International Affairs

- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Cambodia's** King appointed **Hun Sen's** son the country's new leader, beginning a handover of power that ends nearly four decades of rule, but the outgoing Premier promised this was "not the end" of his political career. King Norodom Sihamoni issued a royal decree appointing **Hun Manet as Prime Minister**, after Mr. Hun Sen had announced last month that he was stepping down and handing power to his eldest son. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** held the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the construction of the **India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH)** in Lumbini, **Nepal**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In **July 2023**, our planet experienced an unprecedented rise in temperatures, marking it as the **hottest month** ever recorded. This alarming trend underscores the urgency of addressing global climate change and its root cause, greenhouse gas emissions. Let's delve into the key highlights and findings of this extraordinary month. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. This article delves into the ongoing crisis, ECOWAS' response, and the potential implications for the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- 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 booklength poem running across 150 fourline stanzas, at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi, Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a move to provide enhanced financial security and stable income to its policyholders, **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company** has recently launched a groundbreaking insurance product – the **Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan**. This non-linked and non-participating insurance plan is designed to offer regular, **long-term income** to policyholders to ensure a prosperous and worry-free future. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As per a Finance Ministry report, both **state-owned banks** and **leading private banks** have garnered more than ₹21,000 crore in fees primarily from account holders **failing to maintain the minimum balance**. Charges amounting to over ₹35,000 crore have been amassed **since 2018** due to reasons such as non-compliance with minimum balance requirements, **additional ATM transactions**, and SMS services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's first payment bank, **Airtel Payment Bank** also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The debit cards will be crafted from recycle-Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken stringent action by imposing monetary penalties totaling Rs4.20 lakh on four **co-operative banks**. These banks – Vita Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd, and Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank Ltd – have been found to be in breach of various regulations set forth by the central banking authority. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Tata Sons, the parent company of **Air India**, has introduced a new appearance and brand identity for the airline. This change includes a new logo and design, replacing the well-known mascot "**Maharaja**." This move comes as part of Tata Group's ongoing efforts to transform Air India since its acquisition more than a year ago. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent mid-year macroeconomic review, the **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)** has forecasted that **India's economic growth** will likely decelerate to 6% in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), down from the 7.2% recorded in FY23. This projected slowdown is attributed to prevailing headwinds in the global economy. The NIPFP analysis takes into consideration various economic indicators and trends, offering valuable insights into the potential trajectory of **India's economy**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** approved the appointment of **Amit Jhingran** as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Bollywood actress **Kareena Kapoor Khan** has signed on as an investor and brand ambassador of **Pluckk**, which is engaged in the fresh fruit and vegetables business. The company has a range of 400 products in more than 15 categories, including essentials, exotics, hydroponics, and cuts and mixes. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- 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. Let's delve deeper into the features, capabilities, and significance of this cutting-edge technology. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The eagerly anticipated **Malabar series of naval exercises**, involving the maritime forces of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia, is about to kick off along the eastern coast of Australia. This iteration of the exercises will be centered on enhancing anti-submarine warfare capabilities, signaling the participants' shared commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Ranks and Reports

- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- 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**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Awards News

- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Sports News

- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- India ended their **2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships**, meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at **Istanbul, Turkey**. Savita, who entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India at Istanbul in the women's 61kg weight division. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Schemes and Committees News

- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- As part of the flagship **Godhan Nyay Yojna (GNY)** initiated by the Chhattisgarh government, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel conducted **online transfers** exceeding **Rs 15 crore** to support cattle rearers, women's self-help groups (SHGs), and 'gauthan' committees. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- Bhu-Vision (also known as KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System)** is a revolutionary IoT-based automated soil testing and agronomy advisory platform that was recently launched in India. This system is a game-changer for India's agriculture sector. It is a smart, fast, easy, affordable, and accessible solution for soil testing and agronomy. It has been jointly developed by **ICAR-IIRR(Indian Council of Agricultural Research -Indian Institute of Rice Research) and KrishiTantra**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- 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**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Science and Technology News

- Astronomers have made a stunning discovery of "Einstein Cross," where light from a distant galaxy is split and magnified by a foreground elliptical ground. This event was **first predicted by Albert Einstein in 1915** as a consequence of his theory of general relativity. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- 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. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) unveiled a recent publication titled “**75 Endemic Birds of India**” on the occasion of its **108th** foundation day. This publication highlights a surprising fact: A remarkable **5%** of India’s bird species are confined solely within the nation’s boundaries, making them true avian treasures that are not reported anywhere else on the planet. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Astronomers used the **James Webb Space Telescope** to capture this striking new image of **Messier 57**, more popularly known as the **Ring Nebula**. The nebula in the image is actually the glowing remains of a sun-like star and at its centre is the star’s hot core, which is called a white dwarf. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a strategic partnership, **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** teams up with **Tata Play** to introduce **GSAT-24**. The objective of this partnership is to augment **satellite broadcasting capabilities** and provide **high-quality entertainment** to every part of the nation. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in India’s telecommunications sector, propelled by state-of-the-art indigenous technology. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **August 7** marks the death anniversary of Nobel laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**. He was a **Bengali** poet, novelist, musician, painter, and playwright who significantly transformed Bengali literature and music. Suffering from acute uraemia and a blockage in his urinary bladder, he passed away at the age of 80 on **August 7, 1941**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations’ (UN) **International Day of the World’s Indigenous People** is observed on **August 9** each year to promote and protect the rights of the world’s Indigenous population. This year’s theme is: **Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. World Lion Day was first established in **2013** by Big Cat Rescue, the world’s largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to lions and it was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert, a husband-and-wife team who recognised the need to draw attention to the declining lion populations and the threats they were facing in the wild. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. This year nation celebrates **9th National Handloom Day**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Today, August 9, 2023, is World Tribal Day**. This day is observed by the United Nations to promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous peoples. It is also a day to celebrate the achievements and contributions that indigenous peoples make to society. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **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. In **2012**, Patricia Sims, a Canadian, and the **Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand**, led by HM Queen Sirikit, established World Elephant Day. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries News

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Renowned Malayalam director and screenwriter **Siddique Ismail** has passed away at 63. He was known for making movies like Friends (2001), Engal Anna (2004), Sadhu Miranda (2008), Kaalavan (2011), and Bhaskar Oru Rascal (2018). His final directorial venture was the 2020 action thriller film Big Brother, which starred Mohanlal, Arbaaz Khan, Anoop Menon, and Honey Rose. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **William Friedkin**, the Oscar-winning American director of films like The Exorcist and The French Connection passed away in Los Angeles(LA), California, United States of America (USA) at the age of 87. Friedkin was born in Chicago, Illinois, USA on 29 August 1935. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Renowned nuclear physicist **Bikash Sinha** has passed away at the age of 78, was suffering from old age-related ailments. A recipient of **Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhusan in 2010**, he was the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla;
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Director General of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Qu Dongyu
- WHO Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Rabindranath Tagore was awarded The Nobel Prize in: 1913
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) Founded: 1984;
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) Headquarters: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Delhi), Lodhi Road, Delhi, India.
- Director General of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies: Sh. Anant Swarup
- Zoological Survey of India Director: Dhriti Banerjee
- Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) founded on: 25 February 2012
- Tesla Founders: Elon Musk, Martin Eberhard, JB Straubel, Marc Tarpenning, Ian Wright;
- Tesla Founded: 1 July 2003, San Carlos, California, United States;
- Tesla CEO: Elon Musk (Oct 2008–);
- Tesla Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States.
- MD & CEO of IndiaFirst: Ms R.M.Vishakha
- Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries: Giriraj Singh

- Cambodia Capital: Phnom Penh;
- Cambodia Currency: Cambodian riel;
- Cambodia Official language: Khmer.
- Prime Minister of Iraq: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani
- National Cyber Security Coordinator: General M U Nair
- CBIC Chairperson: Vivek Johri;
- CBIC Founded: 1 January 1964.
- Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA): Deepak Mohanty
- Chairman of NewSpace India Limited: Shri Radhakrishnan Durairaj
- President and Chief Executive Officer of Internet Society: Andrew Sullivan
- Chairperson of the JJM Board within Srinagar: Mohammad Aijaz Asad
- Executive Director of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy: Ashwini Chhatre
- Karnataka's Minister for Forests, Ecology, and Environment: Eshwar Khandre
- Airtel Payment Bank MD & Chief Executive Officer: Anubrata Biswas;
- Airtel Payment Bank Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;
- Airtel Payment Bank Established: 2017.
- 23rd and current prime minister of Canada: Justin Trudeau
- Minister of Health of Uttar Pradesh: Jai Pratap Singh



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