

Weekly One Liners 14th to 20th of August 2023

77th Indian Independence Day 2023: Date, Celebrations, Theme and History

India celebrating their 77th Independence Day on **August 15, 2023**. The theme for this year's celebration is **"Nation First, Always First"**. This theme is in line with the government's focus on national unity and development. The day begins with the hoisting of the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi by the Prime Minister. This followed by a military parade and a cultural program. There will also be flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs all over the country.

The 77th Independence Day is a significant milestone for India. It is a time to reflect on the country's journey since independence and to recommit to the values of freedom, democracy, and equality. It is also a time to celebrate the diversity and unity of the Indian nation.

Here are some of the events that will be held on 77th Indian Independence Day:

- The Prime Minister will hoist the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi.
- There will be a military parade at Rajpath in New Delhi.
- There will be cultural programs at various places across the country.
- The government will release a commemorative postage stamp and coin.
- There will be special prayers and religious ceremonies in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
- People will gather in public places to celebrate the occasion.

Celebrations of Independence Day 2023

Independence Day is a time to celebrate the freedom and unity of India. It is also a time to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

- **Flag hoisting ceremonies:** The Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi at the stroke of midnight on August 14-15. This is followed by flag hoisting ceremonies all over the country, in schools, colleges, government offices, and public places.

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- **Military parades:** There is a military parade at Rajpath in New Delhi, which is attended by the President, Prime Minister, and other dignitaries. The parade showcases the might of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Cultural programs:** There are cultural programs held at various places across the country, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of India. These programs feature music, dance, and drama.
- **Commemorative events:** The government releases a commemorative postage stamp and coin on Independence Day. There are also special prayers and religious ceremonies in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
- **Public gatherings:** People gather in public places to celebrate the occasion. They sing patriotic songs, dance, and distribute sweets.

History of Independence Day 2023

The history of Indian Independence Day can be traced back to the early 19th century, when the Indian independence movement began to gain momentum. The movement was led by a number of prominent figures, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose.

- The movement was met with much resistance from the British, who ruled India at the time. However, the movement continued to grow in strength, and eventually led to India's independence on August 15, 1947.
- The date of August 15 was chosen as Independence Day because it was the day that the Indian Independence Act of 1947 came into effect. This act transferred power from the British to the Indian government.
- The first Independence Day celebration was held in 1947. The Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, hoisted the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. He gave a speech in which he outlined the challenges that India faced as an independent nation.
- Independence Day is a national holiday in India. It is a day to celebrate the freedom and unity of India. It is also a time to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

Here are some of the key events that led to India's independence:

India's independence was a major achievement for the Indian people. It was the culmination of decades of struggle and sacrifice. It is a day to celebrate the freedom and unity of India, and to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

- **1857:** The Indian Rebellion, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, was a major uprising against British rule in India. The rebellion was suppressed by the British, but it helped to raise awareness of the growing Indian independence movement.

- **1885:** The Indian National Congress was founded. The Congress was a political party that advocated for Indian independence.
- **1905:** The Partition of Bengal was a plan by the British to divide the province of Bengal into two parts, one Hindu-majority and one Muslim-majority. The partition was met with widespread protests, and it helped to further divide the Indian independence movement.
- **1920:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement. The movement was a major turning point in the Indian independence movement. It was based on the principle of nonviolent resistance, and it helped to mobilize millions of Indians against British rule.
- **1930:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Salt March. The Salt March was a major protest against the British salt monopoly. It helped to further popularize the Indian independence movement.
- **1942:** The Quit India Movement was launched by the Indian National Congress. The movement called for the British to immediately quit India. It was met with widespread protests, and it led to the imprisonment of many Indian leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi.
- **1947:** India gained independence from Britain. The independence was marked by the partition of India into two countries, India and Pakistan. The partition was a bloody and chaotic process, and it led to the deaths of millions of people.

Ashleigh Gardner and Chris Woakes Named ICC Players of the Month for July 2023

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has revealed the latest set of international stars to be named **ICC Players of the Month** for July 2023. Australia's spin bowling all-rounder **Ashleigh Gardner** and England's seamer **Chris Woakes** have been honored as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for July 2023.

Ashleigh Gardner

Australia's prolific all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win back-to-back awards, claiming her fourth ICC Women's Player of the Month prize following another scintillating set of performances against England and Ireland in July.

Gardner scored 232 runs and took 15 wickets in eight ODI and T20I matches during the month, including a Player of the Match performance in the second ODI against England, where she scored 65 runs and took three wickets. She was also named Player of the Series in the ODI series against Ireland.

Chris Woakes

England seamer Chris Woakes wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his fruitful contributions with the ball, helping his side claw back a two-nil deficit to close out their Ashes series on level terms.

Woakes took 19 wickets in three Tests against Australia, including a Player of the Match performance in the final Test at The Oval, where he took seven wickets and scored a vital 36 runs in the first innings. He was also named Player of the Series.

Other nominees

The other nominees for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award were Ellyse Perry and Nat Sciver-Brunt, while the other nominees for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award were Zak Crawley and Bas de Leede.

ICC Player of the Month awards

The ICC Player of the Month awards are voted for by a panel of experts, including former cricketers, journalists and broadcasters. The awards are designed to recognize the best performances by international cricketers across all three formats of the game. Last month, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced **Wanindu Hasaranga**, the Sri Lankan spinner, and **Ashleigh Gardner**, the Australian women's team all-rounder, as the recipients of the 'Player of the Month' award for their remarkable performances in **June**.

National Affairs

- Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to **strengthen apprenticeship training** and encouraging the involvement of both industries and young individuals. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Railways Ministry** is embarking on a significant endeavor aimed at establishing **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)** at **railway stations** throughout the country. This initiative holds the primary objective of ensuring the **availability of top-notch medicines** to the public, all while maintaining an **affordable price point**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has given its approval for seven ambitious railway projects, signaling an investment of **₹32,500 crore**. These projects, announced by Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, are set to revolutionize Indian Railways' efficiency and capacity through transformative initiatives. The projects, adopting the **Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model**, are expected to usher in a new era of connectivity and accessibility across various regions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move towards enhancing urban transportation and promoting **electric mobility**, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to the **"PM-eBus Sewa" scheme**. This initiative is aimed at expanding city bus operations by deploying **10,000 electric buses** through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The historical use of air power in **Mizoram** during the 1966 insurgency has recently gained attention due to its mention by **Prime Minister Modi** in response to a no-confidence motion. This article delves into the events surrounding the Mizoram insurgency of 1966, the government's response, the involvement of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, and the aftermath of **Operation Jericho**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bengaluru**, often hailed as **nation's tech capital**, has welcomed the **India's first** 3D-printed post office. Located in **Cambridge Layout** near Ulsoor, this post office has set a new benchmark for efficiency, sustainability, and design. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), **Shri Kushvinder Vohra**, has taken a groundbreaking step towards **enhancing flood preparedness and response** by unveiling the "**FloodWatch**" mobile application. This revolutionary app is designed to harness the power of mobile phones to disseminate **real-time flood-related information and forecasts** to the public, up to **7 days in advance**. The app, which offers both readable and audio broadcasts, is available in two languages, **English and Hindi**, making it accessible to a wider audience. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, **Goa** has emerged as the trailblazer among Indian states by introducing free **In vitro fertilization (IVF)** treatment. This groundbreaking initiative, coupled with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** at the **Goa Medical College (GMC)** in Bambolim. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO)**, the nodal agency overseeing the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), is set to establish India's **first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre** at an outlay of Rs 45 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move towards improving early childhood development and maternal mental health, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a USD 40.5 million loan for the northeastern Indian state of **Meghalaya**. This strategic initiative, supported by the Meghalaya government's contribution of USD 15.27 million, aims to fortify both home-based and center-based childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of daycare centers known as **Anganwadi centers**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant step towards preserving and celebrating India's rich socio-cultural heritage, Goa's Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** unveiled a groundbreaking initiative – The **Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem Village**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- **Anwarul Haq Kakar**, a prominent ethnic **Pushtun leader** with close ties to the influential military, has taken the oath as the country's **caretaker prime minister**. With this appointment, Kakar is entrusted with the responsibility of **heading** an impartial administration, **supervising** the forthcoming general elections, and addressing the economic hurdles confronting the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Dutch economy** has entered a recession, shrinking **0.3%** on a quarterly basis in the second quarter. This is the first recession since the pandemic, and follows a 0.4% contraction in the first three months of the year. The eurozone's fifth largest economy was driven by a drop in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year. Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September 2022, but was still relatively high at about 6% in the second quarter of 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **China's Inner Mongolia region** has reported two cases of bubonic plague, causing concerns amid previous infections and highlighting the need for vigilant containment efforts. The new cases involve close relatives of a previously infected individual. **Bubonic plague** is a highly infectious disease, primarily transmitted through rodents, and can be fatal if not treated promptly. The region's health authorities are taking proactive measures to prevent the further spread of the disease. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's collaboration with **Russia's Arctic region** is on the rise, evidenced by its substantial contribution to cargo handled at **Murmansk port**. This strategic port, positioned about 2,000 km northwest of **Moscow**, serves as a key northern gateway for Russia, and in the first seven months of 2023, it handled a total of eight million tonnes of cargo. Notably, India's share accounted for 35% of this cargo, primarily consisting of coal destined for the eastern coast of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- **Russia** has launched an **e-visa facility for Indians** from August 1, allowing travellers to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa. The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from 54 other countries, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Travel company **MakeMyTrip** has announced a collaboration with the **Ministry of Tourism** to introduce over 600 unique and unconventional **travel destinations**. The company has introduced a specialized **microsite** named '**Traveller's Map of India**' to facilitate this initiative. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has taken a significant step towards advancing the integration of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Data Science (DS)** within the realm of education. Partnering with the renowned **Jio Institute**, AICTE has unveiled a **comprehensive faculty development programme** aimed at equipping academic leaders and senior faculty members with an in-depth understanding of AI and DS. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India and Trinidad and Tobago** have recently entered into a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the renowned **INDIA STACK** technology. This collection of open APIs and digital public goods, pioneered by India, is designed to enhance identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. This move reflects India's commitment to aiding the digital transformation of nations through collaboration and technology sharing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News


- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced the third edition of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign named "**UPI Chalega.**" Collaborating with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, the campaign aims to emphasize the ease, safety, and swiftness of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move aimed at enhancing transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms pertaining to **floating rate home loans**. These reforms are designed to bring more clarity to the process of resetting interest rates, offer borrowers the option to switch to fixed interest rates, and prevent banks from unilaterally changing the loan tenure without proper consent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is taking a significant step towards bolstering its regulatory supervision over banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) through the integration of **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine**

learning (ML) technologies. To achieve this, the RBI has partnered with two prominent global consultancy firms, McKinsey and Company India LLP, and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India. This move aligns with the RBI's aim to harness the potential of advanced analytics to strengthen its supervisory functions. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In July, **retail inflation** in India experienced a significant upswing, reaching 7.44%, marking the highest rate since April 2022. This surge contrasts with the preceding four-month period of inflation below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold. The increase is largely attributed to an 11.5% spike in food prices, making it the first time since September 2022 that the **price rise** has crossed the 7% mark. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In July, the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** continued to exhibit deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month, although the decline was notably mitigated by a substantial increase in food and primary article prices. While the overall **WPI deflation** shrank from June's 92-month low of -4.1% to -1.36%, a surge of over 7.5% in food and primary article prices played a pivotal role in this shift. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent development, the Indian government has decided to enhance the **windfall profit tax** on domestically produced crude oil and exported diesel. This decision is accompanied by the reintroduction of the tax on **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)** shipments abroad. These changes are being implemented through a **special additional excise duty (SAED)** mechanism, aimed at regulating profits derived from these energy sources. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's journey towards becoming a developed economy by 2047 has gained momentum, with a recent study conducted by SBI Research economists projecting a remarkable increase in per capita income. The study suggests that **India's per capita income** is poised to surge by 7.5 times, from Rs 2 lakh (\$2,500) in FY23 to **Rs 14.9 lakh (\$12,400)** per annum by FY47. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has emphasized this objective, aiming to turn the vision of a developed India into a reality by 2047. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Viacom18**, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry, has made significant strides in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, **JioCinema** and **Voot**. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hyundai Motor** Co's Indian subsidiary has announced its intention to acquire **General Motors' Talegaon plant** located in **Maharashtra**. This strategic move not only allows General Motors to exit the Indian market but also presents Hyundai with the opportunity to **increase** its annual production capacity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Wipro Limited** has announced the establishment of a groundbreaking **Center of Excellence (CoE) on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in partnership with the esteemed **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**. This collaboration manifests Wipro's commitment to drive **continuous innovation** in emerging technologies, solidifying its position as a frontrunner in the tech industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Canara Bank** has unveiled a specialized savings account aimed at **pensioners** and those nearing retirement, designed to provide an array of benefits catering to their unique financial needs. This new offering, known as **Canara Jeevan Dhara**, extends its advantages to retirees who've opted for voluntary or regular retirement. Through this account, Canara Bank seeks to provide financial security and flexibility to individuals in their post-employment phase. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **OpenAI** has successfully acquired **Global Illumination**, an ingenious startup based in **New York**, which harnesses the power of AI to **craft innovative creative tools**, digital experiences, and robust infrastructure. The acquisition signals OpenAI's commitment to amplify its capabilities and revolutionize the AI landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. Named the **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal**, this centralized web platform is designed to simplify the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant partnership, **Axis Bank** has joined forces with the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two groundbreaking lending products. These products are powered by the **Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC)**, a pioneering initiative launched by RBIH. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Crisil, a prominent rating agency, anticipates **India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth** to reach 6% in the fiscal year 2024. This projection is lower than the 7% estimated by the **National Statistical Organisation (NSO)** for the fiscal year 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Appointments/Resignations

- Government of India had appointed **R. Doraiswamy** as the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office in Mumbai. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh** as SEBI Whole-Time Members. While Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry, Singh is an executive director at the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has appointed **Parminder Chopra** as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**; she becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed the top job at the power sector lender with effect from August 14, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of **PR Seshadri** as **Managing Director & CEO** of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indian Air Force** has inducted its latest **Heron Mark 2 drones**, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself. The four new Heron Mark-2 drones, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant stride towards **indigenous manufacturing** and innovation, the state-owned company **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEL)**, based in Kanpur, **Uttar Pradesh**, is all set to unveil 'Prabal', India's **first** long-range revolver. The launch date is marked for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a notable display of maritime cooperation, the guided missile corvette **INS Kulish** made its presence felt during **Singapore's 77th Independence Day** festivities. As part of its ongoing engagement in the multinational **SEACAT 2023** exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the **Indian Navy**, the Central Government has granted its final approval for a pivotal project to construct **five fleet support ships**. These vessels, designed to serve as vital logistical lifelines, will play a crucial role in replenishing warships with **essential supplies** including fuel, food, and ammunition during missions. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- To commemorate 75 years of Independence, various **Air Force Stations in and around Delhi** celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) from 09 to 15 August 2023. The events were organized under the aegis of the '**Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign**', launched by the Government of India as a continuation for celebration of AKAM. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is gearing up to host a colossal multilateral military exercise, '**Tarang Shakti**', which was originally slated for October but has been rescheduled to the **middle of 2024**. The decision to push the exercise to next year comes as several participating air forces expressed their inability to join the wargame if held in the current year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant stride towards bolstering India's maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **latest addition** to the Indian Navy's fleet, **INS Vindhyagiri**. The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** congratulated the team of **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)** of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for securing the **Gold Award** in the Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation **Category-1**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- President Smt **Droupadi Murmu** has given her approval for **76 Gallantry awards** to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023. Among these honors are four Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously), 11 Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous), two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Raj Chetty**, an Indian-American economist, and **Michael Springer**, a biologist, have been awarded **Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize** for their groundbreaking work in their respective fields. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit** is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of Gandhinagar, **Gujarat**, India. This event will intertwine with the **G20 health ministerial meeting**, creating a dynamic platform aimed at galvanizing both **political commitment** and **evidence-based actions** in the realm of **traditional medicine**. This age-old practice serves as the initial recourse for millions across the globe, catering to their diverse health and well-being requisites. ([Click here to read the article](#))


Sports News

- Brazil forward **Neymar Jr** has signed for Saudi Arabia's **Al-Hilal** from **Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)**, the clubs announced, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG in six injury-plagued seasons. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Tamil Nadu government** and **Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL)** have launched a new street circuit in **Chennai**. The 3.5km track will be located around the Island Grounds and will be the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia to host a night race. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Sri Lankan all-rounder **Wanindu Hasaranga** has announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 26-year-old made the decision to focus on his limited-overs career, where he is a key figure for Sri Lanka. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Pakistan** fast bowler **Wahab Riaz** has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a 15-year career. The 38-year-old made his international debut in 2008 and went on to play **27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is, taking 237 wickets in total**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand**, renowned as India's fastest female athlete and holder of the national 100m record, has been handed a significant blow with a four-year ban following her failure in an out-of-competition dope test. The test revealed the presence of **selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs)**, leading to the decision to suspend her from competitive sports. Chand's remarkable athletic career has now been marred by this doping incident. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Adille Sumariwalla** has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of **World Athletics**, the highest post ever held by an Indian in the global track and field governing body. The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, who is the president of the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**, received the third-highest number of votes cast during the WA elections held on Thursday in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Schemes and Committees News

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, India's top advisory body for school education, has taken a significant step towards textbook revision. The council has formed a 19-member committee responsible for aligning school syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources with the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**. The committee's mandate covers Classes 3 to 12, and it also aims to ensure a seamless transition from Classes 1 and 2 to subsequent grades. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** recent announcement of the Vishwakarma Yojana in his Independence Day address has paved the way for a new scheme aimed at bolstering the livelihood prospects of **traditional artisans and craftspeople**. Following this announcement, the Union Cabinet swiftly approved the scheme, demonstrating its commitment to promoting and preserving traditional skills and crafts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Education** has introduced the **Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)**, a central scheme aimed at enhancing access, equity, and excellence in higher education across States and Union Territories. However, the requirement for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and **adopting certain academic criteria** to avail funds has sparked controversy, making the scheme seem exclusivist. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** in India has taken a proactive step towards promoting **gender equality** within the nation's **aviation sector**. On August 10, 2023, the DGCA established a four-member committee composed of senior officers to devise strategies and recommendations aimed at achieving gender parity in the industry. The committee's objective is to propose actionable measures that the DGCA can implement to foster gender equality in the aviation sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, the cabinet has given its nod to the extension of the **Digital India project**, allocating a substantial budget of ₹14,903 crore. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced this decision, highlighting that the extended initiative will build upon the achievements of its previous iteration. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the '**Lakshpati Didi**' scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation. The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and improving the lives of tribal communities in the state. The **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme** aims to link all tribal villages in 17 districts of **Maharashtra** with main roads, effectively addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore, will involve the construction of approximately 6,838 kilometers of roads. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is launching its first solar mission, **Aditya-L1**, to study the Sun. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. From this vantage point, Aditya-L1 will be able to study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)** is making groundbreaking advancements in aviation with the development of "**Pibot**," a humanoid robot designed to fly aircraft using its own dexterity and advanced AI capabilities. Pibot's ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and react quickly to emergency situations showcases its potential to transform aviation and other industries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos** has commenced the **integration process** of its groundbreaking launch vehicle, **Agnibaan SOrTeD** (Sub-Orbital Technological Demonstrator), with its private launchpad situated at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota. While the exact launch date remains undisclosed, the recent event marks a pivotal milestone in Agnikul Cosmos's pursuit of space innovation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- **International Left-Handers Day**, observed annually on **August 13th**, is a global celebration that recognizes and appreciates the diverse skills, talents, and viewpoints of left-handed individuals. The theme for International Left-Handers Day 2023 revolves around "**Left-Handers in Sports**." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Organ Donation Day 2023** is observed on **August 13, 2023**. It is a global event that is observed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to encourage people to become organ donors. The theme for World Organ Donation Day 2023 is "**Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae**". ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India observed **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** to remember the victims of the 1947 violence that accompanied the country's partition. The day was announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2021** to commemorate the sufferings of millions of people who were displaced and lost their loved ones during the partition. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As the nation observed the solemn occasion of the death anniversary of **former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 16th August**, leaders from various political backgrounds and affiliations converged at the '**Sadaiv Atal**' memorial in **Delhi**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Parsi New Year, also referred to as **Navroz or Nowruz**, is a joyous occasion celebrated between **July and August**, this year Parsi New Year marked on **16th August**. Rooted in the Persian words '**Nav and 'Roz**', which means '**new day**', this cherished festival has a rich history spanning over **3,000 years**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **August 19**, the world comes together to honor the remarkable efforts of humanitarians who tirelessly work to improve the lives of crisis-affected populations. **World Humanitarian Day** stands as a testament to the unyielding spirit of individuals who, despite the challenges and risks, extend their unwavering support to those in need. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Photography Day**, observed annually on **August 19**, marks the celebration of photography's rich history and its role as both an art form and a scientific achievement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year, **World Mosquito Day** is celebrated on **August 20**. This is done to commemorate the contributions of **British doctor Sir Ronald Ross** who was the first person to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries News

- Former India captain and legendary footballer **Mohammed Habib** passed away. He represented India in many international tournaments from 1965-76. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), **Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao** passed away at his residence in Tata Nagar in Bengaluru on August 13 night. He was 75. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **V S Arunachalam**, a prominent scientist and instrumental figure in India's nuclear program, has died at the age of 87. He was Known for his leadership roles at the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, he played a crucial role in shaping India's defense capabilities. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Michael Parkinson**, the seasoned **British chat show host** renowned for his conversations with notable personalities, has **passed away** at the age of 88. His family said that he peacefully departed at his residence after a brief period of illness. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University, **Deven Dutta** passed away at the age of 81. Born on April 5, 1944 at Nazira in Sivasagar, Deven Dutta was residing in Guwahati's Sundarpur area. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in his speech in the Parliament during the No Confidence debate on August 10, mentioned the island of Katchatheevu. Hitting out at Rahul Gandhi for his now expunged Bharat Mata remarks, PM Modi said it was the Indira Gandhi government which gave away **Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant stride towards showcasing the **rich heritage of Indian craftsmanship** and fostering self-reliance, the **One District One Product (ODOP)** program has joined hands with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to launch the captivating and innovative '**ODOP Wall**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a momentous celebration, the **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI)** launched an extraordinary variety of the national flower, **Lotus**, named '**Namoh 108**'. This unique flower boasts an astonishing **108 petals** and was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, underscoring its significance in the **cultural** and religious tapestry of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Typhoon Lan** made landfall in **Japan, August 15**, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon has caused flooding and power outages in several areas, and authorities have issued evacuation warnings for some residents. The typhoon made landfall near Shionomisaki in Wakayama prefecture, about 400 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 miles per hour), equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- In a display of grandeur and deep religious devotion, the Jammu and Kashmir administration inaugurated the yearly **Budha Amarnath Yatra** across the rolling terrains of **Poonch district**. The pilgrimage, spanning over a period of 10 days, is a journey of profound significance for devotees seeking blessings from **Lord Shiva**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **first G20 film festival**, organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and **India International Centre**, commenced in Delhi with the screening of the renowned drama film **“Pather Panchali”** by **Satyajit Ray**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): Vivek Gogia
- Co-Founder and Group CEO of MakeMyTrip: Rajesh Magow
- Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj: Shri Giriraj Singh
- Director-General of WHO: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Director of Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL): A.K Maurya

- Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan: General Asim Munir
- Health Minister of Goa: Vishwajit Pratapsingh Rane
- Prime Minister of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong
- Netherland Capital: Amsterdam;
- Netherland Currency: The euro.;
- Netherland Prime Minister: Mark Rutte.
- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Hyundai Motor India Limited: Mr. Unsoo Kim
- Chief Technology Officer at Wipro Limited: Subha Tataavarti
- Chairman of Hindustan Shipyard Limited: Hemant Khatri
- Minister of Environment & Climate Change in Goa: Nilesh Cabra
- CEO of AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited: Srinath Ravichandran
- CEO of OpenAI: Sam Altman
- Project 17A was launched by the Indian Navy in: 2019
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chief Post Master General of Bengaluru: S Rajendra Kumar
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): TG Sitharam
- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia President: Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin;
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble;
- Russia Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin.



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