

# Weekly One Liners 21st to 27th of August 2023

## India Becomes 4th Country landed Successfully on Moon

India successfully landed its **Chandrayaan-3 mission** on the lunar surface on **August 23, 2023**, making it the fourth country to do so after the **United States, Russia, and China**. The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a major achievement for India's space program and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible. It also puts India in a select group of spacefaring nations and furthers its ambition to become a leading player in the global space race.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to collect valuable data about the lunar south pole, which is thought to be rich in water ice. This information could be used to support future human exploration of the moon. The mission is also expected to help scientists to better understand the formation and evolution of the moon.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a proud moment for India and a significant step forward in our exploration of space. I am confident that this mission will pave the way for many more successes in the years to come.

## Chandrayaan-3: Team behind India's Moon mission

Indian spacecraft **Chandrayaan-3** has completed the last endeavor and made a soft landing on the surface of the Moon. The touch down took place at 6:04 pm on August 23, 2023, as scheduled. With Chandrayaan-3's successful lunar touchdown, India has joined the ranks of the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union as the fourth nation to master the technology of soft lunar landings. Nearly 54 female engineers/scientists participated in Chandrayaan-3 mission. According to an ISRO official, they are "associate and deputy project directors and project managers of various systems."

Here are some of the key people behind Chandrayaan-3:

**S Somanath, ISRO Chairman**



The brain behind India's ambitious Moon mission is **ISRO chief S Somanath**. Somanath has also been given the credits for accelerating ISRO's other missions including **Gaganyaan and Sun-mision Aditya-L1**. Somanath has also served as the director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre — the primary centres for development of rocket technologies for ISRO, before heading India's space organisation.

**P Veeramuthuvel, Chandrayaan-3 project director**



The project director for India's latest lunar touch-down mission is **P Veeramuthuvel**. In 2019, he took charge for the mission. Veeramuthuvel was serving as a deputy director in the Space Infrastructure Programme Office at the ISRO headquarters before the Moon mission started. He is known for his technical skills. Veeramuthuvel played a key role in Chandrayaan-2 mission as well, being the point person for its negotiations with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A native of Villupuram in Tamil Nadu, Veeramuthuvel is an alumni of Indian Institute of Technology in Madras (IIT-M).

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**Mohana Kumar, Mission director**



S Mohana Kumar, a senior scientist from the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre**, is the mission director for Chandrayaan-3. Kumar has worked as the director for the successful commercial launch of the One Web India 2 satellites on board the LVM3-M3 mission.

**S Unnikrishnan Nair, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) director**



S Unnikrishnan Nair is the head of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** at Thumba in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district. He and his team are responsible for the key functions of the crucial mission. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark-III, which was renamed as Launch Vehicle Mark-III, rocket, was also developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

**M Sankaran, U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) director**



The director of U R Rao Satellite Centre, **M Sankaran**, is responsible for leading the satellite fraternity to meet the national requirements in the areas like communication, navigation, remote sensing, meteorology and inter-planetary exploration. In June, 2021, he took over as director of the lead centre in India for design, development and realisation of all satellites of ISRO.

**A Rajarajan, Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) chief**



A scientist and director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, **A Rajarajan**, is an expert in the area of composites. He was looking after the fruition of solid motor production and launch complex infrastructure to meet ISRO's increased demand of launches including launches for Human Space Programme (Gaganyaan) and SSLV. The Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) gives the go-ahead for the launch.

**BRICS Summit 2023 Highlights: Strengthening Global South Cooperation and Expansion Ambitions**

The **15th BRICS Summit** took place in Johannesburg, bringing together leaders from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. The summit aimed to enhance cooperation among these emerging economies, discuss global concerns, and potentially expand the group's membership.

**BRICS Summit 2023: Opening and Leaders' Participation**

- The 15th BRICS Summit occurred in Johannesburg, focusing on the cooperation of the **BRICS nations** – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The summit marked the first in-person meeting of BRICS leaders since 2019, reflecting the significance of discussing shared issues.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** of India and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** were among the leaders attending.
- Modi emphasized the importance of the summit for addressing issues concerning the Global South and developmental matters.

**BRICS Summit 2023: Expanded Dialogue and Outreach**

- Prime Minister Modi announced his participation in BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue events, highlighting the intention to engage with other nations beyond the core BRICS grouping.
- The inclusion of guest countries provided an opportunity for broader discussions on global challenges and development.

**Diplomatic Engagements**

- Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Johannesburg for the summit, focusing on enhancing China's involvement in global affairs.
- Xi's change of plans, skipping a business forum and sending the Chinese Commerce Minister, raised questions about the reasons behind this decision.
- African countries urged China to shift its focus from infrastructure development to local industrialization to align with the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

**BRICS Summit 2023: Key Addresses and Vision**

- Leaders like Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva emphasized the significance of BRICS in fostering cooperation among developing nations.
- Ramaphosa highlighted the need for global financial institutions to undergo reform to better address the challenges faced by developing economies.
- Brazilian President Lula da Silva clarified that BRICS aimed to organize the Global South and was not meant to rival established powers like the United States and G7 economies.

**BRICS Summit 2023: Expansion Ambitions**

- The possibility of expanding BRICS to include more countries generated discussions during the summit.
- China and Russia's aspirations to bolster BRICS aimed to counterbalance the influence of Western powers amid global tensions.
- South African President Ramaphosa expressed support for expanding BRICS and revealed that over 20 nations, including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Egypt, had formally applied to join.

**BRICS Summit 2023: Collective Influence and Global Partnerships**

- President Xi Jinping called for increased collaboration between China and South Africa to bolster their influence in international affairs, particularly in the Global South.
- Xi emphasized support for South Africa's greater role in the G20, highlighting the nations' partnership and pursuit of justice in global affairs.

**BRICS Summit 2023: Economic and Growth Aspects**

- Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's rapid economic growth and projected it to become a \$5 trillion economy in the near future.
- BRICS nations sought to strengthen cooperation to address economic challenges and enhance their combined influence on the global stage.

**Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day'**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on August 26 announced to celebrate **August 23**, when India's Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as **National Space Day**. He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as '**Shivashakti**' and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as '**Tiranga Point**'.

The Prime Minister was addressing the scientists at the **ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. PM Modi said that experts suggest that in a few years, India's space industry will become \$16 billion from \$8 billion.

**PM Modi's visit to ISRO in Bengaluru**

- To congratulate ISRO team for the successful touchdown of **Chandrayaan-3 lander** on August 23, PM Modi visited to Bengaluru, immediately after returning from his two-nation visit to Greece and South Africa. He was accorded a warm reception as he arrived at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru on Saturday morning.
- Afterwards, he also met the team of scientists with the **Indian Space Research Organisation**, who were involved in the mission. PM Modi joined the ISRO team in witnessing the historic landing of Vikram lander on Moon virtually from South Africa. At that time he was attending the **15th BRICS Summit**.
- The Prime Minister was received personally by ISRO Chairman **S Somanath**. The two greeted each other with a warm hug, which was more of a celebration of the successful culmination of the daunting lunar landing mission. He also posed for a group photo with the team of scientists behind the project. Later, PM Modi received the briefing of ISRO's 40-day journey to the lunar South Pole by S Somanath.
- He said that Chandrayaan-2 left its footprint on the lunar surface in 2019. He also gave credit to the women scientists of ISRO in the success of India's mission to moon.

**Indore Named Best City and Madhya Pradesh Best State in India Smart Cities Awards 2022**

The **India Smart Cities Awards 2022**, organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, have recognized **Indore** as the best city and **Madhya Pradesh** as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The awards celebrate the progress and achievements of cities and states in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of urban life across India.

**Top City and State Recognized:**

- **Best City Award: Indore** has been named the best city in the India Smart Cities Awards 2022. The city has a remarkable track record, being consistently ranked as the cleanest city in the Swachh Bharat Mission for six consecutive years.

- **Best State Award: Madhya Pradesh** has been recognized as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The state has shown significant commitment to urban development through the implementation of multi-sectoral projects aimed at improving citizens' quality of life.

**Top Smart Cities:**

- **Second Best City: Surat** secured the second position among the smart cities for its notable efforts in urban development.
- **Third Best City: Agra** claimed the third spot for its initiatives contributing to the Smart Cities Mission.

**State Rankings:**

- **Second Best State: Tamil Nadu** was placed second among the states, reflecting its strides in urban development and sustainable projects.
- **Shared Third Best State: Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** shared the third position among the states for their contributions to the Smart Cities Mission.

**Award Categories and Winning Projects:**

- **Built Environment Category: Coimbatore's** model roads and restoration of lakes project was recognized as the top project in this category.
- **Economy Category: Jabalpur's** incubation center project was awarded the top position for its economic impact.
- **Mobility Category: Chandigarh's** public bike-sharing initiative stood out in the mobility category.
- **Governance Category: Chandigarh** also excelled in the governance category, specifically in e-governance services.
- **Union Territory Category: Chandigarh** received the overall award for being the best Union Territory in the India Smart Cities Awards.

**Progress of Smart Cities Mission:**

- The Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, has seen significant achievements. The 100 selected cities have completed 76% of the proposed projects worth Rs. 1.10 lakh crore.
- The remaining projects, valued at Rs. 60,095 crore, are expected to be completed by June 30, 2024. The deadline was extended to accommodate the completion of projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC):**

- All 100 Smart Cities have operational Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC), which serve as the urban management nerve center. These centers have enhanced urban services, including crime tracking, safety measures, transport management, waste management, water supply, and disaster management.

**ISAC Awards and Its Goals:**

- The India Smart Cities Awards aim to recognize and reward cities, projects, and ideas that contribute to sustainable development and enhance the overall quality of life for urban residents.
- The awards promote inclusivity, equity, safety, health, and collaboration among cities.

**Selection Process and Nominations:**

- The ISAC 2022 had a two-stage submission process. The Qualifying Stage assessed cities' overall performance, while the Proposal Stage required nominations for six award categories.
- Out of 845 nominations from 80 qualifying smart cities, 66 winners were identified across various categories.

**National Affairs**

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has embarked on a groundbreaking project to construct the '**Likaru-Mig La-Fukche**' road in the Demchok sector of Ladakh. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **President Droupadi Murmu** has officially granted her assent to two crucial pieces of legislation, namely the **Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, and the **Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023**. Both of these bills, which had recently received approval from the Parliament, have now become law with the President's endorsement. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- In a significant tribute to the tireless efforts and remarkable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has introduced a new lotus species called '**Namoh 108**'. This unveiling took place during a special event at the **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)** in Lucknow. The lotus, which boasts an astonishing 108 petals, was discovered several years ago in the region of Manipur and has since been part of the institute's collection of flora under study. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **India** has announced the definition of **Green Hydrogen**. The **Green Hydrogen Standard for India** sets a criterion of 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub> as a **12-month average emission threshold**. It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

- The **Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)** was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari** on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit, presented special gifts to the organization's leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. PM Modi gifts **Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant step towards fostering innovation in the field of **green hydrogen**, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched strategic partnerships between **HSBC India** and prominent institutions, namely the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay**, and the **Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### States in the News

- At an occasion held at the Raj Bhavan, President **Droupadi Murmu** launched the '**My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal**' campaign, a vital undertaking organised by the **Brahma Kumaris**, aimed at tackling the prevalent issue of **drug usage** among the youth. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant stride towards **enhancing the air travel experience** in the Northeastern region of India, **Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LBBI)** has become the **first airport** in the area to introduce the innovative '**Digi Yatra**' facility. This cutting-edge service is set to revolutionize the way passengers navigate through airports, providing a seamless and hassle-free journey. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping **Chennai** city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, **M K Stalin**, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become **South East Asia's largest water desalination project**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The enchanting festivities of **Onam**, a significant cultural celebration in the state of **Kerala**, have graced the calendar from **August 20 to August 31** this year. Stretching over a span of ten days, the Thiru-Onam or **Thiruvonam** celebrations carry an air of excitement and exuberance as they commemorate the return of the revered **King Mahabali**, also known as Maveli. This vibrant festival is an emblem of Kerala's rich heritage and cultural splendor. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The state of **Kerala** introduces its **first AI school** situated at **Santhigiri Vidyabhavan** in **Thiruvananthapuram**. It was inaugurated by the Former President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**. This inaugural ceremony heralded the inception of a fresh era in the educational domain, distinguished by innovative technology and forward-looking pedagogical methods. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Under the "**100 Microsites**" initiative, the **National Health Authority (NHA)** of India has unveiled the **first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Microsite** in the capital city of **Mizoram**. This achievement is poised to transform the healthcare sector by propelling the **advantages of digitalization** to the forefront. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** and the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the **Government of Telangana** have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the **Ethics of AI** into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a decisive move towards environmental conservation, the **Assam Environment and Forest Department** has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of **plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity** within the state. This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from **October 2** this year, reflects Assam's commitment to **combat plastic pollution** and promote sustainable practices. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, under the leadership of Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has given the green light to several important proposals, highlighting the government's commitment to education and youth empowerment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### International Affairs

- Deep within the heart of the **Amazon rainforest** lies an extraordinary tale – that of the **Piripkura tribe**. This story revolves around Tamandua Piripkura, one of the last remaining three survivors of this indigenous community. Their journey encapsulates the unyielding struggle of Indigenous people against the encroachment of the modern world. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Thai property tycoon **Srettha Thavisin** has been elected as the new **prime minister of Thailand** following a decisive win in a parliamentary vote. The 60-year-old Thavisin's victory in the parliamentary vote, with the support of two-thirds of the assembly, ends weeks of political uncertainty that followed an election held 100 days ago. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently grants approval to the **first vaccine** created to forestall (**Respiratory Syncytial Virus**) RSV-associated LRTD (**Lower**

respiratory tract disease) and severe cases in infants spanning **birth to 6 months**. This momentous decision is fostering optimism among parents and healthcare providers working diligently to protect the well-being of these susceptible infants. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Since its resurgence in January 2021, the highly contagious **African Swine Fever (ASF) virus** has rampantly spread across the globe, infiltrating 49 countries by August 2023. The virus, infamous for its nearly **100% fatality rate** among domestic and wild pigs, has wrought havoc on pig populations, with over 1.5 million animals lost within this timeframe. The **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**, a prominent intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting animal diseases, released a report detailing this alarming spread on August 21, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant geopolitical development, the **BRICS** alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation. The expanded BRICS now welcomes **Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt** into its fold. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant event attended by senior Iranian officials, the Islamic Republic recently introduced its latest achievement in unmanned aerial technology – the **Mohajer-10 drone**. As reported by state media, this cutting-edge unmanned aerial vehicle boasts an impressive range of **2,000 kilometers** (1,240 miles). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** embarked on a landmark visit to **Greece**, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years. This visit is aimed at fortifying the bilateral relationship between India and Greece, and it comes at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On his visit to **Greece**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** engaged in a solemn and symbolic act by paying his respects to the **'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'** in Athens. This gesture took place amidst a series of diplomatic activities during his European tour, highlighting India's commitment to global partnerships. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a significant move, **India and the ASEAN** countries have come to an agreement to reevaluate their existing **free trade pact for goods**. The aim of this review is to address the existing trade imbalances and disparities between the two parties. The announcement was made by the Commerce Ministry, indicating the commitment to enhance bilateral trade relations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has made a significant announcement, revealing a thrilling collaboration with **Mastercard**, which is set to become a Global Partner for the upcoming **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**. Scheduled to take place in India from **October 5 to November 19, 2023**, the partnership between Mastercard and ICC is poised to enhance the cricketing experience for fans worldwide. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Books and Authors

- Goa governor **PS Sreedharan Pillai** released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books namely **'Heritage Trees of Goa'**, **'When Parallel Lines Meet'**, and **'Ente Priya Kavithakal' ('My Dear Poems' a collection of poems)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A book titled **'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket'** by long-term cricket administrator **Amrit Mathur**. In the book, Mr. Mathur brings alive insightful first-person accounts of some of Indian Cricket's most memorable moments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently introduced updated guidelines for **Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs)**. These revisions aim to enhance the role of IDF-NBFCs in financing the infrastructure sector and to align the regulations governing infrastructure sector financing by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The review of these guidelines has been carried out in collaboration with the Government of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Canara Bank**, a leading player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a monumental step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application. This move places Canara Bank at the forefront of innovation, becoming the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature. The app, named the **Canara Digital Rupee app**, marks a significant milestone as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot project. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant leap forward for India's digital banking landscape, **YES BANK** has introduced its groundbreaking mobile banking app, **IRIS by YES BANK**. This innovative app is poised to redefine the way customers engage with their financial institutions, offering an unparalleled combination of convenience, efficiency, and personalization. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has announced its acquisition of a 6.7% stake in **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)**, a non-banking financial services unit that emerged from the

conglomerate helmed by Mukesh Ambani – **Reliance Industries**. The acquisition, carried out through a **demerger action** by Reliance Industries, is poised to have a notable impact on both entities and the broader financial markets. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a groundbreaking collaboration, **HDFC Bank**, India's leading private sector bank, has partnered with **Marriott Bonvoy**, the acclaimed **travel program** by Marriott International, to unveil the '**Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- ICRA Ratings recently released a comprehensive report projecting a robust economic growth for India in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023 (FY24). The report suggests that the country's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** is expected to accelerate to **8.5% during the April-June period**, a significant increase from the **6.1% growth rate** witnessed in the preceding quarter (January-March). This projected growth is attributed to multiple factors, including a supportive base effect and a notable recovery in the services sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After a four-year interval, standalone **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)** have reclaimed their dominant position in microlending, surpassing banks. This resurgence is attributed to their recovery from pandemic-induced setbacks and strategic efforts, with standalone MFIs now holding a 40% share of microfinance loans in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant stride towards environmental responsibility, **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)**, a prominent state-owned engineering company, has successfully developed the first set of indigenous **Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) Catalysts**. These catalysts play a crucial role in mitigating nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants. Previously reliant on imports, this achievement underscores the 'Make in India' initiative championed by the government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has recently taken a stern stance against **Bharti Airtel**, imposing a **penalty of Rs 1 crore** for its failure to adhere to the stipulations outlined in **Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002**. This move comes in relation to Bharti Airtel's acquisition of a stake in **Bharti Telemedia** from Lion Meadow Investment Limited, an affiliate entity of **Warburg Pincus**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent development, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has made changes to the **offline payment transaction** regulations, aiming to enhance user convenience and digital payment adoption. The central bank has decided to increase the upper limit of offline payment transactions **from ₹200 to ₹500**, with immediate effect. This move is part of RBI's ongoing efforts to streamline payment processes and adapt to evolving consumer needs. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** took a significant step towards bolstering the Indian Navy's operational capabilities by signing a groundbreaking contract with **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, a state-owned company based in **Visakhapatnam**. The contract entails the acquisition of **five Fleet Support Ships (FSS)**, marking a new era in naval logistics. This pioneering endeavor is set to provide unprecedented advantages to the Indian Navy, enabling prolonged and sustained missions without the need to return to port. The overall cost of this venture is estimated to be approximately **₹19,000 crore**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Retail**, the retail arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd, has taken a significant step in the fashion retail sector with the introduction of its new brand, **Yousta**. The brand's debut was marked by the opening of its flagship store in **Hyderabad's Sarath City Mall**. ([Click here to read the article](#))


### Appointments/Resignations

- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)** has announced cricketer **Rahul Dravid** as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Centre has announced the appointment of **Neelkanth Mishra** as the **part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**. Mr. Mishra, known for his expertise in economics and research, currently serves as the **Chief Economist of Axis Bank** and also holds the position of **Head of Global Research at Axis Capital**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a strategic move to bolster its digital business operations, **Viacom18** has welcomed **Kiran Mani**, a seasoned executive from **Google**, as the new CEO. Mani's impressive track record and extensive experience position him well to lead **Viacom18's digital endeavors**. Currently serving as the General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region, Mani's 13-year tenure at Google underscores his deep understanding of digital markets. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- The State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed four directors namely **Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat** to the central board of the bank. They were appointed for a period of 3 years with effect from 26th June 2023 to 25th June 2026. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Justice **Prakash Shrivastava** has been appointed as **Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)**. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chairperson. Justice Srivastav Enrolled as Advocate on February 2, 1987. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former Indian cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** will become a “national icon” of the **Election Commission (EC)** and spread awareness regarding the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The poll body will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Tendulkar in the national capital on Wednesday. It will be a three-year agreement as part of which the cricketing legend will spread voter awareness. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Infosys** announces a **three-year partnership** with global tennis icon **Rafael Nadal**, appointing him as the **brand ambassador** and the face of **Infosys’ Digital Innovation**. This partnership not only marks a milestone for Nadal but also signifies Infosys’ dedication to transforming the tennis landscape through cutting-edge technologies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Defence News

- The Indian Navy’s submarine, **INS Vagir**, has made history by achieving an impressive milestone – it now holds the record for the **longest-ever deployment** of any scorpene-class submarine. The submarine covered an astonishing distance of **7,000 kilometers** on its journey to **Australia** to participate in joint military exercises, marking a significant moment for both naval prowess and international cooperation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** achieved a significant milestone as it successfully fired the **Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR)** air-to-air missile off the coast of **Goa**. This achievement marks a notable advancement in the Indian defense capabilities and showcases the country’s progress in developing cutting-edge military technology. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chief of the Naval Staff and Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard** signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for exchange of **White Shipping Information** on 23 August 2023. The signing of the SOP between Philippine Coast Guard and Indian Navy would facilitate the operationalization of information exchange on merchant shipping traffic, which will contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- Five youths from **India** have been named among **17 teen environmental** activists from across the globe to receive the **2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award** who have taken initiatives to tackle the world’s most pressing environmental challenges. The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, “Action For Nature”, are **Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Eminent industrialist **Ratan Tata** was conferred with the first ever ‘**Udyog Ratna**’ award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar** at the industrialist’s home in Colaba in south Mumbai. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Order of Honour** by Greek President **Katerina N. Sakellariopoulou** in Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- Leaders from the **BRICS** economic alliance, consisting of **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, are converging in the bustling financial district of Sandton, **Johannesburg**, for a highly anticipated **three-day summit**. This gathering marks a pivotal moment in international diplomacy as discussions unfold regarding the consolidation of political and economic influence within the developing world. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **G20 Pandemic Fund** has recently granted a significant sum of **\$25 million** to India’s Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. This funding is aimed at bolstering the country’s animal health system, which is a crucial component of the comprehensive One Health strategy for preventing and responding to pandemics. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The eagerly awaited **Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)** took place in the historic city of **Udaipur**, located in the state of Rajasthan. Stretched across a duration of two days, the event received its inauguration from the distinguished Lok Sabha Speaker, **Om Birla**. With the core objective of exploring the theme “**Enhancing Democracy and Effective Governance in the Digital Era**,” the conference aimed to facilitate insightful discussions and exchange of ideas among its participants. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- The **B20(Business 20) Summit India 2023** is currently taking place, and several prominent figures have shared their insights on various topics. The theme for the B20 India 2023 is **Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (R.A.I.S.E) Businesses**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a stride towards nurturing innovation and collaborative problem-solving, the **Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell** and the **All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)** have unveiled the much-anticipated **sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023**. This landmark event continues to be a testament to the growing spirit of innovation in India’s educational landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- The city of **Indore** has clinched the **top spot** in the **Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023** conducted by the **Central Pollution Control Board**, in the category of cities with a population **exceeding 10 lakhs**. The results of the survey reflect not only the city’s dedicated efforts but also highlight the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Sports News

- **Mohit Kumar** has made a permanent mark in the records of Indian wrestling. He has achieved the distinction of being the **first Indian wrestler** to attain the junior world championship title **since 2019**. In the final match, Mohit Kumar was trailing 0-6 against Russia’s **Eldar Akhmaduninov**. Through adeptly executed maneuvers, he garnered nine consecutive points, ultimately securing the coveted **gold medal**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Anahat Singh** secured the **gold medal** in the **U-17 category** of the prestigious **Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships**, a remarkable achievement that adds another jewel to her growing crown of accomplishments. The championship, held from **August 16 to 20**, showcased Anahat’s exceptional talent and determination as she emerged victorious on the court. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Indian wrestler **Priya Malik** has achieved a remarkable feat by securing the **gold medal** at the **U20 World Wrestling Championships** held in **Jordan**. This victory marks a significant milestone in her career. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a remarkable feat of intellectual prowess, **Raja Anirudh Sriram**, a **fourth-standard student** hailing from **Tirupati**, has clinched a **silver medal** at the prestigious **Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC)**. This prodigious achievement has not only brought honor to his family and school but has also brought pride to the entire state of **Andhra Pradesh**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed **Khelo India Women’s League** will be recognized as the “**Asmita Women’s League**” from now on. This purposeful transformation underscores the government’s commitment to advancing **gender equality** and nurturing the vibrant engagement of women in the realm of sports. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)**, India’s governing body for wrestling, has faced suspension from the **United World Wrestling (UWW)** due to ongoing controversies and prolonged delays in conducting essential elections. As a consequence of this suspension, Indian wrestlers will be unable to compete under the Indian flag in the upcoming World Championships. Instead, they will participate as ‘neutral athletes’ in the Olympic-qualifying World Championships. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa** finished **second in FIDE World Cup**. After three days and four games of intensely nery chess across two formats, **Magnus Carlsen** finally managed to win the **FIDE World Cup** for the first time in his career. Carlsen defeated Pragganandhaa in the final, but not before the 18-year-old teenage had dragged him through the tie-breaker. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move that further bridges the worlds of sports and technology, **Infosys**, a global leader in consulting and digital services, has announced a multi-year partnership with women’s tennis World No. 1, **Iga Swiatek**. The collaboration establishes Swiatek as the global brand ambassador for Infosys, with a key focus on **promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women** worldwide. This announcement comes on the heels of Infosys signing tennis legend **Rafael Nadal** for the same prestigious role, solidifying the company’s commitment to both tennis excellence and technological advancement. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- In an impressive achievement, the total number of **Jan Dhan accounts** in India has crossed the significant 50 crore mark within a span of fewer than 9 years. This successful initiative has brought about substantial changes in the nation’s financial landscape, according to an official statement from the finance ministry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On August 21, 2023, the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** announced the continuation of the **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)** with an approved budget of Rs. 8139.50 crore for the period 2022-2023 to 2025-2026. This initiative aims to bolster infrastructure development, particularly in connectivity and social sectors, within the North Eastern States. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Defence** in India has taken a significant decision to undertake a **comprehensive revamp** of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**. Long recognized for its delayed projects and cost overruns, the DRDO is now set to undergo a transformation to **enhance its technological advancements** beyond the missile program. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move towards **enhancing transparency** in financial transactions and empowering consumers, the Indian government is set to launch the **'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar'** invoice incentive scheme. This pioneering scheme, scheduled to commence from **September 1**, aims to **promote the habit of requesting bills** during purchases, thereby fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and accountability. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has achieved an impressive feat on **YouTube's live streaming platform**. The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, captured the attention of over **80 lakh peak** concurrent viewers (PCVs), making it the most-watched live stream globally. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chief S Somanath** announced that Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun will be likely launched by the first week of September. This announcement comes hours after ISRO's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 made a successful landing on the lunar surface. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The awe-inspiring image of the **irregular galaxy ESO 300-16** has been captured by none other than the renowned **Hubble Space Telescope**. This remarkable deep space observatory is celebrated for its unrivaled ability to provide high-resolution and meticulously detailed images of celestial objects, truly unlocking the mysteries of the universe. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency, **The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**. This mission, called **LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration**, is slated for 2024-25. But there would be more in the Chandrayaan series as well. LUPEX will offer ISRO another opportunity to probe the surface of the Moon. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Important Days News

- The **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism** is observed annually on **August 21**. This is the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, on 21 August 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- World Senior Citizen Day** is celebrated on **August 21** every year to raise awareness of the contributions of older adults to society. In India, a senior citizen means any person who has attained the age of sixty years or above. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief** is observed annually on **August 22nd**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- World Water Week** is a global event which is organised by the **Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991**. The programme will be held from **August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** is observed on **August 23**. It commemorates the day when an uprising began in Saint Domingue, now called Haiti, on August 23, 1791, against the slave trade. Haiti was a French settlement and a centre of the slave trade across Europe. The uprising led to a revolution against the rulers of the country. 2023 Theme: **"Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Women's Equality Day**, observed annually on **August 26**, marks a global recognition of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and opportunities for women. It serves as a tribute to the universal suffrage movement, celebrates women's advancements, and reinforces the commitment to gender equality. The theme for Women's Equality Day 2023 is **"Embrace Equity,"** echoing through the strategic plan spanning from 2021 to 2026. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- International Dog Day**, observed on **August 26th** every year, is a heartwarming tribute to our furry companions who enrich our lives with their unwavering devotion and boundless affection. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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**Obituaries News**

- Adobe co-founder **Dr. John Warnock** passed away at the age of 82, Adobe announces. He founded the revolutionary software company Adobe with his partner, the now-late Dr. Charles Geschke, in 1982. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **C Radhakrishna Rao**, one of India's greatest mathematicians and statisticians of India, passes away at the age of 103. He had recently received the prestigious "**International Prize in Statistics-2023**", often referred to as the "statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Windham Rotunda**, also known as **Bray Wyatt**, passed away at age 36. Rotunda was an American professional wrestler. He was best known for his tenure in WWE, where he performed under the ring name Bray Wyatt. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Veteran actor **Seema Deo**, remembered for her roles in Anand and Kora Kagaz, passes in Mumbai due to age-related ailments, she was 81. Seema Deo acted in nearly 90 Hindi and Marathi movies in a career spanning over six decades from the black-and-white to the colour era of the Indian film industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- Nestled amidst the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan range, the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** has etched its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as **Asia's largest** and most spectacular park of its kind. The garden, adorned with a enchanting variety of **1.5 million blooming flowers**, stands as a living testament to the beauty and diversity of nature. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Matti banana variety** native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These bananas thrive uniquely in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a remarkable feat that's reverberating through steel circles, the **Nagarnar Steel Plant** has achieved an unprecedented milestone. A mere 9 days after commencing hot metal production, the plant has successfully rolled out its inaugural **Hot Rolled (HR) Coil**. This achievement by **NMDC**, a mining major stepping into steel production, is indeed astonishing and underscores the plant's technological prowess. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Static Takeaways**

- The inauguration of the Tulip Garden took place in: 2007
- President of Asian Squash Federation: Mr David Mui
- Governor of West Bengal: CV Ananda Bose

- Adobe CEO: Shantanu Narayen (1 Dec 2007-);
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States;
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock;
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam's Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- The Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr Chan Chun Sing
- State Bank of India(SBI) Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- State Bank of India(SBI) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- State Bank of India(SBI) Established in – 1955
- State Bank of India(SBI) Tagline – The Banker to Every Indian
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia
- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishra
- Wrestling Federation of India President: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh;
- Wrestling Federation of India Founded: 27 January 1967;
- Wrestling Federation of India Headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): T G Sitharam
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.