

7th & 8th May 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Bastille Day Parade

- The Ministry of External Affairs announced that French President Emmanuel Macron had extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in Paris on July 14, and that Mr. Modi had accepted.
- According to an official press release, a contingent from the Indian armed forces will also take part in the parade, which celebrates "liberty, equality and fraternity".

NATIONAL

1) 'Climate Club,'

- India is reportedly considering joining the 'Climate Club,' an environmental initiative started by the G7 to promote stronger climate action.
- The club's three pillars are advancing ambitious and transparent climate policies, supporting substantial industrial decarbonisation, and encouraging international cooperation towards a just transition.
- According to reports, the Indian environment ministry is expected to initiate inter-ministerial discussions soon to consult different ministries on the sectoral implications of joining the Climate Club. The move comes as India faces increasing pressure to ramp up its climate efforts to meet global climate goals.



2) Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin and Maldives

- The Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur, presided over a ceremony where he inaugurated the Direct Shipping Service between Tuticorin and Maldives by flagging off the vessel 'M.V. MSS Galena' from V.O. Chidambaranar Port.















3) 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail'

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Railways have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail' (Project-SMART).
- The project aims to develop the areas surrounding the Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway (MAHSR) stations to enhance accessibility and convenience for commuters and promote economic activities in the vicinity of station areas.
- The MoU is for four high-speed rail stations Sabarmati, Surat, Virar, and Thane out of the 12 stations on the route.



STATE NEWS

1) First Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand

- The Uttar Pradesh government has approved the establishment of the state's first Pharma Park in Lalitpur district of Bundelkhand.
- The project will require the transfer of 1500 hectares of land from the Animal Husbandry Department to the Industrial Development Department.
- The government has allocated a budget of Rs 1560 crore for the development and provision of necessary facilities to investors in Lalitpur Pharma Park.

2) Dawki land port

- To promote trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh, the Dawki land port was inaugurated by Union Minister Nityanand Rai in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district.
- Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar was also present during the inauguration. Rai stated that the land port will have an impact on the tourism and business sectors.

3) Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework

- The Higher Education Minister, R. Bindu has officially introduced the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF), which is designed to evaluate the quality of higher education institutions in Kerala.















- The KIRF is modeled after the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and will be implemented annually by the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC).
- This initiative has made Kerala the first state in India to establish a ranking framework specifically for its higher education institutions.

4) Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers that have listed or are planning to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts.
- This unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions aims to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity that is a party to a financial transaction.



5) Indian Air Force Heritage Centre

- India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opened the country's first Indian Air Force Heritage Centre in Chandigarh on 8 May, under a memorandum of understanding between the Indian Air Force and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- The centre spreads over 17,000 square feet and celebrates the Indian Air Force's role in previous conflicts such as the 1965, 1971, and Kargil Wars, as well as the Balakot air strike, through murals and memorabilia.

6) INS Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank

- INS Magar, the oldest Landing Ship Tank (Large), was decommissioned by the Indian Navy after 36 years of service on May 06 at the Naval base in Kochi.
- The decommissioning ceremony was attended by Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, as well as Air Marshal B Manikantan, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Air Command.
- Commander Hemant Salunkhe commanded the ship during its service. The event included the release of the ship's timeline and a special postage cover.















7) Tata Advanced Systems Limited

- The air force has received its first indigenously designed and developed loitering munitions. These are capable of operating from all kinds of terrain and high altitude areas and can take down targets at a range of over 50 km, without exposing any personnel to risk.
- Developed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), the autonomous system is designed for Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) and has successfully demonstrated its capability to carry out precision strikes during trials and tests.

8) Border Roads Organisation Project Dantak

- The Border Roads Organisation Project Dantak is an overseas project under the Ministry of Defence of India, established on 24 April 1961 as a result of an agreement between Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the third king of Bhutan, and then Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- Project Dantak has been instrumental in developing infrastructure and providing connectivity in remote areas of Bhutan.



APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Wakefit Innovations Private Limited

- Manufacturer of mattresses, Wakefit Innovations Private Limited, has signed actor Ayushmann Khurrana as Wakefit.co's brand ambassador.
- The company has roped in the actor to create resonance with the local community. Besides being the face of the brand and spearheading upcoming campaigns, the actor will also help the brand in spreading awareness about sleep health and its importance in the modern context.

2) Neera Tandon

- Neera Tandon, an Indian-American, was appointed as the Domestic Policy Advisor in the Biden administration. This move was made with the presidential election in mind, which is set to take place in 2024.
- Tandon's appointment is historic, as she became the first Asian-American to lead the White House Advisory Council.















SPORTS

1) Indian athlete Praveen Chithravel

- Indian athlete Praveen Chithravel achieved an extraordinary feat by winning the men's triple jump event at an athletics meet in Havana, Cuba, with a record-breaking national mark of 17.37m.
- He surpassed the previous men's triple jump national record of 17.30m, set by Renjith Maheswary at the third Indian Grand Prix in Bangalore in 2016.
- Praveen Chithravel achieved this exceptional mark with his fifth jump at the Prueba de confrontacion 2023, amidst a headwind reading of -1.5m/s, which is below the permitted wind assistance for official records (+2.0m/s). Nonetheless, all national records require ratification from the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).



2) Carlos Alcaraz

- Carlos Alcaraz has successfully defended his Madrid Open tennis trophy by beating a very good Jann-Lennard Struff in three sets 6-4 3-6 6-3.
- The victory in just over an hour took the 19-year-old's winning streak to 10 matches and gave him a second consecutive title after victory last month in Barcelona.
- Alcaraz beat Rafael Nadal and world No. 1 Novak Djokovic on his way to the Madrid final a first in a clay court tournament and will climb to No. 6 in the world.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'My Life As A Comrade'

- CPM central committee member and former health minister of Kerala, KK Shailaja's autobiographical work titled 'My Life As A Comrade' is set to be published by Juggernaut Books, a Delhi-based publishing house.
- In her new book, My Life as a Comrade, co-written with Manju Sara Rajan, former CEO of the Kochi Biennale Foundation and journalist, Shailaja writes about the course of her life that started in a small settlement in Malabar and eventually led her to a Cabinet position in the State government.















IMPORTANT DAYS

1) World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

- World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated annually on May 8th to honor the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was the first person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a worldwide humanitarian network that operates in almost every country across the globe. The network offers aid and support to people in need during various emergencies, conflicts, disasters, and other crises.
- The movement strives to alleviate human suffering, safeguard human dignity, and promote health, peace, and overall well-being. The theme of World Red Cross Day for 2023 is "Everything we do comes from the heart".

2) World Thalassaemia Day

- On May 8 marks World Thalassaemia Day, which is a special day dedicated to raising awareness about a genetic disorder called Thalassaemia.
- This disorder causes the body to produce insufficient amounts of haemoglobin, which is essential for carrying oxygen in the blood. Individuals with Thalassaemia inherit this condition, and it results in reduced levels of oxygen-carrying proteins in their blood.
- The aim of World Thalassaemia Day is to increase understanding and knowledge about this blood disorder and show support for those who live with it.
- The theme for this year's International Thalassaemia Day is "Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassaemia Care Gap".













