

24th August 2023

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1) U.S. Food and Drug Administration

- 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.

2) African Swine Fever

- 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.

3) BRICS alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

- 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.

NATIONAL NEWS

1) Indian Space Research Organisation's

- 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.

















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- Aditya L1 will be ISRO's 2 space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat, which was launched in 2015. Aditya 1 was renamed as Aditya-L1. The Aditya 1 was meant to observe only the solar corona.

2) Defence Research and Development Organisation

- 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.

STATE NEWS

1) Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram

- The state of Kerala introduces its first AI school situated at SanthigiriVidyabhavan 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.
- This initiative is the brainchild of a collaboration between iLearning Engines (ILE) USA, a renowned educational platform, and Vedhik eSchool, steered by a committee of distinguished professionals including former Chief Secretaries, DGPs, and Vice Chancellors.

SCHEMES NEWS

1) North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme

- 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.















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2) 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice incentive scheme

- 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.

BANKING NEWS

1) Reserve Bank of India

- In a recent development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
- The amalgamation scheme is set to take effect from August 23, 2023.
- This decision, as outlined in an official release from the central bank, marks a significant step in the consolidation of cooperative urban banks.

SPORTS NEWS

1) Wrestling Federation of India

- 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.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir"

- The book, "Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir", published by HarperCollins India and written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi, presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination.
- A new book aims to capture the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision and his poetry that has been quoted and translated extensively.















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OBITUARY NEWS

1) C Radhakrishna Rao has passed away

- 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".

2) World Wrestling Entertainment and the WWE Hall of Famer, has passed away

- Terry Funk, the pioneer of the World Wrestling Entertainment and the WWE Hall of Famer, has passed away at the age of 79.
- Funk had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017). He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business.
- The late 79-year-old was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes.
- In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.













