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15th&16th August 2023

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1) Anwarul Haq Kakar

- 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.
- Kakar is distinguished as the youngest interim Prime Minister in the history of Pakistan.

NATIONAL NEWS

1) 77th Independence Day

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked India's 77th Independence Day by unfurling the national flag at the historic Red Fort in Delhi.
- His 90-minute speech marked his 10th consecutive Independence Day address.
- PM Modi's Independence Day speeches have consistently been longer than those of any previous Prime Minister.

2) Indian Space Research Organisation

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) continues its impressive progress in the Chandrayaan-3 mission, as it successfully executed another vital orbit reduction maneuver on August 14.
- This maneuver brings the spacecraft a step closer to achieving a precise landing on the lunar surface.

3) Viacom18, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry

- 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.

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4) CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute

- 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.
- The unveiling took place during the NBRI's week-long festival 'One Week One Lab Programme' in Lucknow, with CSIR Director General N Kalaiselvi leading the ceremony.

5) Indian Space Research Organisation

- 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.

6) INS Kulish

- 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.

STATE NEWS

1) Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim

- 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.

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BANKING NEWS

1) July, retail inflation in India

- 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.

2) Wholesale Price Index

- 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.

3) Indian government has decided to enhance the windfall profit tax

- 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.

4) India's journey towards becoming a developed economy by 2047

- 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.



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- 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.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) R. Doraiswamy as the Life Insurance Corporation of India

- 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. He has been appointed as managing director of LIC in place of Mini Ipe with effect from the date of assumption of charge of office on or after September 1, 2023, and up to the date of his superannuation August 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the national insurer said in a regulatory filing.

SPORTS NEWS

1) Brazil forward Neymar Jr

- 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. He won five Ligue 1 titles and three French Cups, but was on the losing side as PSG were beaten by Bayern Munich in the 2020 Champions League final.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) President Smt Droupadi Murmu has given her approval for 76 Gallantry awards

- 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).

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Additionally, the President has sanctioned 30 Mention-in-Despatches awards to Army personnel, including a posthumous award for Army dog Madhu, and one for an Air Force member.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) 'Sadaiv Atal' memorial in Delhi.

-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.

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Praful Patel, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister, Anupriya Patel and HAM's Jitan Ram also paid tribute to the Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 5th death anniversary.

- Former PM Atal Bihari's foster daughter Namita Kaur Bhattacharya pays floral tribute at 'Saidav Atal' on his death anniversary.

2) Parsi New Year

- 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.

OBITUARY NEWS

1) India captain and legendary footballer Mohammed Habib passed away

- Former India captain and legendary footballer Mohammed Habib passed away. He represented India in many international tournaments from 1965-76.

- He was considered by many experts as one of the best players the country has ever produced.

- He was also a bronze medallist in the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok led by his fellow Hyderabad Syed Nayeemuddin and managed by the great P.K. Banerjee.

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