

3rd August 2023

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1) Beijing, experienced a historic deluge, recording a staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall

- China's capital, Beijing, experienced a historic deluge, recording a staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall over the course of five days.
- This torrential downpour, the highest in 140 years, was triggered by the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri, leaving streets submerged and residents stranded.
- The disaster has resulted in tragic fatalities, with at least 21 people losing their lives and 26 others still reported missing.
- Beijing and the surrounding province of Hebei faced severe flooding, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and posing a significant challenge to rescue operations.

2) Niger shook the country's political stability and raised concerns

- On July 26, an attempted coup in Niger shook the country's political stability and raised concerns over its efforts to combat the growing Islamist insurgency in the Sahel region.
- President Mohamed Bazoum, who came to power in 2021 through the country's first peaceful democratic transition, was ousted by mutinous soldiers.
- This article delves into the reasons behind the coup, its implications for the region, and the international response.

3) August 6, 1945, the world witnessed a horrific event

- Seventy-eight years ago, on August 6, 1945, the world witnessed a horrific event that forever changed the course of human history.
- The city of Hiroshima in Japan became the target of the first-ever wartime use of an atomic bomb.
- This catastrophic event led to unimaginable devastation, immense loss of life, and an enduring impact on the global consciousness.
- Remembering Hiroshima goes beyond merely recounting historical facts; it serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring consequences of war and humanity's quest for peace.

















NATIONAL NEWS

1) Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill

- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, was recently passed by the Indian Parliament, enabling the private sector to undertake mining operations for six out of 12 atomic minerals, including lithium, as well as deep-seated minerals like gold and silver.
- This landmark decision seeks to boost domestic exploration and production of critical minerals and accelerate the growth of industries relying on these resources.

2) Expert Panel to revise anti-discrimination guidelines

- The Union Education Ministry on 2nd August constituted an Expert Panel to revise anti-discrimination guidelines with respect to the Scheduled caste, ST, OBC, person with disabilities and other minorities in higher educational institution.
- The primary objective of the expert panel is to undertake a comprehensive review of existing antidiscriminatory policies and practices on campuses, identifying gaps and shortcomings and propose improvements.

3) National Deep Tech Startup Policy

- The National Deep Tech Startup Policy Consortium has unveiled the Draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy for public consultation, seeking to meet the demands and strengthen the Indian deep tech startup ecosystem.
- Deep Tech encompasses state-of-the-art technologies grounded in profound scientific and engineering breakthroughs.
- For instance, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning exemplify Deep Tech as they rely on intricate algorithms and models to enable machines to learn from data and make astute decisions.



















STATE NEWS

1) 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan'

- The Assam government has taken a significant step towards enhancing its forest cover and combating climate change by announcing a massive initiative called 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan'.
- This ambitious project aims to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day in September, marking a crucial milestone in the state's efforts to boost its green economy and contribute to the fight against global warming.
- The primary objective of this large-scale initiative is to significantly increase Assam's forest cover and encourage collective action in the face of climate change.

2) Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar in Ward 10

- The Patna High Court ordered to resume the caste based survey in Bihar, which was first started by Patna DM Chandrashekhar himself in Ward 10, Phulwarisharif, Patna.
- The Caste based survey has resumed in entire Bihar, following the order of the Patna High Court.
- This survey was first started by Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar in Ward 10, Phulwarisharif, Patna.

3) Social Security Scheme to 50 more categories

- Odisha Government expanded the coverage of Social Security Scheme to 50 more categories of unorganised workers which include delivery boys, boatmen and photographers, the scheme aims to provide financial assistance in case of accidental or natural death.
- The Odisha Government on 2nd August expanded the Social Security Scheme to cover 50 more categories of workers under the purview of Odisha Unorganised Worker's Social Security Board.

4) Ministry of Railways and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras

- The Ministry of Railways and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) signed a memorandum of understanding ((MoU) to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad; the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways.



















- The MoU between IRISET and IIT-Madras aims to accelerate the indigenisation efforts of Indian Railways in the field of communications and create a testing facility for Indian Railways.
- The Indian Railways aims to leverage the potential of 5G technology to enhance its operational efficiency, passenger experience and overall safety.
- By simulating real-world scenarios, researchers and industry experts will explore innovative solutions to modernise various aspects of Railway communication and services.

ECONOMY NEWS

1) Unified Payments Interface

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network witnessed remarkable growth in July 2023, setting new records in both transaction volume and value.
- After a minor dip in June, UPI transactions surged by 44% year-on-year (YoY) and reached a staggering ₹15.34 lakh crore.
- The number of transactions also hit a new high of 996 crore, a significant increase of 58% compared to July 2022.
- Market participants predict that UPI transactions will continue to grow, possibly crossing the 1,000-crore mark in the current quarter.

2) Indian government's debt stood

- In March 2023, the Indian government's debt stood at ₹155.6 lakh crore, accounting for 57.1% of the country's GDP.
- This represents a reduction from 61.5% of GDP in 2020-21, indicating efforts to manage debt levels. The government has also implemented various schemes to promote capital expenditure, economic growth, and welfare at both macro and micro levels.
- Additionally, a roadmap has been set in place to achieve the ambitious goal of making India a \$5 trillion economy, involving digital economy promotion, technology-enabled development, energy transition, and more.

















BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "Fear for his mother's life"

- A new book, titled How Prime Ministers Decide, by veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury recalls the drama that led to Sonia's announcement, prompted by Rahul's "fear for his mother's life".
- A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) Tamil Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku

- -The Tamil Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil.
- Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi.
- Traditionally observed in late July or early August, this festivity centers around expressing gratitude to water bodies, as the entire month of Aadi is considered to herald the onset of the monsoon season.













