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### 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

##### 1) India's collaboration with Russia's Arctic region is on the rise

- India's collaboration with Russia's Arctic region is on the rise, evidenced by its substantial contribution to cargo handled at Murmansk port.
- This strategic port, positioned about 2,000 km northwest of Moscow, serves as a key northern gateway for Russia, and in the first seven months of 2023, it handled a total of eight million tonnes of cargo. Notably, India's share accounted for 35% of this cargo, primarily consisting of coal destined for the eastern coast of India.

##### 2) Dutch economy

- The Dutch economy has entered a recession, shrinking 0.3% on a quarterly basis in the second quarter. This is the first recession since the pandemic, and follows a 0.4% contraction in the first three months of the year.
- The eurozone's fifth largest economy was driven by a drop in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year.
- Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September 2022, but was still relatively high at about 6% in the second quarter of 2023.

#### NATIONAL NEWS

##### 1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for seven ambitious railway projects

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for seven ambitious railway projects, signaling an investment of ₹32,500 crore.
- These projects, announced by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, are set to revolutionize Indian Railways' efficiency and capacity through transformative initiatives.
- The projects, adopting the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model, are expected to usher in a new era of connectivity and accessibility across various regions.



## IBPS PO

ELIGIBILITY	: Any Graduation	3000+
AGE	: 20-30yrs	
LAST DATE	: 21-08-2023	
EXAM DATE	: SEP/OCT 2023	
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### 2) “PM-eBus Sewa” scheme

- In a significant move towards enhancing urban transportation and promoting electric mobility, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to the “PM-eBus Sewa” scheme.
- This initiative is aimed at expanding city bus operations by deploying 10,000 electric buses through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

### 3) Indian Navy’s fleet, INS Vindhyagiri

- In a significant stride towards bolstering India’s maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the latest addition to the Indian Navy’s fleet, INS Vindhyagiri.
- The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- Following the launch of INS Vindhyagiri, the vessel will join its sister ships, INS Himgiri and INS Dunagiri, at the Outfitting Jetty at GRSE.

### STATE NEWS

#### 1) The Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem Village

- In a significant step towards preserving and celebrating India’s rich socio-cultural heritage, Goa’s Chief Minister Pramod Sawant unveiled a groundbreaking initiative – The Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem Village.
- This unprecedented atlas offers a comprehensive socio-cultural history that traces back to the 12th century, making it a remarkable repository of historical and ecological knowledge.

#### 2) Budha Amarnath Yatra across the rolling terrains of Poonch district

- In a display of grandeur and deep religious devotion, the Jammu and Kashmir administration inaugurated the yearly Budha Amarnath Yatra across the rolling terrains of Poonch district.
- The pilgrimage, spanning over a period of 10 days, is a journey of profound significance for devotees seeking blessings from Lord Shiva.

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### SCHEMES NEWS

#### 1) 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme

- In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation.

- The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale.

### APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

#### 1) Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members.

- While Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry, Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- Both Varshney and Singh have been appointed for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier, according to an order issued by the Secretariat of the ACC. At SEBI, Varshney and Singh will fill in the vacancies created by the retirement of S K Mohanty and Ananta Barua.

#### 2) Adille Sumariwalla has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of World Athletics

- Adille Sumariwalla has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of World Athletics, the highest post ever held by an Indian in the global track and field governing body.

- The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, who is the president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), received the third-highest number of votes cast during the WA elections held on Thursday in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term.

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## SPORTS NEWS

### 1) Indian sprinter Dutee Chand

- Indian sprinter Dutee Chand, renowned as India's fastest female athlete and holder of the national 100m record, has been handed a significant blow with a four-year ban following her failure in an out-of-competition dope test.
- The test revealed the presence of selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs), leading to the decision to suspend her from competitive sports.
- Chand's remarkable athletic career has now been marred by this doping incident.

### 2) International Basketball Federation Basketball World Cup 2023

- The International Basketball Federation Basketball World Cup 2023 is the 19th edition of the FIBA Basketball World Cup, the quadrennial international basketball world championship contested by the men's national teams of the member federations of FIBA.
- The tournament will be co-hosted by the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia from August 25 to September 10, 2023.

### 3) Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz has announced his retirement

- Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a 15-year career.
- The 38-year-old made his international debut in 2008 and went on to play 27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is, taking 237 wickets in total.

## OBITUARY NEWS

### 1) Deven Dutta has passed away

- Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University, Deven Dutta passed away at the age of 81. Born on April 5, 1944 at Nazira in Sivasagar, Deven Dutta was residing in Guwahati's Sundarpur area.
- He completed his post-graduation in English in the year 1965 and started his career as a professor of English at Cotton College. He was also a renowned litterateur and columnist.
- Prof Dutta was a prolific writer and had published several books and articles on a variety of topics, including literature, education, and social issues. He was also a regular columnist in several newspapers and magazines.

### 2) Michael Parkinson has passed away

- Michael Parkinson, the seasoned British chat show host renowned for his conversations with notable personalities, has passed away at the age of 88.
- His family said that he peacefully departed at his residence after a brief period of illness.



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