

# Weekly One Liners 31st July to 06th of August 2023

## India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate

In 1973, the Government of India launched **Project Tiger**, a comprehensive conservation project aimed at protecting the nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past fifty years, Project Tiger has achieved remarkable success, with India currently harboring **almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population**. On Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2023, Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Ashwini Kumar**, released a comprehensive report revealing India's tiger population estimate of 3,925, with an annual growth rate of 6.1%.

### I. Project Tiger's Success and Evolution:

- Project Tiger was initiated in 1973, initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km<sup>2</sup>. It has now expanded to 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km<sup>2</sup>, effectively covering **2.3% of India's total land area**.
- The first phase of tiger conservation focused on enacting the **Wildlife Protection Act** and establishing protected areas, while the second phase in 2005 adopted a landscape-level approach, community involvement, strict law enforcement, and scientific monitoring.

### II. The Growth of India's Tiger Population:

- In 2022, during the celebration of **50 years of Project Tiger**, the Hon'ble Prime Minister declared the minimum tiger population estimate of 3,167 from the camera-trapped area.
- Further analysis of data by the Wildlife Institute of India, considering both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, resulted in an estimated **tiger population of 3,925** with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- Notably, Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains saw significant increases in tiger population, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra. However, certain regions, like the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, requiring targeted conservation efforts.

### III. States with Largest Tiger Populations

| BEST AND WORST PERFORMING STATES ON TIGER POPULATION |            |           |          |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| STATES   | TIGERS     | STATES    | TIGERS   |
| Madhya Pradesh                                       | <b>785</b> | Mizoram   | <b>0</b> |
| Karnataka  | <b>563</b> | Nagaland  | <b>0</b> |
| Uttarakhand  | <b>560</b> | Jharkhand | <b>1</b> |
| Maharashtra  | <b>444</b> | Arunachal | <b>9</b> |

India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population

| State          | Tiger Population |
|----------------|------------------|
| Madhya Pradesh | 785              |
| Karnataka      | 563              |
| Uttarakhand    | 560              |
| Maharashtra    | 444              |

### IV. Tiger Reserve Abundance

| Tiger Reserve  | Tiger Population |
|----------------|------------------|
| Corbett        | 260              |
| Bandipur       | 150              |
| Nagarhole      | 141              |
| Bandhavgarh    | 135              |
| Dudhwa         | 135              |
| Mudumalai      | 114              |
| Kanha          | 105              |
| Kaziranga      | 104              |
| Sundarbans     | 100              |
| Tadoba         | 97               |
| Sathyamangalam | 85               |
| Pench-MP       | 77               |

### V. Conservation Challenges and Measures:

- Approximately 35% of tiger reserves urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.
- Challenges like poaching continue to pose a threat to tiger conservation.
- To preserve ecological integrity, eco-friendly development, minimizing mining impacts, and addressing human-wildlife conflict are crucial steps.
- Fortifying protected area management and intensifying anti-poaching measures are essential for the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems.

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**National Affairs**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the launch of “**Meri Mati Mera Desh**” campaign in run-up to Independence Day to **honor the martyred bravehearts** of the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023**, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessed the inauguration of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The initiative, introduced by Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. It coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, in line with India’s G20 Presidency, launched the **Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)** in Chennai. The coalition aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices worldwide, bringing together companies from various sectors and countries. The event took place during the G20’s Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** recently conducted a comprehensive analysis of the assets of MLAs from various political parties in India. The report sheds light on the average wealth of MLAs, the percentage of **billionaire MLAs**, and the representation of women in state assemblies. **Karnataka** emerges as the state with the highest average assets per MLA and the highest number of billionaire MLAs, while Uttar Pradesh lags behind in both categories. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The President of India commenced the ‘**Unmesha**’ International Literature Festival and the ‘**Utkarsh**’ Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, **Madhya Pradesh**. These festivals, organized by the **Sahitya Akademi** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, respectively, have a shared purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity in the region. With the participation of over 800 artists from various states and Union Territories, the events promise to be a vibrant showcase of artistic expressions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To improve the highway user experience and offer seamless travel on Indian National Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken a significant step by introducing the ‘**Rajmargyatra**’ mobile application. This unified app aims to provide comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users, making travel safer and more convenient. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, replacing the ordinance on control of services in Delhi. The passage of the Bill was met with protests and a walkout by some Opposition parties. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, **Oil India** and **ONGC Videsh**, to the esteemed **Maharatna** and **Navratna** categories, respectively, granting them increased autonomy for investment, joint venture establishment, and other financial decisions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** introduced a new **Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga**. With this, a new chapter i.e. chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 – Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments has been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019. AYUSH is an acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has recognized 98,911 entities under the Startup India initiative since its launch on January 16, 2016. The primary goal behind this initiative is to create a robust ecosystem that fosters **innovation**, encourages entrepreneurship, and attracts **private investments** in the startup sector, thereby driving sustainable economic growth and generating employment opportunities on a large scale.

- In a significant late-night decision, the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** announced the postponement of the licensing mandate for the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers in India. The government had earlier imposed import restrictions on these products due to security concerns and to boost domestic manufacturing. However, in light of recent developments, the implementation of the restrictions has been deferred until November 1, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed The '**MASI**' application for **real-time monitoring** of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection process across the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### States in the News

- The **Maharashtra Government** will confer Tata group Chairman **Ratan Tata** with the first prestigious **Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this year**, state industries minister Uday Samant announced in the State Legislative Assembly. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** launched **Command Centre and CM Dashboard** to ensure needy and deserving have access to the benefits of the government schemes and services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Foxconn** Technology Group, a prominent Taiwanese company and a key supplier to Apple Inc., has pledged to invest ₹1,600 crore in establishing a manufacturing facility in **Kancheepuram** district, **Tamil Nadu**. The commitment was made in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu during Mr. Liu's first visit to the state. The investment is expected to create significant employment opportunities and boost the electronics manufacturing sector in Tamil Nadu. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned a total amount of Rs 1,974.07 crore to the **Rajasthan government** under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2023-24. This substantial funding aims to uplift the living conditions of rural communities and drive economic growth in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** is set to conduct a public hearing on the proposed expansion of **Adani group's Kattupalli Port** in Tiruvallur district. The project, which was initially scheduled for a hearing in January 2021 but was delayed due to COVID-19, has drawn strong opposition from environmentalists and opposition parties. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### International Affairs

- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, the federal cabinet of **Pakistan** has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the **United States**. The Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) will pave the way for enhanced defense ties between the two nations and may allow Pakistan to procure **military hardware** from Washington DC. This move comes after the previous agreement, signed in 2005, expired in 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In recent news, **Fitch**, one of the top-three global ratings agencies, downgraded the **United States' credit rating** from AAA to AA+. The AAA rating is the highest possible rating, indicating a country's strong ability to repay its debts. This article explores the significance of a AAA credit rating, lists the nations still holding the prestigious rating, and discusses the consequences of the U.S. losing its AAA status. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- A new book, titled **How Prime Ministers Decide**, by veteran journalist **Neeraj 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- On July 31, 2023, a meeting was held between the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Sushri Shobha Karandlaje**, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture & Food Industries of Moldova, **Mr. Vladimir Bolea**, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** and the **World Bank** have joined forces to develop a comprehensive roadmap for integrating **hydrogen blending** in natural gas and establishing the **infrastructure** for their transmission through gas pipelines in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced the establishment of the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**. This fund, regulated by SEBI, is designed to function as a 'backstop facility,' providing support during stressed market conditions by purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities. The **Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt (GSCD)** aims to offer guarantee cover against debt raised or to be raised by the CDMDF, adding stability to the market in times of dislocation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Amazon India** has inaugurated its **first-ever** floating store on **Dal Lake** in Srinagar, Kashmir. This initiative aligns with Amazon India's commitment to providing customers with reliable and convenient delivery services, while simultaneously enabling small businesses to seize profitable earning prospects. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's eight core infrastructure sectors** have shown a notable growth rate of 8.2% in June, marking the highest in five months, according to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry's** latest data released on July 31. These core sectors, including coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity, fertilizers, refinery products, and natural gas, play a crucial role in the country's industrial production. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On July 28, 2023, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** announced a significant change in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rules in India. As per the new guidelines, companies with a turnover of more than ₹5 crore will be required to generate electronic invoices (e-invoices) for their business-to-business (B2B) transactions or exports. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23), digital payments in India experienced remarkable growth, as indicated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)**. The RBI-DPI, a comprehensive measure of payment digitization, displayed a substantial increase across all parameters during this period, driven by significant advancements in payment infrastructure and performance across the country. The index for March 2023 recorded a value of 395.58, marking a 13.24% growth compared to September 2022 (377.46), as announced on January 31, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Books and Authors

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah released the '**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die**' book in Rameshwaram. The Union Home Minister visited Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- London-based Indian-origin author **Chetna Maroo's** debut novel '**Western Lane**' is among 13 books to make the cut for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist revealed. Kenya-born Maroo's novel, set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu, has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defence (MoD), released the book and illustrations titled "**Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani**" (Hindi Edition) authored by **Rishi Raj** at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, Delhi. The book which pays tribute to the Martyrs of Kargil War was published by **Prabhat Prakashan**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **fiscal deficit** of the Indian government has reached 25.3% of the full-year target at the end of June 2023, as per data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. This article provides an overview of the fiscal deficit situation in India, comparing it to previous years and the government's projected targets for the current financial year (2023-24). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Ministry of Finance has released data showing that the gross **goods and services tax (GST)** collection for July 2023 has surpassed the **Rs 1.65 lakh crore** mark. This marks the fifth instance of GST revenue crossing this threshold since its inception. The revenue for July 2023 is 11 percent higher than the same month last year, reflecting a positive trend in the country's economic growth. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's manufacturing sector** experienced a slight dip in growth momentum in July, with the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** falling to 57.7 from 57.8 in June and 58.7 in May. However, the figure still indicates expansion in the sector. The buoyant demand, both domestic and in exports, played a crucial role in maintaining the growth momentum. Despite the recent easing in inflation, higher inflationary pressures remained a challenge for manufacturers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **51st meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has decided to impose a **28% tax** on the full face value of bets placed on **online gaming**, which will be implemented from **1st October**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In July, **India's services sector** experienced a significant rebound, achieving its highest growth in 13 years. The recovery was driven by robust demand and new business gains, leading to an increase in the S&P Global India **Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** to a record high of 62.3. The PMI is a survey-based index that measures activity levels in the services sector. An index reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 suggests contraction. This positive trend has been ongoing for 23 consecutive months since August 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- S&P Global's report, titled **"Look Forward: India's Moment,"** projects India's economic growth trajectory from fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to FY31. The country is set to remain the fastest-growing large economy, with an expected GDP growth rate of 6% in FY24. S&P Global is optimistic about India's potential, forecasting an average growth rate of 6.7% per year during this period, driven primarily by capital expansion. The report envisions India's GDP to reach **\$6.7 trillion by FY31**, and per capita GDP to rise to approximately **\$4,500**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a special event in New Delhi, **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, **revealed the new logo of NMDC**. The launch of new logo is a big step for NMDC, showing its commitment to responsible mining and global standards. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed late submission fees amounting to **₹2,000 crore** on **four major public sector undertakings** namely, **ONGC Videsh Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, and Oil India Ltd** for failing to promptly report their overseas investments. The delayed reporting has prompted RBI to take **restrictive measures**, affecting further remittances and transfers until the discrepancies are resolved. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Kiwi**, a fintech company specializing in enabling credit on UPI, has partnered with **Axis Bank** to introduce a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit cards through its app. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, one of India's largest public sector banks, reported its financial results for the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The bank achieved its **highest-ever quarterly profit** at **₹ 16,884 crore**, representing a significant jump from **₹ 6,068 crore** in the same period the previous year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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**Appointments/Resignations**

- **Shivendra Nath**, a 1994-batch officer of UPSC, has been chosen by the **PSEB** (Public Enterprises Selection Board) panel to assume the role of Chairman & Managing Director at **Engineering Projects India Ltd** (EPIL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nisha Biswal** has been appointed as the **Deputy Chief Executive Officer** of the **US International Development Finance Corporation** (DFC). With over **30 years** of experience in US foreign policy and international development programs across the Executive Branch, Congress, and the private sector, Biswal's nomination was put forward by President Joe Biden. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Assessment and Accreditation Council** (NAAC) recently announced the appointment of **Prof Ganesan Kannabiran** as its new director. The appointment took place on July 28, as per the official statement from NAAC. Prof Kannabiran brings with him a rich experience of over 30 years in the education sector, having served as a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shohini Sinha**, an Indian-American, has been selected by FBI Director Christopher Wray as the new special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office. She previously held the position of executive special assistant to the Director at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** has been officially granted a one-year extension by the Central government, making him the **longest-serving** cabinet secretary in India's history. The decision was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). This extension comes as a result of the **relaxation** of important rules, allowing him to continue in his position beyond August 30, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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**Defence News**

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** received air-launched Israeli **Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS)** Anti-Tank Guided Missiles(ATGM) from Israel which can hit targets upto 50 km from a helicopter and 32 km from the ground. The NLOS missiles will be integrated with the fleet of Russian-origin Mi-17V5 helicopters, manufactured by Kazan Helicopters. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's indigenous **Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** and the variant of **HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System** called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian army and Indian Air Force (IAF) after clearing all the trials. Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited(BDL). Nag is the surface-to-air missile and Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Awards and Recognitions**

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was granted to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in Pune, **Maharashtra**, during a ceremony that commemorated the **103rd** death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak. The prestigious award, instituted by the **Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust** in 1983, aims to honor the lasting legacy of Lokmanya Tilak. Shri Narendra Modi became the **41st** distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Summits and Conferences News**

- India is set to host the **5th World Coffee Conference** (WCC) in **Bengaluru** from September 25 to 28, where it will present its diverse coffees to buyers from over 80 countries. This is the **first time** that the event will be held in Asia. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has confirmed his attendance at the **BRICS Summit** in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, from August 22 to 24, 2023. This comes after Russian President **Vladimir Putin** canceled his visit to the same event. The summit gains significance due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and discussions on expanding the membership of BRICS, a topic of interest to both Russia and China. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's** Reliance Industries has maintained its highest ranking among Indian corporates in the latest Fortune Global 500 list, jumping 16 places to rank at number 88. Reliance was ranked at number 104 in the 2022 ranking and in the 2023 ranking it is placed at number 88, according to the publication. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Sports News

- England pacer **Stuart Broad** has announced his retirement from cricket. He will call it quits from the game after the ongoing Ashes series. Broad announced the decision at the end of the third day of the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval. The 37-year-old has played 167 Test matches, picking 602 wickets. He has also featured in 121 ODIs and 56 T20Is. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Iga Swiatek** achieved a significant achievement by securing her **fourth** WTA title of the year and her very first on home soil. The Polish tennis player showcased her dominance in the final, defeating Germany's **Laura Siegemund** with an incredible 6-0, 6-1 scoreline in just 68 minutes, denying her opponent any break points throughout the match. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian women's hockey team** wins the title of **Torneo del Centenario 2023** by defeating hosts Spain **3-0** in Terrassa, Barcelona on 30th July. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Defending Formula One champion **Max Verstappen** emphatically won the **Belgian Grand Prix** for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season. He finished 22.3 seconds ahead of teammate **Sergio Perez** to give Red Bull an easy 1-2. It moved Verstappen ominously closer to a third straight world title and his own F1 record of 15 wins from last year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former Uruguay defender **Diego Godin** retired from professional soccer, ending a 20-year career at age 37. Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atlético Madrid from 2010 to 2019. This season, he played in Argentina for Velez Sarsfield. Godin announced his retirement a day after his final appearance for Velez in a 1-0 loss to Huracan. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The 17-year-old chess prodigy, **D. Gukesh**, has dethroned Grandmaster **Viswanathan Anand** as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings. Gukesh achieved this feat by defeating Mistradin Iskandarov in the second round of the FIDE World Cup, reaching a live rating of **2755.9** and climbing to the 9th position in the classic open category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Alex Hales** has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect, at the age of 34. He signs off from his England career as a T20 World Cup winner, having played his last game in their five-wicket win over Pakistan at the MCG in November last year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian women's compound archery team etched their names in history by clinching a gold medal at the **World Archery Championships held in Berlin, Germany**. This victory marked India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category. It was India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- In Financial Year (FY) 2022-23, the **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** has achieved a significant milestone by sanctioning over 6.23 crore loans. The Union Minister for State for Finance, **Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad**, shared this information in a written reply during a Lok Sabha session. The PMMY aims to facilitate access to institutional finance for new and existing micro units or enterprises, offering loans of up to 10 lakh rupees. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Mission on Libraries** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Culture** under the Government of India, aimed at the modernization and digital interconnection of almost 9,000 libraries throughout the country. Its primary goal is to grant readers easy **access** to a vast array of books and information. The ambitious project is estimated to cost approximately 1000 crores. It has been specifically designed to cater the needs of a diverse audience, including students, researchers, scientists, professionals, children, artists, and **differently-abled** individuals. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Project Tiger and Project Elephant, two significant conservation initiatives in India, have been merged under a new division called '**Project Tiger and Elephant Division**' by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Recently, the Prime Minister also commended the success of Project Tiger on its **50th** anniversary. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **NTA has started the registration** procedure of the applicants for the scholarship programme on the **NTA's website by 10th August 2023 under the YASASVI Scheme**. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has started the application procedure **for the scholarship entrance examination 2023** launched under the scheme of PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (YASASVI). ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The ministry of education has selected **Oracle Cloud Infrastructure** to modernise the national education technology platform **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)**, the company. The migration will help make DIKSHA more accessible and lower its IT costs. Under the seven-year collaboration pact, OCI will help the ministry use DIKSHA to provide educational resources to millions of additional students, teachers and collaborators across the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Department of Expenditure** under the Ministry of Finance has launched **Vivad se Vishwas 2 .0** also known as **Contractual Disputes scheme** to settle long-standing contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across **India** on August 6. The ambitious project, executed under the **Amrit Bharat Scheme**, aims to enhance passenger amenities and improve **railway infrastructure**. With an estimated cost of ₹24,470 crore, the redevelopment work is a significant step towards modernizing the railway system. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The State government of **Kerala** has launched a groundbreaking scheme called '**Shubhayatra**'. The scheme aims to provide much-needed **financial support** to first-time **overseas emigrants** from Kerala, facilitating a positive and productive migration ecosystem. With a financial assistance of up to ₹2 lakh, a tax holiday for six months, and attractive interest subvention, the scheme intends to help eligible candidates cover the incidental expenses associated with **overseas employment**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- **Open AI CEO Sam Altman** along with two co-founders launched the **Worldcoin crypto project** to grant users a verified digital identity and access to a financial project. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Chandrayaan-3** spacecraft, which marks India's **third** lunar exploration mission, has accomplished a noteworthy achievement by entering the moon's sphere of influence. This successful entry was made possible through a TransLunar Injection (TLI) executed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. The upcoming crucial step is the Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) scheduled for August 5, during which the spacecraft's liquid engine will be activated once more to position it into a lunar orbit. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Important Days News

- **World Ranger Day**, observed on **July 31st**, holds a significant place as we come together to honor and express our gratitude towards the brave individuals who dedicate their lives to safeguarding wildlife and preserving our precious natural resources. The theme of World Ranger Day 2023 is "**30 by 30**," building on the momentum from the 2022 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Mountain Climbing Day** is celebrated on **August 1st** every year by the enthusiastic citizens of the United States. This special day commemorates the remarkable achievement of Bobby Matthews and Josh Madigan, who accomplished the extraordinary feat of climbing all 46 peaks of the Adirondack Mountains in New York. Their journey culminated with the successful ascent of the last peak, Whiteface Mountain, on August 1, 2015. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Breastfeeding Week** is observed every year to emphasize regular breastfeeding for babies. This year breastfeeding week commences on **August 1** while it concludes on **August 7**. Breastfeeding is extremely crucial for the healthy growth and development of an infant. Breastmilk is the best food for newborn babies. This year's theme "**Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!**" will focus on breastfeeding and work, providing a strategic opportunity to advocate for essential maternity rights that support breastfeeding – maternity leave for a minimum of 18 weeks, ideally more than 6 months, and workplace accommodations after this point. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Muslim Women's Rights Day** is observed across the nation on **August 1** to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq. The central government enacted the law on **August 1, 2019**, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Lung Cancer Day** is observed every year on **August 1** and it has been celebrated on the same date since 2012. It was first marked to raise awareness around the deadly disease and encourage more research on it to break the stigma around the disease. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Wide Web Day** is celebrated on **August 1** every year. The day is observed to commemorate the World Wide Web (www) and its impact on the world. It was on August 1 in 1991 that Tim Berners-Lee posted a proposal for the World Wide Web on the alt.hypertext newsgroup; this day is, therefore, celebrated with great importance every year. The year 1989 marked the beginning of the Internet. From that point forward, it has continued to evolve. ([Click here to read the article](#))



**Obituaries News**

- Noted Marathi poet and lyricist **Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor**, popularly known as Na Dho Mahanor, passed away. He was 81. Mahanor was best known for his poems and lyrics for Marathi movies. Born in 1942, Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor was awarded Padma Shri in 1991. He had also been a member of the state legislative council. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, **N Vittal** passed away in Chennai. With the passing of N Vittal, 85, former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) on Thursday, the country has lost the person who had sown the seeds for the growth of the information technology sector four decades ago. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- A female cheetah named **Dhatri** (Tbilisi) has recently passed away at Kuno National Park in **Madhya Pradesh**. This brings the total number of deaths to **nine**, including **six adult** cheetahs relocated from Namibia and South Africa, along with **three cubs** born in India, all since March this year. Currently, a post-mortem examination is underway to determine the cause of death. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Assam State Zoo recently recorded the breeding of a Himalayan Vulture in captivity for the first time in India. Details of the successful breeding were recently published in a paper titled **'Breeding of Himalayan Vulture Gyps himalayensis Hume, 1869 in the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati, Assam**. The species categorised as **'Near Threatened'** with an estimated **population of 66,000**, witnessed a significant moment of hope in their conservation journey. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Static Takeaways**

- Chairman & CEO of Foxconn: Young Liu
- Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in: 1983
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Shri Bhupender Yadav
- Oracle Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States;
- Oracle Founders: Larry Ellison, Bob Miner, Ed Oates;
- Oracle CEO: Safra Catz (18 Sept 2014–).
- Minister for Animal Husbandry in Madhya Pradesh: Ms. Kusum Mehandele

- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India: Ajay Kumar Sood
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India: Santosh Kumar Yadav
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited: Dr. Ranjit Rath
- Chairperson of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet: Narendra Modi;
- Israel Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem;
- Israel Currency: New Israeli Shekel (NIS).
- Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board: AK Jain
- Chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights : Priyank Kanoongo

ENGLISH

**MAESTRO**

**RBI GRADE 'B'**  
**PHASE-I + II**

**200+ TOTAL TESTS**