

International news

An Indo-Jewish cultural heritage square (arena) has been opened in Israel.

- To honor and celebrate **India's 77th Independence Day**, an **"Indo-Jewish Cultural Square"** (Arena) in **Eilat**, Israel has been inaugurated by the government of the country on **August 15**.
- The organization is dedicated to the **"Civilized Bond"** of strong and **good diplomatic relations** between the two countries. It is designed to symbolize the friendship, love, mutual concern and deep state connection between India and Israel, according to the **Mayor of Eilat, Eli Lankri**.

State news

Youth 20 Summit to be held in Varanasi.

- **The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs** has planned to host the **"Youth 20"** summit for 2023 on **August 17** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The summit is likely to be held from **August 17 to August 20**. This conference aims to discuss these themes on the future of work, **21st century skills, climate change and disaster risk reduction, peace building and reconciliation: building an era without war and Industry 4.0, innovation as key goals for development**.

The women's fare-free bus travel scheme is called 'Vidiyal Payanam'.

- In August 2023, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M K Stalin** announced that the free bus travel scheme for women in **Tamil Nadu** will now be called the **"Vidiyal Payanam Scheme"**.
- On the occasion of Independence Day (August 15), the Chief Minister hoisted the national flag at the **Chennai** Chief Secretariat and then announced that various programs for women are working well in Tamil Nadu and the free bus travel program for women will be called **"Vidiyal Payanam Scheme"** in the future.

Mobile app and emergency helpline launched for medical aid fund.

- **Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde** on **August 15** launched an emergency helpline and mobile app for the **Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund**.
- It is also significant that the book **'Rokhthok'** based on the philosophy of **Balasaheb Thackeray** and the **fifth edition** of the medical aid manual was released on this occasion. He said that more than **12 thousand 500 patients** have benefited from this financial assistance of the **Chief Minister** in the last one year, which is seen as important.

G20 Digital Economy Ministers and Digital Economy Working Group Summit held in Bengaluru.

- The G20 Digital Economy Ministers and Digital Economy Working Group Summit kicked off on **August 16** in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The conference was inaugurated by **Alkesh Kumar Sharma**, Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Electronics. This conference is scheduled to be held from **August 16 to August 19**. The conference will be held under the theme of **"Digital Economic Progress"**.

Appointments

R Duraisamy appointed as Managing Director of LIC.

- The central government has mentioned in its August notification that **R Doraiswamy** has been appointed as the **managing director** of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.
- It is significant that he has taken over this post instead of **Mini Ipe**. It has been reported that he, who is currently the **Executive Director at the Central Head Office in Mumbai**, will assume this responsibility from **September 1, 2023**.

Obituary

Bindeshwar, founder of Sulabh International, passed away.

- **Bindeshwar Pathak** (age 80), social activist and founder of Sulabh International, passed away on **August 15** at **AIIMS in Delhi** due to a heart attack.
- He founded **Sulabh International**, an international social service organization in **1970**. He also carried out his major advocacy campaigns widely against "**Manual Scavenging**". It is notable that he was awarded the prestigious "**Padma Bhushan**" in **1991**.

Important day

Indonesian independence day 2023

- **The fourth most populous country** in the world and caught on the brink of Japanese and Dutch domination and occupation, **Indonesia** declared its independence on **August 17, 1945**.
- It is an island nation with more than **17,000 islands**. It is a country in **Oceania, Southeast Asia** between the **Pacific and Indian oceans**.

The Parsi New Year "Navroz" is celebrated.

- The "**Parsi community**", a major ethnic group spread across various parts of India, celebrates the Parsi New Year i.e. "**Pateti**" on **16th August**.
- Parsis are an **ethno-religious group of the Indian subcontinent** who follow the **Zoroastrian religion**. It is significant that they migrated to **medieval India** in the **Persian regional empire**.