

National News

A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between the Indian Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation.

- The **Philippine Coast Guard** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Indian Coast Guard** in **August 2023** to enhance **bilateral and regional maritime cooperation**. The agreement was signed in **New Delhi** in the presence of the top naval commanders of the two countries.

● Indian commander	● General Rakesh Pal
● Philippine commander	● Artemio M Abu

- This Memorandum of Understanding has been carried out with the main objective of jointly solving the issues arising in the **Indo-Pacific region and ensuring safe seabeds**.

The Union Minister launched the "Annual Skill Development Programme" in New Delhi.

- **Panchayat Raj and Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh** launched his ministry's "Annual Skill Development Programme" at a function in the national capital **New Delhi** on **August 22**.
- The Union Minister mentioned on the occasion that the plan is a **comprehensive blueprint strategy** document designed to help **develop and empower individuals**. It is also significant that it has been designed with the aim of increasing the efficiency of **Central Government Skill Development Officers** and **removing deficiencies in the nature of work**.

IPMA has entered into an MoU with GeM website to sell products directly to the government.

- The **Indian Pipe Manufacturers Association (IPMA)** has entered into an MoU with **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**, the central government's public specialized procurement platform, for the sale of products by the **country's pipe manufacturers** to **members and traders under public procurement**.
- The agreement was signed on **August 22, 2023** in the national capital, **New Delhi**. It is significant that the scheme is designed to **promote a healthy and improved, diverse business environment** for all vendors under the **IPMA organization** irrespective of their size.

India aims to achieve \$150 billion bioeconomy by 2025 - Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

- **Union Minister of Technology and Science Dr. Jitendra Singh** has said that India has set a target of achieving a **bio-economy of nearly \$150 billion by 2025**.
- He made the announcement at an **August 22** signing ceremony in **New Delhi** between the **Department of Biotechnology** and the **US-National Science Foundation**.
- He said that India has about **3 to 5 percent market share** in the **global biotechnology sector** and the **central government** will take measures to improve this.

An initiative to improve rail-sea-rail transport has been introduced.

- The **Union Ministry of Coal** has recently introduced a proactive initiative to promote the scheme for efficient transfer of coal from one place to another in the country by integrating **Rail-Sea-Rail (RSR) transport**.
- This **multi-modal transport initiative** is designed to seamlessly **transport coal from the country's mines to ports**, drastically reducing transport costs to its end users and improving logistics efficiency.
- It is significant that the scheme covered the major states of **Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh** and parts of **Madhya Pradesh**.

International news

Srettha was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Thailand.

- After much controversy since the progressive **Move Forward Alliance (MFP)** won the majority of seats in the **May 2023 election**, **Thailand's parliament** voted on **August 22** to elect **Srettha Thavisin** of the **Pyu Thai Party** as the **country's new prime minister**.
- To get this post of Prime Minister, he needed nearly **375 votes** from the **upper and lower houses** of the country and they have now reached the majority, according to the notification issued by the **Prime Minister's office** of that country.

The US FDA has approved the First Respiratory Syncytial virus vaccine for children.

- **The FDA, the United States' Food and Drug Administration**, recently approved the **country's First Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine** for use in **pregnant women**.
- It is noteworthy that the vaccine was developed by **Pfizer** and is designed to ensure prevention of "**lower respiratory tract infection**" in women between **32 and 36 weeks of pregnancy** and **severe disease in infants aged 6-8 months**.

The Government has entered into an MoU with UNDP for the Development Center of the NE System.

- **The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** and the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** have entered into an MoU on **August 22** in an effort to promote rapid development in the **North Eastern region of India**.
- The MoU aims to enable the two organizations to work together to provide a platform for enhanced cooperation in the country and to support states in establishing **SDGCCs (Sustainable Development Cluster Centres)**.

UAE Dubai Customs has launched a social initiative for workers.

- **UAE Permanent Committee on Labor Affairs (PCLA) in Dubai & Dubai Customs** in association with "**Taqdeer Award Consortium**" has launched a social initiative called "**Cooling Hearts**" which involves providing fruit juices, cold water and fruits to small and marginal workers there.
- A total of **10,000 kits** have been designed to be distributed in this **three-month-long campaign**, **PCLA** said. The initiative will first be launched on **Maiden Street** in the country's famous **Nadd Al Shiba**, the **Dubai government** said.

State news

ANAROCK has entered into a management agreement with the Madhya Pradesh Housing Board.

- **ANAROCK**, India's leading independent residential real estate services consultancy, has announced that it has entered into an MoU with **Madhya Pradesh State Housing Board (MPHB)** for its proprietary **AI-enabled customer relationship management** and organizational development services.
- This MoU is aimed at improving the housing facilities required by the common people of the state and bringing about a **10-fold increase** in merchandise sales within a few months of the **implementation of the package**.

The first ABDM microsite under the National Health Commission's 100 Microsites program has been launched at Aizawl.

- **The National Health Authority (NHA)** has recently launched a new scheme called **100 Microsites** Exposure to accelerate **Ayushman Bharat Digital (ABDM)** across the country.
- Under it, **Aizawl**, the capital of **Mizoram state**, has acquired the status of **India's first to run ABDM microsite** with its launch in August 2023. It is significant that under this, these ABDM sites have been operationalized in all health facilities including **private treatment centers, small hospitals and laboratories in the region**.

Appointments

Sachin Tendulkar has been appointed as the Election Commission of India's National Voter Awareness Ambassador.

- Indian cricket legend and esteemed **Bharat Ratna** winner **Sachin Tendulkar** has been appointed as **Election Commission of India's national ambassador** for **election-voter awareness** and education on **August 23**.
- The Election Commission of India said in its latest announcement that it will sign a memorandum of understanding for the tenure of this appointment for "**Three Years**". It is significant that this appointment has been made with the aim of increasing voter participation in the **2024 general elections**.

SABIC CEO has been selected as the executive representing Saudi Arabia at the B20 summit.

- The CEO of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), **Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Fageeh** has been selected as the country's executive representative for the upcoming **B20 summit** in the capital of India, **New Delhi**.
- It is reported that he will lead a group of top business leaders in **Saudi Arabia**. The conference will be held in India from **August 25 to August 27**. The group is designed to enhance the Kingdom's overseas **business priorities** and streamline the private business sector in **Saudi Arabia**.

Science and Technology

AI-generated artworks have been ruled ineligible for copyright protection.

- A US federal court in **Washington DC** has issued an important ruling that solutions and **artworks created solely by artificial intelligence** without any human intervention cannot be afforded "**Copyright Protection**" under US law.
- Administered in **1976**, this **copyright law** is designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a person's work. Many tech experts say the ruling will ensure more people use **AI technology**.

Sports news

The Khelo India Women's League has officially been renamed the Asmita Women's League.

- **Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** announced on **22nd August** that the **Khelo India Women's League** will officially be called "**Asmita Women's League**" henceforth.
- **Asmita** stands for the mission of empowering women through their activism in the field of sports. The Union Minister said that any government school, college, government or private organization can conduct this '**Asmita Women's League**' series and this decision has been taken with the aim of improving the sporting **excellence of India**.

The Union Minister has inaugurated nearly 33 Khelo India Centers across Rajasthan.

- **Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** has inaugurated "**33 Khelo Khelo Centres**" in the state of **Rajasthan** at the Sawai Mansingh Ground in its capital **Jaipur** on the morning of **August 23**.
- The Union Minister has also announced that a "**National Center of Excellence**" with a dedicated **Sports Science Center** will be set up in the state along with **18 Khelo India Centers of Excellence**. It is significant that with this the total number of **Khelo India** centers in the state has increased to **51**.

Important day

International Day for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2023

- A rousing convention against the slave trade was held on **August 23, 1791** in **St. Domingue**, now **Haiti**. The International Day for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed every year on the **23rd of October** to commemorate some of the important decisions taken at this conference.
- **Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education** is the theme for this year.