

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-news

1. Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa re-elected for final term (Aug. 28, 2023)

Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe for a second and final five-year term.

An Overview of the News

- The announcement of Mnangagwa's victory was immediately denied by the opposition party's spokesman, who criticized the quick announcement and lack of proper result verification.
- The results of Mnangagwa's re-election ensure the continued dominance of the ZANU-PF party in governing the country.
- The party has maintained control of Zimbabwe's leadership throughout the 43-year period since the country's renaming in 1980, which followed liberation from white minority rule.

About Zimbabwe

- It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa.
- The Zambezi River flows through Zimbabwe and is home to Victoria Falls.
- Victoria Falls plunges 108 meters down the Batoka Gorge.
- Downstream of the Zambezi River are the Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks.

Capital - **Harare**

Currency - **United States Dollar**

Official languages - **Shona, English, Tshwa language, Xhosa**

2. Last survivors of the Amazon rainforest tribe Piripkura found in Brazil (Aug. 22, 2023)

Last-survivors-of-the-Amazon-rainforest-tribe-Piripkura-found-in-Brazil

Three remaining survivors of the Amazon rainforest tribe - Piripkura found in Brazil

An Overview of the News

- In the heart of the Amazon rainforest, the Piripkura tribe remains one of the last bastions of indigenous culture.
- Despite having only three remaining members, they are engaged in the struggle against impending threats such as deforestation from logging and mining activities.

Piripkura Tribe:

- The Piripkura tribe comes from the Mato Grosso region of Brazil and leads a nomadic lifestyle.
- Renowned for their reclusiveness, they strive to preserve their traditional lifestyle.
- This indigenous group has faced significant hardships due to the invasion of their lands by illegal logging, mining, and other exploitative activities.
- Their territory faces threats from deforestation and resource exploitation.

Key facts about the Amazon rainforest:

- The Amazon rainforest, an extensive tropical rainforest, covers the basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries in northern South America, covering a vast area of 2,300,000 square miles.
- Covering about 40% of Brazil's total land area, it is bordered by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian Central Plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

Other tribes living in the Amazon rainforest:**Yanomami:**

- One of the largest indigenous groups in the Amazon.
- Residence in Brazil and Venezuela.

Kayapo:

- Found in Para and Mato Grosso, Brazil.
- Known for vibrant traditions like body painting and beadwork.

Ashaninka:

- Habitats of Peru and Brazil.
- Supporters of strong cultural identity and rights.
- The focus was on protecting the land from harvesting and illegal crops.

Tucano:

- Located in the upper Amazon in Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.
- Known for spiritual practices and rainforest wisdom.

Awa:

- One of the most endangered tribes of the Brazilian state of Maranhao.

- Threatened by illegal logging and mining.

3. Anwarul Haq Kakar sworn in as the 8th Interim Prime Minister of Pakistan (Aug. 17, 2023)

Anwarul-Haq-Kakar-sworn-in-as-the-8th-Interim-Prime-Minister-of-Pakistan

Ethnic Pashtun leader Anwarul Haq Kakar was sworn in as the 8th Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan, becoming the youngest person to hold the role.

An Overview of the News

- President Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Anwarul Haq Kakar in a simple ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Distinguished attendees include outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and prominent leaders.
- Kakar formally resigned from the Senate and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), strengthening his commitment to the neutrality expected in his current position.
- The Senate Chairman has accepted Kakar's resignation as per Article 64, Clause (1) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Anwar Ul Haq Kakar: Background and Political Journey

- Ethnic identity and party affiliation: Kakar, an ethnic Pashtun, is affiliated with the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).
- Birthplace and political entry: Hailing from the provincial capital Quetta, Kakar entered politics in the late 21st century.
- Experience as Spokesperson: In a previous role, he served as the spokesperson for the Balochistan Provincial Administration in 2013 and gained valuable insight into regional governance.
- Senate tenure and election: Anwar ul Haq Kakar assumed a position in the Pakistani Senate as a senator in March 2018.
- He secured this seat in the 2018 Pakistani Senate elections as an independent candidate representing Balochistan through a general seat.

Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan - General Asim Munir

4. Pibot: Humanoid Robot for Airplane Piloting (Aug. 17, 2023)

Pibot-Humanoid-Robot-for-Airplane-Piloting

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) is making advances in aviation through the creation of the "Pibot".

An Overview of the News

- Pibot is a humanoid robot designed to autonomously fly aircraft using advanced AI capabilities and its own dexterity.

Revolutionizing Aviation and Beyond:

- Pibot aims to revolutionize aviation by enabling autonomous flight in existing aircraft, without the need for cockpit modifications.
- By mimicking human pilot actions and decisions, Pibot aims to usher in a new era of automated aviation.

Unrivaled Control Precision:

- The Pibot has state-of-the-art robotic arms and fingers with high-precision control mechanisms.
- It excels in handling flight instruments and managing cockpit switches even under challenging conditions like intense vibrations.

Advanced AI Capabilities:

- Pibot uses artificial intelligence to understand and retain complex flight manuals presented in everyday language.
- It surpasses even human pilots by memorizing extensive sets of Jeppesen aeronautical navigation charts, a feat well beyond human capability.

5. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman Launches 'WorldCoin Crypto Project' (Aug. 3, 2023)

OpenAI-CEO-Sam-Altman-Launches-'WorldCoin-Crypto-Project'

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, along with co-founders Alex Blania and Max Novendstern, launched the 'WorldCoin Crypto Project'.

An Overview of the News

- The primary objective of the WorldCoin crypto project is to establish a universal and decentralised digital identity that prioritises privacy and gives people access to various online services and benefits.
- A notable aspect of the project is the vision of implementing WorldCoin as a means of distributing Universal Basic Income (UBI) to individuals around the world regardless of their location, income or social status.
- The Tools for Humans organisation, headquartered in San Francisco and Berlin, provides support and assistance to the WorldCoin initiative.
- An impressive 2 million users have already signed up for the beta version of the WorldCoin cryptocurrency project.
- The project has ambitious plans to expand its reach to 35 cities in 20 countries.
- To express gratitude to the early investors, WorldCoin cryptocurrency tokens will be given as rewards.
- The initial supply of WorldCoin tokens is limited to 10 billion.

About WorldCoin crypto project:

- The main goal of WorldCoin is to introduce a "World ID" system that authenticates a person's identity through iris scanning. This verification process helps to differentiate between humans and AI bots.
- This project uses a device called 'Orb' to ensure the genuineness of the person. Once verified, a unique World ID is generated for the individual.
- Interested persons can participate in the project by downloading the World App. They can receive their unique World ID by scanning their iris, verifying their human identity and using the 'Orb' to secure their digital passport.

6. Bengaluru becomes the first Indian city to join the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) (July 30, 2023)

Karnataka capital Bengaluru has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first Indian city to join the prestigious World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

An Overview of the News

- The World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) is a global network of cities that collaboratively research and share intelligence to explore the important role of culture in shaping future prosperity.
- Bengaluru is the 41st city to join WCCF, which already includes 40 cities across six continents such as New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai.
- In the past year, the cultural essence of Bengaluru has been showcased through multimedia assets by WCCF as part of a collaborative project called 'Unboxing Bangalore'.
- The 'Unboxing BLR Foundation' established in April 2022 played a key role in this achievement. The Foundation is a non-profit initiative, founded by Prashant Prakash, founding partner of Accel India, and Malini Goyal, a philanthropist and journalist.

World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF):

- WCCF was established in 2012.
- Justin Simmons, the Deputy Mayor of London for Culture and Creative Industries, was instrumental in its setting up.
- In 2015, Queen Elizabeth recognized Justin Simmons' significant contribution to culture in London.
- As a token of appreciation, Justin Simmons was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

About Bengaluru

- Known as the 'Silicon Valley of India', Bengaluru has more than 30 government and private museums. Notably, in 2019, India's first interactive music museum was

inaugurated, and later in February 2020, the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) opened, becoming the first major private art museum in South India.

- At the core of Bengaluru's vibrant intellectual and cultural exchange is the Bengaluru International Centre, established in 2019 within a 20,000 sq ft renovated industrial warehouse. Another hub of creativity is the Bangalore Creative Circus, which acts as an urban living laboratory.
- Bengaluru serves as a major centre for film production, especially hosting the Kannada film industry which produces over 100 films annually. In addition, the city has a rich musical heritage, which includes North Indian (Hindustani) and South Indian (Karnataka) classical music.
- Living up to its title as the "Garden City of India", Bengaluru is adorned with many green spaces, notably the nationally acclaimed Botanic Garden, Lal Bagh and Cubbon Park. These green areas add to the natural charm and beauty of the city.

7. World's largest permafrost crater 'Batagaika' is expanding rapidly due to global warming in Russia (July 29, 2023)

World's-largest-permafrost-crater-'Batagaika'-is-expanding-rapidly-due-to-global-warming-in-Russia

Batagaika, the world's largest permafrost crater, is located in the Far East Siberian taiga and is expanding rapidly due to global warming in Russia.

An Overview of the News

- This massive crater, also known as the "Gateway to the Underworld", initially appeared in the 1960s when the area was cleared for timber.
- The crater is about one kilometre long and is classified as a 'mega-slump', indicating significant geological changes on Earth.
- One of the primary factors contributing to the formation of permafrost craters is the thawing of permafrost, which is being caused by deforestation, land use change, and rising temperatures.
- Russia's warming rate is at least 2.5 times faster than the global average, melting its long-frozen tundra and contributing to the expansion of the 'Batagaika' crater at a rate of about 10 metres per year.

Permafrost Crater:

- Permafrost refers to land that is frozen at or below 0°C for at least two consecutive years.
- It is mainly found in areas with high terrain and close to the Earth's poles, that is, the North and South Poles. Permafrost is made up of a mixture of soil, rock, and sand that is bound together by ice.
- In particular, permafrost holds substantial amounts of organic carbon within its frozen layers.
- When permafrost melts and the soil thaws, it releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, potentially increasing global warming.

8. SpaceX launches 'Jupiter 3', world's largest private communication satellite (July 28, 2023)

On July 27, 2023, SpaceX launched the world's largest private communications satellite 'Jupiter 3' using a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex-39A of NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

An Overview of the News

- The 'Jupiter 3' satellite, developed by Maxar Technologies in Palo Alto, California, holds the record as the largest commercial communications satellite ever built.
- This upcoming launch marks the seventh mission of SpaceX's triple-booster rocket, the Falcon Heavy, which first attracted widespread attention during its debut in 2018.

About 'Jupiter 3'

- Its size would be comparable to the wingspan of a commercial airliner, measuring between 130 and 160 feet (40 to 50 m). Its larger size will enable it to double current internet capacity to 500 Gbps, significantly improving connectivity in areas with limited cable and fibre options.
- Hughes will integrate the 'Jupiter 3' into its existing satellite network, allowing HughesNet customers in the United States and Latin America to access high-speed satellite broadband at speeds of up to 100 Mbps.
- The capabilities of satellites extend far beyond regular Internet access. It will support in-flight Wi-Fi, ensuring connectivity for passengers during air travel. It will also provide maritime connectivity, allowing internet access for ships at sea.
- 'Jupiter 3' will play a key role in enhancing enterprise networks, meeting the connectivity needs of businesses across North and South America.
- Additionally, the satellite will serve as a reliable backhaul solution for mobile network operators (MNOs), ensuring smoother and more efficient data transmission within the region's mobile networks.
- One of its essential applications is providing community Wi-Fi solutions, which help bridge the digital divide and extend Internet access to disadvantaged areas in North and South America.

About NASA

- NASA was formed on July 19, 1948, under the National Aeronautics and Space Act, replacing its predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA).
- NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Headquarters - Washington D.C.
- Administrator - Bill Nelson

9. Italy inaugurates "VC Yashwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial (July 27, 2023)

Italy-inaugurates-VC-Yashwant-Ghadge-Sundial-Memorial

Italy inaugurated the "VC Yashwant Ghadege Sundiyal Memorial" in honor of the Indian Army's significant contribution during World War II.

An Overview of the News

- The memorial, located in Monton, Perugia, Italy, commemorates the bravery and sacrifice of Naik Yashwant Ghadege, who lost his life in the Upper Tiber Valley.
- The monument's motto, "Omines sub - eodem soul," translates to "We all live under the same sun" in Hindi.
- The ceremony was attended by India's Ambassador to Italy and Indian Defense Attache, Dr. Nina Malhotra, along with numerous Italian citizens, distinguished guests, and members of the Italian Armed Forces.
- Indian troops played a crucial role in the Italian campaign, with over 50,000 soldiers from the 4th, 8th, and 10th divisions participating.
- Notably, Indian soldiers were awarded six out of the twenty Victoria Crosses given in Italy for their extraordinary valour.
- The Indian soldiers suffered a total of 23,722 casualties during the campaign, and 5,782 of them made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.
- These brave soldiers are remembered and honoured in 40 Commonwealth War tombs scattered across Italy.

10. Pan Gongsheng appointed as the governor of the Central Bank of China (July 27, 2023)

Pan-Gongsheng-appointed-as-the-governor-of-the-Central-Bank-of-China

On July 25, 2023, Pan Gongsheng was appointed as the Governor of the Central Bank of China, marking the ruling Communist Party's highly anticipated final major appointment in a decade.

An Overview of the News

- Pan Gongsheng, a deputy governor of the central bank and a seasoned expert in China's government banking sector, assumed the position, succeeding Yi Gang, an American-trained economist who served in the role for five years.
- The Governor of the People's Bank of China, Pan Gongsheng, holds a preeminent position within Chinese finance circles, as the bank is under the control of the ruling Communist Party.
- Previously, in 2015, Pan was appointed as the head of China's foreign exchange regulator. Prior to that, he held the position of vice-chairman at Agricultural Bank of China Limited, one of the country's four major commercial lenders.
- Pan Gongsheng earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Renmin in Beijing and conducted research at both Cambridge and Harvard Universities. He received recognition for his role in effectively managing the currency crisis in 2016.

Bank of China:

- In August 1905, the first National Bank of China, known as the Treasure Bank, was founded in Beijing.
- Instead of being named 'Bank of Great King,' the institution adopted the name 'Bank of China' when it opened its doors in Shanghai on February 5, 1912.
- On August 1, 1912, the bank's headquarters were established in Zijaamin Lane, Beijing.
- In 2006, Bank of China made history by becoming the first Chinese bank to achieve dual listing on both the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Shanghai Stock Exchange.