

**24<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

## First National Space Day

The country celebrated its first national space day on 23 August 2024 to honor its magnificent achievement in the space sector.



### Key point

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India announced 23 August as the National Space Day to mark the success of the lander Vikram from the Chandrayaan-3 mission on the south polar region of the moon.
- ❖ The theme for the first National Space Day 2024 is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: A Brief Look at Indian Space Endeavours: India's Space Journey .
- ❖ India joined the Soviet Union, the United States, and China as the fourth country to put a rover on the moon and the first to do so on the southern part of the moon.
- ❖ The Vikram lander landed at around 18:04 IST on 23 August 2023 at a latitude of 69 degrees north on the moon. 37 S latitude and 32. 35 degrees East longitude. It was later renamed Shiv Shakti Point by the Government of India.

## About Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 mission was successfully launched by ISRO from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on 14 July 2023 by using GSLV-Mark III (LVM-3) rocket.
- ❖ Vikram was the name of the lander and Pragyan was the name of the rover that the spacecraft housed.
- ❖ During the mission, the Pragyan rover conducted several scientific activities such as identify the chemical structure of the rocks of the moon by using spectrometer.
- ❖ The Pragyan rover was able to travel around the landing area and was able to traverse about 103 meters for ten Earth days.

## Senior IAS Officer Govind Mohan New Union Home Secretary

Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan assumed the charge of the new Union Home Secretary.



### Key points -

- ❖ He has succeeded Ajay Kumar Bhalla whose tenure ended .
- ❖ A 1989 batch IAS Officer, Mr. Mohan was earlier holding charge of Secretary in the Culture Ministry.
- ❖ Mr. Mohan is a seasoned civil servant who was most recently an additional secretary at the Home Ministry and has handled several departments.

- ❖ By effectively launching two major Modi government campaigns namely the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Har Ghar Tiranga', he became the Union Culture Secretary.

### India's first female national racing champion

Diana Pundole, a devoted teacher from Pune, has recently become a national sensation after clinching the national championship title in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 in Chennai.



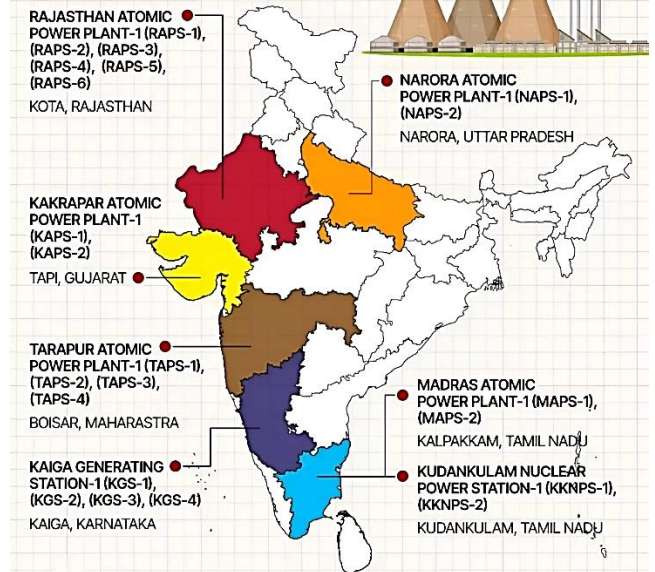
#### Key point

- ❖ On August 18, 2024, Diana Pundole, who is also a mother of two, secured the national championship title in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship.
- ❖ Diana's passion for racing grew, leading her to become the first and only woman participant in the prestigious Indian Touring Cars mixed category.

### India's second 700 MW nuclear reactor at KAPS-4 comes online to its rated capacity

The operator of India's civil nuclear programme confirmed that the second indigenously produced 700 MW reactor started operation at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat on Wednesday (August 21, 2024), at full power.

## Nuclear Power Plants under operation in India



#### Key Points

- ❖ KAPS-4 is a indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) which reflects the development in India's nuclear technology.
- ❖ Operation of KAPS-4 and, in particular, its twin KAPS-3 clearly indicates that the PHWR design is trouble-free.
- ❖ For now, NPCIL is adding more nuclear energy reactors to its power portfolio with another 14 similar reactors planned for commission by 2031-2032. At present, NPCIL has installed capacity of about 8,180 MW from 24 reactors, eight reactors are under-construction and ten are in pre-project stages.

❖ These expansions are expected to add up to the nuclear power potential of

the country to 22,480 MW in 2031-32.

<i>Nuclear Power Plant</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Reactor</i>
<i>Tarapur Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>TAPS-1</i>
		<i>TAPS-2</i>
<i>Rajasthan Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Rajasthan</i>	<i>RAPS-3</i>
		<i>RAPS-4</i>
<i>Madras Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	<i>MAPS-1</i>
		<i>MAPS-2</i>
<i>Kaiga Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Karnataka</i>	<i>KAPS-1</i>
		<i>KAPS-2</i>
		<i>KAPS-3</i>
		<i>KAPS-4</i>
<i>Kakrapar Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Gujarat</i>	<i>KAPS-1</i>
		<i>KAPS-2</i>
<i>Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant</i>	<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	<i>KKNPP-1</i>
		<i>KKNPP-2</i>
<i>Narora Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>	<i>NAPS-1</i>
		<i>NAPS-2</i>
<i>Rawatbhata Atomic Power Station</i>	<i>Rajasthan</i>	<i>RAPS-5</i>
		<i>RAPS-6</i>

### CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award

At the recently concluded 26th CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award ceremony held recently in Mumbai, The Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma was presented the award.



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The CEAT Cricket Awards is currently one of the most popular and famous accolades in the world of cricket that distinguish the most successful cricketers.
- ❖ The CEAT Cricket Awards were started in the 1995-96 cricket season and are sponsored by RP Goenka owned company CEAT Tyres.
- ❖ The twenty-sixth CEAT Award considers the performances of players in the 2023-24 cricket season.
- ❖ Through an exceptional performance in the last year in ODI, Virat Kohli was awarded as the Best ODI Batter of the Year.
- ❖ In the next season, the 2023-24 season, Kohli played and scored 1377 runs with six hundred and eight fifties. He was the highest run-getter of the 2023 ODI World Cup, scoring 765 runs at an average of 95.62.

- ❖ Another highlight of the event was the Lifetime Achievement Award which went to Rahul Dravid, the former Indian cricket captain and to the coach of the Indian men's cricket team.

### PM Modi Poland Visit

India and Poland will upgrade their partnership to a Strategic Partnership during the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visit to Warsaw Poland in August 2024.



#### Key Points

- ❖ After Poland PM Modi will proceed to Ukraine by train thus making his first ever visit as an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine.
- ❖ The last Indian Prime Minister to visit the Poland was Morarji Desai and that was in 1979, thus making it a 45 years span.
- ❖ The bilateral diplomatic relations between India and Poland are currently at the 70 years' mark, having been established in 1954, while an Indian Embassy was established in Warsaw in 1957.
- ❖ PM Modi attended the ceremonials at Good Maharaja Square, Monte Cassino Memorial and Kolhapur family memorial in Warsaw during his tour to Poland.

- ❖ Maharaja Jam Sahij of Nawanagar for whom Maharaja Square has been named, took shelter of around 1000 Jewish Polish kids during WWII when they escaped from the occupied Poland to Siberia Russia and then to India.

### Short News

- ❖ Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** put up a gutsy performance that resulted in a season's best effort of 89.49 meters, finishing second in the Lausanne Diamond League.
- ❖ The 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave, themed "Creating One Future," was inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- ❖ Information and Broadcasting Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched the 'Create in India Challenge-Season One' in New Delhi
- ❖ Top-ranked Jannik Sinner (Italian) and Ayrna Sabalenka earned straight-set victories in the finals of the Cincinnati Open, the first titles at the tournament for both players.
- ❖ The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 has been moved to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to political instability in Bangladesh
- ❖ Petronet LNG and a Sri Lankan company signed an MoU for LNG infrastructure development and supply in Colombo, boosting Sri Lanka's sustainable energy efforts.
- ❖ The Pakistani military successfully conducted a training launch of the Shaheen-II ballistic missile .
- ❖ Sudan's health minister has declared cholera an epidemic after weeks of heavy rain, which has already claimed the lives of at least 22 people.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. What is the theme of National space day 2024?

- (a) Exploring the Cosmos: India's Space Future''
- (b) Journey Beyond Earth: India's Space Achievements''
- (c) Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: A Brief Look at Indian Space Endeavours''
- (d) India's Lunar Mission: The New Frontier

Answer – (c)

2. PM Modi's visit to Ukraine marked his \_\_ visit as Prime Minister.

- (a) 1st
- (b) 3rd
- (c) 4th
- (d) 5th

Answer – (a)

