



CURRENT AFFAIRS 31st August 2022

National News

1. Festival of Ganesh Chaturthi being celebrated across the country today with great devotion



- Ganeshotsav, the most popular and favourite festival of Maharashtra begins today. The festival assumes a lot of significance as it is celebrated on a very large scale by people from different sections of society.
- The festivities will be celebrated in a cheerful atmosphere sans Covid-19 restrictions. Since last evening, devotees have started bringing the idols of Lord Ganesh to their homes and public pandals.
- The festival of dynamism will continue for 10 days. AIR correspondent reports that amid chants of Ganpati Bappa Morya, Mangal Murti Morya devotees have started welcoming their favorite God Lord Ganesh to their homes and public pandals.
- Maharashtra which has a rich culture is specifically known for its Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav, which means those installed in public pandals.
- With no Covid-19 restrictions in place, the festival will be celebrated in a captivating atmosphere.

- The festival is omnipresent as it is celebrated with equal devotion by those residing in skyscrapers or hutments. Besides, also individuals from the working class to a politician, film celebrities, or rich businessmen.
- Devotees are seen preparing scrumptious foods like Modak which is considered as favorite of lord Ganesha.

2. Reliance Jio partners with world's leading technology giants to roll out 5G services in India



- Reliance Jio has partnered with some of the world's leading technology giants such as Meta, Google, Microsoft and Intel to roll out 5G services by Diwali in key metro cities of India.
- While Jio partnered Mark Zuckerberg-led Meta (formerly Facebook) for immersive technology, it has collaborated with Google to develop ultra-affordable 5G smartphones.
- On Cloud, Jio has partnered Google Cloud and Microsoft Azure to ensure a vibrant ecosystem of cloud-enabled business applications and solutions for its millions of users.
- The company has picked chip-maker Intel for cloud-scale data centres and 5G edge locations, while it has robust relationships with leading global network technology providers like Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and Cisco.
- Jio also forged a collaboration with Qualcomm to develop 5G solutions for India, which can be taken to the rest of the world. Using JioAirFiber, people can do away with all expenses related to buying computer hardware and

periodically upgrading it, and opt to use a virtual PC hosted in the cloud - called Jio Cloud PC.

- With no upfront investment or tension of periodical upgrading, a user needs to pay only to the extent used, resulting in a super-affordable way to bring the power of a PC, even multiple PCs, to every Indian home and business.

3. International Whale Shark Day being celebrated to spread awareness about importance of whale sharks



- Today is International Whale Shark Day. It is celebrated to spread awareness about the importance of whale sharks and their conservation.
- Started in 2008, at the International Whale Shark Conference in Isla Holbox, International Whale Shark Day has grown popular over the years.
- On the International Whale Shark Day, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is launching 'save the whale shark campaign' in Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep.
- The campaign aims to bring together marine fisher folks, village communities and students for conservation awareness on the whale shark.
- Additionally, a mobile app has also been developed to further the conservation efforts.
- Whale sharks are the largest shark species of fish on the planet.
- They usually prefer to swim in shallow depths and are known for their slow and gentle behavior. This makes them an easy prey to humans.

4. NASA counting down to lift-off of its giant new Moon rocket, Artemis I



- The American space agency, NASA is counting down to the lift-off of its giant new Moon rocket, the Space Launch System(SLS).
- According to media reports, the 32-story-tall, two-stage Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and its Orion crew capsule are timed to go up from the Kennedy Space Centre at 12:33 GMT today.
- SLS is the most powerful vehicle ever developed by NASA, and will be the foundation of its Artemis project which aims to put people back on the lunar surface after a 50-year absence.
- As per reports, this spacecraft will loop around the Moon on a big arc before returning home to a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean in six weeks' time.
- SLS will be pulling 39.1 mega newtons of thrust off the pad. It is 15 per cent more than the Saturn V rockets that sent the Apollo astronauts on their way to the Moon in the 1960s and 70s.

5. World's largest religious monument to open in West Bengal



- The largest religious monument in the world, the Temple of Vedic Planetarium in West Bengal, which will serve as the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), will also have the world's biggest dome.
- The Vedic Planetarium will offer guests a tour of the various parts of the cosmic creation.
- The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada's vision and is apparently inspired by the design of the Capitol building in the United States.
- Srila Prabhupada stated his preference for the temple's exterior style in July of 1976.
- The Temple of Vedic Planetarium is in West Bengal's Mayapur in the Nadia district and, once completed, it will be larger than the Taj Mahal and St. Paul's Cathedral in the Vatican.
- The temple will open in 2024, following a two-year delay brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- It will purportedly replace Cambodia's 400-acre-large Angkor Wat temple complex as the largest religious monument.

6. Leading economist Abhijit Sen passes away at 72 following a heart attack



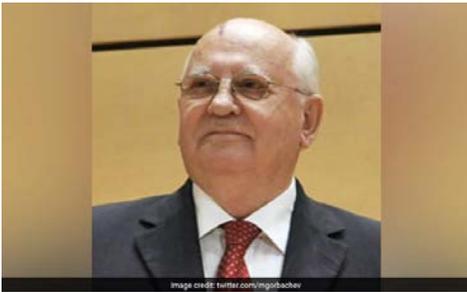
- Renowned economist and former Planning Commission member, Abhijit Sen has passed away at 72.
- He was a member of the Planning Commission from 2004 to 2014, during the tenure of PM Manmohan Singh.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for public service in 2010.
- In his career, he taught economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and hold several important government positions including the chair of the Commission of Agricultural Cost and Prices.
- Politicians, academics, his students, farmers' leaders and activists remember him for his contributions in areas such as minimum support price, rural economy and rural employment.

7. India's Forex Reserves At 2-Year Low



- The country's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$6.69 billion to \$564 billion for the week ended August 19, latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.
- The reserves are at its lowest level since October 2020.
- In the last two weeks, the foreign exchange reserves fell by almost 9 billion.
- According to data released by the RBI on Friday, the fall was mainly due to a decline in foreign currency assets, by \$5.8 billion, followed by gold reserves by \$704 million.
- Foreign exchange reserves hit an all-time high for the week ended September 3, 2021 when it hit \$642 billion – which was equivalent to covering more than 14 months of imports projected for 2021-22.
- In almost one year, reserves are down by \$78 billion. The current level of reserves can cover about 9 months of imports projected for 2022-23.

8. Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet Leader Who Ended Cold War, Dies At 91



- **Mikhail Gorbachev, who as the last leader of the Soviet Union waged a losing battle to salvage a crumbling empire but produced extraordinary reforms that led to the end of the Cold War, died. He was 91.**
- **The Central Clinical Hospital said in a statement that Gorbachev died after a long illness.**
- **No other details were given. Though in power less than seven years, Gorbachev unleashed a breathtaking series of changes.**
- **But they quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state, the freeing of Eastern European nations from Russian domination and the end of decades of East-West nuclear confrontation.**
- **His decline was humiliating. His power hopelessly sapped by an attempted coup against him in August 1991, he spent**

his last months in office watching republic after republic declare independence until he resigned on Dec. 25, 1991.

- The Soviet Union wrote itself into oblivion a day later. A quarter-century after the collapse, Gorbachev told The Associated Press that he had not considered using widespread force to try to keep the USSR together because he feared chaos in a nuclear country.

By Sameer Singhal

PLUTUS ACADEMY