

August - 19

## NATIONAL


### 10 percent ethanol blending

- ❖ India achieved the target to blend 10 per cent sugarcane-extracted ethanol in petrol ahead of schedule.
- ❖ The target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) was achieved in June.
- ❖ This is achieved ahead of the original schedule of November 2022.
- ❖ The government advanced the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025.

**Aiming for an eco boost**  
Oil industry experts have allayed fears over mixing ethanol with petrol and say it cannot damage engines

- Ethanol is a bio-fuel obtained primarily from sugarcane. Blending of ethanol with petrol reduces dependence on fossil fuel and helps the environment
- The government had set a target of 10% of ethanol per litre of petrol
- Ethanol is blended through a separate pumping and metering mechanism
- Once blended, ethanol cannot be separated from petrol

**Since ethanol can absorb moisture from the atmosphere, dealers say it can cause issues with vehicle engines**



### Operation Yatri Suraksha

- ❖ The Indian Railway Protection Force (RPF) have launched a pan-India operation known as Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- ❖ Under this initiative, several steps are taken to provide round-the-clock security to passengers.

- ❖ To kickstart this Operation, the RPF launched a month-long pan-India drive against criminals who loot passengers in July 2022.



### **Indian flag on sky**



- ❖ Space Kidz India unfurled the Indian flag about 30 kilometres above the planet on Independence Day.
- ❖ The flag was sent to an altitude of 1 lakh 6 thousand feet above the planet on a balloon that unfurled it.

- ❖ Space Kidz India is an organization creating 'young scientists for the country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.
- ❖ The organization recently launched a satellite into Low Earth Orbit.
- ❖ AzadiSAT was developed by 750 girl students from across India to mark the 75 years of Independence.

### **INS Satpura to 75 Lap**

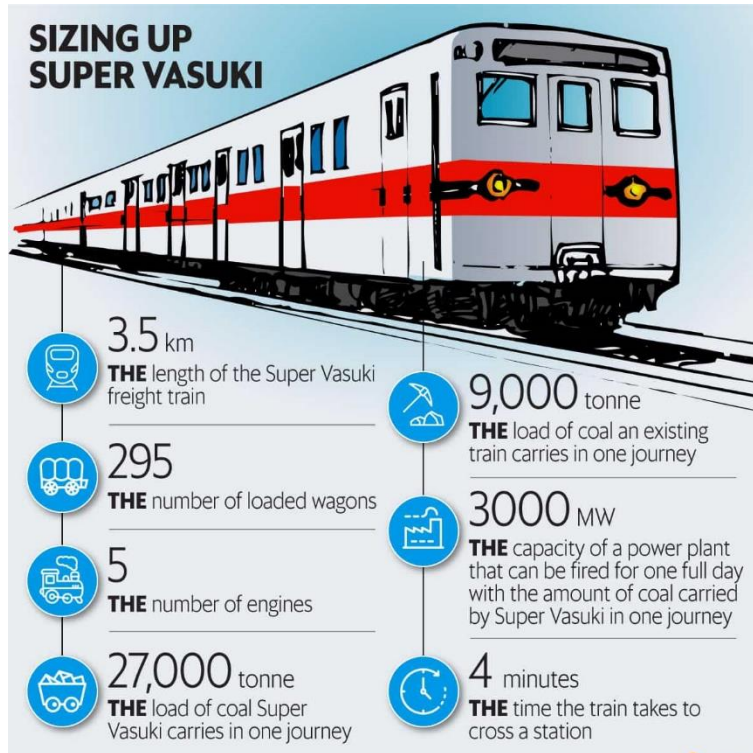
- ❖ Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura reached the North American Continent to celebrate the 75 years of Independence of India.
- ❖ The INS Satpura conducted a 75 Lap Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Run at the San Diego US Navy Base on the Independence Day of India.
- ❖ The arrival of INS Satpura to the San Diego US Navy Base is a historic event.
- ❖ It is the first time an Indian Naval Warship has reached the western coast of North America.



### **Super Vasuki freight train**

- ❖ The Indian Railways conducted a test run of the Super Vasuki freight train.
- ❖ It is touted to be India's longest and heaviest freight train, with 295 loaded wagons and 6 engines.

- ❖ The test run of the 3.5-km-long freight train was carrying more than 27,000 tonnes of coal.
- ❖ This test run was conducted by South East Central Railway between Korba in Chhattisgarh and Rajnandgaon near Nagpur.
- ❖ It was the longest and heaviest freight train ever run by the Indian Railways.



### India's Child mortality rate (CMR)

**INFANT MORTALITY RATE FROM 2009-2019**

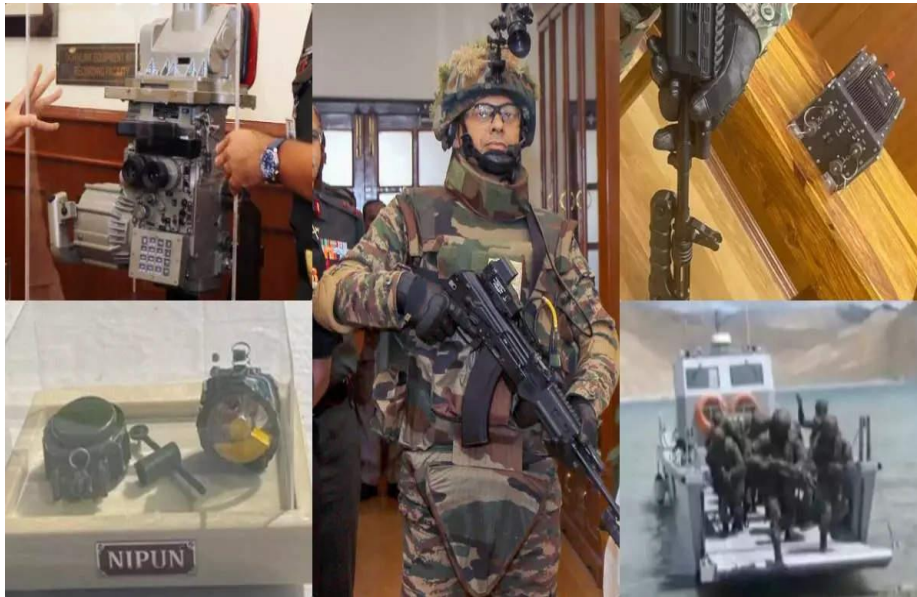
Year	Total	Male	Female
2009	59	58	61
2010	55	52	57
2011	52	50	53
2012	49	47	51
2013	47	45	49
2014	NA	NA	NA
2015	43	40	47
2016	41	39	44
2017	38	37	40
2018	37	37	38
2019	35	36	35

An illustration of a baby lying in a flower, with a large yellow female symbol (a circle with a cross) overlaid on the flower.

- ❖ India has taken rapid strides in reducing child mortality.
- ❖ The CMR in 2014 was 45 per 1,000 live births.

- ❖ But in 2019, this was reduced to 35 per 1,000 live births.
- ❖ The 'Paalan 1000' National Campaign and Parenting App is launched at the Early Childhood Development Conclave in Mumbai.
- ❖ 'Paalan 1000' focuses on the cognitive development of children in the first two years of their life.
- ❖ The app will provide practical advice to caregivers on what they can do in their everyday routine and will help clear doubts.
- ❖ The programme is aligned with the mission of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).
- ❖ RBSK emphasising responsive care and focused interventions during the first 1,000 days.

### **New Weapons and Weapon System**



- ❖ Defence Ministry handed over two new weapons – the Nipun mines, the Landing Craft Assault (LCA) and the F-INSAS system to the Army.

### **F-INSAS System**

- ❖ F-INSAS stands for Future Infantry Soldier As A System.
- ❖ It is an indigenously developed system that will help modernise the Indian Army units.
- ❖ The development of this system is aimed at improving the operational capabilities of the infantry units of the Indian Army.
- ❖ The F-INSAS system comprises firepower in the form of the AK-203 Assault Rifle.

- ❖ India will be producing the AK-203 as a part of the India-Russia joint venture.

#### ***Nipun Anti-Personnel Mines***

- ❖ These 'Nipun' mines will enhance the protection provided to the troops on the borders as it is more potent and effective than the existing ones.

#### ***Landing Craft Assault (LCA)***

- ❖ The new boats, Landing Craft Assault (LCA), equipped with advanced surveillance gadgets and other equipment.
- ❖ They are being deployed to keep a strict vigil over the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh
- ❖ This will be the replacement for boats for carrying personnel in battle operations.
- ❖ These lightweight assault carriers can carry up to 35 troops.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Approval of Omicron vaccine**



- ❖ Britain has become the first country to authorise a Covid-19 vaccine that targets the Omicron variant.
- ❖ The UK medicine regulator approved the 'bivalent' vaccine made by Moderna as a booster for adults.

- ❖ This vaccine triggered "a strong immune response" against both Omicron (BA.1) and the original 2020 virus.
- ❖ It also generates a good immune response against the currently dominant Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5.

## STATES

### Steel Slag Road in Arunachal Pradesh



- ❖ Border Roads Organization will build Steel Slag Road in Arunachal Pradesh on a pilot project basis.
- ❖ The Steel Slag Road will be a first-of-its-kind project.
- ❖ They will have the ability to withstand heavy rains and adverse climatic conditions.
- ❖ This construction is being done to explore possible solutions for building durable roads along strategic locations in treacherous areas.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Navroz festival






- ❖ Paris New Year is celebrated every year on August 16 by the Parsi Community.
- ❖ Parsi New Year is also called Navroz.
- ❖ It marks the first day of the Zoroastrian Calendar.
- ❖ It is celebrated by the Parsi families across India visiting the holy temples to offer prayers.

- ❖ The beginning of the Parsi New Year or Navroz is believed to date back around 35,000 years.
- ❖ This was the time when Prophet Zarathustra founded Zoroastrianism in Persia, Iran nowadays.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Forbes Cloud 100 List

Cloud 100							
The List							
<a href="#">Spreadsheet</a> <a href="#">Reprints</a> <a href="#">Logo Licensing</a> 							
<input type="text" value="Search by company name"/>							
Rank	Company	Category	HQ	Employee #	Funding	CEO	
 #1	Stripe	Economic infrastructure	Dublin, Ireland; San Francisco, California	8,000	\$2.2 B	Patrick Collison	
 #2	Databricks	Data and AI platform	San Francisco, California	4,000	\$3.5 B	Ali Ghodsi	
 #3	Canva	Visual communication platform	Sydney, Australia	3,100	\$560 M	Melanie Perkins	
 #49	Razorpay	Financial solutions software	Bangalore, India	2,300	\$742 M	Harshil Mathur	

- ❖ India's leading Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses, Razorpay has become the first Indian company to be named in the 2022 Forbes Cloud 100 List.
- ❖ Razorpay has entered the list for the second time.





- ❖ It is being listed at the 49<sup>th</sup> position for being a Financial Solutions Software.
- ❖ In the last year Razorpay was ranked in 57<sup>th</sup> place.
- ❖ The Cloud 100 list recognizes the outstanding companies in the technology category from small start-ups to private-equity-backed major companies.

