

### ❖ India's First Long-Range Revolver 'Prabal'

- The country's first long-range side swing revolver 'Prabal' with "twice the range of other revolvers" was launched for civilians and arms dealers.
- It is manufactured by the state-owned enterprise Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWEIL) based in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Prabal revolver boasts of a firing range of up to 50 metres and is a frontrunner in the field of long-range handguns.
- The unique feature of Prabal is the incorporation of a side swing out cylinder. This innovative design element eliminates the need to fold the firearm for cartridge insertion, simplifying the reloading process and enhancing user convenience.
- It weighs 700 grams (excluding cartridges), has a barrel length of 76 mm, and has an overall length of 177.6 mm.
- Its trigger pull is designed to be effortless, enabling a wide range of individuals, including women, to handle it confidently.

### ❖ World Photography Day

- World Photography Day is celebrated every year on August 19.
- This day commemorates the announcement of the daguerreotype process to the public on August 19, 1839, by the French Academy of Sciences.
- The daguerreotype process was one of the earliest methods of capturing permanent images on a light-sensitive surface.

➤ The French Academy of Sciences announced this process, and later in the same year, the French government purchased the patent for the invention and gave it as a gift, “free to the world.”

➤ World Photography Day highlights photography as a legitimate form of art, encouraging photographers to experiment with different techniques, compositions and styles.

➤ It encourages people to appreciate the power of photography in telling stories, capturing emotions and preserving memories.

### ❖ “Swaero” word makes its way to oxford dictionary

➤ The word Swaero, which was coined by Bahujan Samaj Party(BSP) President RS Praveen Kumar, stands for Social Welfare Aeros (sky) suggesting that sky is the limit for the people from marginalised background.

➤ The six-letter word SWAERO, which the marginalised communities in India’s Telangana started using as their last names, has now been officially recognised as a noun in the renowned Oxford English-English-Telugu dictionary.

➤ This word was coined in 2013 when former bureaucrat RS Praveen Kumar, took charge as the secretary of the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS).

➤ The letter SW in Swaero stands for ‘Social Welfare’ and Aeros for sky (in Greek), suggesting that sky is the limit, with the tagline “no reverse gears”.

➤ Swaero was an anti-caste movement and it started gaining popularity as people from marginalised groups in Telangana began resisting the conventional identities thrust upon them.

## ❖ DRDO's ex-chief Arunachalam dead

- V S Arunachalam, a prominent scientist and instrumental figure in India's nuclear program, has died at the age of 87.
- He is known for his leadership roles at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and played a crucial role in shaping India's defense capabilities.
- He witnessed the transformation of DRDO into a multi-mission organization, overseeing projects like the Light Combat Aircraft and Main Battle Tank Arjun.
- He was honoured with several renowned prizes including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (1980), Padma Bhushan(1985) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) for his contribution to engineering science and technology.

## ❖ 'Floodwatch' - Flood forecast app

- The Central Water Commission of India has introduced the 'FloodWatch' app, which is designed to forecast floods one day in advance and provide a seven-day advisory for flood risk at various measurement stations across the country.
- The app features a map of India with colour-coded circles representing flood risk levels:
  - \* Green for normal
  - \* Yellow for above normal
  - \* Orange for severe
  - \* Red for extreme
- The app also provides State-wise/basin-wide flood forecasts for up to 24 hours or flood advisories, up to seven days, that can be accessed by selecting specific stations.

➤ Clicking on a circle provides information about the current water level, the historical highest level, the danger level, and warnings in both written and audio formats in English and Hindi languages.

➤ The app utilizes satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.

### ❖ **Priya Malik claims gold for India**

➤ Indian wrestler Priya Malik secured a gold medal at the ongoing U20 World Wrestling Championships being held in Jordan.

➤ She became the second Indian woman ever to clinch a gold in the competition.

➤ Priya won the gold in the 76 kg category, defeating Germany's Laura Kuehn 5-0 in the gold medal bout.

➤ The achievement of this Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athlete has now given India two golds at the ongoing championships, which has only happened for the second time ever. The last time India did so was back in 2001.

➤ Also, Khelo India athlete Arju made India proud in the 68 kg category by defeating Turkey's Elif Kurt in the bronze medal bout.

➤ So far, India has won a total of seven medals with two gold, one silver, and four bronze medals.

### ❖ **Shivani clinches 2 gold medals**

➤ Telangana swimmer Shivani Karra clocked 1.15.87 seconds to clinch gold medal in the 100m backstroke event at the 38th sub-junior national aquatic championship at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Swimming Complex, Rajkot .

➤ This is her second gold medal and fourth overall medal in the tournament.

➤ Earlier, she clinched the gold in the 50m backstroke event with a timing of 34.93 seconds and a silver and bronze in the 100m butterfly event and 4x50m freestyle relay respectively.

### ❖ PM Modi to attend BRICS summit in South Africa

- The South African government confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the next BRICS Summit to be held here from August 22 in person.
- South Africa is preparing for the 15th edition of the summit and the leaders of Brazil, China, India and hosts South Africa will participate in a range of discussions.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin will participate virtually, due to an ICC warrant which would have obliged South Africa to arrest him if he came in person.
- The first BRIC summit took place in the year 2009 in Yekaterinburg (Russia).
- In 2010, South Africa formally joined the association making it BRICS.

### ❖ Antim and Savita clinch gold in world U-20 wrestling

- Antim Panghal scripted history as she became the first Indian to defend her U20 World Wrestling Championships title.
- She defeated Ukraine's Mariia Yefremova in the final by VPO (4-0) to clinch the gold medal.
- India's Reena clinched the bronze medal on Friday by defeating Shugyla Omirbek of Kazakhstan in the Bronze Medal match by VPO1 (9-4). The Indian youngster was defeated by Alina Filipovych in the 1/8 match by VFA (6-0).
- She entered the Repechage round and won against Sevval Cayir of Turkey by VSU (10-0). Notably, she also defeated Volha Hardzei to qualify for the Bronze Medal match.

## ❖ Meghalaya's Pineapple festival

- Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, inaugurated the Meghalaya Pineapple Fest – 2023 organized by the state government at the iconic Dilli Haat in New Delhi.
- The festival was a mark to celebrate Meghalaya's famed produce, the succulent Kew pineapples.
- This event marks a significant moment in Meghalaya's journey to showcase the essence of its the diversity of culture, innovation in agriculture and the unity that binds the people.

## ❖ SAMUDRA mobile app

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), a division of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has introduced a new mobile application called 'SAMUDRA' – Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories.
- This app offers comprehensive ocean-related information, benefiting seafarers and the fishing community.
- It provides real-time updates and critical alerts on oceanic disasters like tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, and swell surge alerts.
- It features interactive maps, charts, and animations to explain complex oceanic phenomena.
- The app is particularly valuable for fishermen as it offers Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, guiding them to potential fish aggregation locations.
- The app also serves various public and private entities like the Indian Coast Guard, the Navy, and shipping industries.
- The app aligns with INCOIS's mission to serve the nation with ocean data and advisory services, contributing to sustainable ocean activities and the Blue Economy.

### ❖ Incois to host 'OSICON 23'

- The 8th biennial National Conference of the Ocean Society of India - 2023 (OSICON-23) is scheduled to be held during 23-25 August 2023.
- It will be hosted by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.
- The theme of OSICON-23 is 'Operational Oceanography: Science to Society'.
- This theme emphasizes the importance of translating operational oceanography research into practical applications that benefit the society.
- This event brings together scientists, engineers, policymakers, and other stakeholders from around the country to discuss the latest research and developments in Operational Oceanography.

### ❖ Indian Railways to start international train services between India and Bhutan

- Indian Railways is set to start international train services between India and Bhutan.
- The train between the neighboring countries will be operated from Kokrajar (Assam) in India and Bhutan's Gelephu.
- The construction work of this 57-km railway link is expected to be completed by 2026 and will be funded by the Indian government.
- The railway link between India and Bhutan is aimed at aiding tourism between the two nations while also improving bilateral relations.
- The train on this route will be operated by the Northeastern Frontier (NF) Railways.