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20 LATEST INTERNATIONAL NEWS ASKED IN SSB INTERVIEW AUGUST 2022

China Protest Pelosi's Visit To Taiwan

- China Summoned The US Ambassador To China **Nicholas Burns** To Protest **US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's High-profile Visit To Taipei**, Warning That Washington Will **"Pay A Price"** For Its **"Mistakes"** And Asking It To Stop Using The Taiwan Issue To Contain China In Any Form.



Curtains Come Down On 22nd Commonwealth Games

- A **Glittering Closing Ceremony** At The **Alexander Stadium In Birmingham**. The Action-packed Edition Games Concluded Following **Eleven Days Of Sporting Activities** In Which More Than **5,000 Athletes From 72 Nations And Territories** Competed.
- The Indian Contingent Was Led By **Boxer Nikhat Zareen** And **Table Tennis Player Achanta Sharath Kamal** With The **Indian Flag** At The Closing Ceremony. Handed Over To The **State Of Victoria In Australia** Which Will Be Hosting The **Next Edition Of The Games In 2026**.
- At Commonwealth Games 2022, **India Finished Fourth** In The **Overall Medals Tally** With A Total Of **61 Medals Including 22 Gold, 16 Silver, And 23 Bronze**. India Gave A Commendable Performance At The Games, Winning **Unexpected Medals In Sports Like Lawn Bowls, Judo, And Athletics**.



Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Australia	67	57	54	178
England	57	66	53	176
Canada	26	32	34	92
India	22	16	23	61
New Zealand	20	12	17	49

India Calls Unified Response To International Terrorism

- India Has Called For A **United, Coordinated And Unified Response** To International Terrorism. At The UNSC Session On '**Threats To International Peace And Security Caused By Terrorist Acts**', India's Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj Said That Terrorist Threats Are On The Rise Globally. She Stated That There Should Be **No Double Standards** In Dealing With Terrorists.



Serena Williams Announces Retirement

- American Tennis Legend Serena Williams, The **Winner Of 23 Grand Slam Titles**, Has Announced That She Will Retire From Professional Tennis. In An Article For **Vogue Magazine**. The **US Open** Starts On The 29th Of August. It Would Be Her Last Tournament.
- Serena Williams First Major Title Was The **1999 US Open** When She Was 17. She Won Her Last Slam Title At The **2017 Australian Open** When She Was Eight Weeks Pregnant With Daughter Olympia.



Commission For World Peace

- **Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez** Has Proposed A **3 Men Commission** Comprising Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, UN Secretary-general **Antonio Guterres**, And **Pope Francis** For Global Peace.
- The Mexican President Is Planning To Submit A **Written Proposal To The UN** To Create The Commission, Made Up Of Three World Leaders, Including PM Modi, To **Promote A World Truce For A Period Of Five Years**.
- The Mexican President Said, The **Aim Of The Commission** Is To Present A **Proposal To Stop The Wars Around The World** And Reach An Agreement To **Seek A Truce For At Least Five Years**.

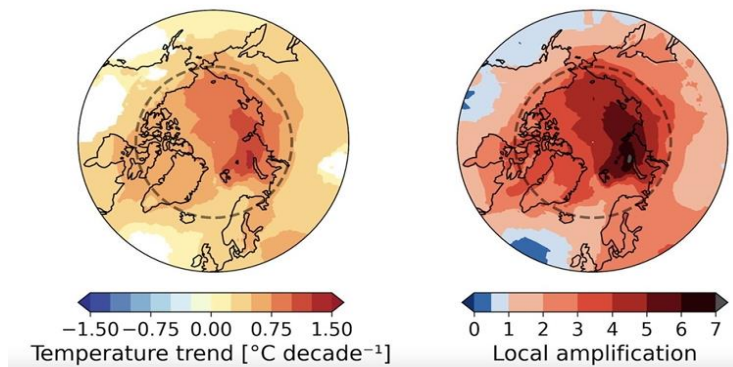


Arctic Warming 4 Times Faster Than Rest Of The Planet

- Over The **Last 40 Years**, Much Faster Than The Previous Estimates By The **UN Climate Science Panel** In 2019. Researchers From The **Finnish Meteorological Institute** Found In A Study That The Pace Of The Temperature Increase Around

The North Pole In Recent Decades Was **Four Times Higher** Than The Rest Of The Planet.

- Presenting Their Analysis Of **Post-1979 Temperatures In The Arctic**, The Result Is Faster **Melting Of The Greenland Ice Sheet**, Which Leads To Greater Sea-level Rise. But It Also Affects Atmospheric Circulation In North America And Elsewhere, With Impacts On Weather Like **Extreme Rainfall And Heat Waves**.



Lisbon Triennale Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Bangladeshi Architect Marina Tabassum** Became The First Person From The **Global South** And The **First South Asian** To Win It. Her Unique Practice Touches On The **Spiritual Fundamentals Of Architecture**. She Will Receive The Award On **29 September** In **Lisbon, Portugal**.



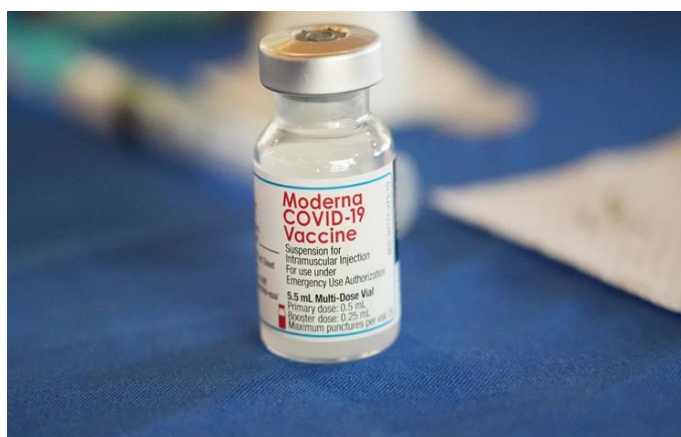
Salman Rushdie Attacked

- The Attack On Rushdie Comes More Than **30 Years** After Iranian Leader **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini**, Issued A **Fatwa**, Calling For Rushdie's Death Over His Book '**The Satanic Verses**'. The Book Has Been **Banned In Iran Since 1988**, As Many Muslims Consider It To Be Blasphemous.



UK Becomes 1st Country To Approve Omicron Vaccine

- The UK Has Become The First Country To Authorize A **Covid-19 Vaccine Tailored To The Omicron Variant**. The Move Will Pave The Way For An **Autumn Booster Campaign** Using Moderna's Two-strain Shot.
- The **Medicines And Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority** - Which Was The First In The World To Approve An Original Covid-19 Jab - Has Granted Conditional Authorization To The Vaccine, Which Targets Both The Original Strain Of The Virus And Omicron Ba.1.
- The Vaccine Is Authorized For Use In People **Aged 18 And Over** But, To Prepare For An Expected Rise In Cases Over The Winter, The UK Plans To Focus Its Booster Program On The Over-fifties And Those At Higher Clinical **Risk Of Developing Severe Covid**.



India Contributes To Voluntary Trust Funds For UNHR

- India Has Contributed **4 Lakh US Dollars** To **Four Voluntary Trust Funds** As Part Of Its Commitment To **Global Promotion And Protection Of Human Rights** And Support For United Nations Human Rights.
- **The Voluntary Fund For Victims Of Torture**

- The Voluntary Fund For Technical Cooperation
- The Voluntary Fund For Financial And Technical Assistance For The Implementation Of Universal Periodic Review
- The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund To Support The Participation Of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) And Small Island Developing States (SIDs) In The Work Of The Council.



IMF Team To Visit Colombo

- To Continue Discussions With The Sri Lankan Authorities On **Economic And Financial Reforms**. To Make Progress Toward Reaching An Agreement On A **Prospective IMF Extended Fund Facility (Eff) Arrangement** In The Near Term. It Said Sri Lanka's **Public Debt Is Assessed As Unsustainable**.
- It Said Approval By The IMF Executive Board Of The EFF Program Would Require Adequate Assurances By **Sri Lanka's Creditors** That Debt Sustainability Will Be Restored. The Island Nation Defaulted On Its **51 Billion Dollars Foreign Debt** In April This Year.



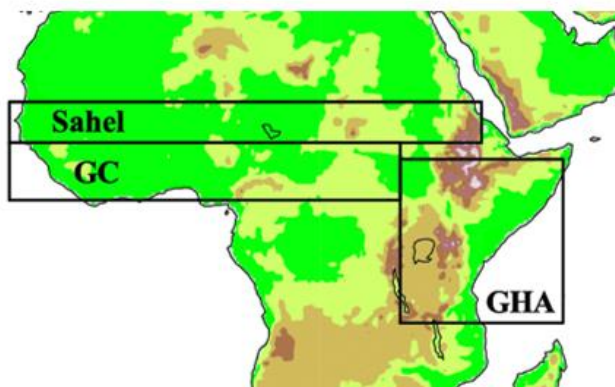
Greece Exits EU's 'Enhanced Surveillance' Framework

- It Ends 12 Years Of Pain And Allows The Country **Greater Freedom In Policymaking**. Greece Was Hit With Waves Of Pension Cuts, Spending Constraints, Tax Increases, And Bank Controls After It Was Forced To Seek Its First Bailout In 2010. The **Economy Shrank 25%** During The Bailouts.
- **Greek Economic Developments And Policy** Have Been Monitored Under The Framework Since 2018, After Athens Exited Three International Bailouts, Totaling More Than 260 Billion Euros, From The European Union And The IMF Between 2010 And 2015.



UNICEF: Warns Children In Horn Of Africa And Sahel

- **Drought And Conflict** In Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, And Nigeria Were **Driving Up Water Insecurity**, Resulting In **40 Million Children** Facing **High To Extremely High Levels Of Water Vulnerability**. About **2.8 Million Children** In These Regions Are Already Suffering From **Severe Acute Malnutrition**.
- Around **2\3rd Of Children** Affected Are Under The **Age Of 5 Years**. Also Said That As Natural Water Sources Dried Up, The Knock-on Effect Was Significant **Increases** In The **Price Of Water**. WMO Said That **Climate Change** And Extreme Weather Events Have **Increased Natural Disasters** Over The Past **50 Years**.



Sri Lanka Ranks 5th With Highest Food Price Inflation

- **Sri Lanka** Ranked 5th Among The 10 Countries With The Highest Food Price Inflation As Per The Latest **World Bank Assessment**. **Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, And Turkey** Ranked First In The Four Countries.
- Record **High Food Prices** Have **Triggered A Global Crisis** That Will Drive Millions More Into **Extreme Poverty, Hunger, And Malnutrition**. Rising Food Prices Have A Greater Impact On **People In Low And Middle-Income Countries** Since They Spend A **Larger Share Of Their Income On Food**.



5th Anniversary Of The Forced Exodus Of Rohingyas

- **25 August 2017:** The UNHCR Has Called For Redoubled Political Dialogue And Diplomatic Engagement To Create Conditions For Voluntary, Safe, Dignified And Sustainable **Return Of Rohingya To Their Homeland In Myanmar**.
- For Almost **One Million Rohingya Refugees'** Conditions In **Bangladesh Are Extremely Overcrowded**. With Decreased Funding, They Face Many Challenges In Their Daily Lives Like Lack Of **Proper Nutrition, Shelter, Sanitation Facilities, And Livelihood Opportunities**.
- The **2022 Response Plan** Which Seeks Over **USD 881 Million** For More Than **1.4 Million** People Including Rohingya Refugees And More Than Half A Million Most Affected Host Communities Is Only **49 Percent Funded With USD 426 Million** Received, According To UNHCR.



Taiwan Govt Proposes To Spend More In Defence

- Proposed More Than **19 Billion Dollars** In Defence Spending For Next Year. It Sets A **13.9% Year-on-year Increase** To A Record **19.41 Billion Dollars**. It Includes Funds For **New Fighter Jets**, Weeks After **China** Staged Large-scale **War Games** Around The Island.
- It Must Be **Approved By Parliament**, Which Marks The **Island's Sixth Consecutive Year Of Growth In Defence Spending Since 2017**. China Carried Out Its Largest-ever Military Exercises Around Taiwan After A Visit By U.S. **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi**.



Dr. K Subramanian Gets Key Posting At IMF

- The **Appointments Committee Of The Cabinet** Has Approved The Appointment Of Former Chief Economic Advisor Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian To The Post Of **Executive Director (India) At The International Monetary Fund**.
- He Has Been Appointed To This Post For A **Period Of 3 Years** From The **1st Of November 2022**. He Will Succeed **Eminent Economist Dr. Surjit Bhalla** Who Was Appointed As The **Executive Director For India On The Board Of The International Monetary Fund In 2019**.



Pakistan Govt Declares National Emergency

- Declared A National Emergency In Wake Of The **Rain-induced Floods** Which Have So Far **Killed 937 People And Left At Least 30 Million Without Shelter**. The Pakistani Government Called **The Incessant Monsoon Rains A Climate-induced Humanitarian Crisis Of Epic Proportions**.
- The Abnormal Increase In Rainfall Has Generated Flash Floods Across The Country, Particularly In The **Southern Part Of Pakistan**. Pakistan's **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** Said The Country Received **166.8mm Of Rain In August**, As Compared To The **Average Of 48mm**.
- The Rains And Floods Had So Far Killed **937 People, Including 343 Children**. Sindh Province Reported The **Highest Number Of Deaths As 306 People Lost Their Lives Due To Floods And Rain-related Incidents**.



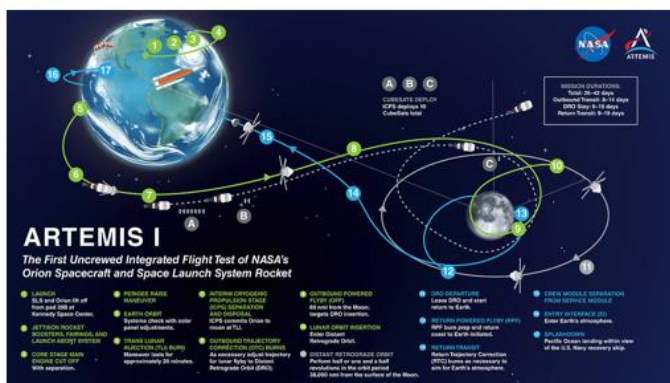
Russia Blocks Joint Declaration Nuclear Disarmament

- **Russia** Blocked The Adoption Of A Joint Declaration By A **UN Conference On Nuclear Disarmament**. The **Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty**, Which Is Reviewed By Its 191 Signatories Every Five Years, Aims To Prevent The Spread Of Nuclear Weapons.
- Russia Objected To A Draft Text Citing Grave Concern Over Military Activities Around **Ukraine's Nuclear Plants, Zaporizhzhia**. Participants In The Last Review In 2015 Also Failed To Reach An Agreement. The 2022 Meeting, Which Had Been Due In 2020, Was **Delayed Because Of The Covid-19 Pandemic**.



NASA Postpones Launch Of Artemis 1

- **NASA Has Postponed The Launch Of The Artemis 1 Mission To The Moon Due To A Malfunctioning Core Stage Engine.** Its Colossal Next-generation Rocketship Was A Planned **Six-week Uncrewed Voyage Around The Moon And Back, 50 Years After Apollo's Last Lunar Mission.**
- NASA Did Not Give A New Launch Date But Said Its First Available Backup Launch Opportunity Was Set For **Friday, 2nd Of September.** Tens Of Thousands Of People, Including **US Vice President Kamala Harris** - Had Gathered Along The Beach Near The Kennedy Space Center In Florida To Watch The Launch.
- The Goal Of The Flight, Is To Test The **SLS And The Orion Crew Capsule** That Sits Atop The Rocket. Orion Was Due To Carry A **Simulated Crew Of Three - One Male And Two Female Mannequins** - Fitted With Sensors To Measure Radiation Levels And Other Stresses That **Real-life Astronauts Would Experience.**



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