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## 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### 1) COVID variant Eris or EG.5.1

- A new COVID variant Eris or EG.5.1 is rapidly spreading across the country United Kingdom. Startlingly, one out of every seven COVID-19 cases in the UK is now linked to this variant.
- The spread of Eris is not limited only to UK but also across Europe, Asia and North America, marking its impact globally.

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### 1) BharatNet project

- The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the BharatNet project.
- This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore. Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming two and a half years.
- The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the BharatNet project.

#### 2) James Webb Space Telescope

- Astronomers used the James Webb Space Telescope to capture this striking new image of Messier 57, more popularly known as the Ring Nebula.
- The nebula in the image is actually the glowing remains of a sun-like star and at its centre is the star's hot core, which is called a white dwarf.
- The Ring Nebula, a stunning cosmic jewel, represents the final stages of a star's life and provides essential insights into stellar evolution.
- Its colorful and distinct appearance makes it a favorite target for amateur astronomers, while professional observatories offer detailed views of its intricate structure.
- As one of the most iconic planetary nebulae in the night sky, the Ring Nebula continues to fascinate both scientists and stargazers alike, enriching our understanding of the cosmos.



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### 3) IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company

- In a move to provide enhanced financial security and stable income to its policyholders, IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company has recently launched a groundbreaking insurance product – the Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan.
- This non-linked and non-participating insurance plan is designed to offer regular, long-term income to policyholders to ensure a prosperous and worry-free future.

### STATE NEWS

#### 1) Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud

- Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud has announced the formation of an all-women panel to help bring healing and relief to the violence-stricken region in Manipur.
- The panel will consist of three former High Court judges, with Justice Gita Mittal as its head.
- The panel aims to provide healing touch to the situation in Manipur.

### BANKING NEWS

#### 1) Public sector banks (PSBs)

- The public sector banks (PSBs) have registered an impressive profit of over Rs 34,774 crore in the first quarter of June 2023 showcasing a substantial increase that more than doubles their previous earnings.
- As per the quarterly data published by public sector banks, the collective profit reported by the 12 state-owned banks amounted to Rs 15,306 crore, during the corresponding April-June period in the prior fiscal year.

### APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

#### 1) Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer

- Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down.
- He was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major after Kirkhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post.



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- Mr Kirkhorn’s 13-year tenure with the Elon Musk-led American EV giant was described as one of “tremendous expansion and growth” in the company filing.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### 1) Nagasaki Day, observed annually on August 9th

- Nagasaki Day, observed annually on August 9th, holds a somber significance in global history.
- It marks the day when the Japanese city of Nagasaki was devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II.
- This day serves as a reminder of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and the need for lasting peace.

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