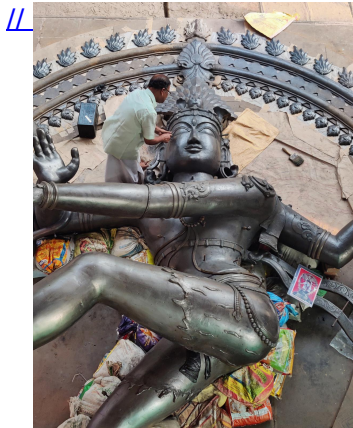




Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Nataraja Statue Headed to G20 Summit Venue in Delhi



A towering 28-foot Nataraja bronze sculpture, believed to be the world's tallest, is en route to the [G20 summit](#) venue in New Delhi, adding a cultural touch to the event.

- The Nataraja statue, weighing 19 tonnes, is composed of eight metals, including **gold, silver, lead, copper, tin, mercury, iron, and zinc (Ashtadhatu)**. It hails from Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu. The statue **represents Lord Shiva (Nataraja) dancing**.
- Swamimalai is believed to be **one of the six holy abodes of Lord Murugan**, known as the **Padai Veedugal (Battle Camps) of Lord Murugan**. It is also renowned for its **Swamimalai Bronze Icons (Logo)**, which holds a [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#).
- Nataraja statue crafted using the 'lost-wax' casting method, **it follows the Chola tradition, with molten bronze poured into clay molds**.
- Chola bronzes hold an esteemed place in the art world for their unique beauty and craftsmanship.

Read more: [India to host G20 Summit in 2023](#)

Echolocation

- Echolocation is a technique used by animals and devices to understand their **surroundings**. **Emitting high-frequency sound pulses, they listen for echoes to gauge distances and locate objects.**
 - Echolocation is a technique used by **bats, dolphins and other animals to determine the location of objects using reflected sound.**
 - This allows the animals to **navigate, hunt, recognize allies and adversaries, and steer clear of obstacles even in complete darkness.**
- Inspired by nature's echolocation, humans developed **sonar (sound navigation and ranging) and radar (radio detection and ranging) technologies.**
 - Sonar is widely used for underwater navigation and communication, while radar finds applications in **aviation, weather forecasting, and military operations.**
- More recently, engineers have used echolocation to develop **smartphone apps that can create**

a map of a room to help people with visual impairments navigate their environs better.

Durand Cup 2023

- The Durand Football Tournament was started at Shimla in 1888 by **Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, who was the Foreign Secretary to the Govt of India.**
 - Durand is the **third oldest football tournament in the world and the oldest in Asia and India.**
 - The ongoing **132nd edition (3rd August to 3rd September 2023)** is organized by India's **Armed Forces.**
 - The tournament format comprises two stages: **the group stage and the knockout rounds.**
 - The Durand Cup tournament is unique wherein the **winning team walks away with three trophies**, i.e. the **Durand Cup (a rolling trophy and the original prize)**, the **Shimla Trophy (also a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904)** and the **President's Cup (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).**
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IAF Joins Ex BRIGHT STAR-23

An **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent is participating in **Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a multilateral, tri-service exercise hosted biennially at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt.**

- It marks the **IAF's debut in Ex BRIGHT STAR-23**, this multinational event features participation from the **United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar.**
 - Beyond the exercise's primary objective of refining joint operation planning and execution, the **event fosters international bonds and bolsters strategic relations among participating nations.**
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Neeraj Chopra Clinches Gold in World Athletics Championships 2023

Indian athlete **Neeraj Chopra** has once again etched his name in history, seizing the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the **2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.** He achieved a remarkable throw of **88.17m.**

- Before his recent victory in Budapest, Neeraj Chopra had already claimed the distinction of being the first Indian track and field athlete to clinch **gold at the Olympics (Tokyo 2020), secure the Diamond League title (2022), and conquer the junior world championships (2016).**
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Significant Declarations: Shiv Shakti, Tiranga, and National Space Day

Recently, **Indian Prime Minister** offered his felicitations to the ISRO scientists for their remarkable achievement of **Chandrayaan-3** and announced that **August 23 would be commemorated as the 'National Space Day' in India.**

- Also, the touchdown site of **Vikram Lander** has been named as **'Shiv Shakti'** and the crash site of Chandrayaan-2's lander in 2019 as **'Tiranga'.**

Read more: [Chandrayaan-3](#)