

Weekly Current Affairs PDF April 02 to April 08, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- April 08, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

China Begins 3-Day Military Drills In Retaliation To Taiwan President's Meet With US House Speaker

The People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s Eastern Theatre Command announced that China will hold three days of military exercises around Taiwan from Saturday. Taiwan's defence ministry said that it detected 42 Chinese aircraft and eight warships around the island. The drills began on Saturday after Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen returned from a trip to the United States.

China will hold "combat readiness patrols" and exercises around the Taiwan Strait and to the north, south, and east of Taiwan "as planned", the PLA announced in a brief statement without offering other details, as quoted by news agency Reuters.

According to CNN's report, the Eastern Theater Command called the drills "a serious warning against the Taiwan separatist forces' collusion with external forces, and a necessary move to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The exercises, dubbed "United Sharp Sword," would feature "combat-ready patrols and exercises in and around the Taiwan Strait, and to the north, south and east of Taiwan and the sea and airspace as planned," Senior Colonel Shi Yi of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Eastern Theater Command said in a statement, as quoted by the report.

The drills would focus on China's "capabilities to seize control of sea, air, and information under the support of our joint combat system," as per the PLA.

North Korea Tests Second Underwater Nuclear Drone In Two Weeks

North Korea has tested another underwater nuclear drone in a recent demonstration of its military power and show of strength. This comes just around two weeks after North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles on March 27 in its flurry of weapons tests, said South Korea's military. North Korea conducted a test of the nuclear-capable unmanned underwater weapon Haeil-1 from April 4 to April 7, reported news agency Reuters. It said the drones cruised 1,000 km for about 71 hours and hit the target.

North Korea had fired two short-range ballistic missiles on March 27 in its flurry of weapons tests, said South Korea's military. The launch was conducted after reports surfaced that Seoul and Washington were involved in a joint amphibious landing exercise. This took place just days after the completion of their largest joint military drills in over five years.

NATIONAL

Indian Rafale to participate in French Military exercise with NATO

In a first, Indian Rafale combat aircraft are likely to participate in a multinational wargame codenamed Orion which is being hosted by France involving many of its NATO and other important allies.

The aircraft likely to take part in the exercise are likely to be from the Western Air Command of the force which has the Golden Arrows squadron as part of it, they said. The exercise is taking place in France with the Russia-Ukraine war in the backdrop where NATO led by US is opposing the Russian moves against Ukraine. The Rafales of the IAF have earlier participated in wargames with foreign countries which took place within India including the ones with French Air Force in Jodhpur codenamed Desert Knight. The French Air Force would be taking part in the wargames with its NATO and other allies with their Rafale and Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft.

PM Modi Inaugurates New Integrated Terminal Building Of Chennai Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated a series of new projects in the aviation and railway sectors. The PM inaugurated the state-of-the-art integrated terminal building set up at a total outlay of Rs 2,437 crore at the Chennai airport. After the inauguration, PM Modi inspected the arrangements made in the airport. PM Modi and CM Stalin also shared warm gestures during the inauguration. The PM was accompanied by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Minister of State L Murugan. Tamil Nadu CM Stalin was also present at the event. The new terminal, equipped with 108 immigration counters, is spread across 2.20 lakh sq metres and would cater to the growing air traffic in Tamil Nadu. "With the annual passenger handling capacity of 35 million passengers, the modern facility at the Chennai Airport will improve air travel experiences for all," the Ministry of Civil Aviation said. Prior to the visit, the state witnessed protests by Congress against PM Modi visiting the city. The Congress members held black flags and said slogans like 'Go Back Modi' at Valluvar Kottam in Chennai. The PM also flagged off the special Vande Bharat Express between Chennai and Coimbatore, the first such service connecting two Tamil Nadu cities.

PM Narendra Modi In Telangana Flags Off Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off the Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express in Telangana where he is also set to lay the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 11,300 crore. PM Modi also participated in a public meeting at Parade Ground before heading to Tamil Nadu. The Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express, connecting Hyderabad with the abode of Lord Venkateswara, is the second Vande Bharat train to be started from Telangana within a short span of three months. According to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the train will reduce the travel time between the two cities by almost three and a half hours and will be particularly beneficial for pilgrim passengers. As One can reach Tirupathi from Hyderabad in about 8 hour 30 minutes by this train, "The redevelopment of the Secunderabad Railway Station, to be done at a cost of Rs. 720 crore, is being planned such that it will undergo a massive makeover with world-class amenities and aesthetically designed iconic station building. The redeveloped station would be having double-level spacious roof plaza with all passenger amenities in one place along

with multi-modal connectivity for providing seamless transfer of passengers from rail to other modes among others," the PMO statement mentioned.

PM Modi Flags Off Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 13th Vande Bharat Express train which will operate between Chennai and Coimbatore at Chennai MGR Central Railway Station on Saturday. The newly-inaugurated Vande Bharat Express will operate between the two cities on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The express train is likely to cover the distance in 5.50 hours which is 1.20 hours faster than the normal train. The train will operate at a speed of 130 Kmph.

The PM was accompanied by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Governor RN Ravi.

President Droupadi Murmu Takes Sortie On IAF's Sukhoi 30 MKI Fighter Aircraft In Assam

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday took a sortie on the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft in Assam. She arrived at Tezpur Air Force Station and was accorded Guard of Honour on her arrival.

On Friday, she inaugurated the 'Gaj Utsav 2023' at the Kaziranga National Park to mark 30 years of Project Elephant. After the inauguration, the President witnessed cultural performances Bhortal, Jhumur and Bihu dance forms conducted by Assamese artists at Kohora. President Murmu also interacted with the people of Assam on the sidelines of the event.

About the Aircraft - The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twinjet multirole air superiority fighter developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under licence by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the Indian Air Force. A variant of the Sukhoi Su-30, it is a heavy, all-weather, long-range fighter.

PM participates in 125th Anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Math

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 125th Anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna Math at Vivekananda House in Chennai, Tamil Nadu today. Upon arriving at the venue, the Prime Minister paid floral tributes and performed puja and meditation in Swami Vivekanand's room. The Prime Minister also released a book on Holy Trio on the occasion.

Started in Chennai in 1897 by Swami Ramakrishnananda, the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are spiritual organizations engaged in various forms of humanitarian and social service activities.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed happiness to be present on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Ramakrishna Math's service in Chennai and said that he deeply respects Ramakrishna Math in his life. Expressing his affection and love for Tamilians, the Tamil language, the Tamil culture and the vibe of Chennai, the Prime Minister mentioned visiting Swami Vivekanand's house in Chennai where he stayed after returning from his trip in the West. He remarked that meditating in this house was a very special experience for him and he now feels inspired and energized. The Prime Minister expressed happiness about the outreach of ancient ideas to younger generations through technology.

KSINC launches solar-powered tourist vessel

Sooryamshu, a double-decked solar tourist boat from the stable of the Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC).

The ₹3.95-crore vessel that can carry up to 100 passengers was built at a yard in Sri Lanka and is among the few in Kochi whose safety and allied features are certified by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). It has a diesel generator to provide backup in case need arises. There is an air-conditioned conference hall-cum-DJ floor in the lower deck and a cafeteria-cum-dining area in the upper deck. There is also a lift to help differently abled and aged people to reach the upper deck and back,

KSINC plans to use the Sooryamshu for two tour packages. The first one, named the Kadamakkudy package, will offer tourists sightseeing and kayaking for Rs. 799.

Kadamakkudy is a group of 14 islands situated within 10 kilometers of Kochi city. The second package will take tourists to the Matsyafed farm in the Ernakulam district, where they can enjoy kayaking, paddling, fishing, and savoring exclusive seafood offered by the farm.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Anshuman Singhania and Arnab Banerjee are new ATMA office bearers

Anshuman Singhania, Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd has been elected as the new Chairman of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), the national industry body for the automotive tyre sector in India. Arnab Banerjee, Managing Director & CEO of CEAT Ltd, takes over as Vice-Chairman of ATMA.

Singhania, the new ATMA Chairman, is a graduate from Oxford Brookes University, UK and an alumnus of London Business School. He has held several positions in Planning, Production, Product Development, Quality Control, Stores and Purchase, Finance as well as Sales and Marketing. Being a tech-savvy person, he has played a key role in implementing the latest technologies in the manufacturing process at JK Tyre.

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NATIONAL

TVS SCS wins UK defence ministry contract for supplying Land Rover spares

TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS), an integrated supply chain solutions provider, on Thursday announced it has won a UK government contract for providing spares and accessories for the Land Rover Wolf, a military vehicle.

The contract is from the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD), acting through its agent, Babcock Land Defence. This two-plus one-year agreement will see TVS SCS use its accredited inventory management, procurement and supply chain expertise to ensure the optimum availability of spares for the legacy vehicle platform.

The Land Rover Wolf fleet has been in service with the UK defence ministry since the mid-1990s. TVS SCS, along with the post design services contractor, will support the availability and upkeep of the platform.

"This business win is a testament to TVS SCS' strong position in providing supply chain capability to support several of the UK MOD's vehicle platforms. We continue to thrive on

our expertise and believe in the power of adding value to our customers in every possible way,” said Ravi Viswanathan, managing director at TVS Supply Chain Solutions.

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates Gaj Utsav at Kaziranga in Assam

President Droupadi Murmu said that human society will be benefited through elephant conservation and it would also help in addressing the climate change issue.

Inaugurating the Gaj Utsav -2023 at the Kaziranga national park, President Murmu said that elephant doesn't hurt anyone without any reason. She said that the onus is with the human to solve the man-elephant conflict.

Lauding the Oscar-winning documentary Elephant Whisperers, she said that the documentary has perfectly portrait the love for nature. She mentioned that elephant is the symbol of progress in our country and it is the duty of our countryman to protect them. Stating that like human elephant also loves to stay together as a family, she urged forest officials and concerned departments to take the needful step to reunite wild elephants if someone went missing from their family.

Andaman & Nicobar Command Conducts Joint Military Drill KAVACH

The Andaman and Nicobar Command conducted joint military exercises 'KAVACH' involving assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

The joint forces carried out multi-domain exercises including amphibious landing, air-landed operations, heliborne operations and rapid insertion of Special Forces. It showcased a coordinated approach to surveillance, networked and synergized operations, aimed at achieving greater interoperability

The exercises had included multi-faceted maritime operations by synergised employment of amphibious assault ships, surveillance platforms, execution of maritime air strikes and complex manoeuvres at sea.

In 2021, a similar large-scale joint-services amphibious exercise AMPHEX – 21 was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands between January 21 and 25 and Ex KAVACH formed a part of it.

OBITURY

Jharkhand Education Minister Jagannath Mahto Passes away at 56

Jharkhand minister Jagannath Mahto died on Thursday at a hospital in Chennai where he was undergoing treatment, a senior doctor of the health facility said. He was 56.

Jagannath Mahto was an Indian politician and cabinet minister from Jharkhand. He represented the Dumri. Vidhan Sabha constituency as a Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

MLA Mahto died from complications of a lung transplant on 6 April 2023,

Mr Mahto, the four-time JMM MLA from Dumri in Giridih district, was taken to Chennai in October 2020, where he had undergone the transplant as his lungs were damaged due to the COVID-19 infection, a health department official said

The minister had returned to Ranchi after eight months in June 2021,

The Jharkhand government declared mourning for two days from April 6 in honour of Mr Mahto, during which no official ceremony would be held.

According to a state government notification, the cabinet meeting scheduled this evening was cancelled.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Kalikesh Singh Deo takes charge as NRAI president

The Governing Body of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) unanimously approved the handing over of charge of the sporting body to Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo on Thursday, after president Raninder Singh went on a long leave of absence.

Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, who held the position of Senior Vice-President, took over as the President of the National Rifle Association of India NRAI

The move is in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules and Regulations of the NRAI constitution.

Kalikesh Singh Deo, 48, is a member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and a former Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Bolangir. He completed his school at Dehradun's Doon School and graduated from St Stephens College in New Delhi. He was serving as the senior vice-president of the federation since getting elected to the post on 18 September, 2021.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Health Day

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year to raise awareness about global health issues and to promote healthy living. The day was first celebrated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1950, to mark the organization's founding, which took place on April 7, 1948

The World Health Organization will observe its 75th birthday - WHO's 75th anniversary year is an opportunity to look back at public health successes that have improved quality of life during the last seven decades. It is also an opportunity to motivate action to tackle the health challenges of today and tomorrow.

The main objective of World Health Day is to promote awareness and action on a specific health theme that is of concern to people worldwide. Over the years, World Health Day has highlighted a range of issues, including mental health, maternal and child care, food safety, and the need for universal health coverage. The day provides an opportunity for governments, organizations, and individuals to come together to discuss global health challenges and to take action to address them.

Every year, the WHO selects a theme that highlights a particular health issue that requires urgent attention. The WHO has chosen "Health for All" as the theme for its 75th anniversary, and is planning numerous campaigns and awareness programs to facilitate discussions on global health.

Pandit Ravi Shankar's 103rd birth anniversary

The 103rd birth anniversary of the legend Bharat Ratna - Pandit Ravi Shankar is being celebrated on April 7. World-renowned composer and sitar player Pandit Ravi Shankar is regarded as one of the greatest ambassadors of Indian music, Pandit Ravi Shankar was a globally recognised maestro of Indian classical music. Through his collaborations with musicians across the world, he was the first to create a huge fan base among Western audiences for Indian classical music.

In his eight-decade long career, he became a worldwide music icon, and he was labelled the "godfather of world music" by George Harrison of The Beatles.

Born in Varanasi on April 7, 1920, Shankar spent his youth performing across India and Europe as a member of his brother's dance troupe.

RANKING

WBPDCCL ranked No.1 power generation company for FY'23,

State-run West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDCCL) has ranked best performing power generation company in the country for the financial year 2022-23. This is according to a list published by the Central Electricity Authority - CEA, Ministry of Power. Three thermal power plants of WBPDCCL have established their places in the top five ranks in terms of its performance and efficiency (as measured by the plant load factor or PLF). Bakreswar power plant of WBPDCCL has been ranked number one (PLF- 92.38 per cent) out of total 205 thermal power plants operating in the country, said an official press statement.

Santalidih has been ranked second (PLF-91.37 per cent) followed by Sagardighi plant at fifth position (PLF-89.39 per cent) nationally.

WBPDCCL has registered record gross generation of 31.85 billion units with a growth of 35 per cent over last two years. It has witnessed a superior performance in the areas of availability, PLF, Specific Oil Consumption (SOC) and auxiliary power consumption (APC). Due to this, profitability has increased three fold. Major turnaround has also been observed in other two plants at Kolaghat and Bandel.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

IMF Chief says India and China will account for half of global economic growth in 2023

The International Monetary Fund said that the world economy is expected to grow at less than 3 per cent this year, with India and China expected to account for half of global growth in 2023.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Kristalina Georgieva warned that a sharp slowdown in the world economy last year following the raging pandemic and Russia's military operation of Ukraine would continue this year.

In a statement, Georgieva said the period of slower economic activity will be prolonged, with the next five years witnessing less than 3 per cent growth.

However, she said some momentum comes from emerging economies – Asia especially is a bright spot. India and China are expected to account for half of the global growth in 2023. But others face a steeper climb.

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INTERNATIONAL

Volodymyr Zelensky awarded Poland's highest honour

Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky has been awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest distinction, for his services to security, resilience and the defense of human rights.

Presenting the Order, Poland's president Andrzej Duda said: "There is no doubt that you, Volodymyr Zelensky, are exceptional."

"It is hard to hide the tears of emotion seeing your service to your motherland. You have not abandoned either Ukraine or your compatriots.

"You are a model of state and national leadership."

The Order of the White Eagle is the oldest and highest decoration of the Republic of Poland, awarded for great civil and military merits for the country. It is awarded to the most eminent Poles and the highest-ranking representatives of foreign countries.

According to the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Zelenski received the award in recognition of his merits in deepening relations between Poland and Ukraine, for his activities for security, and his steadfastness in defending human rights.

NATIONAL

Amit Shah Unveils 54 Feet Hanuman Statue In Gujarat On Hanuman Jayanti

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday unveiled a 54 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Sarangpur temple in Gujarat's Botad district on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. The festival, which celebrates the birth of Lord Hanuman,

Shah was in the state to attend an event to mark the BJP's 44th foundation day.

The statue is built in the backyard of the Sarangpur temple in an area of 1,35,000 square feet. The temple is dedicated to Lord Kastbhanjan, a form of Hanuman.

The giant statue weighs around 30,000 kilogram and is visible from a distance of seven kilometre. Five different metals were used in its construction and the total diameter of the statue is 754 feet. The internal structure is made of steel.

According to reports, 3D printers, 3D routers, and CNC machines were used in its construction. The statue has been made to withstand earthquakes.

Kerala tops GI tag list in FY 2022-23

Kerala has topped the list of states in the country with most number of products securing the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in financial year 2022-23, a data shared by the GI Registry said,

Attappady Aattukombu Avara, Attappady Thuvara, Onattukara Ellu, Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthuli, Kodungallur Pottuvellari were picked for the GI recognition tag as per the data released by the registry.

Besides the 6 products from Kerala, Mithila Makhana (aquatic fox nut) from Bihar was selected for GI recognition followed by Alibag white onion from Maharashtra. Tandur Redgram from Telangana the local variety of pea, Ladakh Raktsey Karpo Apricot from Ladakh and Gamosa handicrafts from Assam were also chosen for the honours.

The Geographical Indication relates to particular location and product manufactured from that region, In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.

SPORTS

MS Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh among 5 Indian cricketers to be awarded MCC lifetime membership

Five top Indian cricketers - Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Mithali Raj, and Jhulan Goswami - were given life membership in the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

The MCC has named 19 new Honorary Life Members, with eight Test-playing nations represented. The London-based club, which established the rules of the game, bestows honorary life membership on some of the game's greatest men and women. This year's list includes five former players from India and England, as well as players from Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and the West Indies. Eoin Morgan, England's 2019 ODI World Cup-winning captain, Jenny Gunn, Laura Marsh, and Anya Shrubsole, who were part of England's 2017 Women's ODI World Cup triumph, and flamboyant batsman Kevin Pietersen, who won the Ashes four times and was Player of the Tournament in England's 2010 ICC Men's World T20 win, are among the five former England players to receive the honour. Jhulan Goswami, who bowed out from internationals in the England v India Women's One-Day International at Lord's last year, is the leading wicket-taker in Women's ODIs whilst Mithali Raj heads the run-scoring list with 7,805 in 211 innings. MS Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh were both integral parts of the India side which won the 2007 ICC Men's World T20 and the 2011 ICC Men's World Cup, and Suresh Raina scored over 5,500 ODI runs across a 13-year career.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Seshagiri Rao retires, steps down from JSW Steel board after 24 years

Seshagiri Rao (65), joint managing director and group chief financial officer, JSW Steel, has stepped down from the board after 24 years, on superannuation.

JSW Steel informed the stock exchanges on Wednesday that Seshagiri Rao, joint managing director and group chief financial officer (CFO), ceased to be a wholetime director of the company with effect from April 6. This was on completion of his term approved by the shareholders at the 26th annual general meeting of the company held on July 23, 2020 (April 6, 2020 to April 5, 2023).

Rao superannuated from the services of the company and consequently stepped down from the board, the company said.

However, he would be associated with the group in an advisory role. The company mentioned that he ceased to be a director with effect from April 6, but would continue to be associated with the group as 'Group CFO'.

IMPORTANT DAYS

BJP foundation day

The BJP will be celebrating its 43rd Foundation Day on April 6 with great fervour and enthusiasm. The saffron party has come a long way since its inception on April 6, 1980, emerging as the largest political party in the world, having the maximum number of MPs, MLAs and councillors in the country.

In fact, the BJP's journey was recently summed up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after inaugurating an extension of the BJP headquarters.

"BJP started its journey from just two Lok Sabha seats and reached 303 in 2019. In many of the states, we get more than 50 per cent votes," he had said. "From north to south and from east to west, the BJP is the only pan-India party today," PM Modi further said.

The BJP was officially created on April 6, 1980. However, its ideological origins can be traced back to 1951 when Shyama Prasad Mukherjee broke away from Nehru's Congress

and formed the Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS). The BJS, whose motto was the preservation of Hindu identity and culture, was formed in collaboration with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, to celebrate the contribution of sports and physical activity to education, human development, healthy lifestyles and a peaceful world.

Sport is a compelling tool to promote peace, tolerance, and understanding, bringing people together across boundaries, cultures, and religions. Its values such as teamwork, fairness, discipline, and respect are understood all over the world and can be utilized in the advancement of solidarity and social cohesion.

Sport has historically played an important role in all societies, be it in the form of competitive sport, physical activity or play. But one may wonder: what does sport have to do with the United Nations? In fact, sport presents a natural partnership for the United Nations (UN) system, including UNESCO:

Sport and play are human rights that must be respected and enforced worldwide;

Sport has been increasingly recognized and used as a low-cost and high-impact tool in humanitarian, development and peace-building efforts, not only by the UN system but also by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments, development agencies, sports federations, armed forces and the media.

Sport can no longer be considered a luxury within any society but is rather an important investment in the present and future, particularly in developing countries.

The theme for the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace for the year 2023 is "Scoring for People and the Planet." The theme is applicable for celebrations of this event across the globe.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Adani Green Receives 'Platinum Award' For Positive Impact On Environment

The renewable arm of the Adani Group, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), has received the 'Platinum Award' by Grow Care India Environment Management Awards 2022 for outstanding achievement in the environment management category. The award recognised the company's outstanding contributions, commitments, and actions that have a positive impact on the environment, Adani Green said in a statement.

The award was conferred by the Minister of State Rural Development Fagga Singh Kulaste. Grow Care India is a non-profit organisation pledged to concede and honor marvelous performance in environment, occupational health and safety, human resources, and other issues like risk management, innovation ideas /projects, corporate ethics, and eco-innovation.

The NGO had invited nominations from companies and their units demonstrating the highest level of commitment and concern in environmental management, as well as organisations willing to enhance and improve their own performance.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India-Nepal to sign pact to help travellers make digital payments with Indian e-wallets

In a major step to boost tourism and trade, the Indian and Nepalese governments are set to sign an agreement in which tourists travelling between the two countries will no longer have to carry currency notes. They can simply make payments by scanning quick response (QR) codes.

Nepalese and Indian tourists travelling between the two countries would be able make digital payments using Indian e-wallets like BharatPe, PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. Both countries have chalked out an agreement for this purpose, and the document is awaiting signatures from both countries' officials, including Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

The move is expected to ease payment transactions for Nepalese and Indian traders, as well as for tourists visiting Nepal. Additionally, the QR codes used for transactions will also help businesses between the two countries.

A year ago, both countries had already signed a technical agreement to enable the use of Nepalese e-wallets in India and Indian e-wallets in Nepal. Nepal's gateway payments service provider, Gateway Payments Service Private Limited, and India's National Payment Corporation of India have signed this agreement.

RBI MPC meet: RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

The RBI monetary policy committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent and other policy rates were also kept unchanged. "The monetary policy committee decided unanimously at 6.50 per cent with a readiness to act if the situation so warrants," Das said. The RBI Governor also said that the withdrawal of accommodation and that the repo rate hike has been paused only for this meeting.

Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India in case of India) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Repo rate is used by monetary authorities to control inflation.

In the event of inflation, central banks increase repo rate as this acts as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. This ultimately reduces the money supply in the economy and thus helps in arresting inflation.

The central bank takes the contrary position in the event of a fall in inflationary pressures. Repo and reverse repo rates form a part of the liquidity adjustment facility.

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NATIONAL

Anurag Thakur Signs Collaboration Agreement Between I&B Ministry And Amazon

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting inked a partnership with Amazon India. The ministry in a press release said that the Letter of Engagement (LoE) will lead to a multidimensional partnership between the various organisations under the Ministry and various verticals of Amazon.

These include the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Prasar Bharati, Publications Division, and the media training institutions of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) on the government's side. On Amazon's side, the LoE involves the participation of Amazon Prime Video, Alexa, Amazon Music, Amazon e-marketplace, and IMDb.

Speaking at the launch of the partnership, Anurag Thakur said that the agreement will reduce the struggle period for talent from film institutes. He said the partnership would help strengthen industry-academia linkages through provisions for scholarships, internships, masterclasses, and other opportunities for students at the Film and Television Institute of India and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of India.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Tata International appoints Rajeev Singhal as Chief Operating Officer

Tata Group's trading and distribution arm Tata International on Tuesday announced the appointment of Rajeev Singhal as its Chief Operating Officer.

He assumed office from April 1, 2023 and will report to Tata International Ltd Managing Director Anand Sen, the company said in a statement.

All vertical heads will report to Singhal, who moved from Tata Steel to Tata International and has experience of over 35 years, it added.

Prior to his latest role, he was Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Flat Products at Tata Steel.

"I believe that his strategic insights and operational expertise will be invaluable as we continue to drive growth and expand our presence. I am confident that under his leadership, Tata International will scale to greater heights in all aspects of the business," Sen said.

RS Sodhi roped in by Reliance Retail to spearhead grocery business

Reliance Retail, the retail arm of Reliance Industries (RIL), has hired RS Sodhi, former MD of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF),.

Sodhi is expected to help Reliance Retail build its grocery vertical, especially in the fruits and vegetable space, besides helping its consumer brands segment. The company has been aggressively increasing its presence in the segment. Recently, it has launched a wide range of products, from beverages under the Campa brand to home items.

The conglomerate had earlier hired former Coca-Cola India chairman T Krishnakumar.

Sodhi is an industry veteran who worked with GCMMF for 41 years. He stepped down from his role in January. He was then the managing director (MD) of the federation. Before that, he was the general marketing manager in the 2000s.

For more than three decades, Sodhi worked under the direct guidance of Verghese Kurien, the father of the White Revolution. He obtained a bachelor's degree in agri-engineering from CTAE, Udaipur, and he is among the first-batch alumni of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (Irma).

During the pandemic, Amul launched over 100 stock-keeping units under Sodhi's leadership.

Sanjay Gupta has been appointed the chairperson of IESA

Sanjay Gupta has been appointed as the chairperson of India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) for FY24 after elections on April 5 to pick a new leadership team for the organization.

Gupta is the president and chief executive officer of Spark Minda. The newly elected members of IESA's executive council are Anku Jain (of MediaTek), Hitesh Garg (NXP), and V Veerappan (Tessolve). The other members include Sudhir Naik (ElinfoChips), Ashok Mishra (Reliance Jio), and Manoj Kumar (STMicro).

IESA represents the country's electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM) industry and it has more than 260 members.

The new council will make IESA's strategy for the electronics and semiconductor industry's growth. "This role offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the growth of this sunrise sector in India and accelerate the government's Make in India initiative," said Gupta.

"IESA will continue to drive strategic partnerships between industry, academia, and government to unlock the full potential of this sector along with supporting start-ups and emerging players in the industry," he said. Gupta, an engineer, has more than 28 years of experience in strategy, innovation, technology, research and development, operations and management.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Maritime Day: India

The National Maritime Week begins on March 30 and culminates in the celebration of National Maritime Day on April 5. The first event of the National Maritime Day or the inaugural ceremony was celebrated in 1964 with an aim to increase awareness about the economy and global trade. The main agenda behind the celebration is symbolizing the necessity of protection, safeguard, and Defence our maritime zone.

Maritime is one of the efficient, secure, and ecologically method of moving goods from one side of the world to the other. It is a day of thanking the people who spend months at the sea contributing to the majority of India's trade and commerce activities on a worldwide scale. It is important to maintain a secure navigational channel and routes for the nation's trade and overall growth.

This day is an appreciation day for people who have made significant contributions to the Indian maritime sector. An award ceremony is held on India's National Maritime Day during which the Varuna Award is given to few people. The award is a statue of Lord Varuna and a Citation, is the name of this honour.

International Day of Conscience

The United Nations General Assembly observes the International Day of Conscience to recognise the significance of the human conscience, every April 5. An essential intellectual characteristic that sets humans apart from the rest of the animal kingdom is the conscience.

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the General Assembly declared 5 April the International Day of Conscience.

The task of constructing a culture of peace requires comprehensive educational, cultural, social and civic action, in which each person has something to learn and something to give and share. It addresses all ages and all groups; it is an open-minded global strategy with a specific purpose, namely, to make a culture of peace inseparable from culture per se and to take root in people's hearts and minds. Peace is not only the absence of differences and conflicts. It is a positive, dynamic, participatory process linked intrinsically to democracy, justice and development for all by which differences are respected, dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are constantly transformed by non-violent means into new avenues of cooperation.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram Ji on his birth anniversary.

Babu Jagjivan Ram, popularly known as Babuji, was a freedom fighter and politician who championed the cause of social justice. He was born on April 5, 1908, in Chandwa village, in Shahabad district (now Bhojpur) of Bihar.

During British Rule, Babu Jagjivan Ram played an active role in India's freedom movement as a member of the Indian National Congress. After independence, he served as a Union minister

Jagjivan Ram was India's Defence Minister during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. He also served as Minister of Labour, and Minister of Communications under the governments of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. He was the Deputy Prime Minister between 1977 and 1979.

Babu Jagjivan Ram passed away on July 6, 1986, leaving behind a legacy of social and political activism. He is remembered as one of India's most respected and influential leaders, who dedicated his entire life for the cause of social justice and upliftment of the backward sections of the society

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

IIT Kanpur to host Youth20 consultation on April 5,6

The India Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) will be hosting the Youth20 (Y20) consultation under G20 presidency of India on April 5 and 6, 2023. Over 1,200 youth delegates across India will be attending the event. IIT Guwahati held the Y20 summit where over 250 international delegates attended the event from February 6 to 8, 2023.

Out of the five core themes, the Y20 consultation at IITK will be catering to two themes- "Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, and 21st Century Skills" and "Health, Well-being and Sports: Agenda for Youth". Uttar Pradesh additional chief secretary for sports Navneet Sehgal has been invited as the chief guest and is likely to address the participants on April 6, 2023.

The Y20 consultation, under the aegis of ministry of youth affairs and sports, is a pan-India activity in the run up to the final Y20 Summit that will be held in Varanasi. The discussions from the consultation aims to bring young people together to connect, share ideas and experiences, and deliberate on finding solutions to pressing global concerns.

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INTERNATIONAL

NASA announces four-member team of astronauts for first crewed voyage around moon

NASA has announced a team of four astronauts who will fly around the Moon next year for a 10-day mission. The team was announced during an event in Houston, Texas, that was streamed live yesterday.

The team has three American and one Canadian astronaut, including a woman and an African American ever assigned as astronauts to a lunar mission.

Reid Wiseman be the commander while Victor Glover will pilot the mission, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen will serve as mission specialists.

Ms Koch and Mr Glover will set history as the first woman and first black person, to go to the vicinity of the Moon. Mr Hansen will be the first non-American to fly to the Moon.

NATIONAL

Sheenu Jhavar Becomes The First Woman President Of TiE Rajasthan

TiE Rajasthan announced Dr. Sheenu Jhavar as its new President for two year term 2023-2025. She is the first woman in the 21 years history of TiE Rajasthan to assume this responsibility. Dr. Jhavar took charge from Dr. Ravi Modani who was successfully leading the chapter since 2021. During the biennial leadership transition ceremony, Dr. Jhavar informed that India has the third largest number of unicorns in the world, and within India - Jaipur stands as the first tier 2 city, at an overall 7th position as per Start up Blink report. This is a matter of great pride for all of us. TiE Rajasthan has been contributing to this ecosystem since the last 21 years. Our Past Presidents- Mahavir Sharma, Atul Kapur, Dr. Ajay Data, Manuj Goyal, Rajneesh Bhandari, Rajesh Mundra, Siddharth Agarwal, Chirag Patel, and Dr. Ravi Modani have made a great visible impact. She also introduced her core committee members Anil Agarwal, Archana Surana, Ashish Mangal, Nishant Patni, Parijat Agarwal, Puneet Mittal, Raj Bagri, Rajeev Lakhotia, Sanjay Yadav, Sharvik Shah, Siddharth Shah, Vijay Khemka, and Vikram Ahuja who will help her with her new responsibilities. As I take over as President for the next two years, I plan to carry on this legacy by more focus on the startups, and work with other ecosystem partners, added Dr. Jhavar.

SCIENCE & TEHNOLOGY

PhonePe launches shopping app for ONDC, marking e-commerce new entry

Fintech firm PhonePe on Tuesday launched a shopping app that will run on ONDC, the open e-commerce network launched by the government.

Pincode is meant for hyperlocal commerce and is available on Google Play Store and App Store. It presently can be used in Bengaluru and will launch in other cities later.

Pincode marks Walmart-backed PhonePe's entry in the e-commerce segment. It will connect consumers with their neighborhood stores, giving the convenience of online ordering, discounts and instant refunds and returns. "Pincode is a brand-new shopping app and offers a revolutionary new approach to e-commerce, which puts all the local stores and sellers at the heart of the digital shopping growth story. Pincode is built on the ONDC network, which allows us to generate demand for merchants digitized by various seller

platforms in an inclusive manner, while creating new opportunities for growth and driving innovation at scale,” said Sameer Nigam, chief executive officer and founder of PhonePe. PhonePe said the app will offer consumers a wide selection of products and brands by well-known national brands, as well as locally manufactured groceries, apparel, footwear, and accessories.

Pincode will bring shopkeepers and small merchants to e-commerce and create employment. PhonePe said it believes that ONDC can foster the rapid growth of a new hyperlocal ecommerce business model. Apart from local buyers and sellers, such a model will also benefit other ecosystem participants like the last mile logistics and inventory management players.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Suzuki Motorcycle India announces appointment of Kenichi Umeda as new MD

In an official statement released on Tuesday, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd (SMIPL) declared the appointment of Kenichi Umeda as the company's new Managing Director. Umeda takes over from Satoshi Uchida, who has completed his tenure as the Managing Director of SMIPL.

With the appointment of Kenichi Umeda as the new Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India, he will take on the crucial responsibility of expanding and consolidating the company's position in both the domestic and international markets. Umeda's extensive experience of more than 27 years in the industry, gained from various global markets, will be a valuable asset to the company, as stated in the official announcement.

According to Umeda, India holds a significant place in Suzuki's global market, and the company has always aimed to provide its customers with innovative and evolving products that cater to their changing requirements. As the new Managing Director of Suzuki Motorcycle India, Umeda plans to continue this legacy and prioritize the delivery of customer-centric solutions, as stated in the official statement.

Ex-Israel envoy Ron Malka appointed Adani's Haifa Port chief, Mahua Moitra reacts

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra lashed out after Israel's former ambassador to India, Ron Malka, on Sunday announced he has assumed charge as the executive chairman of the Haifa Port Company. The port company is owned by a consortium of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) and Gadot Group.

“Israel's former envoy to India appointed Adani's Haifa port chairman! This man screamed from rooftops about how clean Adani's Israeli dealings were. Condemned filmmaker Nadav Lapid for criticising Bollywood Hindutva propaganda film. Adani Hamam Mein toh Saare

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action: 4 April

Every year on April 4, the world observes the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, with the aim of creating awareness about the dangers of explosive mines and generating support for efforts aimed at eliminating them.

In 2023 the United Nations Mine Action Service will acknowledge the day under the campaign / theme “Mine Action Cannot Wait”, highlighting decades of contamination in

Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, as well as draw attention to recent explosive ordnance contamination.

This campaign makes it clear that the eradication of all landmines cannot wait. Whether it is new contamination in Colombia, Myanmar, Ukraine or Yemen, or old contamination, in Cambodia, Iraq or Viet Nam, clearance must be completed by mine action actors and States Parties of the Mine Ban Convention. It is a human problem.

The over-arching goal will be to bring attention to areas of the world that remain contaminated after many years, and where generations have changed their lives to avoid the threat.

Mahavir Jayanti; 2023

Also known as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak, the day celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavir, the twenty-fourth and the last Tirthankara of the present Avasarpini, It is one of the most important religious festivals of the Jain community.

He was born on the 13th day of Shukla Paksha in the month of Chaitra. Mahavir Jayanti celebrates the birth of a great Tirthankara of Jainism. He is known to be a teacher who propagates the dharma in Jainism. This festival is being celebrated this year on April 4, 2023.

Mahavir Jayanti has a great significance among Jain people. they celebrate this day with great enthusiasm and fervor. This day is dedicated to the Lord Mahavir, a Jain saint who is known amongst the most famous saints.

It is known that Mahavira's mother had certain auspicious dreams when she was pregnant. The Svetambara Jains believe that she saw 16 dreams, while the Digambara Jains believe she saw 14 dreams while she was pregnant.

Lord Mahavir is regarded as one of the holiest and most accomplished missionaries of peace and harmony. Lord Mahavir, the 24th and final Tirthankara of the Jain religion. In remembrance of the great saint, several stories about Saint Mahavir are told to youngster President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck met Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi

King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, The meeting began at 11:15 a.m. Later, the visiting dignitary met the President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhawan. According to the sources the meeting started at 5 p.m. The King also visited Rajghat to lay a wreath at Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi at 10:45 a.m.

Last evening, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar called on King Wangchuck in New Delhi. In a tweet, Mr Jaishankar said, the King's vision for Bhutan's future and for strengthening the unique partnership with India is deeply appreciated.

The Bhutanese King is on a three-day visit to India, from April 3- 5. He arrived in the Capital yesterday – April 3 He was received by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar at the airport. The King of Bhutan is accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Dr. Tandi Dorji and senior officials of Bhutan government.

The visit is in keeping with the long-standing tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries. In a tweet, Dr Jaishankar said, his visit will further strengthen the close and unique India-Bhutan partnership.

The visit would provide an opportunity to both sides to review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and to further advance the close bilateral partnership, including economic and development cooperation.

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INTERNATIONAL

'MF Hydra': World's first liquid hydrogen-powered ferry

MF Hydra, the world's first liquid hydrogen-powered ferry operated by Norwegian company Norled, is breaking ground as it starts sailing on zero-emission hydrogen with a blessing from the Norwegian Maritime Authority. is a hybrid that uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cells.

The ferry is put into operation today, 31 March, running on zero-emission hydrogen and marking a historic day, both for Norled and for Norway as a leading shipping nation, Norled's CEO Heidi Wolden said. The company officials also said it has been carrying out system tests at the quay in Hjelmelands since the turn of the year. In recent weeks, the company has been running sea trials and received the final approvals from the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA).

MF Hydra is now set to sail on the triangular route between Hjelmeland-Skipavik-Nesvik in Norway,

The ferry has a length of 82.4 meters and can carry up to 300 passengers and 80 vehicles. With its two 200 kW fuel cells, two 440 kW generators, and two Shottel thrusters, it can travel at a speed of 9 knots

NATIONAL

10th Edition of Indian – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 begins in Colombo

The 10th Edition of the annual Indian – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 begins in Colombo today 3rd April. The exercise is being conducted in two phases of three days each, the Harbour Phase followed by Sea Phase. The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Kiltan and INS Savitri while Sri Lanka Navy will have SLNS Vijayabahu and SLNS Samudura. In addition, the Indian Navy Chetak helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft along with Sri Lanka Air Force Dornier and BEL 412 helicopters would also participate in the exercise. The exercise will also have the Special Forces of the two navies participate together.

SLINEX-2023 will aim to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures in multi-faceted Maritime operations between both Navies. The Harbour Phase would include sports fixtures, yoga sessions and cultural events which would provide an opportunity for personnel from both navies to learn from each other, and re-enforce shared values as well as build bonds of friendship and camaraderie.

PM Modi inaugurates Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of CBI in New Delhi

About: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) - The Central Bureau of Investigation was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 1st April 1963. So it has been 60 years of the agency.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on April 3. at 12pm. The event took place at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi,

He also released a Postage Stamp and Commemorative Coin marking the Diamond Jubilee Celebration year of CBI. PM Modi also launched the Twitter handle CBI.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister conferred the President's Police Medal to 18 officers of CBI for their distinguished Service. He also gave away Gold Medal to three officers for Best Investigating Officers. The Prime Minister also inaugurated newly constructed office complexes of CBI at Shillong, Pune and Nagpur. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Senior officials of CBI were also present at the event.

Eravikulam National Park gets a fernarium: first in a hill station

Eravikulam National Park in Munnar, India, has recently established a Fernarium, which is a unique garden that showcases a wide variety of ferns. The Fernarium is the first of its kind in the hill station and has already planted 52 varieties of ferns. The goal is to increase the number of ferns in the park to cover all 104 varieties found in the area. The Fernarium has been set up near the orchidarium and will be open to the public from April 20. The park officials hope that this new attraction will provide visitors with awareness about the park's biodiversity.

The Fernarium at Eravikulam National Park is more than just a collection of plants. It is also a vital tool for conservation and education. The Fernarium showcases the unique ecology of the area and helps visitors understand the importance of preserving the habitat of the endangered Nilgiri tahr. The Fernarium will also serve as a resource for researchers and botanists to study the different fern varieties found in the park.

The Fernarium is a fascinating place for plant lovers and nature enthusiasts. It provides a peaceful environment to observe the different fern varieties up close. Visitors can learn about the different types of ferns and their ecological significance. The Fernarium is also a great place for photography, with the beautiful and unique foliage of the ferns making a perfect backdrop.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Neeraj Nigam new RBI executive director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Neeraj Nigam as executive director (ED) with effect from April 3, 2023. He was the regional director of RBI's Bhopal office.

As executive director, Nigam will look after the consumer education and protection department, financial inclusion and development department, legal department and secretary's department.

"Shri Nigam has, over a span of more than three decades, served in Regulation and Supervision, Human Resource Management, Premises, Currency Management, Bank Accounts and other areas in the Reserve Bank, in its Central Office as well as Regional

Offices," RBI said in a statement, adding that he holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Barkatullah University in Bhopal.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Sudha Shivkumar is now president of FICCI women's wing

Chennai-based Sudha Shivkumar took over as the 40th President of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the oldest women-led and women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.

As the 40th National President of FLO, Shivkumar will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.

"Development of entrepreneurship among women has been central to FLO's philosophy and mission. Taking this vision forward my focus during her tenure would be to transform the power of woman's voices into forward thinking economic initiatives by changing perceptions and influencing policies," Shivkumar said.

Shivkumar is a lawyer and investment banker by profession. Her career spans over 32 years. She has worked for large organisations and mutual funds, managing international portfolios and spearheading non-profit ventures, all while keenly mentoring and inspiring women from all walks of life.

Shivkumar completed her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Madras. She specialised in Corporate and Bankruptcy laws to build her expertise in these fields and completed a Master of Applied Finance with specialization in Investment Banking from Macquarie University, Sydney, with distinction.

For 13 years, Shivkumar headed a leading non-banking reputed finance company, following which she led the operations of a South-India-based mutual fund with assets under management of Rs 25,000 crore. For seven years, she handled a Rs 350-crore portfolio of an international group of high net worth individuals.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Holy Monday 2023

The Christian population over the globe is celebrating, Holy Monday today. It is the second day of Holy Week in Western Christianity, following Palm Sunday, and the third day of Holy Week in Eastern Christianity, following Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday. Holy Monday, according to the Bible, is the day after Jesus was welcomed with palm fronds and the day before Judas resolved to betray him. Let's learn more about its background and importance.

Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter begins on Holy Monday, also known as Great and Holy Monday. On this day, Jesus Christ proceeded on foot from Bethany to Jerusalem. The gospels claim that on this day, Jesus Christ cursed the fig tree, purified the temple, and answered those who questioned his authority.

Holy Monday's roots go back to the start of Lent. St. Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, and St. Epiphanius of Constantia coined the phrase "Holy Week" for the first time in the fourth century, thus establishing the holiday. Whereas, in the third century only Good Friday and Holy Saturday were honoured as holy days.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Mahila Samman Savings Certificates, 2023 - Small savings, big benefits for Nari Shakti

On 1st April 2023, the Ministry of Finance issued the Gazette Notification for Mahila Samman Savings Certificates, 2023 which has been made available in 1.59 lakh Post Offices with immediate effect. Keeping the financial independence of women in focus, the scheme was proposed in Union Budget 2023-24.

The Union Budget 2023-24 outlined the vision of Amrit Kaal which envisions a prosperous and inclusive India. To realise the vision, the fruits of development must reach each and every citizen of India and especially women. The savings scheme is seen as a significant step towards financial inclusion and empowerment of women, including girls.

Interest rates on all the small savings schemes, except Savings Deposit and PPF, have been upwardly revised with effect from 1st April 2023. The two-year tenure scheme offers a fixed interest of 7.5% interest compounded quarterly. It has flexible investment and partial withdrawal options with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 2 lakh. The scheme is valid for a two-year period upto 31st March 2025.

National Savings (Monthly Income Account) Scheme, 2019 has been amended through National Savings (Monthly Income Account) (Amendment) Scheme, 2023 and the maximum investment limit has been raised from Rs.4,50,000 to Rs. 9 lakh for a single account and from Rs. 9 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh for a joint account with effect from 1st April 2023. Likewise, the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, 2019 has been amended through Senior Citizens Savings (Amendment) Scheme, 2023 and the maximum investment limit has been raised from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs.30 lakh.

India and Malaysia can now trade using Indian rupee (INR)

India and Malaysia can now use the Indian rupee to settle trade in addition to other currencies, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday.

The move follows the decision by the Reserve Bank of India in July last year to allow the settlement of international trade in Indian currency.

"Trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in Indian Rupee (INR) in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies," the MEA said.

The MEA said the RBI's initiative is aimed at facilitating the growth of trade and supporting the interests of the global trading community in the Indian rupee

India International Bank of Malaysia (IIBM), based in Kuala Lumpur, has operationalised this mechanism by opening a special Rupee Vostro account through its corresponding bank in India that is Union Bank of India.

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INTERNATIONAL

South Korea, US, Japan To Hold Anti-Submarine Drills As North Korea Vows To Expand Arsenal

The navies of South Korea, the US, and Japan are all set to hold two days of anti-submarine exercises starting from Monday in order to counter the evolving nuclear and missile

capabilities of North Korea, South Korea's defence ministry said, as reported by the news agency Reuters.

The drills will take place in international waters off South Korea's southern Island of Jeju, involving a US carrier strike group led by USS Nimitz, which arrived last week in the southeastern city of Busan. According to Reuters, the drills came after North Korea unveiled new, smaller nuclear warheads last week and vowed to produce more weapons-grade nuclear materials to expand its arsenal.

According to the ministry, The trilateral drills which will take place this week will use a mobile anti-submarine warfare training target to improve the capabilities needed to detect, track and destroy underwater threats coming from North Korea, as reported by Reuters. These countries last held anti-submarine drills in September amid North Korea's unprecedented number of missile tests.

SPORTS

Daniil Medvedev wins fourth title of year with Miami Open triumph over Jannik Sinner

Daniil Medvedev beat Italy's Jannik Sinner 7-5 6-3 to win the Miami Open on Sunday for his fourth title of the year and 19th overall.

The jubilant fourth seed pumped his fist after pounding an unreturnable serve on match point to seal the win on a hot and humid day at Hard Rock Stadium in South Florida.

The Russian was playing in his fifth consecutive final after triumphs in Doha, Rotterdam and Dubai before finishing runner-up to Carlos Alcaraz at Indian Wells two weeks ago.

Medvedev said he was fortunate that Sinner had to come through a physical, three-set battle in the semi-final on Friday night against top seed Alcaraz.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Successfully Conducts Autonomous Landing Of Its Reusable Launch Vehicle Prototype

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday, April 2, successfully conducted the autonomous landing test or air-drop landing experiment of the space agency's reusable launch vehicle prototype. The mission, called RLV LEX, was performed in collaboration with the Defence Space Research Organisation (DRDO), and the Indian Air Force (IAF), in the early hours of Sunday at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka. The mission marks the first time a winged body has been carried to an altitude of 4.5 kilometres by a helicopter and released for carrying out an autonomous landing on a runway.

ISRO conducted the first experimental mission of its Reusable Launch Vehicle - Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) on May 23, 2016, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. As part of this experimental mission, critical technologies such as autonomous navigation, guidance and control, and the reusable thermal protection system were successfully demonstrated.

Indigenous Anti Tank Guided Missile, Amogha-III tested successfully

Bharat Dynamics (BDL) has successfully conducted a field firing test of its latest 3rd generation man-portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), Amogha-III. This indigenous

missile has been developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

The test which was conducted last weekend fulfilled all mission objectives, and BDL announced this through their official Twitter handle.

Amogha-III ATGM boasts a fire-and-forget capability, requiring no external intervention following launch. Developed by BDL's Research and Development Division, the missile also features a dual-mode IIR Seeker with a range of 200 to 2500 meters.

Assisted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Amogha-III showcases a tandem warhead, consisting of two separate explosive charges that are detonated in sequence. The first charge, known as the precursor charge, penetrates the target's armour, creating a hole for the second charge, the main charge, to detonate inside, maximizing damage inflicted on the target.

OBITURY

Former cricketer Salim Durani passes away at the age of 88

Salim Durani, the debonair India cricketer of the 1960s with a movie star looks, a puckish sense of humour, and a penchant for hitting monstrous sixes on demand, died on Sunday. He was 88. His death was confirmed by sources close to the family. He had been living with his younger brother, Jahangir Durani, in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

The Kabul-born Durani, who packed a punch with his bat and was also a handy left-arm orthodox bowler, played 29 Tests and was instrumental in India defeating England 2-0 in the historic five-match Test series in 1961-62, picking up eight and 10 wickets in the team's victories at Calcutta and Madras.

Durani, known for his fine dressing style and swagger, scored just one century though he had seven fifties in the 50 innings he played for the country, scoring 1,202 runs.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh takes charge as Vice Chief of Navy

Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh took charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, After assuming charge, Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh paid homage to the bravehearts at the National War Memorial and reviewed the Guard of Honour at South Block in New Delhi on Sunday. Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh graduated from the National Defence Academy, Pune, and was commissioned in 1986 in the executive branch of the Indian Navy,

In his career spanning 37 years, he has served on most class of ships of the Indian Navy and has held a range of command, training and staff appointments, including Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (CSNCO), flag officer sea training, flag officer Commanding Western Fleet, Commandant Naval War College, and Controller Personnel Services. Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, he was Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations). He holds MSc and MPhil in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University, MA in Defence Studies from Kings College, London, and MA (History), MPhil (Pol) and PhD (Arts) from Mumbai University. In recognition of his distinguished service, the flag officer was awarded the Nao Sena Medal in 2009, and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2020.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Autism Awareness Day

Autism is a permanent neurological condition that generally shows its first appearance in the infancy period. Regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic status, this condition can develop in the early age of life. The exact cause of autism is still unknown, however, some people with this condition have a genetic cause.

World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day annually on April 2, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about autistic individuals throughout the world

Every year, World Autism Awareness Day is observed to create awareness among people about a developmental disability of the brain called autism. The day is recognised to provide global opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people suffering from autism spectrum disorder (ASD). World Autism Awareness Day, is observed under a specific theme. The theme for the World Autism Awareness Day 2023 is "Transforming the narrative: Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking"

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Inaugural session of the 2nd G-20 Tourism Working Group Meeting held at Siliguri in West Bengal

The Inaugural session of the 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting under G20 hosted by the Ministry of Tourism was held at Siliguri, West Bengal today morning – April 2, The inaugural session was addressed by Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and DoNER Shri G.Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Shri John Barla. Shri Raju Bista, Member of Parliament, Darjeeling was also present in the session.

In his opening remarks, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G.K Reddy welcomed all the participants to the beautiful town of Siliguri. He opined that Siliguri possesses a rare combination of Diversity, Culture, Tradition, and beauty. Known as The Gateway to the Northeast,

The aim of the National Adventure Tourism strategy is to place India among the top Adventure Tourism Destinations of the World, and the vision is to make India a one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047: Shri G.Kishan Reddy

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

India-Born Madhur Jaffrey Wins James Beard Foundation's 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award

Madhur Jaffrey, an India-born British-American, was honoured with the James Beard Foundation's 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming the first South Asian to receive the prestigious award since its inception in 1990. The foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual whose lifetime body of work has had a positive and long-lasting impact on the way we eat, cook, and/or think about food in America, according to its official website.

"Jaffrey first captured attention as an actress in the film Shakespeare Wallah, winning the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin Film Festival in 1965," according to the

foundation's press release. An Invitation to Indian Cooking, her first cookbook, was published in 1973 and was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Cookbook Hall of Fame in 2006. She has since published over 30 award-winning cookbooks, cementing her reputation as the "Godmother of Indian Cooking."

Madhur Jaffrey's Ultimate Curry Bible, Curry Easy, and Madhur Jaffrey's World Vegetarian are among her bestselling books. She has also worked as a food consultant at the now-defunct Dawat, which was regarded as one of New York City's best Indian restaurants. Jaffrey said of her award, "It's a wonderful pinnacle to my career, and I'm overjoyed."

Jaffrey, along with the other winners, will be honoured at the Restaurant and Chef Awards ceremony on June 5 at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

