

Weekly Current Affairs PDF July 16 to July 22, 2023

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NATIONAL

Himachal Chief Minister Launches Collateral-Free Loan Scheme For Women

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, launched a collateral-free loan scheme for women. The 'Sashakt Mahila Rin Yojna' is an initiative of Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank (HPSCB), which will provide loans to women for pursuing their entrepreneurial dreams, engage in livelihood activities, fulfil their day to day needs and uplift their families, a statement issued.
- Sukhu said that the scheme aims to empower women as the applicants need not to provide any assets or collateral as security against the loan amount.
- "The absence of collateral removes a significant barrier for women, especially those who may not have valuable assets to offer as security for taking loans," he added.
- By providing financial assistance to women for self-employment and livelihood activities, the scheme will contribute to the economic empowerment of women, make them financially independent and improve their socio-economic status, the chief minister said.
- Under the scheme, the bank offers credit of Rs 21,000, Rs 51,000 and Rs 1,01,000 at a relatively low-interest rate of 8.51 per cent.

SPORTS

Virat Kohli becomes first batter to score century in his 500th international match

- Former India captain Virat Kohli scripted history on Friday, July 21 by becoming the first batter in the history of the sport to score a century in his 500th international match. Kohli got to his 29th Test century on Day 2 of the 2nd Test between India and the West Indies in Port of Spain.
- It was also Virat Kohli's 15th Test century in overseas conditions, his first away from home since December 2018 in Perth. Kohli got to the landmark in 180 balls as he played a crucial knock after India lost 4 wickets in a session on Day 1 of the 2nd Test in Port of Spain, which also marked the 100th Test match between the two teams.

OBITUARY

Once 'most wanted hacker', Kevin Mitnick passes away at the age of 59

- Kevin Mitnick, who was once the FBI's most wanted cybercriminal passed away on July 16 at the age of 59. He took his last breath at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center on Sunday after fighting a 14-month-long battle with pancreatic cancer.
- Mitnick was a renowned hacker, and his introduction to the digital world began in 1979 when he was nearly 12 years old. In 1988, he faced legal consequences for his acts and was sentenced to a 12-month prison for software copying.

- But he didn't stop with the conviction, thereafter, he broke various systems, which include Pacific Bell's voicemail computers, during the 90s as a fugitive.
- Kevin Mitnick was the only child with a penchant for mischief, a defiant attitude towards authority and a love for magic, who grew up brilliant and relentless in the San Fernando Valley in California.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Sat Pal Bhanoo has been appointed LIC MD

- The government has announced the appointment of Sat Pal Bhanoo as one of the managing directors of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). He will take over as the LIC MD in place of Siddhartha Mohanty, who was appointed as the chairman of LIC in April.
- In the exchange filing, LIC said, "Shri Sat pal Bhanoo, Additional Zonal Manager (In-Charge) Zonal Office, LIC of India, Bhopal, has been appointed as Managing Director, LIC of India vice Shri Siddhartha Mohanty (presently serving as Chairperson) with effect from the date of assumption of charge of Office and upto the date of his superannuation (i.e.31.12.2025), or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Brain Day

- World Brain Day is celebrated globally on July 22nd every year. The day promotes education, research, and support for individuals affected by brain-related conditions.
- History - The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was founded on July 22, 1957. The Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee put up a suggestion that led to the creation of "World Brain Day" on July 22. This suggestion was presented during the World Congress of Neurology (WCN) Council of participants meeting on September 22, 2013, and the participants heartily welcomed it. Following this enthusiastic response, the Board of Trustees gave the idea its blessing at their meeting in February 2014, making it an annual celebration that would take place on the same day every year.
- Theme - World Brain Day's 2023 theme is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind." This international movement strives to close the information gap and increase public awareness of impairments to brain health. In addition to promoting better healthcare, education, and research about neurological illnesses, it emphasises the significance of delivering high-quality healthcare to those with disabilities. The major objective is to make sure that no one is forgotten or left out and that everyone gets the help and consideration they require to keep their brains functioning at their best.

Pi Approximation Day

- Pi approximation Day is observed every year on 22 July. The day is observed to value and showcase the importance of mathematical constant π (pi).
- Pi is defined as the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter and in mathematics its value is approximately equal to 3.14159. Pi is used for calculations in both mathematics and physics.

- On the occasion of Pi approximation Day, people frequently participate in a variety of pi-related activities such as reciting the pi digits, participating in competitions or quizzes with a pi theme, baking pies (both real pies and math-themed pies), discussing interesting pi tidbits, and many more.
- History - The symbol of Pi was designed back in 1706 by mathematician Leonhard Euler. Pi Approximation Day, besides being celebrated on July 22, is also celebrated on November 10, as it is the 314th day of the year. Pi Day is also observed on March 14, as it looks like 3/14 when placed in the month/date format.

National Mango Day

- National Mango Day is annually observed on July 22, National Mango Day is a time for celebration and appreciation of mangoes, a tasty and wholesome tropical fruit. This special day allows us to enjoy the delicious flavour, plethora of benefits, and astounding health advantages that mangoes provide. Mango is recognised as one of the most beloved fruits globally and has a special place in Indian history. Ice cream, mousse, smoothies, and a variety of other delicacies are just a few of the mouthwatering ways you may enjoy this unique flavour. People all throughout the world love the fruit, which is quite popular. Don't forget to mark your calendar for National Mango Day if you're a lover of this delicious fruit and savour
- History - The roots of the International Mango Festival can be traced back to 1987 when the National Horticulture Board of India had a bright idea—to celebrate mango. Since then, it has become an annual tradition, eagerly awaited by mango lovers across the nation. Bustling mango markets, vibrant mango exhibitions, and an abundance of fruity delights await visitors during this mango-filled extravaganza.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Ministry of Culture and Indian Navy signed a MoU to revive the Tankai method

- The Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have collaborated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to revive and preserve the ancient 2000-year-old shipbuilding technique known as the 'stitched shipbuilding method' or 'Tankai method'.
- About: Tankai Method - The Tankai method is an ancient shipbuilding technique which entails stitching wooden planks together to build ships, eschewing the use of nails. By adopting this method, ships gain enhanced flexibility and durability, reducing their vulnerability to damage from shoals and sandbars.
- The stitched ship carries immense cultural significance in India, owing to its historical importance and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship. India has a rich maritime heritage throughout history, and the utilization of stitched ships played a pivotal role in facilitating trade, cultural exchange, and exploration. With the advent of European ships, shipbuilding techniques underwent a transformation; however, the art of stitching ships endured in certain coastal regions of India, predominantly for crafting small local fishing boats.

FSSAI and AOAC INTERNATIONAL signed a Memorandum of Understanding

- The Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and AOAC INTERNATIONAL (AOAC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate and enhance the food safety analytical ecosystem in India. The MoU signing ceremony took place at the FSSAI headquarters in New Delhi, in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Mr. G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO of FSSAI, Mr. Satyen Kumar Panda, Advisor (Quality Assurance) FSSAI, Mr. Shrinvas Joshi, President, AOAC-India Section, Dr. Ganesh Ramamurthi - President-Elect, AOAC-India Section, and Dr. Saurabh Arora - Director, AOAC-India Section.
- The MoU, signifies the commitment of both FSSAI and AOAC to jointly work towards achieving common objectives for the advancement of food safety standards and analytical practices in the country

REC inks MoU with Avaada Group; to invest ₹20,000 crore over five years

- Avaada Group, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with REC under which the State-run company will invest ₹20,000 crore in the renewable energy solutions company over the next five years.
- The partnership between Avaada and the government-controlled non-banking financial company (NBFC) for the power sector was announced on the sidelines of the 4th meeting of the G20 Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) in Goa.
- This agreement ushers in a massive surge of support for Avaada's diverse energy transition ventures with the total investment reaching an impressive ₹20,000 crore,
- In the upcoming five years, Avaada is primed to harness this considerable investment to spearhead a plethora of innovative renewable energy projects across India,

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Former VP Naidu Releases Book Titled "As the Wheel Turns"

- India's former Vice President, released a book titled "As the Wheel Turns" on Thursday.
- Following the release of the book, Naidu stated, "The book is very useful for the young generation to know about the great people of India. I feel it's an honour to participate in the event and release the book." He also mentioned how vital humour and grammar are for everyone.
- Humour and grammar are more important for everyone. India is now moving forward and creating importance across the world and making us all proud, – He said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Japan becomes second Quad partner to sign semiconductor pact with India

- In a significant move, India and Japan have solidified their partnership by signing an agreement to jointly develop the semiconductor ecosystem. The deal aims to bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor

industry. This marks Japan as the second Quad partner, after the United States, to join hands with India in this endeavor.

- The memorandum signed by Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Yasutoshi Nishimura, encompasses various areas of collaboration. These include semiconductor design, manufacturing, equipment research, and talent development. The ultimate goal is to enhance the semiconductor supply chain's robustness and ensure its reliability.

NATIONAL

Gujarat to get country's 1st 'Satellite Network Portal Site'

- The Gujarat government signed an MoU with London-based Company, OneWeb and the Department of Science and Technology to set up a 'Satellite Network Portal Site.'
- The MoU was signed by Vijay Nehra, Secretary, the State Department of Science and Technology, and Rahul Vatts, Director of OneWeb India Communication Pvt. Ltd.
- As per reports, OneWeb has decided to set up two 'Satellite Network Portal Sites' and one of them will be in Mehsana district of Gujarat and the other one will be in Tamil Nadu.
- The site will provide high-speed, low-latency, and affordable connectivity to the government, businesses, consumers, schools, among others. It will provide continuous and secure satellite internet access at affordable rates in the country.
- This satellite network portal, to be set up at Katosan and Tejpora in Jotana, will be commissioned in 2023 with a possible investment of over Rs 100 crores in Phase-I. It will create approximately 500 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the state.
- OneWeb is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite company, which has as many as 648 satellites and aims to build a global communication network. It uses LEO to provide a broadband network instead of using the traditional method of using geostationary satellites located 36,000 km above the equator.

Chhattisgarh Government has launched Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna

- A new housing scheme named Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna launched by the Chhattisgarh Government, CM Bhupesh Baghel, with an objective to provide the free housing facility to the poor in the state. Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna will cover up those families who are not eligible for PM Awaas Yojna based on 2011 SECC, based on the new survey conducted by the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development.
- Gramin Awaas Nyay Yojna is a new housing scheme of Chhattisgarh launched on 19th July with an objective to provide pucca house to those poor families who are ineligible for PM Awaas Yojna 2011 SECC.

Anshuman Jhingran Becomes Youngest Person To Cross North Channel

- Anshuman Jhingran, a 18-year-old open water swimmer from Navi Mumbai, has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the youngest person ever to cross the North Channel.

- His extraordinary accomplishment, completed in just 125 days, has earned him a coveted spot in the esteemed Guinness World Records.
- Notably, his successful crossing marks the 114th achievement of its kind since 1947. Anshuman's outstanding feat has brought him well-deserved global recognition and admiration from the international swimming community.
- About: The North Channel - The North Channel, situated between the northeastern coast of Northern Ireland and the southwestern coast of Scotland, serves as a strait that starts north of the Isle of Man, marking the end of the Irish Sea. Flowing northwestward into the Atlantic Ocean, this channel is renowned as one of the most challenging Ocean Seven Swims.

SPORTS

Virat Kohli becomes 10th cricketer to make 500 international appearances

- Indian cricketing legend Virat Kohli achieved a significant milestone by becoming the 10th cricketer in history to make 500 international appearances. He reached this remarkable feat during India's second and final Test match against the West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain. With this accomplishment, Kohli joins an elite list of four Indian players, including the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and MS Dhoni. Kohli's exceptional career includes 274 ODIs, 115 T20Is, and 111 Test matches, showcasing his immense contribution to Indian cricket. This historic achievement further solidifies Virat Kohli's status as one of the game's greatest players.
- Tendulkar leads the list, which is dominated by Asian batters, with 664 appearances. Sri Lankan legend Mahela Jayawardene is the only other to make more than 600 international matches.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Lokesh M appointed as CEO of Noida Authority

- Following orders issued by the Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday, 2005-batch IAS officer Lokesh M has been appointed as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Noida Authority.
- Former CEO Ritu Maheshwari has been transferred to Agra where she will take charge as Divisional Commissioner. A native of Karnataka, Lokesh M, had completed his training from Aligarh in 2006. He was District Magistrate and collector of Mainpuri, Kushinagar, Etah, Ghazipur, Amroha and Kaushambi districts from 2009 to 2016. He was on deputation to Karnataka from 2016 to 2021, after which he was made the Divisional Commissioner of Saharanpur before getting posted as Agra commissioner on May 31. Now as he has been given the responsibility of CEO of Noida Authority, official sources said that new CEO Lokesh M is likely to join Noida Authority on Friday.
- Meanwhile, Maheshwari, a 2003-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), will join as Divisional Commissioner of Agra, replacing IAS officer Alok Gupta, who will be joining as the Divisional Commissioner of Kanpur. In July 2019, Maheshwari was made the CEO of Noida after her stint as the district magistrate of the adjoining Ghaziabad district.

Nivruti Rai, former Intel India head, joins Invest India as MD and CEO

- Former Intel India head Nivruti Rai has joined as the Managing Director and CEO of Invest India, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry informed on Wednesday. She has taken over the charge from Manmeet K Nanda, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) who had assumed this additional charge in March 2023.
- Rai is the recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for her contributions to the field of technology. She spent 29 years at Intel as a global business and technology leader. She led Intel India as Country Head for the past seven years driving the growth and investment of Intel in India.
- During her tenure at Intel India, Rai contributed significantly towards indigenous technology development, start-up ecosystem, electronics manufacturing ecosystem, and policy formulation, especially in the areas of critical and emerging technologies,

Central government has appointed IPS officer Manoj Yadava as DG Railway Protection Force

- Manoj Yadava, a senior IPS officer from the Haryana cadre, has been designated as the new Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), according to an order from the Personnel Ministry. Yadava, who belongs to the 1988 batch of the Indian Police Service, will take over from Sanjay Chander, who is set to retire on July 31. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Yadava's appointment as DG, RPF, until his retirement on July 31, 2025.
- Yadava, who was the Haryana DGP from 2019-21, is the senior most IPS officer in the cadre and is on central deputation at present as DG (investigations), National Human Rights Commission.
- **About: Railway Protection Force (RPF)** - Railway Protection Force (RPF) is an armed Force of the Union under the administrative and operational control of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957; enacted by the Indian Parliament for "the better protection and security of railway property and passenger area". It has the power to search, arrest, Enquiry, and prosecute offenses committed under Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act 1966, The Railways Act, 1989 (amended from time to time). However the power of arrests under other penal laws rests in the hands of the Government Railway Police (GRP) of state police.[4] The force is under the authority of the Indian Ministry of Railways.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Seven-year-old Indian-origin girl wins UK PM's Points of Light award

- A seven-year-old Indian-origin schoolgirl, who started volunteering for a United Nations' sustainability initiative against microplastic pollution when she was just three, has been awarded the British Prime Minister's Points of Light award.
- Moksha Roy, who received the award from Deputy British Prime Minister Oliver Dowden last week, has the distinction of being the world's youngest sustainability advocate.

- Moksha has been recognised for volunteering for several sustainability campaigns, including raising funds to help children in need.
- “Moksha has set an excellent example in her work championing UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She has gone to significant lengths to have these included in the school curriculum and has been in communication with leaders all over the world to encourage them to consider this,” said Dowden.
- “Her school no longer uses plastic glitter, confetti or plastic art supplies – this is a testament to her strong beliefs and ability to change those around her to create a better world,” he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

India, Argentina sign agreements to strengthen cooperation in defence

- The decision was made during the meeting that took place between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the visiting Minister of Defence of Argentine Republic Jorge Enrique Taiana in New Delhi.
- A MOU on cooperation in the defence sector is already in place between India and Argentina that was signed during former Argentine President Mauricio Macri’s visit to New Delhi in February 2019.
- “We are here to perfect and deepen the agreements we have and sign some others. One of them is a Memorandum of Understanding that is richer in content and concrete possibilities than the one currently in force,” said Taiana, adding: “I think we have a concrete opportunity in the field of Defence, where we can give a quality leap in cooperation between the two countries”.
- During their meeting, the two Defence Ministers discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation and exchange in areas of training and training of officers and cadets besides also measures to enhance defence industrial partnership.

India's Surat Diamond Bourse overtakes The Pentagon as world's largest office building

- A building in India’s diamond city of Surat has surpassed The Pentagon to become the world’s largest office. Surat in Gujarat state is known as the world’s diamond capital, where 90 per cent of the precious stones are cut. It will now house the world’s largest office building, the Surat Diamond Bourse, dedicated to the gemstone industry.
- The 15-storey building has more than 7.1 million square feet of floor space, outdoing The Pentagon, the headquarters of the US defence department in Arlington Co, Virginia, which has 6.5 million sq ft. It is 81.9 metres tall and cost 32 billion rupees (\$38 million) to build.
- The Diamond Bourse was designed by Delhi-based Morphogenesis and is based on the concept of Panchtatva, the five elements of nature – water, fire, air, earth and sky.
- “It is the world’s largest building,” Sonali Rastogi, co-founder of Morphogenesis, told The National. “It houses different sizes of offices but are all meant for diamond

merchants. There are 300 sq ft to 25,000 sq ft offices. It has been built for the diamond merchant community."

- The building has a unique design of nine interconnected rectangular structures emanating from a central spine. It can house more than 4,700 diamond offices and 65,000 industry professionals, including cutters, polishers and traders,

NATIONAL

Regional Office of Universal Postal Union (UPU) gets inaugurated in New Delhi

- Minister of State for Communication Shri Devusinh Chauhan and Director General, Universal Postal Union (DG UPU) Mr Masahiko Metoki inaugurated the Regional Office of UPU here today. The Regional Office will undertake UPU's technical assistance activities in South Asia region by entering into a host country agreement by Department of Posts, India.
- The Regional Office of UPU in India will serve as a vital platform for exchanging ideas, experiences and expertise, thereby accelerating the modernisation and transformation of the postal sector. It will act as a hub for promoting collaboration among UPU member countries in the Asia Pacific region, encouraging innovation and facilitating knowledge sharing to enhance postal services.
- India also announced contribution of USD 2,00,000 over a period of four years towards the UPU's Development and Technical Assistance activities through Asia Pacific Postal Union. This financial contribution aims to support capacity building, infrastructure development, and other essential activities to strengthen the postal sector in the region.

SPORTS

Indian Surf Team wins bronze medal at Asian Surfing Championship in Maldives

- Indian Surf Team won the bronze medal at the Asian Surfing Championship, held at Thulisdhoo Island in Maldives. 18 countries from Asia took part in this championship.
- The Surfing Federation of India sent a team comprising 4 senior Surfers in the men's category and 2 Surfers in the Under 18 category. 5 out of the 6 Surfers were from Tamilnadu.
- Srikanth from Kovalam, Tamil Nadu made it to the semi-finals in the Men's Category.
- The President of the Surfing Federation of India Arun Vasu said that Surfing team finished overall 3rd with a bronze medal.
- Indian Surfers will now get ready for the first-ever World Surfing League (WSL) event in India to be held in Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu from August 14 to 20 this year

DD Sports secures Television rights for FIFA Women's World Cup 2023

- DD Sports has partnered with 1Stadia to broadcast the highly anticipated 9th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup, bringing joy and excitement to fans.
- The tournament, starting on July 20, 2023, will mark the inaugural occasion when the World Cup is co-hosted by two countries, namely Australia and New Zealand.
- 1Stadia has granted streaming platform FanCode the sub-licensing rights for streaming the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, while public broadcaster DD Sports has been entrusted with the sub-licensing rights for television broadcasting.

- About: DD Sports - DD Sports was launched on 18 March 1998. It operated as an encrypted pay channel from 2000 to 2003, but on 15 July 2003, it transformed into the sole free-to-air sports channel in the country.
- Given that Doordarshan Sports is easily accessible and available free-to-air, football enthusiasts from households across the nation can seamlessly tune in to catch the tournament. The channel's coverage extends to about 38 countries worldwide through the INSAT-4B satellite.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

SBI Capital Markets Ltd. (SBICAPS) has appointed Shri Rajay Kumar Sinha as its new MD and CEO

- SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS) announced the appointment of Rajay Kumar Sinha as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of its wholly owned subsidiary and investment banking arm, effective July 14. Sinha takes over from Amitava Chatterjee, who will now serve as Deputy Managing Director in charge of Commercial Clients Group at SBI's Corporate Centre
- Previously, Sinha held the position of overseeing Treasury operations at SBI, where he managed the bank's investment portfolio, money market, equity, private equity, and forex operations. With his expertise in global markets, Sinha will contribute to the further strengthening of SBICAPS' investment banking business both in India and internationally.

Rakesh Pal appointed as DG Indian Coast Guard

- Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy and joined Indian Coast Guard in January 1989.
- According to the ministry of defence he has undergone professional specialisation in Gunnery and Weapons Systems at Indian Naval School Dronacharya, Kochi, and an Electro-Optics Fire Control Solution course from the United Kingdom.
- The Officer holds the recognition of being the First Gunner of ICG. Pal was conferred with Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018 for his illustrious service.
- The ministry of defence said that Rakesh Pal was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in February 2022 and was posted at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.
- He was given the additional charge of Director General Coast Guard in February 2023. During the period, many significant operations and exercises were accomplished that includes the seizure of drugs and narcotic substances and gold worth crores of rupees.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Chess Day / World Chess Day

- International Chess Day / World Chess Day is celebrated on July 20 every year with the aim to raise awareness about the game of chess and appreciate chess players across the world. Chess is known as the "game of kings" and is popular for its

intellectual depth. This day celebrates the ancient game of etiquette and sportsmanship. There is no doubt that chess is a game with a global impact and the game as an intellectual and strategic tool is essential for intellectual development.

- History - UNESCO established International Chess Day with the aim to honor the founding of the International Chess Federation, FIDE by its French abbreviation in the year 1996. The headquarters of FIDE were established in Paris, France, and are now located in Switzerland. FIDE is an international organization that brings together different chess federations throughout the world and serves as the overseer of international chess tournaments. The International Olympic Committee acknowledged FIDE in 1999.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

UNDP India signed MoU with Absolute for PMFBY

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Absolute, a bioscience company, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and enhance the resilience of farmers.
- According to a statement, the partnership between UNDP India and Absolute aims to enhance the implementation of the PMFBY and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) by building technical capabilities of the scheme and digitalising service delivery of crop insurance and agricultural credit processes to increase reach and uptake of the schemes.
- It will also promote credit profiling of farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and farmer producers organisations (FPOs), for accurate crop loss assessment and risk evaluation to mobilise agriculture financing.
- UNDP and Absolute will also use advanced technology and data-driven solutions to facilitate farmland identification and enhance farm monitoring, research and development, and analytical capabilities to facilitate data-driven policymaking and fraud analytics, ensuring efficient and transparent delivery of government support to vulnerable farmers,

India to host ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines today 20th July

- India-ASEAN conference being held at New Delhi after almost a decade, ten ASEAN countries including Cambodia, Vietnam will participate,
- The Ministry of Ayush with support from the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Mission to ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat is gearing up to host the Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July 2023.
- The Conference on Traditional Medicines aims to strengthen the platform between India and ASEAN Countries to share their best practices and draw a roadmap for future cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicines.
- Addressing the Media at the Curtain Raiser event Union Minister for Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The multi-dimensional relationship between India and ASEAN stands on a strong foundation of shared geographical, historical, and civilizational links which is far older that goes back to more than two millennia." He continued, "Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at the 12th ASEAN India Summit at Myanmar in November 2014 enunciated 'Act East Policy', giving a new

momentum to the strategic partnership. The India ASEAN conference on Traditional Medicine being held after almost a decade is a major step towards deepening cooperation of India with ASEAN.”

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SPORTS

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy smashes Guinness world record for fastest badminton shot during Korea Open

- Indian badminton player Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, popularly known as Satwik, smashed the Guinness World Record for the fastest hit by a male player in the sport during the Korea Open, where Satwik recorded a mind-boggling speed of 565 km/h with his smash.
- This record-breaking smash has not only put Satwik on the global map but also broken a decade-long record previously held by Malaysian player Tan Boon Heong. In May 2013, Heong set the record with a smash speed of 493 km/h. However, Satwik's recent performance has surpassed this by a significant margin, marking a new era in the sport of badminton.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Arvind Kumar appointed chairman of UPERC

- Arvind Kumar, advisor for industries to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, has been appointed as the chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC). After his retirement in February this year, Kumar was appointed as an advisor on industries to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Kumar, a 1988 batch IAS officer, earlier headed the state energy department and was also the chairman of UP Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) and the state's Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC). He was also instrumental in framing the state's industrial policy.
- The state government made the appointment after a three-member selection committee, headed by Justice (Retired) Umesh Kumar of Allahabad High Court, recommended two names from 33 shortlisted candidates and forwarded the same to the government.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

The fourth G-20 Employment Working Group and the Labour and Ministers' Meeting begins in Indore

- The fourth Employment Working Group (EWG) meeting will focus on finalizing the Ministerial Declaration and outcome documents. In this the efforts of all the three meetings will be consolidated in this meeting. The EWG delegate's deliberations will end at the G-20 Labour and Ministers' Meeting (LEM), where they will gather to discuss and adopt these results. This information was given by Smt. Arti Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, in a press conference organized on

the eve of the fourth Employment Working Group of G-20 and the meeting of Labour and Employment Ministers to be held in Indore today - 19th to 21 July.

- Earlier, Shri Rupesh Kumar Thakur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment informed through a presentation that while 86 delegates are participating in the 4th EWG meeting, 165 delegates including 24 Ministers will participate in the LEM meeting. Heads of international organizations and employers' associations, including the ILO, OECD and the World Bank, will also attend the meeting.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Kishan Reddy conferred with Global Incredible Inc leadership Award

- Union Minister of Tourism, Culture G Kishan Reddy was conferred with the 'Global Incredible Inc Leadership Award' by the US India SME Council - an organization that promotes trade, commerce, and people-to-people exchange programs between the United States and India
- The award was conferred by eminent citizens from Maryland state, US in recognition of his endeavors towards promoting tourism and the rich culture of India.
- On receiving the award the minister tweeted, "Humbled to have received the 'Leadership Award' from The US India SME Council - an organization that promotes trade, commerce, and people-to-people exchange programs between the United States & India_
- The award was conferred by eminent citizens from Maryland state, US in recognition of the endeavors towards promoting tourism and the rich culture of India under the guidance and leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji" _
- Kishan Reddy is in the US and he attended the United Nations High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) on Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability on Tourism.

IIT professor wins global recognition with Eni Award for clean water innovations

- Indian scientist Professor Thalappil Pradeep from IIT Madras has been honored with the esteemed Eni Award for his groundbreaking research in energy and environment. The award recognises his innovative work in providing affordable clean water using advanced nanoscale materials. The President of Italy is expected to present the award to Professor Pradeep in the near future.
- **ABOUT ENI AWARD** - The Eni Award is highly regarded globally, with previous recipients including renowned Nobel laureates and distinguished scientists. The selection committee, which includes Nobel laureates, ensures that only exceptional individuals receive this prestigious recognition.
- Professor Pradeep's remarkable contributions in the field of nanotechnology and sustainable water purification have earned him this coveted honor, Established in 2007, the award aims to foster radical breakthroughs in energy efficiency, renewables, decarbonisation, and environmental preservation. It serves as a platform to encourage and inspire the next generation of researchers to address the pressing challenges in energy and environmental sustainability.

Aruna Sairam, Shashank Subramanyam presented Chevalier award

- Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam and flautist Shashank Subramanyam were conferred with the prestigious Chevalier award by the French government at a ceremony in Chennai on Saturday evening. The award was given in recognition of their contribution to the music field and development of Indo-France relations.
- According to a citation from the French Ministry of Culture, the award was intended to honour personalities for their creativity in cultural spheres and their works that formed the wealth of the cultural heritage. Ms. Sairam and Mr. Subramanyam were conferred the title of Chevalier De L'orde Des Arts Et Des Lettres.
- The award is considered to be one of the primary distinctions from among the four ministerial orders of the French Republic. The government had recognised their talent and dedication towards arts and culture.

RANKING

India is ranked 80th with visa-free entry to 57 nations, as per the Henley Passport Index 2023

- India has significantly improved its passport ranking by rising 5 spots from last years and is now ranked 80th in the latest Henley Passport Index. Owing to this, Indians can travel to 57 destinations completely visa free or visas on arrival arrangements.
- However, it is to be noted here that India has scored poorly in mobility. Hence, Indian passport holders need a visa to enter 177 destinations across the world in countries like China, Japan, Russia, the United States, and the entire European Union.
- As per the report, Singapore has replaced Japan for having the world's most powerful passport, allowing visa-free entry to 192 global destinations, according to the latest Henley Passport Index.
- After five years at the top, Japan dropped to third place as the number of destinations its passport can access without a visa fell, according to the ranking published by London-based immigration consultancy Henley & Partners.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Ashok Leyland bags orders worth Rs 800 crore from Indian Army

- Ashok Leyland, the Indian flagship of the Hinduja Group and the largest supplier of logistics vehicles to the Indian military, announced on Monday that it had won major orders for defence vehicles, valued at Rs 800 crore
- The contracts awarded to Ashok Leyland include for the production of "field artillery tractors" (FAT 4x4) and "gun towing vehicles" (GTV 6x6). The FAT 4x4 and GTV 6x6 are specialized vehicles employed by the artillery for towing light and medium guns, respectively.
- Both these platforms featured prominently in the first "positive indigenization list" that the government promulgated in August 2020. This was followed in May 2021 by a second positive indigenisation list, comprising of 108 items; and then a third indigenisation List of 101 items in April 2022.
- Ashok Leyland vehicles, especially the 7.5 tonne Stallion, have formed the backbone of the army's logistics supply chain since the Kargil conflict in 1999. They are

manufactured for the military in a dedicated production line in Ordnance Factory Jabalpur. The budget component for military transportation this year allocates Rs 6,717 crore for revenue expenditure. In addition the budget caters for Rs 4,038 crore in capital expenditure.

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INTERNATIONAL

Adani group commissions India's first transnational power project to Bangladesh

- Gautam Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group, met with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 15 to discuss the handover of the 1,600 MW Ultra Super Critical Godda Power Plant in Jharkhand to Bangladesh.
- Honoured to have met Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina on full load commencement and handover of the 1600 MW Ultra Super Critical Godda Power Plant. I salute the dedicated teams from India and Bangladesh who braved Covid to commission the plant in record time of three-and-a-half years," Gautam Adani said in a tweet.
- The power plant is located in the Godda district of Jharkhand and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Group. The first unit of the 1,600 MW Ultra Super Critical Godda Power Plant in Jharkhand began commercial operations on April 6, 2023. The second unit followed on June 26.
- APJL will supply 1,496 MW from the Godda USCTPP under the PPA with the Bangladesh Power Development Board, executed in November 2017 for a period of 25 years, via a 400 kV dedicated transmission system connected to the Bangladesh grid, the company said in a statement.

U.K. formally signs up to trans-Pacific trading bloc

- The UK has formally agreed to become the first European country to join a major Indo-Pacific trade bloc, in what marks Britain's biggest trade deal since Brexit – despite forecasts placing its value at just £1.8bn a year.
- The government's business and trade secretary Kemi Badenoch signed the accession protocol to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in New Zealand on Sunday, bringing the bloc's combined GDP to £12 trillion – 15 per cent of the global share.
- Her signature gives formal confirmation of the agreement reached in March following two years of negotiations, and officials from Britain and the bloc's 11 other members will now begin work to ratify the deal, which will require parliamentary scrutiny and legislation in the UK to bring it into force.

NATIONAL

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates new integrated terminal building of Port Blair airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the new integrated terminal building or NITB of the Veer Savarkar International Airport at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union minister of state for road, transport and highways and civil aviation, general (retd) VK Singh and senior officials attended the ceremony.
- The terminal building is shaped like a shell, depicting the natural environs of the islands. The entire terminal will have 100 per cent natural lighting for 12 hours a day which will be achieved through skylights on the roof.
- Due to a surge in passenger traffic, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) constructed the NITB at an estimated cost of ₹707.73 crore.
- With a total built-up area of 40,837 sq metres, the new terminal building will have the capacity to handle 1,200 passengers during peak hours and around 40 lakh passengers annually.
- The three-storey building will be equipped with 28 check-in counters, three passenger boarding bridges and four conveyor belts.

Nokia and TSSC launch 5G skill development centre in Gujarat

- Finnish telecom gear maker Nokia and India's Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) will train 300 people in 5G, IoT and allied skills at the Nokia Centre of Excellence which was inaugurated at ITI Kuberanagar, Gujarat,
- The primary objective is to offer job placements to at least 70 percent of learners within 4-6 weeks after completing the course. In the first year of the project, approximately 300 candidates will benefit from this program. Balvantsinh Rajput, the Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment in the state, presided over the inauguration ceremony of the 5G skill development center.
- Nokia is leading the way in pioneering advancements in telecom technology and is committed to cultivating a highly skilled workforce to contribute to the development of the 5G ecosystem. As part of its India corporate social responsibility (CSR) program, Nokia is making substantial investments in infrastructure, equipment, and training for the five labs within the Center of Excellence (CoE). Additionally, Nokia aims to foster connectivity and digitization, leveraging these efforts to generate positive socioeconomic, educational, and health benefits in India.

SPORTS

Ajit Singh won gold medal in Para Athletics Championship in Paris

- Indian athlete Ajit Singh won the gold medal in the final of men's javelin throw F46 at the Para Athletics Championships in Paris.
- Ajit Singh topped the event with a throw of 65.41. He broke the previous championship record of 61.89 held by Chunliang Guo of China. Rinku, another Indian athlete, won the silver medal with a best throw of 65.38. Sri Lanka's Dinesh Priyanta Herath and Rinku finished joint second in the event. Sunder Singh Gujjar, representing India, finished fourth with a throw of 61.81.s
- Completing India's gold medal haul, Ajeet Singh triumphed in the Men's Javelin Throw F46 Final. Sunder Singh Gurjar showcased an impressive performance as well, finishing fourth in the same event and securing qualification for the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

- This outstanding performance by the Indian contingent marks their best-ever achievement in the competition, surpassing their previous record of nine medals in the 2019 edition held in Dubai.

OBITURY

Former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy passes away

- Former Kerala Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Oommen Chandy 79, passed away in the early hours of Tuesday. Chandy, who was battling throat cancer, breathed his last at a private hospital in Bengaluru. Apart from his son, Kerala Congress President K. Sudhakaran shared the sad news in a tweet this morning. He was ill for a long time.
- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of former Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Oommen Chandy. Modi also recalled his various interactions with him, particularly when they both served as Chief Ministers of their respective states.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Neeraj Akhoury elected as President and Parth Jindal as Vice President of CMA

- Neeraj Akhoury, Managing Director of Shree Cement, has been elected as the new President of Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA).
- JSW Cement Managing Director Parth Jindal has been appointed as Vice President of CMA, the apex body of India's large cement manufacturers.
- Both were unanimously elected at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of CMA held on July 14, 2023, said a statement from the association.
- Akhoury, who has 30 years of experience in the steel and cement industries, takes over from UltraTech Cement's Managing Director K C Jhanwar.
- "As a future direction, the Indian Cement Industry would like to reiterate its commitment to being India's partner in nation-building for creating business value chains, supporting infrastructure growth and a sustainability agenda, with an emphasis on decarbonisation, aligned to India's priorities and working in close collaboration with policy planners, ministries and stakeholders," said Akhoury.
- The Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) is the apex body of large cement plants in India, representing almost 90% of the total installed cement capacity. CMA was established in 1946 with the objective of promoting the growth and development of the Indian cement industry. CMA represents almost 80 per cent of the total installed cement capacity in India. (PTI)

IMPORTANT DAYSs

Nelson Mandela International Day

- Nelson Mandela International Day is observed annually on July 18, in commemoration of Nelson Mandela's birthday, to honour his life and legacy. It holds immense significance as it serves as a global call to action for individuals to engage in acts of community service and social activism.
- History - The United Nations officially designated July 18 as Nelson Mandela International Day in November 2009, with the first observance taking place in 2010,

reported BQ Prime. The initiative was inspired by Mandela's powerful message in 2008, where he urged the younger generation to take up the responsibility of leading the fight against global social injustices, stating, "it is in your hands now."

- Nelson Mandela was a renowned South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist, who believed in the power of empathy and forgiveness to bring about transformative change.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers meeting starts in Bangkok, Thailand

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers first ever meeting today started in Bangkok, Thailand.
- On the second day of his Bangkok Visit, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar meets with foreign ministers of BIMSTEC member nations in Bangkok.
- Yesterday Mr. Jaishankar Co-chaired the 12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting in Bangkok along with Foreign Minister of Lao PDR Saleumxay Kommasith. In a tweet, the Minister wrote, he Stressed, during the MGC meeting, the importance of expediting projects that have faced challenges in the recent past, especially the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway.

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INTERNATIONAL

Razorpay launches first international payment gateway in Malaysia through Curlec

- India's renowned fintech giant and leading Full-Stack Payments and Business Banking Platform, Razorpay, has made a significant announcement regarding its first-ever international Payment Gateway for the Malaysian market as it acquires Malaysian fintech start-up 'Curlec' for \$20 million, which has been rebranded as 'Curlec by Razorpay'.
- The introduction of the Curlec Payment Gateway aims to bridge the gap between local and international payment gateways, while also addressing the unique digital payment challenges prevalent in emerging markets. Transforming into a Comprehensive Payment Solutions Provider
- By launching the Payment Gateway, 'Curlec by Razorpay' has evolved into a comprehensive provider of payment solutions, leveraging the synergy between cutting-edge technological capabilities and a profound understanding of the local payment ecosystem.

SPORTS

India finish 3rd behind China and Japan with 27 medals at Asian Athletics Championships

- India won 6 gold medals at the Asian Athletics Championships, Japan topped the table with 37 medals, including 16 Golds, India won 13 medals on the final day of the championship in Thailand.
- Unheralded Abha Khatua equalled shot put national record while finishing second in a surprise performance while Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary clinched their

second medals -- both silver -- as India ended their campaign with 27 medals at the Asian Athletics Championships campaign at the third spot in Thailand..

- The 28-year-old Khatua made a huge improvement of nearly a metre -- 93 cm -- from her earlier lifetime best of 17.13m as she sent the 4kg iron ball to a distance of 18.06m in her fourth throw to finish second behind Song Jiayuan (18.88m) of China. Her second-best throw of the day was 17.10m.

World number one Carlos Alcaraz won his first Wimbledon title

- Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic in five-set thriller, wins maiden title at The Championships Wimbledon 2023 Men's Final, Alcaraz fought from a set down in an instant classic to end Djokovic's winning run in SW19, with the match played across almost five hours of breathtaking drama. Before the final, Djokovic had won 34 consecutive matches at Wimbledon and had not lost on Centre Court since 2013, but Alcaraz overturned history to win his second grand slam title. Djokovic had also won his previous 104 grand slam matches after winning the opening set.
- In doing so, the 20-year-old Spaniard brings one of the most dominant eras of tennis history to an end. Alcaraz is the first player outside of the sport's 'big four' of Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to win the Wimbledon men's singles title since 2002. Djokovic has been bidding to join Federer by equalling his men's record of eight singles titles, but was denied by an inspired Alcaraz.

OBITUARY

Eminent mathematician Dr Mangala Narlikar passes away at 80

- Eminent mathematician and scientist Dr Mangala Narlikar, wife of noted astrophysicist Dr Jayant Narlikar, passed away at her residence in Maharashtra's Pune city on Monday after a prolonged illness, her family members said. She was 80. Narlikar had been battling cancer for the past few months,
- About: Dr Mangala Narlikar - Narlikar studied from the University of Bombay and received degrees of B. A. (Maths) in 1962 and M.A. (Maths) in 1964 with first rank and also won the Chancellor's gold medal. She married, Jayant Narlikar, a well known cosmologist and physicist, in 1966. They have three daughters, Geeta, Girija and Leelavati, all of whom have pursued careers in science; one (Geeta) is a Professor of Biochemistry at the University of California, San Francisco, and the other two are in computer science.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for International Justice

- Every year, World Day for International Justice is celebrated on July 17 to respect the significant role played by The International Criminal Court and other organisations in serving justice to people who have been victims of a lot of crimes.
- History - According to The International Criminal Court - "July 17 is the Day of International Criminal Justice. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. July 17 unites all those who wish to support justice, promote victims'

rights, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world."

- The day is celebrated to create more public awareness about the mandate and the importance of justice in serious crimes. It also helps in creating awareness about the people who have been denied justice for long, due to several crimes, such as genocide and terrorism. It helps in understanding the importance of fighting for justice, advancing human rights and accelerating the prosecution of crimes.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research 95th Foundation and Technology Day

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 95th Foundation Day today 17 July at National Agriculture Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and President of ICAR Society was the Chief Guest of the program. Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry - Dairying and Shri Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare also graced the occasion.
- Shri Rupala acclaimed ICAR for several remarkable achievements which have revolutionized the dairy and fisheries sector. He further mentioned that the time has come to earn carbon credits from agriculture which can be explored for additional income. He also inaugurated an exhibition showcasing innovative technologies developed by 113 ICAR research institute.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India and UAE sign MoUs in banking and education sectors

- India and UAE signed three MoUs in the banking and education sectors. The MoUs in the banking sector pertain to the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions and cooperation for interlinking their payment and messaging systems, while the MoU in the education sector signed between the Ministry of Education of the Government of India, the Department of Education and Knowledge of Abu Dhabi, and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi relates to setting up of an IIT campus in Abu Dhabi.
- The MoU signed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das, and the Governor of the Central Bank of UAE, Khaled Mohamed Balam for the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions covers all current account transactions and permitted capital account transactions. This arrangement would also promote investments and remittances between the two countries.
- The two central banks also agreed to cooperate on linking their Fast Payment Systems (FPSs) - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India with the Instant Payment Platform (IPP) of UAE, linking the respective Card Switches (RuPay switch and UAESWITCH) and exploring the linking of payments messaging systems. The UPI-IPP linkage will enable the users in either country to make fast, convenient, safe, and cost-effective cross-border funds transfers. The linking of Card Switches will facilitate the mutual acceptance of domestic cards and the processing of card transactions.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission bagged SKOCH Award 2023

- The Jammu-Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRL) has bagged the SKOCH Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in Gold category.
- JKRL has received this award for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for the Self-Help Group in the U.T.
- The SKOCH Award marks a significant milestone for JKRL, being the first award received since the inception of the scheme.
- The award gives recognition to the JKRL for its hard work and dedication of the JKRL team, especially its Mission Director who has been instrumental in driving the Mission's major goal of creating marketing opportunities from district-level avenues to national-level platforms.

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INTERNATIONAL

India-Mongolia joint military exercise Nomadic Elephant – 2023 to commence at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

- Indian Army contingent comprising of 43 personnel left for Mongolia today. The contingent will participate in the 15th edition of bilateral joint military exercise "NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23". The exercise is scheduled to be conducted at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17 to 31 July 2023. Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event with Mongolia which is conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India, the last edition was held at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh in October 2019.
- Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 from and Indian Army soldiers from the JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY Regiment will be participating in the exercise. Indian Army contingent reached Ulaanbaatar on 16 July 23 by an Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft. The aim of this exercise is to build positive military relations, exchange best practices, develop inter-operability, bonhomie, camaraderie and friendship between the two armies. The primary theme of the exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.

Saudi Arabia Becomes 51st Country to Ink ASEAN's Amity Treaty

- Saudi Arabia officially inked ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia -- commonly shortened as the TAC -- during the group's ministerial meeting in Jakarta.
- The Middle Eastern country sent its senior diplomat Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud to sign the non-aggression pact. Saudi Arabia also became the 51st nation to accede to the TAC.
- "The [signing] reflects Saudi's strong commitment to abide by ASEAN values and principles as enshrined in the TAC," Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi said when kicking off the TAC signing ceremony.

- “A commitment to cooperate and collaborate. A commitment to contribute to upholding international laws. A commitment to contribute to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and beyond,” she added.

NATIONAL

Delhi's IGI becomes India's first airport to have four runways

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Friday became India's first airport to have four runways as the civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated its fourth runway and hinted at the opening of the airport's new terminal by October this year.
- Pointing that the new runway along with the new terminal will allow Delhi airport to cater to 109 Million passengers yearly, Scindia said that the country's civil aviation sector is witnessing the beginning of the growth phase and that the civil aviation sector is contributing to the rise of the economic power of India.
- This runway along with the terminal expansion will add to creating capacity to serve more than 109 million people throughput which would crest and beat even Atlanta in its capability,
- Scindia also inaugurated India's first eastern cross taxiway (ECT) that will connect the Northern part of the airfield to the southern side, thus reducing taxi time for aircraft and help passengers deplane within 12 minutes of landing.

Indian Army signs contract for procurement of Tactical Access Switch with Tata Advanced Systems Limited

- Continuing with the commitment towards 'Make in India' initiative the Indian Army has signed the second procurement contract through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) on 09 June 2023. The contract with M/s Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd, Bangalore for procurement of indigenously developed 'Tactical LAN Radio' was signed in presence of Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, the Vice Chief of Army Staff at New Delhi. With this initiative, the Indian Army has taken a lead by signing two contracts under iDEX till date.
- Tactical LAN solution is being developed indigenously for creating secure tactical LAN in remote and difficult terrain. 'Tactical LAN Radio' is a state of the art high bandwidth backhaul wireless radio equipment for provisioning of reliable and failsafe communication. The solution offers an enhanced range of communication and embedded frequency hopping mechanism to preclude chances of interception and long-range point-to-multipoint high-bandwidth communication. The system also incorporates the enhanced safety features and can operate continuously for 48 hours on a single set basis without any breakdown.

OPPO India sets up first PPP-model Atal Tinkering Lab in Kerala

- OPPO India in collaboration with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) as its knowledge partner has announced the establishment of an Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) in Kerala. This collaboration marks the establishment of the first-ever Atal Tinkering Lab, based on the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model.

- The lab at St Paul's CEHSS in Kuriachira, Thrissur, was inaugurated on July 10, 2023 by Rajeev Chandrashekar, the Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology. The primary objective of this initiative is to create an empowered future-ready workforce and nurture entrepreneurship and technological skills among the youth
- Till 2022, 10,000 ATLs were established across 35 States and UTs in India through government grants. "The establishment of the first PPP Atal Tinkering Lab in collaboration with OPPO India is a significant milestone in India's School Innovation journey.

SPORTS

Yashasvi Jaiswal became the 17th Indian to score a century on Test debut and the third designated opener

- Yashasvi Jaiswal rewrote the history books by becoming first-ever Indian opener to score a Test century on debut away from home. The left-hander, who was handed the Test cap by captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday, reached the landmark on Day 2 of the first Test against West Indies at Windsor Park in Dominica. Jaiswal got a single off fellow debutant Alick Athanaze to complete his century in the 70th over of India's innings late on Thursday. He got there off 215 balls.
- Overall, Jaiswal became the 17th Indian to score a century on Test debut and the third designated opener. However, he is the first Indian opener to get to three figures in his maiden Test away from home. Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw had registered their debut Test centuries at Mohali and Rajkot against Australia and West Indies respectively

Marketa Vondrousova beats Ons Jabeur to become first unseeded woman to win Wimbledon title

- Marketa Vondrousova becomes the Wimbledon champion 2023 by beating last year's runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 in the finals. Jabeur held the break of serve lead twice in the opening set of the women's singles final on Centre Court before the unseeded Marketa Vondrousova bounced back to win 16 of the last 18 points, and four straight games, to grab the opening set 6-4. She set three times in the first set. In 2023, Wimbledon will award an all-time high of 44.7 million pounds.
- Marketa Vondrousova becomes Wimbledon champion, the first unseeded player to do so in the Open Era. She beats last year's runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 in the final. Marketa Vondrousova is the first unseeded player to do so in the Open Era.
- About: Marketa Vondrousova - Marketa Vondrousova was born on June 28, 1999. Currently, she is 24 years old. She hails from the Czech Republic and is a Czech. Marketa was born in Sokolov, a small town located in the Karlovy Vary Region of the Czech Republic. Her parents are David Vondrousova and Jindriska Vondrousova. She married her longtime partner Stepan Simek on July 16, 2022. The couple got engaged after Tokyo Olympics 2021.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Adani Transmission Wins Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023

- Adani Transmission Limited has received 'Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2023 (GPEMA) in the 'Power Transmission Sector' from 'Institute of Directors.'
- In 2023, an assessment group comprising Environment, Health and safety, Energy and Climate Change experts assesses over 520 applications.
- These applications were approved by Justice M.N. The review was done by an eminent jury committee headed by Venkatachaliah.
- About: Golden Peacock Environment Management Award - The award is given for reducing its ecological footprint through programs such as zero waste in landfills, single-use plastic free, water-positive operations, promoting renewable energy integration and implementation of best-in-class environmental management strategies.
- Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has been awarded with the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award in 2021 in the steel sector by the Institute of Directors. SAIL has been the winner of this award for three consecutive years.
- Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) was declared Winner by its B2C arms i.e. Adani Electric Mumbai Limited for its unique strategic initiative of increasing renewable energy in bulk power purchase for distribution in Mumbai region.