

Weekly Current Affairs PDF July 29 to Aug 05, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- August 05, 2023

NATIONAL

Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' or 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme

- The Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme also known as 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme to assist students/candidates belonging to the six minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations.
- The primary objectives of the scheme are to provide specialized coaching to students from the notified minority communities in the following areas:
- Preparing for qualifying examinations for admission into technical/professional courses like engineering, medical, law, management, information technology, etc., and language/aptitude examinations required for seeking admission to foreign universities.
- Assisting with competitive examinations for recruitment to Group 'A', 'B', and 'C' services, as well as other equivalent positions under the Central and State governments, including public sector undertakings, banks, insurance companies, and autonomous bodies.

NHAI launches a mobile application called 'Rajmargyatra'

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched a citizen-centric integrated mobile application named 'Rajmargyatra' to enhance the highway user experience. The 'Rajmargyatra' app is available for download on Google Play Store and iOS App Store and currently supports Hindi and English languages.
- 'Rajmargyatra' provides comprehensive information on Indian National Highways, including real-time weather conditions, broadcast notifications, nearest toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels and other essential services for safe and seamless travel. The app has an efficient complaint redressal system, which allows users to report highway-related issues with geo-tagged videos or photos. The complaints are dealt with in a time bound manner, any delay is reported to the higher authorities. Users can track the status of their complaints for transparency.
- 'Rajmargyatra' integrates FASTag services with various bank portals, enabling users to recharge FASTags, avail monthly passes and access other related banking services within the app. The app also provides over-speed notification and voice assistance to promote responsible and safe driving behaviour. ' It aims to create a user-friendly experience for highway commuters, thereby ensuring a safer and more enjoyable journey on Indian National Highways.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Port Health Organisation (PHO) under Sagar Setu

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, introduced the Port Health Organisation (PHO) module as part

of the Sagar Setu – National Logistics Portal (Marine). The goal is to create a quicker and simpler system that promotes Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in the maritime sector.

- The PHO module will be responsible for monitoring diseases, conducting health inspections, and implementing quarantine measures to ensure the safety of citizens and port workers. This digital initiative was launched in the presence of Shri T K Ramachandra, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, and other senior officials of the ministry.
- This new system aims to streamline health-related processes and enhance efficiency in the maritime industry, ultimately benefiting businesses and improving the overall logistics ecosystem.

SPORTS

World Archery Championships 2023: Indian women's compound team wins historic gold medal

- The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami won the gold medal at the World Archery Championships 2023 in Berlin, Germany. It was India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category.
- The triumphant team comprised Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Gopichand Swami. In the final round, they showcased an exceptional performance against the Mexican team, consisting of Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon, and Andrea Becerra. The Indian trio emerged victorious with a score of 235-229, demonstrating their prowess and precision in the sport.
- In the semi-finals, the Indian trio, seeded second in the qualification round, had knocked out defending champions Colombia 220-216 to enter the title clash. Earlier, the Indian women's compound team defeated Chinese Taipei and Turkey in the quarter-finals and the pre-quarterfinals, respectively after receiving a bye in the first round. Heading into the Berlin meet, India had won 11 medals – nine silvers and two bronze – at the World Archery Championships.

OBITURY

N Vittal, architect of India's IT sector passes away

- The Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, N Vittal passed away in Chennai. With the passing of N Vittal, 85, former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) on Thursday, the country has lost the person who had sown the seeds for the growth of the information technology sector four decades ago.
- His experience of more than 40 years covered a wide spectrum with focus on industrial administration, science and technology and security. As Secretary of the Department of Electronics (1990-1996), he initiated policies for boosting software, setting up software technology parks and strategic alliance with the industry. This eventually led to the formation of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

- As Chairman of the Telecom Commission, he also initiated the process of liberalisation in the telecom sector and played a major role in getting the National Telecom Policy 1994 approved.

Nitin Desai a renowned art director passes away

- Art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai was found dead at his ND Studio in Karjat. He was known for his work in films such as Lagaan and Jodhaa Akbar.
- Postmortem of Bollywood art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai was conducted by a team of four doctors on Wednesday. As per preliminary findings, the cause of death is due to hanging.

AGREEMENT AND MOU,S

PNGRB partners with World Bank to chalk out roadmap for hydrogen blending in natural gas

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and the World Bank have joined forces to develop a comprehensive roadmap for integrating hydrogen blending in natural gas and establishing the infrastructure for their transmission through gas pipelines in the country.
- The primary objective of the study is to develop a comprehensive roadmap for the rapid implementation of hydrogen blending in India. The study covers the following aspects:
- Analysis of hydrogen demand and supply.
- Technical assessment of the current pipeline network's compatibility for hydrogen blending.
- Evaluation of the commercial potential of the pipeline sector.
- Identification of policy and regulatory bottlenecks.
- The study's recommendations include proposing amendments to the regulatory frameworks to align with the national objective of achieving a hydrogen consumption target of 5 million metric tonnes per annum by 2030. The study is scheduled to be completed within 16 weeks.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

IndusInd Bank partners with Tiger Fintech to launch co-branded credit card

- IndusInd Bank and Tiger Fintech a Bajaj Capital Group company, announced the launch of the IndusInd Bank Tiger Credit Card, a co-branded credit card powered by Visa. With this launch, customers will get access to best-in-class credit card to meet their lifestyle needs, IndusInd Bank said in a statement.
- The credit card comes with benefits including 'Magnificent Rewards Program' where customers earn up-to 6X accelerated rewards. Cardholders will also be able to convert their rewards points to air miles and enjoy discounted foreign currency mark-up of 1.5 percent on international spends.
- This co-branded credit card offers access to complimentary benefits like 24x7 concierge facility, domestic and international lounge access at the airports, games/lessons of golf, assured movie tickets and many other entertainment benefits

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NATIONAL

Festival of Libraries 2023" to be Inaugurated by the President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

- The Ministry of Culture is organizing a unique "Festival of Libraries 2023", held on the 5th - 6th August 2023 at Hall No. 5 Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the Two-day festival. Vice President of India, Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar will grace the Valedictory Ceremony of the event. The festival will also highlight iconic libraries from across the world in order to initiate a conversation on the modernization and digitization of libraries in India.
- This festival is a part of the second phase of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is in line with the Prime Minister's vision to foster the development and digitization of libraries and cultivate a culture of reading in India. It aims to facilitate the formulation of action-oriented policies for the development of Model Libraries in India, right down to the village and community levels.

Steel Minister unveils new logo of NMDC

- In a special event in New Delhi, Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, revealed the new logo of NMDC. The launch of new logo is a big step for NMDC, showing its commitment to responsible mining and global standards.
- The new logo represents past achievements, present commitment and future aspirations of NMDC. It represents the scale and strength of the company's future, driven by innovation and sustainability.
- The new logo unveiled by Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, signifies the company's future scale and strength after achieving a record production of 40 million tonnes for two consecutive fiscals. The new logo signifies the NMDC's journey of transformation and advancement.

OBITUARY

Noted Marathi poet Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, Passes away at 81

- Noted Marathi poet and lyricist Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, popularly known as Na Dho Mahanor, died at a hospital in Maharashtra's Pune on Thursday morning. He was 81.
- Mahanor was undergoing treatment at Ruby Hospital in Pune and was on life support systems for the last few days, his grandson Shashikant Manohar said. Mahanor was best known for his poems and lyrics for Marathi movies.
- Born in 1942, Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor was awarded Padma Shri in 1991. He had also been a member of the state legislative council.
- Mahanor penned several popular poems and songs, including 'Jagala Prem Arpave', 'Ganga Wahu De Nirmal' and 'Divelaganichi Vel', and also wrote songs for Marathi movies like 'Ek Hota Vidushak', 'Jait Re Jait', 'Sarja' and others. He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba gets another one-year-extension

- Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba was given one-year extension, beyond August 30, 2023, in service by the government, according to a Personnel Ministry order. This is his third extension on the post.
- Gauba, a former Union home secretary, was in 2019 appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years. He was given one-year extension in 2021 and then in August last year.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension in service to Gauba, a 1982-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Jharkhand cadre, for a further period of one year beyond 30.08.2023, in relaxation of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, and and Rule 56(d) of the Fundamental Rules, it said.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ninth edition of Malabar River Festival opens in Kerala

- In Kerala, the ninth edition of the Malabar River Festival opens at Thusharagiri in Kozhikode this morning August 4 . The three-day event, organised by the Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society and the Kozhikode District Tourism Promotion Council will be held at Iruvanjhipuzha and Chalipuzha rivers at Thusharagiri.
- Besides Indian Kayakers, paddlers from ten countries including the US, UK, Israel, Kazakhstan and South Africa are participating in the event. The competition will be held in Kayak Slalom, Boardercross and Down River events. The National Whitewater Kayaking Championship will also be held as part of the Malabar River Festival this year.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Axis Bank partners with Kiwi to bolster 'Credit on UPI' accessibility on RuPay credit cards

- Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India partners with Kiwi, the revolutionary credit on UPI platform to bolster 'Credit on UPI' accessibility on RuPay credit cards.
- The partnership enables Kiwi users to seamlessly access the RuPay lifetime free virtual Axis Bank KWIK credit card through the app. With its innovative features, users can make merchant payments within the Kiwi app using their credit cards via UPI, offering a virtual payment experience eliminating the need for physical cards.
- The end-to-end digital payment solution aims at enhancing the payment experience for customers. With this partnership, customers can enjoy the benefits of credit card rewards, while experiencing the convenience of UPI's fast and secure payment.

SIDBI as part of its initiative of "India of Tomorrow", has been collaborating with CIIE at IIM, Ahmedabad

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), as part of its initiative of "India of Tomorrow", has been collaborating with various leading Incubation Centres in the country to promote Deep Tech and science led Innovation by facilitating access to seed capital. In this regard, a formal contribution/ collaboration agreement for

setting up of "SIDBI Accelerator Fund at IIMA's CIIE.CO" with an initial corpus of `20 cr. was signed between SIDBI and CIIE.Co, IIM, Ahmedabad in the august presence of Shri S. Ramann, CMD, SIDBI on July 27, 2023. The collaboration agreement was signed by Prof Chitra Singla, IIM (Ahmedabad)-Faculty Chairperson, CIIE.Co and Sh. S. P. Singh, CGM, SIDBI. The arrangement would facilitate institutional seed investment in early stage viable and scalable ventures in future.

- The agreement is an outcome of SIDBI's new initiative to support the India of Tomorrow by augmenting the developmental and funding ecosystem for ideation/ early-stage startups and offering equity/ equity like capital to such startups through partnership with leasing incubators. Focus shall be on supporting startups having new and meritorious ideas, innovations, and technologies important for India's goals for 2047/ which shall help India become self-reliant as well as a dominant player in high quality/ high entry barrier products/ services. Sectors aimed to be supported include deep tech, hardware/ product startups, energy, clean tech,

NABARD sanctions Rs 1974 crore to Rajasthan government

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a total amount of Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2023-24.
- This substantial funding aims to uplift the living conditions of rural communities and drive economic growth in the region, This includes -
 - 1 Rural Drinking Water Supply Projects
 - 2 Improvement of Rural Roads
 - 3 Expansion of Veterinary Healthcare Facilities
 - 4 Micro-Irrigation Support
 5. Infrastructure Development Assistance for Canals
- About: NABARD - The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) serves as the apex regulatory authority responsible for overseeing the functioning of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks across India. It operates under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. NABARD's core responsibilities encompass policy formulation, planning, and implementation of credit facilities for agriculture and various economic endeavors in rural regions of India.

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NATIONAL

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates International Literature Festival & Festival of Folk & Tribal Performing Arts in Madhya Pradesh

- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the national festival of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh" in Bhopal today 3 August. Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Union Ministry of Culture is organizing this

event from 3rd to 5th August. Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were present at the inaugural ceremony.

- On this occasion, the President said that literature shows the mirror to humanity and takes it forward. It connects as well as connecting. He said that it is to be seen from the Amrit Kaal Mein Unmesh program that what is being created in literature today, which is being read by a large number of people. The President said that Utkarsh means progress and the progress of the tribal group will lead to the progress of the country. It is the responsibility of all of us to preserve the tribal tradition, language and culture.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app

- The Assam government has taken a significant step towards enhancing its forest cover and combating climate change by announcing a massive initiative called 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan'. This ambitious project aims to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day in September, marking a crucial milestone in the state's efforts to boost its green economy and contribute to the fight against global warming.
- The primary objective of this large-scale initiative is to significantly increase Assam's forest cover and encourage collective action in the face of climate change.
- While the immediate target of 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' is to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day, the state government has set its sights on even more ambitious goals. By the year 2025, Assam aims to plant a staggering 5 crore saplings, further fortifying its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable growth.

President lays foundation stone of 'Divine Light House' in Odisha

- President Draupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone of 'Divine Light House' at Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Dasabatia, Tamando near the Odisha capital.
- The occasion marked the launch of the theme for the year "Year of Positive Change", reflecting the emphasis on driving positive change.
- Recognizing the role of technology as a catalyst of change, President Murmu stressed the importance of both material and spiritual development for the betterment of humanity.
- Acknowledging the important role of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in promoting spirituality through meditation and disciplined lifestyle, leading to inner peace.
- The Divine Light House project and focus on positive change exemplify the commitment to promote holistic development and well-being within society.
- Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya stands out not only as an organisation but also as a powerful social and spiritual movement led by women.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Indian American Shohini Sinha becomes FBI special agent

- Indian-American Shohini Sinha has assumed the role of special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office, as appointed by FBI Director Christopher Wray. Her

appointment marks a momentous milestone in her career, as she becomes the fortieth sovereign to undergo the prestigious coronation ceremony at the renowned Westminster Abbey.

- Shohini Sinha's ascendancy to the position of special agent in charge underscores her exceptional capabilities and dedication to the United States' national security.

IMPORTANT DAYS

India Tamil monsoon festival 'Aadi Perukku'

- Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi. Traditionally observed in late July or early August, this festivity centers around expressing gratitude to water bodies, as the entire month of Aadi is considered to herald the onset of the monsoon season.
- The Tamil Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil.
- Aadi Perukku is a monsoon festival celebrated in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, that occurs on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi. This joyous event revolves around promoting water sustainability and encompasses a variety of rituals and customs. Families unite to prepare special delicacies and partake in a lavish feast, expressing gratitude to the water deities for a prosperous year ahead.
- An intriguing facet of the Aadi Perukku celebration is the veneration of Goddess Parvati, with women offering prayers to both her and the divine. The festivities also showcase an array of rice-based dishes, including traditional favorites such as tamarind rice and curd rice, complemented by the delightful sweetness of Pongal.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Indian Railways & IIT-Madras ink MoU for 5G testbed

- The Ministry of Railways and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) signed a memorandum of understanding ((MoU) to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad; the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways.
- The MoU between IRISET and IIT-Madras aims to accelerate the indigenisation efforts of Indian Railways in the field of communications and create a testing facility for Indian Railways. The Indian Railways aims to leverage the potential of 5G technology to enhance its operational efficiency, passenger experience and overall safety. By simulating real-world scenarios, researchers and industry experts will explore innovative solutions to modernise various aspects of Railway communication and services.

Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society sign MoU with AIFF to promote football

- For the first time ever, Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) today signed MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level.

- SMSES, which has been conducting the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament since 1960, will form a Subroto XI (eleven) team under Junior Boys (Under-17) from this edition onwards. Addressing media in New Delhi,
- Air Vice Marshal and SMSES member Alok Sharma announced that the team will also participate in AIFF Youth Competition from the 2023-24 season. He said that an education workshop will also be undertaken by AIFF for coaches of final-round teams to update and educate them. Clubs from the Indian Super League, Indian Women's League, and I-League will also pick up players from the Subroto Cup.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

A new book "How Prime Ministers Decide", by veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury released

- A new book, titled How Prime Ministers Decide, by veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury recalls the drama that led to Sonia's announcement, prompted by Rahul's "fear for his mother's life". A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself.
- The author analyses the operating styles of the country's prime ministers through the prism of six decisions of historic significance. These are as follows: the strategy that Indira Gandhi devised to return to power in 1980, after her humiliating defeat post the Emergency in 1977; the errors of judgment that led Rajiv Gandhi to undo the Supreme Court's judgment in the Shah Bano case; V. P. Singh's implementation of the Mandal Commission Report to save his government which forever changed the face of contemporary politics;
- How Prime Ministers Decide is an unparalleled book about modern Indian politics which will change the way we view how prime ministers govern the country.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

CRED launches RuPay credit card-based UPI payments

- Fintech firm CRED introduced RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for its members, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The company now supports RuPay credit cards issued by banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, Axis Bank, BOB Financial Solutions, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank.
- The launch of credit-on-UPI will empower CRED's members to utilise their RuPay credit cards for making payments via UPI.

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NATIONAL

India to host World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru

- India is set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) in Bengaluru from September 25 to 28, where it will present its diverse coffees to buyers from over 80

countries. This is the first time that the event will be held in Asia. The conference aims to create pathways for innovative opportunities and markets, with a special emphasis on benefiting coffee farmers who play a crucial role in the coffee production chain.

- The central theme of the event will be “Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture” The event will encompass various activities, including conferences, exhibitions, skill-building workshops, a CEOs & global leaders forum, and a growers conclave. Participants from over 80 countries are anticipated to take part in WCC 2023.
- The International Coffee Organization (ICO) organizes World Coffee Conference to discuss on crucial matters concerning the global coffee industry. With 77 Member Countries and over 900 attendees, including coffee growers and government representatives, the conference serves as a platform for a diverse range of discussions.

SPORTS

Stuart Broad announces retirement from all forms of cricket after the Ashes

- England pacer Stuart Broad has announced his retirement from cricket. He will call it quits from the game after the ongoing Ashes series. Broad announced the decision at the end of the third day of the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval. The 37-year-old has played 167 Test matches, picking 602 wickets. He has also featured in 121 ODIs and 56 T20Is.
- Broad, who made his Test debut against Sri Lanka in 2007, will go down as one of the great pacers in the sport – he sits at fifth on the all-time list of wicket-takers, and is one of only two fast bowlers to take over 600 wickets, alongside long-time bowling partner Jimmy Anderson.
- He is the only English player with two hat-tricks to his name in Test cricket. His finest hour in Test cricket came against his arch-rivals Australia when put himself in cricketing folklore with a stunning 8/15 at Trent Bridge in 2015. Broad was still firing at all cylinders even at 37 years of age but decided to call time on his career while he was still at the top of his game, informing his decision to the captain last night.
- Career: Broad made his Test debut for England in 2007 and went on to play 167 matches, taking 604 wickets at an average of 27.68. He also played 121 ODIs, taking 178 wickets at an average of 30.13, and 56 T20Is, taking 65 wickets at an average of 22.94.
- Retirement: Broad announced his retirement from cricket on July 29, 2023, at the end of the 5th Ashes Test against Australia. He said that he wanted to “finish at the top of the game”.

India beat West Indies by massive 200 runs in the 3rd ODI, to win the 3 match series 2 – 1

- Team India defeated West Indies by a massive 200 runs in the third and final ODI to clinch the three-match series 2-1 on Tuesday. West Indies struggled during their chase, allowing India to dominate the game.
- The West Indies openers fell quickly, followed by their captain, who was caught out by Mukesh Kumar. Unadkat took out another batsman, leaving the West Indies in a

difficult position at 35/4. Thakur then took two more wickets in quick succession. Some lower-order players tried to save the situation, but it wasn't enough.

- Thakur's four wickets and Mukesh Kumar's impressive bowling denied West Indies the chance to win their first ODI series against India since 2006. India's strong batting performance had already secured the victory, with four players scoring half-centuries to help them reach a total of 351.

Moeen Ali confirms his Retirement from Test Cricket and more

- England all-rounder Moeen Ali confirms his test cricket retirement after the end of the Ashes series and he will play in other formats of cricket. On the request of England Test captain Ben Stokes, he played the Ashes series. But he retired from test cricket in September 2021.
- He played for England in 68 test matches taking 204 wickets and scored 3094 runs. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in June 2023 for his services to cricket.
- Australia cricket team retained the 5 match test series 'Ashes 2023' after the 2-2 draw against England. It was held from 16th June to 31st July in the United Kingdom (UK). This marks Australia's 4th consecutive win in the series. So far in the Ashes series, Australia won 34 Ashes and England won 33 Ashes, 5 series were drawn.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Centre launches ULLAS mobile application to promote basic literacy

- The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 witnessed its inauguration at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi gracing the event.
- The occasion also saw the Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, introducing the logo, slogan - "Jan Jan Sakshar", and mobile application of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram. The occasion coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020.
- The ULLAS initiative aims to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation by fostering a comprehensive learning ecosystem that caters to every individual, bridging gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. Its focus extends to promoting functional literacy, vocational skills and essential life skills such as financial literacy, legal literacy, digital literacy and empowerment of citizens to participate in nation-building.

OBITUARY

Senior Congress leader and former Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman passes away

- Former two-time Kerala Assembly Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman, 96, passed away. Mr. Purushothaman commenced his political life as a Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) activist in 1952. He won a seat in the Vakkom panchayat council on the party ticket. When practising as lawyer at the Thiruvananthapuram Bar, former Chief Minister R. Shankar spotted Mr. Purushothaman's flair for politics and persuaded him to quit the RSP and join the Congress.

- He served as Minister for Agriculture and Labour in the Achutha Menon government (1971-77) and Mr. Purushothaman retained Attingal for Congress in the 1977, 1980 and 1982 State elections. After the 'A' group split from the Congress, he joined as Health and Tourism Minister in the 1980 E.K. Nayanar government. He aligned himself with the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.
- In 1984, he bagged the Alappuzha Lok Sabha constituency for the Congress by defeating CPI(M) leader Susheela Gopalan.
- Purushothaman bid farewell to electoral politics and assumed charge as Lieutenant Governor in Andaman Nicobar. He later served as Mizoram and Meghalaya Governor. He enacted laws ensuring the welfare of farm and headload workers.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment to begin today at Gandhinagar in Gujarat

- G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment will begin in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today – August 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a special video address at the beginning of the Conference. The three-day conference will be chaired by Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani. The theme of the conference is 'Women-led Inclusive Development as Cusp of Inter-Generational Transformation'.
- AIR correspondent reports that the deliberations and discussions during the conference will focus on priority areas such as Education; Women's Entrepreneurship, Creating a Partnership for Promoting Women's Leadership at all Levels; Women and Girls as Change-makers in Climate Resilience Action, and Digital Skilling for Women's Empowerment. The three-day Ministerial meeting will witness the participation of more than 150 delegates led by their respective Heads of Delegations from G20 members, invitee countries, and International Organisations.

NHPC and ALIMCO sign MoU for providing aids and assistive devices to Divyangjans

- NHPC Limited and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.
- The MoU was signed at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, today, August 1st 2023, under the CSR initiative of NHPC. The MoU was signed by Group Deputy General Manager (HR), CSR & SD, NHPC and General Manager - Marketing, ALIMCO in the presence of Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC; Executive Director (CSR & SD), NHPC, and other senior officers from NHPC CSR&SD Division and ALIMCO.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" a book by Rishi Raj

- Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defence (MoD), released the book and illustrations titled "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" (Hindi Edition) authored by Rishi

Raj at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, Delhi. The book which pays tribute to the Martyrs of Kargil War was published by Prabhat Prakashan.

- About: Rishi Raj - Rishi Raj has authored as many as 21 books, out of which four bagged the Rahul The event was graced by Subedar Major (Then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar, who was awarded Param Vir Chakra in the Kargil War. Sankrityayan Award from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (GoI).
- Kargil War also referred as "Operation Vijay" was fought between India and Pakistan from May to July 1999 to 26th July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K). July 26th has been observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', which annually commemorates the sacrifices made by soldiers in this war.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Record number of over six crore 77 lakh Income Tax Returns filed for financial year 2023-24

- A record over six crore 77 lakh Income Tax Returns, ITRs have been filed for 2023-24. The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT said, the total number of ITRs filed till yesterday is 16 per cent more in comparison to the previous financial year of five crore 83 lakh. On the last day, that is 31st July, over 64 lakh ITRs were filed on a single day. It said, the department also received over 53 lakh ITRs from first time filers. The CBDT said, over 46 per cent of these ITRs have been filed using the online ITR utility available on the e-filing portal.

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NATIONAL

CM Command Centre' launched in Uttar Pradesh for evaluating governance

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 'Chief Minister's Command Centre', and also the 'CM Dashboard', describing them as effective steps taken to provide timely solutions for the problems of the common people, and ensuring better implementation of government schemes.
- With the help of the Command Centre and Dashboard, the performance of officials working in the police service, municipal corporations, and development authorities, and the implementation of various government schemes, will be evaluated through monthly rankings and grades.
- In line with CM Yogi's visionary approach focusing on the welfare of 24 crore people of U.P., the performance of officials of the police administration, municipal corporations, development authorities, universities, and various government schemes will be evaluated through monthly rankings and grading. With the assistance of the CM Dashboard, real-time monitoring will be carried out.

Om Birla inaugurates new building of Assam Legislative Assembly

- Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla inaugurated new building of Assam Legislative Assembly on 30th July in Guwahati in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

- At the inauguration of the new building of Assam Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Speaker of Lok Sabha that he is glittering personality in the democracy of India. He has a source of inspiration for all the parliamentarians of Assam to raise various questions on people's welfare in the Parliament.
- The new building of Assam Legislative Assembly is equipped with the facilities of e-Vidhan, audio-visual and information technology. It has office chambers for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister and other ministers, MLAs, conference hall, meeting halls etc. The new building will be a symbol of a developed and confident Assam. The new building constructed using the classical and ethnic arts, epitomises the confluence of modern and traditional design. The different rooms of the building are designed using the rich and diverse art forms of Assam.

SPORTS

Indian women's hockey team wins 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation tournament

- The Indian Women's Hockey Team reigned supreme in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International tournament, beating hosts Spain 3-0 in a one-sided contest in Barcelona. Goals from Vandana Katariya (22'), Monika (48'), and Uditia (58') helped the Indian Women's Team stand tall in the end and remain unbeaten in the tournament.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

TRAI and C-DoT sign MoU for cooperation in telecommunications sector

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Monday to establish mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications.
- The Ministry of Communications informed in a press release that the Trai Centre of Studies and Research (Trai CSR) was established as an entity within Trai with a mandate to conceptualise, coordinate, and enable technological studies in the telecom and broadcasting sectors.
- Its task is to enable technology-driven growth in India by combining the energies of different industries and sectors. The MoU has brought the two parties, Trai CSR and C-DoT together to reach the common goal of establishing a mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in the field of telecommunications. The partnership aims to promote cooperation for research on regulatory practices and bridge gaps in our understanding.

G20 EMPOWER Summit begin today - 1 August in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The two-day long G20 EMPOWER Summit begin in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the summit. The inaugural session saw the launch of key outcomes under the G20 EMPOWER agenda this year including the G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital

Inclusion Platform, the Best Practices Playbook, the KPI Dashboard, and the adoption of the G20 EMPOWER Communique 2023.

- The summit, organized around the theme- 'Women-Led Development: ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth', will witness the participation of delegates from across G20 nations, invited guest countries and international organizations in addition to many global experts, policymakers and stakeholders. Besides, a host of esteemed speakers, including Minister of State for Women and Child Development Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai, Secretary in Ministry of Women and Child Development Indevvar Pandey, Vice-President of World Bank Lakshmi Shyam Sunder, Executive Director of UN Women Sima Bahous will also address the inaugural session.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Industrialist Ratan Tata To Be Conferred With Maharashtra's First 'Udyog Ratna'

- The Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate Ratan Tata, the Tata group's former Chairman, with the inaugural Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award. Uday Samant, the state industries minister, revealed this significant honour during a session of the State Legislative Assembly
- Following in the footsteps of the Maharashtra Bhushan award, the highest state honour bestowed upon remarkable persons, the Maharashtra government has decided to institute the renowned Udyog Ratna Award beginning this year. Tata will be the first recipient of this honour.
- About: The Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award - The 'Udyog Ratna' award is a state-level award given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the industrial sector of Maharashtra. Ratan Tata is being awarded the award for his contributions to the growth and development of the Tata Group, which is one of the largest conglomerates in India.

PM Narendra Modi to be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a day-long visit to Pune in Maharashtra today. He will flag off Metro trains marking inauguration of services on completed sections of the two corridors of Pune Metro Phase I. Mr. Modi will also be conferred the Lokmanya Tilak National Award for his outstanding contributions towards the progress of the country. Prime Minister will begin his Pune visit by performing Darshan and Pooja at Dagdusheth Mandir.
- Prime Minister will be honored with the Lokmanya Tilak award by Deepak Tilak, President of Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust. The Award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust and is given every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, to persons who have made remarkable contributions, for development of the nation. Prime Minister will offer floral tributes at the statue of Lokmanya Tilak. Modi will also flag off Metro trains marking inauguration of services on completed sections of the two corridors of Pune Metro. The foundation of this project was laid by the Prime Minister himself in 2016.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India and ADB sign \$200 mn loan agreement for expanding urban services in Rajasthan

- The central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns,
- The signatories to the loan agreement were Vumlunmang Vualnam, additional secretary, department of economic affairs, ministry of finance, for the Indian government, and Takeo Konishi, country director of ADB's India Resident Mission for ADB
- The project will incorporate various innovative and climate-resilient solutions for expanding basic urban services and incorporate nature-based solutions to rehabilitate heritage structures besides piloting public-private partnerships in the state's water and sanitation sector to deepen private sector engagement.

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NATIONAL

Amazon India announces to open first floating store in Dal lake

- As a part of last point delivery programme 'I Have Space', Amazon India has announced to open its first ever floating store in famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. The store should be open in a house boat and will provide deliveries to its customers every day in Srinagar.
- Murtaza Khan Kashi, owner of houseboat Selec Town, will deliver packages every day to customers at the doorstep of their houseboats as part of the onboarding.
- Amazon Logistics, India, Director Karuna Shankar Pande said this will provide faster and reliable deliveries to customers across Srinagar, opportunities for small businesses and strengthen Amazon's delivery network.
- Launched in 2015, the 'I Have Space' programme has 28,000 neighbourhood and kirana partners in about 420 towns and cities in India. It partners with local stores and small businesses for delivering products within a 2-4 kilometres radius.

SPORTS

India bags 14 medals including nine gold at Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships

- Indian contingent finished their Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships with 14 medals including nine gold, four silvers and a bronze. Indian athletes clinched six medals on the final day of the event at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo. The Indian 4x400 meter mixed relay team of Amoj Jacob, Aishwarya Mishra, Muhammed Anas and Himanshi Malik won the first gold medal of the day. The event also featured a second Indian relay team comprising Nihal Joel William, Subha Venkatesan, Mijo Chacko Kurian and Vithya Ramraj, who bagged the silver medal. Amoj Jacob, an Asian Athletics Championships gold medallist, then teamed up with

Muhammed Anas, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammed Ajmal to secure the gold medal in the 4x400 meter men's relay event.

- In the 4x400 meter women's relay event, the Indian quartet of Sonia Baishya, Aishwarya Mishra, Subha V and Himanshi Malik bagged the gold medal. Interestingly, in the same event, Olympian Jisna Mathew and Vithya Ramraj of India teamed up with Sri Lanka's WS Himaya Fernando and K Shanika Lakshani to come in third. India's T Santhosh Kumar also finished first in the men's 400 meter hurdles. India's javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena, who won the gold medal on Friday, was awarded the Best Male Thrower trophy.

India bags six medals including four Golds at World University Games in Chengdu, China

- Indian shooters and archers bagged six medals including four golds at the World University Games in Chengdu, China today. Shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Divyansh Singh Panwar and Arjun Babuta joined forces to outclass local favourites China to win the 10m air rifle men's team gold. Aishwary also secured gold in the 10m air rifle men's individual event.
- Avneet Kaur pipped USA's Alyssa Grace Sturgill in a thrilling shoot off to clinch the compound women's individual gold. Sangampreet Bisla and Aman Saini clinched the gold and bronze medals in the men's individual event. India have won 17 medals, nine gold, three silver and five bronze, and are second in the tournament. Hosts China lead the standings with a haul of 21 medals.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Nisha Biswal becomes Deputy Chief Executive Officer of US finance agency

- Indian-American policy expert Nisha Biswal is confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a US finance agency. Ms. Biswal will serve as the Deputy CEO of the United States International Development Finance Corporation. A White House press release said that US President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Nisha Desai Biswal earlier in March this year for the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation. She has a high-profile career of over 30 years of experience in US foreign policy and international development programmes within the White House; US Congress and the private sector. Ms. Biswal currently holds the position of Senior Vice President for International Strategy and Global Initiatives at the US Chamber of Commerce, overseeing the US-India Business Council and US-Bangladesh Business Council.

Prof Ganesan Kannabiran takes charge as NAAC Director

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) recently announced the appointment of Prof Ganesan Kannabiran as its new director. The appointment took place on July 28, as per the official statement from NAAC. Prof Kannabiran brings with him a rich experience of over 30 years in the education sector, having served as a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership

positions, including the Dean of Research and Consultancy, and Director-in-Charge at NIT Trichy and NIT Puducherry

- From 2018 to 2023, Prof Kannabiran served as the founding director of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Andhra Pradesh. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in implementing the National Education Policy at the institute and worked towards fostering community development by promoting engagement with neighboring villages.
- Prof Ganesan Kannabiran holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems and possesses three Master's degrees in Computer Science and Engineering, Business Administration, and Mathematics, demonstrating his multidisciplinary approach to education and research.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Ranger Day

- World Ranger Day, celebrated on July 31, serves as a special occasion to pay tribute and show gratitude to the courageous men and women who devote their lives to safeguarding wildlife and preserving our precious natural resources. These unsung heroes selflessly work day and night, striving to protect some of the most fragile ecosystems and endangered species on our planet. Their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to the cause of conservation deserve our utmost respect and admiration.
- History - The origins of World Ranger Day can be traced back to the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organisation established in 1992 to promote and support the work of park rangers worldwide. The day was first observed in 2007 in memory of eight rangers who tragically lost their lives while on duty in Virunga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo. Since then, World Ranger Day has grown to become an internationally recognised occasion to celebrate rangers' contributions and raise awareness about the challenges they face in their line of duty.
- Theme - The theme of World Ranger Day 2023 is "30 by 30," building on the momentum from the 2022 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15). During COP15, world leaders and decision-makers agreed upon a Global Biodiversity Framework, aiming to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 percent of the planet's areas by 2030 (also known as the '30 by 30' target). This ambitious goal highlights the urgent need for increased conservation efforts to safeguard ecosystems and protect the planet's biodiversity.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

FEDA hosts International Education Summit in Dubai with a focus on academic excellence

- The Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA) hosted the International Education Summit & Conference 2023 at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU) in Dubai. The event was attended by more than 120 participants from various academic disciplines.
- The summit was aimed at providing a platform for ambitious minds to showcase academic excellence. It featured a conference on the topic of Innovative Research In Economics Management, Information Technology and Legal Studies.

- This international platform provided scholars with an opportunity to present their cutting-edge research and findings, facilitating the exchange of ideas and knowledge. The event was graced by K. Lakshminarayanan, Minister of PWD Govt of Puducherry as the chief guest and Dr. Fahad Alsaadi, Vice Chancellor for Learners Development at Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University as the guest of honor.

Think20 Summit under India's G20 Presidency to begin in Mysuru, Karnataka

- Observer Research Foundation (ORF), as the Think20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency, will host the Think20 Summit in Mysuru from today till August 2. Think20 is the G20's official engagement group that serves as an 'ideas bank' for the multilateral grouping by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20.
- The three-day conference will be a gathering of distinguished members of the seven Think20 Task Forces and policy experts from around the world. It provides an unparalleled opportunity to collectively showcase ideas and insights on the priorities of India's G20 Presidency, including issues such as lifestyle for sustainable development, macroeconomics and trade, women-led development, digital transformation, green transition, the global financial order, accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and reforming multilateralism.

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NATIONAL

Kerala to set up India's first fisheries Atal Incubation Centre

- NITI Aayog provided grant of Rs.10 crore to Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (FUFOS) to set up India's first Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) in fisheries which will be dedicated to promoting research, technological advancement and entrepreneurship in fisheries and allied sectors.
- Fisheries Atal Incubation centre will act as a focal point to foster innovation and inspire young individuals to create technologies and solutions that will address the challenges faced by our marine ecosystem and fishing communities.
- The primary objective behind setting up of Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre is to promote progress in the fisheries industry by providing a supportive and encouraging environment for start-ups and innovative initiatives. Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre will play a significant role in employment generation, providing a supportive environment for start-ups and entrepreneurs to flourish.
- Atal Incubation Centre will promote collaboration between academic, industry and government and also encourage knowledge transfer and commercialization of research results. initiatives within the fisheries sector.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day against Trafficking in Persons

- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed on July 30 every year to raise awareness about the trends in human trafficking identified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It also aims to put pressure on governments, law enforcement agencies and civil society to strengthen the prevention of trafficking and the identification and support of victims.
- History - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was adopted at a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/68/192. The resolution reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to end trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and states that trafficking in persons is a serious threat to "human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development".
- Theme - The theme of World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2023 is "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind". As per UNODC, the meaning of leaving people behind is failing to end the exploitation of trafficking victims, failing to support victim-survivors once they are free from their traffickers, and leaving identifiable groups vulnerable to traffickers.

International day of Friendship

- International day of Friendship is a special occasion dedicated to celebrating the cherished bond of friendships that enrich our lives. On July 30, people worldwide come together to honour and appreciate the significance of these eternal connections. In India, Friendship Day is traditionally observed on the first Sunday of August.
- **History** - The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2011. The United Nations officially declared July 30 as International Friendship Day, and it has been celebrated with enthusiasm in many countries ever since. The day highlights the power of friendship in promoting peace, understanding, and unity among people and communities worldwide.
- **Theme** - The theme for International Friendship Day 2023 is "Sharing the human spirit through friendship," continuing the focus on fostering meaningful connections and camaraderie among individuals.
- Through strong bonds of camaraderie and trust, friendship plays a significant role in achieving lasting stability and creating a safety net that benefits all. It fosters a passion for a better world where individuals come together for the greater good. In the face of various challenges and divisions, friendship serves as a vital tool for addressing root causes and building a shared spirit of human solidarity.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India-Papua New Guinea sign MoU for India Stack collaboration

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) of Papua New Guinea signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for sharing India Stack, successful digital solutions implemented at population scale in New Delhi

- Earlier, MeitY hosted the inaugural Global DPI Summit in Pune on June 12-13. The event witnessed a physical presence of over 250 delegates, including approximately 150 foreign delegates from 50 countries, while more than 2,000 individuals participated virtually.
- India Stack is the moniker for a set of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to unlock the economic primitives of identity, data, and payments at population scale. Although the name of this project bears the word India, the vision of India Stack can be applied to any nation.

TN, UK signs MoU for project to conserve native plant species

- Ahead of the G20 environment and climate ministerial meeting in Chennai, the United Kingdom government signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu to set up projects to conserve native plants.
- The project looks to conserve mangroves, forests and wetlands and release a green rating framework for industrial decarbonisation, a statement from the Tamil Nadu government said.
- UK's secretary of state for environment Therese Coffey and minister of state for climate Graham Stuart launched key projects with the Tamil Nadu government "setting new milestones in the strategic climate partnership" between the two,

MoUs Exchanged between CeNSE, IISc and LAM Research

- Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) announced the exchange of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Lam Research India at the ongoing SemiconIndia in Gandhinagar,
- The collaboration, initiated by this Ministry, brings together the academic excellence of IISc's CeNSE and the global expertise of Lam Research, a renowned supplier of innovative wafer fabrication equipment.
- Lam Research's ambitious goal is to utilise Semiverse Solutions to develop a 60,000 strong workforce in nano-fabrication in India over the next 10 years.
- The core objective of this collaboration is to jointly develop a customised course offering for Indian universities, dedicated to teaching semiconductor fabrication technology. This will utilise Lam Research's cutting-edge Semiverse Solutions virtual fabrication software, SEMulator3D.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 'Civil 20' Summit in Jaipur;

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that a robust and enlightened Civil society is essential for a functioning democracy. Mr. Singh was addressing the inaugural ceremony of C- 20 summit in Jaipur this evening. He said that civil societies enable the citizens to engage in deliberative dialogues and cooperative efforts, outside the adversarial arena of electoral politics, towards achieving national objectives. He said there are various sectors, ranging from education to the health sector, from gender equality to environment, where both Governments and Civil Society institutions have worked hand-in-hand and have achieved significant quantifiable progress.

- The event was attended by spiritual guru Mata Amritanandamayi, the chair of C 20 and many dignitaries from India and abroad. About 700 delegates are participating in the day's summit. Detailed deliberations on various topics will take place during 5 sessions to be held in three days. The C 20 event will present the policy recommendations prepared by its 16 Working Groups after extensive discussions with civil society organisations and policymakers worldwide.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Union Minister Amit Shah unveils book 'Memories Never Die'

- Union Minister Amit Shah unveiled the book 'Memories Never Die,' a tribute to the life and legacy of the late former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam during his two-day visit to the Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu, The book was co-authored by Dr. APJM Nasima Maraikayar and scientist Dr. Y. S. Rajan. The event was graced by the presence of Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Shri. L Murugan, and Tamil Nadu BJP President, Shri. Annamalai.
- In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that with the release of the book 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die', readers across the country will definitely get an opportunity to know, understand and follow Dr. Kalam. He said that this book assimilates the history of Indian rocketry, science, technology and innovation, beautiful representation of Indian politics and administrative system and description of many incidents related to wishes and imagination of Dr. Kalam. In this book there is a complete and honest description of the incidents related to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- About; APJ Abdul Kalam - Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam BR was an Indian aerospace scientist and statesman who served as the 11th president of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and studied physics and aerospace engineering.