

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1) Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement

- In a significant development, the federal cabinet of Pakistan has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the United States.

- The Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) will pave the way for enhanced defense ties between the two nations and may allow Pakistan to procure military hardware from Washington DC. This move comes after the previous agreement, signed in 2005, expired in 2020.

NATIONAL NEWS

1) 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival

- The President of India commenced the 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival and the 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- These festivals, organized by the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi, respectively, have a shared purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity in the region. With the participation of over 800 artists from various states and Union Territories, the events promise to be a vibrant showcase of artistic expressions.

- The 'Unmesha' festival spans three days and brings together literary enthusiasts from around the world, providing a platform for intellectual exchange and creative discussions. On the other hand, 'Utkarsh' honors the rich heritage of folk and tribal traditions in India, offering a stage for these expressive art forms to thrive and captivate the audience.

2) 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application

- To improve the highway user experience and offer seamless travel on Indian National Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken a significant step by introducing the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application.





- This unified app aims to provide comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users, making travel safer and more convenient.

3) Lok Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, replacing the ordinance on control of services in Delhi.

- The passage of the Bill was met with protests and a walkout by some Opposition parties.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a scathing attack on the Opposition during the debate on the Bill, accusing them of being more concerned about their alliance than democracy or the welfare of the people.

- He expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would secure a complete majority in the 2024 elections despite any Opposition alliance.

4) Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, Oil India and ONGC Videsh

- The Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, Oil India and ONGC Videsh, to the esteemed Maharatna and Navratna categories, respectively, granting them increased autonomy for investment, joint venture establishment, and other financial decisions.

5) Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine

- Ministry of Home Affairs introduced a new Ayush visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga.

- With this, a new chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 – Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments has been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019. AYUSH is an acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.

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6) **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has recognized 98,911 entities under the Startup India initiative since its launch on January 16, 2016.

- The primary goal behind this initiative is to create a robust ecosystem that fosters innovation, encourages entrepreneurship, and attracts private investments in the startup sector, thereby driving sustainable economic growth and generating employment opportunities on a large scale.

STATE NEWS

1) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development 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.

SCHEMES NEWS

1) Vivad se Vishwas 2.0

- The Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance has launched Vivad se Vishwas 2 .0 also known as Contractual Disputes scheme to settle long-standing contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings.

- This initiative was announced during the Union Budget 2023-24 by the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

- The scheme aims to provide an effective and standardized mechanism for resolving contractual disputes, thereby reducing the burden on the legal system and fostering a more business-friendly environment.





BANKING NEWS

1) Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed late submission fees amounting to ₹2,000 crore on four major public sector undertakings namely, ONGC Videsh Ltd, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, and Oil India Ltd for failing to promptly report their overseas investments.

- The delayed reporting has prompted RBI to take restrictive measures, affecting further remittances and transfers until the discrepancies are resolved.

ECONOMY NEWS

1) "Look Forward: India's Moment,"

- S&P Global's report, titled "Look Forward: India's Moment," projects India's economic growth trajectory from fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to FY31.

- The country is set to remain the fastest-growing large economy, with an expected GDP growth rate of 6% in FY24. S&P Global is optimistic about India's potential, forecasting an average growth rate of 6.7% per year during this period, driven primarily by capital expansion.

- The report envisions India's GDP to reach \$6.7 trillion by FY31, and per capita GDP to rise to approximately \$4,500.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESGINATIONS

1) Shohini Sinha, an Indian-American

(in)

- Shohini Sinha, an Indian-American, has been selected by FBI Director Christopher Wray as the new special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office.

- She previously held the position of executive special assistant to the Director at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC.

- Sinha started her career with the FBI in 2001 as a special agent and was initially assigned to the Milwaukee Field Office, where she focused on counterterrorism investigations.

- She also served in temporary assignments at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, the FBI Legal Attaché Office in London, and the Baghdad Operations Center.



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SPORTS NEWS

1) D. Gukesh, has dethroned Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand

- The 17-year-old chess prodigy, D. Gukesh, has dethroned Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand as India's topranked chess player in the live world rankings.

- Gukesh achieved this feat by defeating Mistradin Iskandarov in the second round of the FIDE World Cup, reaching a live rating of 2755.9 and climbing to the 9th position in the classic open category. In contrast, Anand's rating of 2754.0 caused him to drop to the 10th spot.

- This is only the second time since 1986 that Anand has been displaced from the top position.

2) 132nd edition of Asia's oldest football tournament

- The 132nd edition of Asia's oldest football tournament, the Durand Cup 2023, commenced on August 3. This year's tournament is unique as it includes 24 teams from the Indian Super League, I-League, and the Armed Forces.

- This number of teams is an increase from last year's 20, and they have been distributed into six groups, each consisting of four teams.

- Among these groups, three will compete in matches held in Kolkata, two in Guwahati, and one in Kokrajhar, Assam.

3) The Asian Games 2023 Schedule

- The Asian Games 2023 will be a grand sporting event, featuring a diverse array of 40 sports and 61 disciplines.

- India has a strong track record in the Asian Games, having previously sent a contingent of 570 players competing in 36 sports.

- The 2023 games will be a showcase of athletic prowess and cultural exchange, as representatives from various Asian countries compete in the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.







4) Indian National Cricket team

- The Indian National Cricket team is a full member of the International Cricket Council with Test, One-Day International and Twenty-20 International status.

- The Indian Cricket team has rivalries with other Test-playing nations, most notably with Pakistan and also with Australia, South Africa and England.

OBITUARY NEWS

1) Noted Marathi poet and lyricist Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor has passed away

- Noted Marathi poet and lyricist Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, popularly known as Na Dho Mahanor, passed away. He was 81.

- 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.





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