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Wednesday, 14 August 2024

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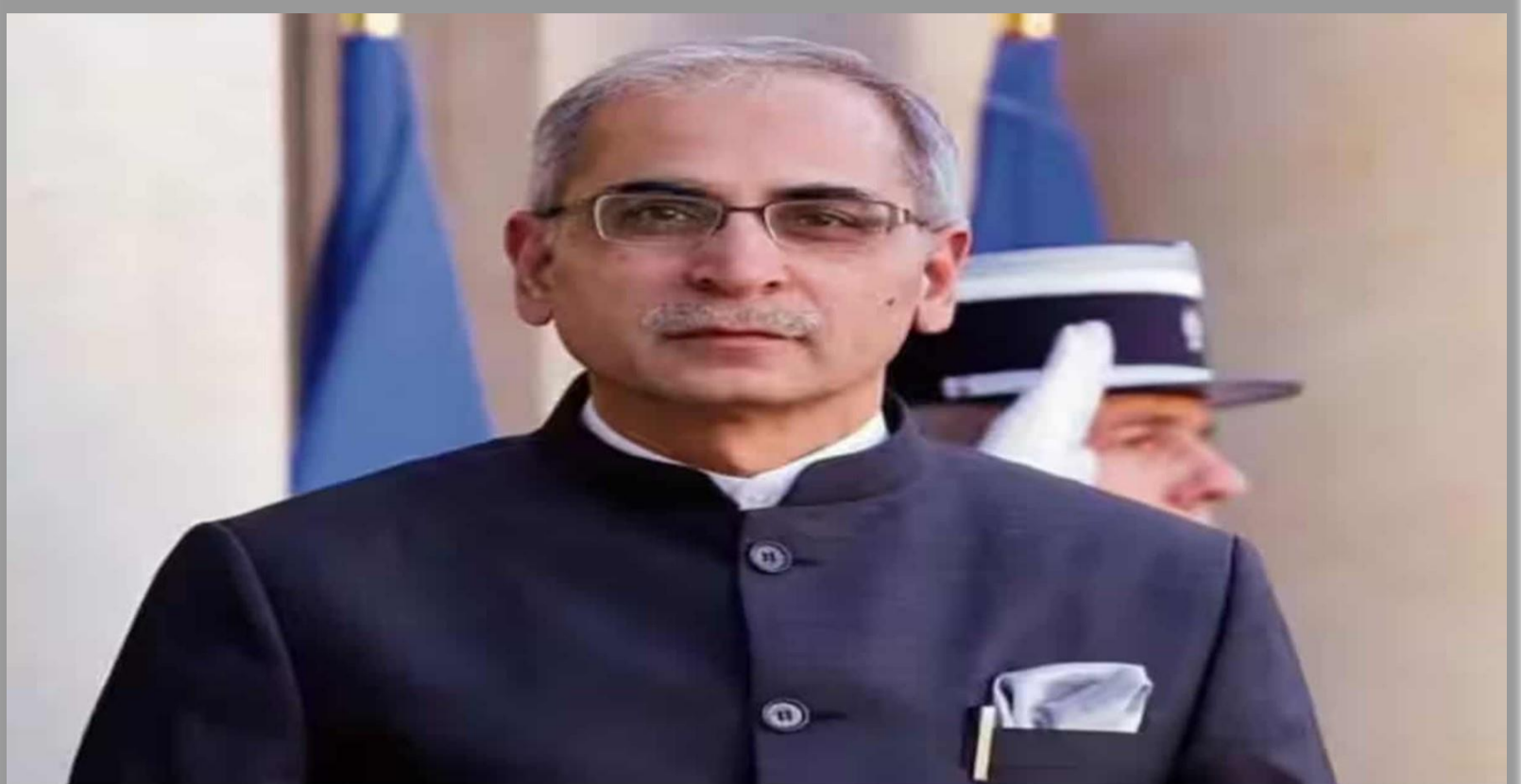
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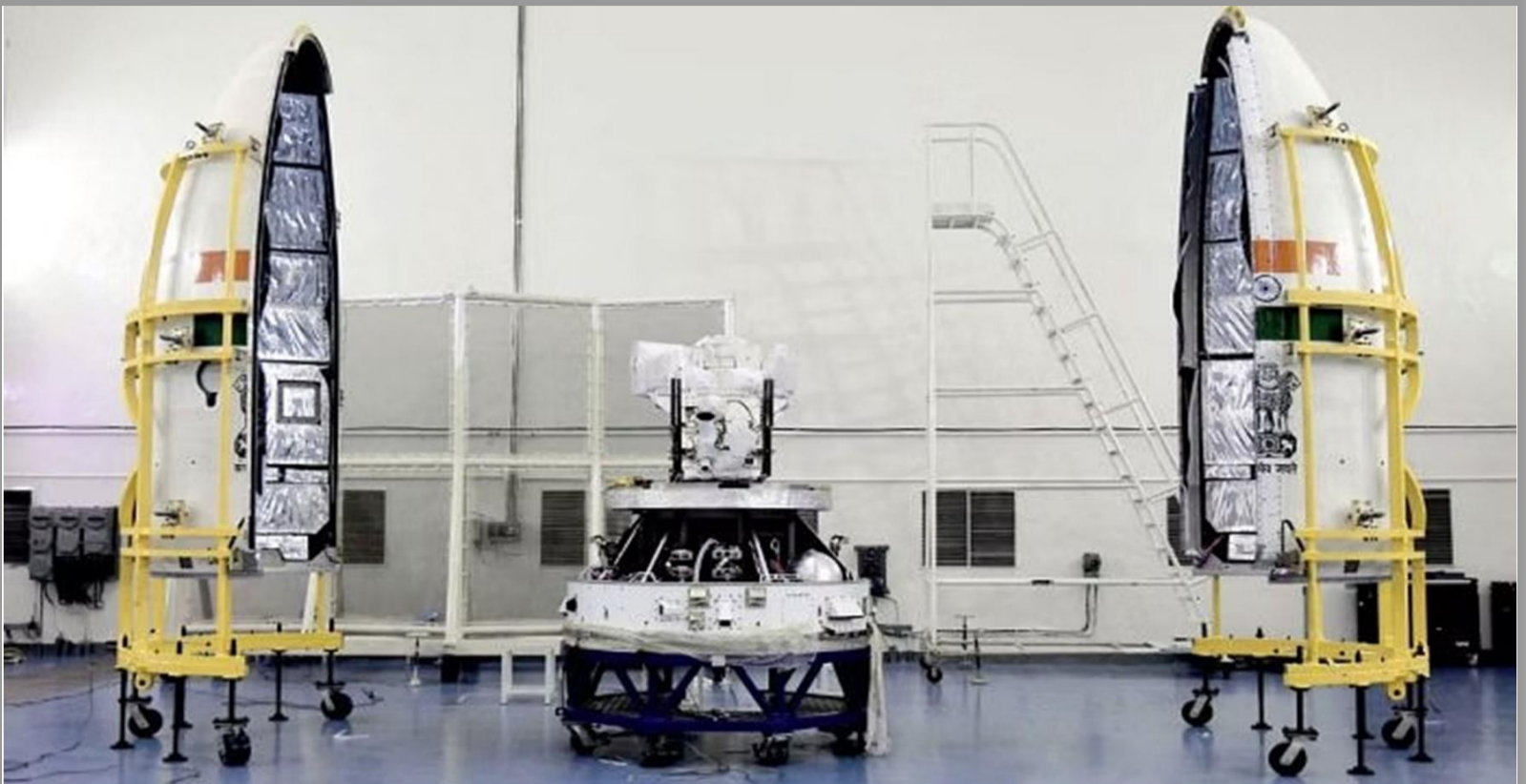


Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Vinay Mohan Kwatra takes charge as India's ambassador to US

- Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra assumed charge as the Ambassador of India to the United States.
- Kwatra succeeds India's former envoy to the United States and BJP leader, Taranjit Singh Sandhu.
- Kwatra has previously served at the Ministry of External Affairs, and Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary.
- Kwatra has also served as Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy of India in Washington D.C. from May 2010 to July 2013.
- Kwatra has served in different positions in many of India's missions abroad and in India. Kwatra holds an experience of nearly 32 years in a range of assignments.
- A foreign ambassador serves as a bridge between their home country and the host country, playing a crucial role in fostering diplomatic relations, protecting national interests, and promoting international cooperation.
- Note: India and the US cooperate in global governance institutions, including the United Nations, G20, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The US has supported India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Q. Who has recently assumed the role of India's Ambassador to the United States? **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

ISRO postpones SSLV-D3/EOS-08 mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that the launch of its latest earth observation satellite, EOS-08, will now take place on August 16, instead of the previously scheduled August 15.
- The satellite will be launched aboard the third and final developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3).
- The primary goals of the EOS-08 mission include developing a microsatellite, creating payload instruments compatible with the microsatellite bus, and incorporating new technologies for future satellites.
- The launch will take place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- This mission marks the completion of the SSLV Development Project, paving the way for operational missions by Indian industry and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- EOS-08 carries three payloads -- Electro Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR), Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry payload (GNSS-R), and SiC UV Dosimeter.
- The spacecraft, with a mission life of one year, has a mass of approximately 175.5 kg and generates around 420 W of power.
- Note: The SSLV is a rocket designed specifically to carry small satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO).

Q. What marks the completion of ISRO's SSLV Development Project? **Launch of EOS-08 aboard SSLV-D3**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

India, New Zealand agree to join hands to boost horticulture sector

- India & New Zealand agreed on closer cooperation between the two countries to promote the development of the horticulture sector.
- Discussions were centred on sharing information about the agricultural priorities of both countries and exploring new avenues for partnership, including the proposed Memorandum of Cooperation on horticulture.
- New Zealand's support for the import of Indian pomegranates and the lifting of restrictions on mango exports was warmly acknowledged by the India.
- The swift approval of the newly audited vapour heat treatment (VHT) facilities in Lucknow and Delhi was expected to enhance the export of Indian mangoes to New Zealand.

Background:

- New Zealand and India collaborate on agricultural research and technology, with New Zealand sharing its expertise in areas like dairy farming, horticulture, and sustainable farming practices.
- New Zealand has been involved in training Indian farmers and agricultural professionals in modern farming techniques and dairy management.

Q. What is the proposed collaboration between India and New Zealand in the horticulture sector? **Memorandum of Cooperation to promote the development of the horticulture sector.**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Poland signs deal for manufacturing 48 Patriot system launchers

- Poland signed a contract to build 48 M903 launchers for the U.S.-designed Patriot air defense systems.
- According to the deal worth 1.23 billion U.S. dollars, the launchers, set to be built at Stalowa Wola steelworks in Poland, are expected to be delivered to the Polish army between 2027 and 2029.
- Poland inked a deal with the United States to buy hundreds of AIM-120C AMRAAM air-to-air missiles.
- Last month, the Polish Defense Ministry announced that the United States would lend Poland 2 billion dollars to fund the purchase of American air and missile defense systems.
- Poland has increased its defense spending to around 4 percent of its GDP this year, the highest among NATO countries.

AIM-120C AMRAAM air-to-air missiles

- Type: Medium-range, air-to-air missile.
- Guidance System: Active radar homing, which allows the missile to track and engage targets autonomously after launch.
- Range: AIM-120C can exceed 100 kilometers
- Warhead: High-explosive fragmentation warhead

Q. What recent defense contract did Poland sign related to the Patriot air defense system? **A \$1.23 billion contract to build 48 M903 launchers**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Iran's newly-appointed VP Zarif resigns from post

- Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Javad Zarif has resigned from his post just 11 days after his appointment.
- He is not satisfied with the result of his work as head of the steering council for selecting the new Iranian administration's cabinet members.
- According to Mr. Zarif, at least seven of the 19 ministers nominated were not his first choice.
- Mr. Zarif stressed that he still has faith in everything he had said about Mr. Pezeshkian during the election campaign and urged the Iranian people to continue supporting the new President and his administration.
- In a decree on August 1, Iranian President appointed Zarif as Vice-President for strategic affairs and head of the Centre for Strategic Studies.
- Mr. Zarif served as Iran's Foreign Minister from 2013 to 2021 under former President Hassan Rouhani.

Iran

- Capital: Tehran
- Supreme leader: Ali Khamenei
- President: Masoud Pezeshkian
- Official language: Persian

Q. What position did Mohammad Javad Zarif hold before resigning from his role as Vice-President of Iran? **Iran's Foreign Minister from 2013 to 2021.**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Tennis: Popyrin stuns Rublev to clinch Montreal Masters title

- Australian Alexei Popyrin stunned World No. 6 Andrey Rublev in the Montreal final to clinch the ATP Masters 1000 title.
- The 25-year-old Australian broke Rublev to love in the opening game of the match and never looked back.
- He claimed three Top 10 wins and snapped the eight-match winning streak of Washington champion Sebastian Korda en route to the title.
- He also took down World No. 14 Ben Shelton in the second round.
- By improving in his ATP head-to-head series with Rublev, Popyrin maintained his perfect record in ATP Tour finals, adding to the trophies he won in Singapore in 2021 and Umag in 2023.
- He is the first player to record five Top 20 wins at an event since Novak Djokovic at the 2022 ATP Finals, and first to do so since Holger Rune's run to the 2022 Paris Masters title.
- The Montreal Masters, officially known as the Canadian Open or the National Bank Open, is an annual tennis tournament held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- It is part of the ATP Tour Masters 1000 series for men and the WTA 1000 series for women.

Q. Who won the 2024 Montreal Masters title in men's singles? **Alexei Popyrin (Australia)**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Congo's former PM elected as Senate President

- Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, former PM of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), was elected president of the Senate.
- The former DRC head of government, who took office in February 2021 and resigned in February 2024, was elected president of the DRC parliament's upper house with 84 votes out of 95, during a ballot to elect the members of a permanent bureau.
- Sama Lukonde thus succeeded Modeste Bahati Lukwebo, also a candidate of the Sacred Union, who was elected second vice-president.
- Jose Kalala Wa Kalala, a candidate designated by the Sacred Union, was elected first vice-president.
- According to the DRC Constitution, in the event of a vacancy, the majority of the functions of the president of the republic are provisionally exercised by the Senate president.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Capital: Kinshasa
- President: Félix Tshisekedi
- Prime Minister: Judith Suminwa
- Official language: French
- Currency: Congolese Franc

Q. Who was elected president of the Senate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo? **Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Rwanda's Kagame Sworn In For Fourth Term After 99 Percent Election Win

- Rwandan President Paul Kagame has been sworn in for his fourth term after winning the election with over 99% of the vote.
- The inauguration ceremony took place in Kigali, with several African heads of state and dignitaries in attendance.
- Kagame has been a significant figure in Rwanda since the 1994 genocide, first as a de facto leader and then as president.
- While Kagame is credited with bringing stability and economic growth to Rwanda.

How has Rwanda's economy grown under his leadership?

- Under Paul Kagame's leadership, Rwanda's economy has experienced significant growth and transformation. Here are some key highlights:
- **Consistent Economic Growth:** Rwanda's economy has grown at an average rate of nearly 8% per year since Kagame took office in 2001. This growth is expected to continue, with projections of at least 7% annual growth in the coming years.
- **Agricultural Development:** Kagame's administration has focused on increasing agricultural productivity. For example, the coffee industry, which was devastated by the genocide, has seen remarkable recovery and growth. Export earnings from coffee and tea have significantly increased.
- **Infrastructure and Technology:** There has been substantial investment in infrastructure, including roads, schools, and healthcare facilities. Additionally, Rwanda has made strides in technological growth, positioning itself as a hub for innovation in Africa.

Q. Who has been sworn in for his fourth term after winning the election with over 99% of the vote as Rwandan President? **Paul Kagame**



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Indian Railways and NCRTC Launch 'One India-One Ticket' Initiative

- The Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have launched the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative.
- This initiative aims to provide a seamless travel experience by allowing passengers to book and travel using both Indian Railways and Nammo Bharat trains with a single ticket.

Here are some key features of the initiative:

- **Integrated Booking:** Passengers can book Nammo Bharat train tickets as an add-on service when booking an IRCTC train e-ticket.
- **Unique QR Codes:** Each ticket will have a unique QR code valid for four days, ensuring a hassle-free travel experience.
- **Convenient Payment:** The fare for Nammo Bharat train tickets will be collected along with the IRCTC convenience fee using online payment methods.
- **Flexible Booking:** Tickets can be booked up to 120 days in advance, aligning with the current railway reservation window.

Q. Which Initiative launched by Indian Railways and National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)?
'One India-One Ticket'



Wednesday, 14 August 2024

Udupi: MAHE ranks 14th in NIRF 2024, solidifies its position as leading educational institution

- The Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has achieved a significant milestone by securing the 14th position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024.
- This ranking solidifies MAHE's status as one of India's leading educational institutions.
- MAHE has consistently performed well in various rankings over the years, reflecting its commitment to excellence in education, research, and innovation.
- The institution offers a wide range of programs and has made substantial contributions to higher education in India.

Several key factors have contributed to Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) achieving a high ranking in the NIRF 2024:

- **Academic Excellence:** MAHE offers a wide range of high-quality programs across various disciplines, attracting top students and faculty.
- **Research and Innovation:** The institution places a strong emphasis on research, with numerous publications, patents, and research projects contributing to its reputation.

Q. Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has achieved a significant milestone by securing _____th position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) **2024.14th**



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