

Daily News Analysis

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www.race4job.com

raceinstitute@gmail.com

Chaitanyapuri, Dilsukhnagar, Ameerpet, KPHB, Himayathnagar, Hastinapuram, Secunderabad



NEWS





Legendary Indian cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad passes away in Vadodara

- Former India cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad died after a long battle with cancer. He was 71.
- Gaekwad played 40 Tests and 15 ODIs for India.
- He was also the coach of the Indian team that finished runners-up at the 2000 ICC Champions Trophy.
- Gaekwad has also played 205 first-class matches in a career spanning 22 years.
- He later took over as coach of the Indian team.
- His glorious moments came at Sharjah in 1998 and in a Test match at Ferozeshah Kotla when Anil Kumble took all 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan in 1999.
- Eminent Indian Sports personality Anshuman Gaekwad passes away. He was associated with which sport? Cricket















Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair becomes first woman DG Medical Services (Army)

- Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair, assumed the office of Director General Medical Services (Army), becoming the first woman to be appointed to this prestigious position.
- Lt Gen Nair's historic appointments and contributions to the armed forces and medical services highlight the increasing role of women in leadership positions in the Indian military.

Previous Positions:

- DG Hospital Services (Armed Forces): First woman to hold this post upon promotion to the rank of Air Marshal
- Principal Medical Officer: First woman to hold this post in Western Air Command and Training Command, Indian Air Force (IAF)

Contributions:

Expert Member: Dr Kasturirangan Committee for drafting the medical education component of the National Education Policy

Awards and Honors:

- Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command Commendation
- Chief of the Air Staff Commendation
- Q. Who became the first woman to be appointed as Director General Medical Services (Army)? Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair















Israel launches 155-million-USD fund to enhance investment in tech startups

■ Israel launched a state fund that will allocate a total of 155 million U.S. dollars to 18 selected financial entities for investment in venture capital (VC) funds supporting startups.

Key Details:

Fund Amount: 155 million USD

• Purpose: Support for venture capital (VC) funds investing in startups

Initiating Body:

• Israel Innovation Authority (IIA): In collaboration with the finance and innovation ministries

Objectives:

• Support Israeli Hi-Tech Companies: Boost innovation within Israel's tech ecosystem

• Strengthen Connections: Between institutional investors and local VC funds, similar to leading global markets

• Enhance Stability: Strengthen the local VC market against economic shocks

Q. Which country launched a state fund of 155 million U.S. dollars to facilitate 18 selected financial entities for investment in venture capital (VC) funds supporting startups? Israel















Moldova parliament to receive 37.3 million euro loan from World Bank

- Moldova is set to receive a loan worth 37.3 million euros for budgetary support from the World Bank, the country's parliament said after ratifying the agreement.
- The World Bank will also supply Moldova with a grant worth 5 million U.S. dollars.
- The loan and grant will be paid out in one installment.

Loan Terms:

- Maturity Period: 29 years
- Grace Period: 9 years
- Conditions: 11 conditions, which have already been fulfilled by Moldova
- Disbursement: Loan and grant will be disbursed in a single installment

Additional Agreement:

Non-Refundable Financing: 10.5 million USD to assist with state budget needs

Conditions for Disbursement: 11 conditions including:

- Amendments to the Law on Social Benefits
- Revisions to the Labor Code
- Legislation changes for the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund
- Updates to the Law on Competition
- Q. Which country is set to receive a loan worth 37.3 million euros for budgetary support from the World Bank? Moldova



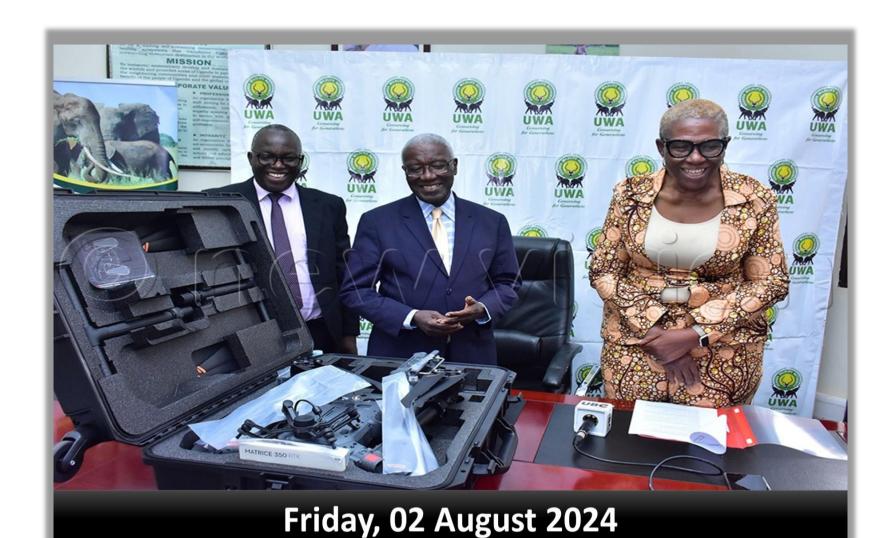












UNDP donates drones to Uganda for wildlife conservation

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has donated six drones to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to enhance conservation efforts in the East African country.

Key Details:

- Donation: Six drones provided by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
- Purpose: Enhance wildlife conservation efforts

Key Figures:

- **UNDP** Representative to Uganda: Nwanneakolam **Vwede-Obahor**
- Uganda's Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities: Tom Butime

Objectives of Donation:

- Tracking Animal Migration Patterns: **Improved** monitoring of wildlife movements
- Assessing Habitat Health: Evaluating the condition of wildlife habitats
- Q. The United Nations Development Program has donated 6 drones to which country to enhance conservation efforts in the East African country? Uganda















IIT Madras and IDBI launch cybersecurity lab

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and IDBI Bank have introduced a cybersecurity lab called the 'IDBI-IITM Secure Systems Lab' (12SSL) to develop and deploy security solutions in healthcare, Fintech and aerospace sectors.

Collaborators:

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) & **IDBI** Bank

Objective:

Purpose: Develop and deploy cybersecurity solutions in sectors such as healthcare, Fintech, and aerospace

Focus Areas:

- Creating market-ready intellectual properties (IPs) in cybersecurity
- Productization and commercialization of research work, particularly in mobile technologies
- Addressing cybersecurity in industries like banking, automotive, power, and telecommunications
- Q. With which Bank the IIT Madras introduced cybersecurity lab to Develop and deploy cybersecurity in sectors such as healthcare, Fintech, and aerospace? IDBI Bank















Paris Olympics: Swapnil Kusale wins bronze in Men's 50m Rifle 3P event

- Shooter Swapnil Kusale secured India's third medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics after finishing third in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at the National Shooting Center in Châteauroux.
- Kusale delivered an exceptional performance amidst intense competition, earning third place with a score of 451.4 points in the final.
- Swapnil has now become the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event.
- This is also the first time that the Indian shooting contingent have won three medals in a single edition of any Olympics.
- China's Y.K. Liu won the gold medal with a score of 463.6 points, while Ukraine's S. Kulish claimed silver with 461.3 points.
- Q. Which Indian Shooter secured India's third medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics after finishing third in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event? Swapnil Kusale















India and Vietnam adopt 'new plan action' to solidify strategic partnership

- India's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and Vietnam's 'Vision 2045' are accelerating development and creating new areas for mutual cooperation.
- countries have decided to strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with a new plan of action.

New steps in defence and security cooperation include:

- Inauguration of the Army Software Park in Nha Trang.
- A US\$300 million credit line to enhance Vietnam's maritime security.
- Strengthened cooperation on terrorism and cybersecurity.
- Bilateral trade has increased by over 85%.
- Mutual cooperation has expanded in energy, technology, and development partnerships.
- Defence and security cooperation has gained new momentum.
- Connectivity has improved significantly over the past decade, with more than 50 direct flights now operating between the two countries.
- Q. India and which country adopts 'new plan of action' to solidify strategic partnership in which US\$300 million credit line from India is also included to enhance maritime security of that country? **Vietnam**



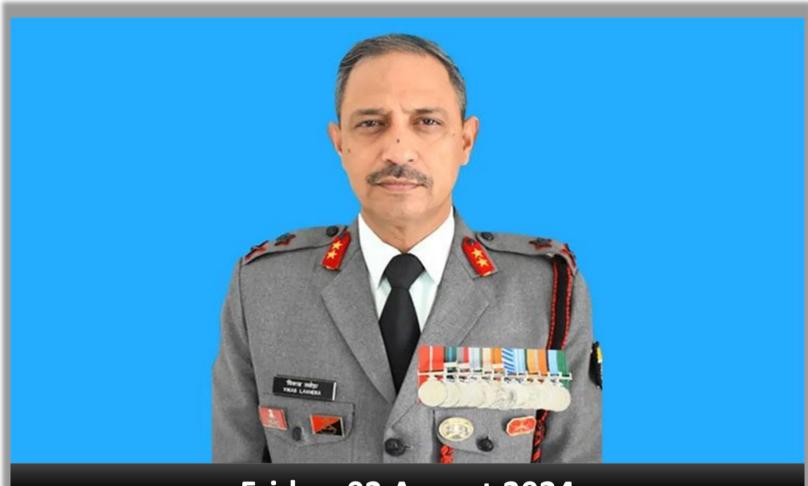












Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera takes charge as DG **Assam Rifles**

- Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera has assumed the role of the 22nd Director General (DG) of the Assam Rifles, known as the "Sentinels of the Northeast."
- Lt Gen Lakhera brings extensive professional experience with the Assam Rifles and the northeastern region, having served extensively in the area, including as Inspector General in Assam Rifles at Nagaland.
- Commissioned into the 4 Sikh Light Infantry from the Indian Military Academy on 9 June 1990, he later commanded this unit in lower Assam under the Red Horn Division

Key appointments held by Lt Gen Lakhera include:

- Division Officer and Tactical Training Officer at NDA, Khadakwasla.
- Deputy Military Advisor to GOC-in-C, Command.
- Director in the Military Operations Directorate.
- Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North) at Kohima.
- Lt Gen Lakhera is a highly decorated officer with the Ati Vishist Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card, and two Army Commander Commendation Cards to his credit.
- Q. Who took charge of the 22nd Director General (DG) of the Assam Rifles, known as the "Sentinels of the Northeast."? Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera















India Ratings sees Budget pushing GDP growth up to 7.5 pc

India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) Update:

- Raised GDP growth forecast for 2024-25 to 7.5% from the earlier projection of 7.1%.
- Anticipates the Union Budget will further boost economic growth.
- Key Factors Supporting Growth:

Ongoing growth momentum driven by:

- Government capital expenditure (capex).
- Healthier balance sheets of banks.
- Emerging private corporate capex cycle.
- Union Budget providing additional support.
- Additional Growth Drivers:

Above-normal monsoon expected.

 Budget measures anticipated to increase demand for goods and services among rural and lower-income households.

Other Projections:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projects a 7.2% growth rate for the Indian economy.
- Economic Survey estimates GDP growth between 6.5-7%.
- Q. According to recent projections by India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra), what is the GDP projection of India for 2024-25? 7.5%



















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- RACE4Job
- www.race4job.com
- raceinstitute@gmail.com
- Chaitanyapuri, Dilsukhnagar, Ameerpet, KPHB, Himayathnagar, Hastinapuram, Secunderabad

