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**Monday, 15 July 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**





Monday, 15 July 2024

## **Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda Sworn In For Second Five-Year Term**

- Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda was sworn in for a second five-year term.
- The ceremony commenced with a ceremonial event at the Lithuanian Parliament, the Seimas, where Mr. Nausėda took the presidential oath with his hand on the Constitution.
- On this occasion, the 60-year-old economist, Mr. Nausėda proposed increasing Lithuania's defense budget to four percent of GDP.
- This would allow Lithuania to fund long-range air defense, a missile shield for the Baltic Sea coast, and border fortifications.

### **Lithuania:**

- Capital: Vilnius
- President: Gitanas Nausėda
- Prime Minister: Ingrida Šimonytė
- Currency: Euro

**Q.** Gitanas Nausėda was recently sworn in as the President of which country for a second five-year term? **Lithuania**





Monday, 15 July 2024

## India's score on SDG index shoots up as poverty level dips, economy grows

- India's overall Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) score has shot up to 71 in 2023-24, compared to 66 in 2020-21 on the back of significant progress on eliminating poverty, providing decent work, economic growth, climate action and life on land, according to the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index.
- Targeted interventions by the Government such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala, Swachh Bharat, Jan Dhan, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, Ayushman Arogya Mandir, PM-Mudra Yojana, Saubhgaya, Start-up India etc. had an impact and led to rapid improvement, according to the NITI Aayog report.
- Between 2018 and 2023-24, the fastest moving States are Uttar Pradesh (increase in score by 25), followed by J&K (21), Uttarakhand (19), Sikkim (18), Haryana (17), Assam, Tripura and Punjab (16 each), Madhya Pradesh and Odisha (15 each), the report states.
- As many as 32 States and UTs are in the front-runner category with 10 new entrants - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

**Q.** What is India's score in 2023-24 on the SDG index due to decline in poverty levels and growth in economy? **71**





International  
Olympic  
Committee



**Monday, 15 July 2024**

## **IOC To Host Inaugural Esports Games In Saudi Arabia**

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) to partner with the National Olympic Committee of Saudi Arabia to host the inaugural Olympic Esports Games in Saudi Arabia in 2025.
- The IOC followed up on their previous announcement that the IOC Executive Board had laid the groundwork for a standalone multi-national event, the Olympic Esports Games, by confirming that a proposal will be floored in the upcoming IOC session on the eve of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- The IOC will reveal the venue, specific timings, titles to include and the qualification process in due course.
- The partnership between the IOC and Saudi Arabia NOC will last 12 years as per their current agreement, which includes hosting the Olympic Esports Games regularly. The event will become the latest chapter under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, through which the country is targeting economic, social, and cultural diversification.

### **International Olympic Committee:**

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Thomas Bach
- Director General: Christophe De Kepper

**Q.** The IOC will partner with the National Olympic Committee of Saudi Arabia to host the inaugural Olympic eSports Games in which year? **2025**





Monday, 15 July 2024

## **NABARD to launch Rs 750 crore Agri-Sure Fund for Startups and Rural Enterprises**

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is launching a Rs 750 crore 'Agri-Sure' Fund for startups and rural enterprises.
- The Fund is being launched by NAB Ventures, a subsidiary of NABARD, with an initial corpus of Rs 750 crore, comprising Rs 250 crore each from NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rs 250 crore from other institutions. The initiative aims to promote investments in innovative, technology-driven, high-risk and high-impact activities in agriculture and allied sectors.
- The Fund, managed by NAB Ventures, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD, is designed to support around 85 agri startups with an investment size of up to Rs 25 crore by the end of its tenure. The fund will provide support through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and direct equity support to start-ups. Agri-Sure's focus areas include promoting innovative, technology-driven initiatives in agriculture, enhancing agricultural produce value chains, building new rural ecosystem linkages and infrastructure, generating employment and supporting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

**Q.** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is going to launch a Rs 750 crore \_\_\_\_ for startups and rural enterprises. **'Agri-Sure' Fund**





**Monday, 15 July 2024**

## **PM to inaugurate, lay foundation stones of projects worth Rs 29,000 cr in Mumbai**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch, dedicate to the nation and lay foundation stones of projects costing over Rs 29,400 crore at a function at NESCO Exhibition Centre in Goregaon.
- The PM will lay the foundation stones of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority's (MMRDA) Thane-Borivali and the BMC's Goregaon Mulund Link Road projects, both with twin tunnels.
- He will lay the foundation stone for Central Railway's Kalyan yard remodelling and the Gati Shakti MultiModal Cargo Terminal at Turbhe in Navi Mumbai.
- The Thane- Borivali Tunnel Project is being built at Rs 16,600 crore, adding the twin tube tunnels passing under Sanjay Gandhi National Park will create a direct connection between Western Express Highway at Borivali and Ghodbunder Road in Thane.
- The twin tunnels of the Rs 6,300 crore Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) project will connect the Western Express Highway at Goregaon to the Eastern Express Highway at Mulund. The project will bring down the travel time to 25 minutes from the current 75 minutes.
- The prime minister, during his visit to the metropolis, will also launch the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana', which has an outlay of Rs 5,600 crore.

**Q.** What is the outlay of the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana' launched by the Prime Minister? **Rs 5,600 crore**





Monday, 15 July 2024

## Sarbananda Sonowal receives First Mother Ship at Vizhinjam- India's first deep water Container Transshipment Port

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal received the first Mother Ship 'MV San Fernando' marking the beginning of operation at India's First deep water container transshipment port in Vizhinjam, Kerala.
- The ship, with a capacity upto 9000 TEUs, docks at India's first automated port which is equipped with state of the art that offers large scale automation for quick turnaround of vessels including capacity to handle megamax containerships.
- Vizhinjam Port is a strategic maritime project near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
- This is the first Greenfield port project in India, initiated by a state Government with an investment exceeding ₹18,000 crores.
- Developed under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, it stands as one of the largest initiatives in the country's port sector.
- Vizhinjam's strategic location near international shipping routes significantly reduces transit times for vessels, making it a pivotal point for maritime trade.
- Vizhinjam is set to become a key player in regional trade, potentially serving as a gateway for commerce between Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

**Q.** What is the name of the first Mother Ship received at Vizhinjam- India's first deep water Container Transshipment Port? **MV San Fernando**





International  
Cricket Council

Monday, 15 July 2024

## Top ICC officials Chris Tetley and Claire Furlong resign

- A couple of senior officials from the International Cricket Council (ICC), who were closely involved in organizing the Twenty20 World Cup in the US and the West Indies, have resigned.
- Chris Tetley, the ICC's Head of Events, and Claire Furlong, the General Manager of Marketing and Communications, have announced their departures from the organization.
- The resignations are believed to be related to the conduct of the championship.
- However, ICC insiders say the resignations are several months old.
- They will also attend the Annual Conference in Colombo from July 19 to 22.

### ICC

- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Subsidiary: Asian Cricket Council
- Founded: 15 June 1909
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Chairman: Greg Barclay

**Q.** Chris Tetley and Claire Furlong, senior officials from the administrative sports body resigned. They were part of which international organisation? **ICC**





Monday, 15 July 2024

## Shooter Sabeera Haris Wins Bronze In Shotgun Junior World Cup, Italy

- In Shooting, India's Sabeera Haris has bagged the bronze medal in women's trap event at the International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
- Sabeera shot 29 out of 40 targets in the final..
- Carey Garrison of the US won the gold, shooting down 40 out of 50 targets.
- While Sofia Gori of Italy claimed the silver with 39 hits out of the full quota of 50 targets.
- In the junior women's trap event, another Indian, Bhavya Tripathi, concluded her campaign in 26th place with a score of 102, while compatriot Rajkuwar Ingle finished in 33rd position with 100 points.

### ISSF

- Presidents: Vladimir Lisin, Luciano Rossi
- Headquarters: Munich, Germany
- Founded: 1907
- Membership: 150 regions
- Secretary General: Willi Grill

**Q.** Which Indian shooter bagged the bronze medal in women's trap event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Porpetto, Italy? **Sabeera Haris**





**Monday, 15 July 2024**

## **The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) Wins the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024**

- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, led by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024.
- APCNF shares the €1 million prize with Dr. Rattan Lal, a renowned soil scientist from the USA, and SEKEM, an Egyptian network promoting biodynamic farming.
- The Jury and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation recognized their collaborative efforts in advancing sustainable agriculture through both scientific research and practical applications.
- The prize money will support scaling their initiatives and fostering further sustainable agriculture projects globally.

### **Background:**

- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme was launched in 2016 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to support smallholder farmers in transitioning from chemically intensive agriculture to natural farming.
- This transition includes practices such as using organic residues, minimizing tillage to improve soil health, reintroducing indigenous seeds, and diversifying crops, including trees. APCNF is implemented by the Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), also known as the Farmers Empowerment Corporation, a non-profit entity established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

**Q.** Which programme has been awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024? **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program**





Monday, 15 July 2024

## Cash-strapped Pak secures \$7 Billion bailout deal from IMF

- The International Monetary Fund has agreed to loan Pakistan \$7 billion to bolster its faltering economy, with Islamabad pledging it would be the last time it relied on relief from the Washington-based lender.
- The South Asian nation agreed to the deal -- its 24th IMF payout since 1958 -- in exchange for unpopular reforms, including widening its chronically low tax base.
- Pakistan last year came to the brink of default as the economy shrivelled amid political chaos following catastrophic 2022 monsoon floods and decades of mismanagement, as well as a global economic downturn.
- It was saved by last-minute loans from friendly countries, as well as an IMF rescue package, but its finances remain in dire straits, with high inflation and staggering public debts.
- Islamabad also aims to reduce its fiscal deficit by 1.5 per cent to 5.9 per cent in the coming year, heeding another key IMF demand.
- But Pakistan's public debt remains huge at \$242 billion, and servicing it will still swallow up half of the government's income in 2024, according to the IMF.

**Q.** Cash-strapped Pakistan secures how much fund from the International Monetary Fund recently? **\$7 billion**





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