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# Daily News Analysis

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**Monday, 22 July 2024**

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Monday, 22 July 2024

## **Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra Appoints As Next Ambassador Of India To US**

- Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United States of America.
- A 1988 batch IFS officer, Mr. Kwatra is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- The post was vacant after the retirement of the then Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu.
- He is known to have extensive expertise in dealing with India's neighbourhood as well as the US, China and Europe.
- Kwatra served as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India, taking over from Harsh Vardhan Shringla from May 2022 till July 14, 2024.
- From 2003 to 2006, he served as the counsellor and later as the deputy chief of mission at the Indian embassy in Beijing.
- From 2006 to 2010, he represented India at the SAARC Secretariat in Nepal as head of the trade, economy and finance bureau. From May 2010 till July 2013, he served as minister (commerce) in the Indian embassy in Washington.

**Q.** Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United States of America? **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## **World Bank pledges 100 mln USD to digitize Zambia**

- The World Bank pledged 100 million U.S. dollars to help Zambia speed up its digital infrastructure and increase access to the internet.
- Managing Director and World Bank Group Chief Administrative Officer Zhang Wencai said the support will come through the Digital Zambia Acceleration Project to be financed under the International Development Association.
- The project is aligned with the Zambian government's priorities and will focus on expanding broadband infrastructure and services as well as deploying digital public infrastructure to improve efficiency in both the public and private sectors.
- The project will support digitization in selected high-impact sectors, including the promotion of employable digital skills.
- The World Bank official further said a project implementation unit will be established within the state institution, SMART Zambia Institute, to spearhead cross-cutting government digitization initiatives.

**Q.** The World Bank pledged how much amount to Zambia to help it speed up its digital infrastructure and expand access to the Internet? **100 million U.S. dollars**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## Jamshedpur will co-host Durand Cup for the first time

- Jamshedpur, home to the Indian Super League (ISL) side Jamshedpur FC, has been selected as a host of the 133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup for the first time.
- The other locations where the tournament will be played are Kolkata, Kokrajhar (Assam), and Shillong (Meghalaya).
- Jamshedpur will host Group D of the tournament comprising Jamshedpur FC, Channaiyin FC, Indian Army Football Team, and the Bangladesh Armed Forces Football Team.

### Durand Cup:

- The Durand Cup (also called the IndianOil Durand Cup Powered by Coal India Limited for sponsorship reasons) is an annual domestic football competition in India which was first held in 1888 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- Hosted by the Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) and the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the tournament is the oldest existing club football tournament in Asia and the fifth oldest national football competition in the world.
- Current champions: Mohun Bagan SG (17th title)
- Most successful team: Mohun Bagan SG (17 titles)

**Q.** Recently which city has been selected to host the 133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup for the first time? **Jamshedpur**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## Asian U15 Wrestling C'ships: India win nine medals

- The Indian men's freestyle contingent won nine medals and finished second at the Asian U15 Wrestling Championships in Sriracha, Thailand.
- The Indian U15 freestyle wrestlers claimed four silvers and five bronze medals on the final day of the Asian U15 Championships to end the Championships with 23 medals. Overall, India won four gold, 12 silver and seven bronze medals.

### Second place for men's freestyle team:

- The Indian men's freestyle team earned a total of 163 points to finish just ahead of third-placed Iran (161) in the overall team standings.
- Asian giants Japan took the team title in this category with 197 points. Indian freestyle team had booked their spot in the finals of four weight categories, but they missed out on the gold medal as Prathmesh Patil (44 Kg), Sahil (52 Kg), Mandeep (68 Kg), Ronak (85 Kg) settled for the silver medals.

**Q.** The Indian men's freestyle team finished second in the Asian Under-15 Wrestling Championship in Sriracha, Thailand, winning a total of how many medals? **9**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## UPSC chairman Manoj Soni tenders resignation

- Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman Manoj Soni has reportedly tendered his resignation due to “personal reasons.”
- Soni, 59, joined the commission as a member on June 28, 2019, and became its chairman on May 16, 2023. His term was originally set to end on May 15, 2029.
- Soni had expressed a desire not to assume the chairman role and had requested to be relieved from his duties, preferring to devote more time to "socio-religious activities.
- This development follows the UPSC's announcement that it had registered a criminal case against Khedkar for faking her identity and taken measures to bar her from future selections. Since Khedkar's incident surfaced, social media has been abuzz with claims of similar cases involving fake certificates of serving IAS and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers.

**Q.** Name the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman, who has resigned from his position recently? **Manoj Soni**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## **Bureau of Indian Standards signs Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for the establishment of the 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at the latter.
- This initiative marks a significant step towards institutionalising BIS's collaboration with leading academic and research establishments across India.
- The BIS Standardization Chair Professor aims to foster a robust partnership between BIS and IISc, promoting collaborative activities in Standardization and Conformity Assessment on the principles of equality and reciprocity. This collaboration is a strategic move to secure active academic participation in standards formulation and make teaching Indian standards an integral part of academic curricula.
- This MoU with IISc is part of a larger initiative by BIS to collaborate with premier institutions across India. Similar MoUs have been signed with prominent institutions such as IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, NIT Rourkela, and NIT Trichy.

**Q.** The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has announced the signing of an MoU with which IISc to establish the 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor'? **IISc Bengaluru**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## **ICAR - IISR has won Best Technology Award**

- The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the award during the 96th Foundation Day celebrations of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi.
- The technology titled 'Process for instant soluble turmeric enriched spice flavoured milk powder' was one of the top five technologies under Horticulture Sciences Division of the ICAR. The technology had already been commercialised with Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited. Two products –Golden Milk and Golden Milk Mix had been produced and marketed.
- The technology is being developed by K. Anees, Rajeev P., E. Radha, and C. K. Thankamani, all of whom are IISR scientists.
- The awarded technology is unique in its ability to produce an instant, fully soluble spice mix powder for preparing turmeric-flavored milk. Turmeric's water insolubility was previously a challenge, but with the technology developed by IISR, it no longer poses a challenge to the dairy industry.

**Q.** Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) has received the Best Technology Award for its pioneering work in which field? **Horticultural Science**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## Ivory Coast Joins UN Water Convention as 10th African Member

- Ivory Coast has recently joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African nation.
- This move signals a growing commitment among African countries to enhance cooperative water management across borders in response to increasing water stress and the impacts of climate change.
- Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are set to join the UN Water Convention in 2024, following the Ivory Coast's lead.
- Ivory Coast's accession brings the total number of parties to the Convention to 53.
- Initially established as a regional framework for the pan-European region in 1992, the Convention has expanded globally since 2016. Chad, Senegal, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, and Cameroon were the first African nations to accede. Nigeria, Namibia, and The Gambia joined in 2023.

**Q.** Which country has recently become the 10th African country to join the United Nations Water Conference? **Ivory Coast**





Monday, 22 July 2024

## PM SVANidhi scheme: Madhya Pradesh is 'Best Performing State'

- Madhya Pradesh has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme.
- After Madhya Pradesh, Assam has been ranked second in the 'Best Performing States- Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.
- In the 'Best Performing ULBs – Loan Performance with mega and million plus cities' category, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has received the first place, followed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- The awards in the the National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) was also announced, with Kerala topping the chart in the category of 'Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK)', followed by Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

**Q.** Which state has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme? **Madhya Pradesh**





**Monday, 22 July 2024**

## **Lucknow and surrounding areas designated as Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region**

- Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel has officially designated the area surrounding Lucknow as the Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region.
- This declaration comes under the powers vested in subsection (1) of Section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region and Other Regions Development Authority Ordinance, 2024 (UP Ordinance 4 of 2024).
- The newly formed Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region encompasses the capital city of Lucknow (2,528 sq km) along with the surrounding areas of Hardoi (5,985 sq km), Sitapur (5,743 sq km), Unnao (4,558 sq km), Rae Bareli (4,609 sq km), and Barabanki (4,402 sq km). The total area of the Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region will be 27,826 square km.
- In conjunction with this declaration, the Governor has established the Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region Development Authority, which will oversee the implementation of development projects and ensure the effective management of resources within the newly defined region.

**Q.** Along with the capital Lucknow, which surrounding areas are included in the newly formed Uttar Pradesh State Capital Region? **Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Rae Bareli and Barabanki**





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