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Wednesday, 25 September 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Muhammad Asim Malik appointed new Director General, ISI - Pakistan

- Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan.
- Lt Gen Malik will assume office on September 30, 2024, replacing the outgoing DG ISI, Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum, who was appointed in 2021.
- **Appointment Authority:** The DG ISI is appointed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, in consultation with the Army Chief.

Professional Background:

- Lt Gen Malik previously served as the Adjutant General at the General Headquarters, Rawalpindi.
- Commanded the Infantry Division in Balochistan and the Infantry Brigade in Waziristan.
- Served as the Chief Instructor at the National Defence University (NDU) and as an instructor at Command and Staff College, Quetta.
- Awarded the Sword of Honour and has pursued education at Fort Leavenworth and the Royal College of Defence Studies.
- **Significance of Position:** The role of DG ISI is crucial for Pakistan's security and foreign policy, with the ISI being a key player in both domestic and international intelligence operations.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 2024? **Asim Malik**



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

India Wins Bronze in Inaugural Asia Pacific Padel Cup

- The first edition of the Asia Pacific Padel Cup was held in Bali, Indonesia, marking the first-ever international padel competition between nations in the Asia Pacific region.
- Indian Team: India's Padel team, selected by the Indian Padel Academy, secured the bronze medal after defeating Malaysia 3-0 in the bronze medal match.
- Other Participating Nations: India finished third behind Philippines and Indonesia in a six-nation event that also included China and Singapore.

About Padel:

- Padel, also known as padel tennis, was invented in 1969 by Mexican businessman Enrique Corcuera.
- The sport originated from his desire to create a recreational game at his home, combining elements of tennis and squash.
- It's typically played in doubles on an enclosed court that is smaller than a tennis court, surrounded by walls that can be used to play shots, similar to squash.
- The scoring system and rules are largely based on traditional tennis, but with a few key differences.
- Padel is now governed by the International Padel Federation (FIP), which was established in 1991.
- It has become a favorite recreational sport in clubs, with a high level of international competition emerging, especially in Spain and Argentina.

Q. Which country did India's Padel team defeat to win the bronze medal in the inaugural Asia Pacific Padel Cup?

Malaysia



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

WHO and MDBs Launch \$1.5 Billion Primary Health Financing Deal

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have launched a \$1.5 billion primary health financing platform to strengthen primary healthcare (PHC) in 15 low and middle-income countries.
- The agreement was signed at a high-level roundtable meeting in New York, attended by heads of state, finance and health ministers from Djibouti, Egypt, and Ethiopia.
- **Countries Involved (Phase One):** The countries benefiting from the initiative include Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Maldives, Morocco, Senegal, South Sudan, The Gambia, Tunisia, and Zambia.
- **Objective:** The Health Impact Investment Platform aims to enhance resilience against pandemics like Monkeypox (Mpox) and address the climate crisis by strengthening primary health care systems in vulnerable and underserved communities.
- **Partnership:** The funding initiative is a collaboration between WHO and the MDBs including the African Development Bank (AfDB), European Investment Bank (EIB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Q. Which organization, along with multilateral development banks, launched a \$1.5 billion primary health financing platform to strengthen healthcare in low and middle-income countries? **World Health Organization (WHO)**



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Pune International Airport Renamed Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Airport

- The Maharashtra government has approved the proposal to rename Pune International Airport as 'Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport'.
- **Tribute to Sant Tukaram:** The renaming honors Sant Tukaram, a revered saint and spiritual poet of the Bhakti movement, who hailed from the Pune district.

Historical Significance of Lohgaon:

- The Lohgaon area, where the airport is located, is historically significant as it is Sant Tukaram's childhood home and maternal residence.
- This connection underscores Sant Tukaram's contribution to spreading the principles of the Bhakti movement and promoting new social thought.

Maharashtra:

- Capital: Mumbai
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Governor: C. P. Radhakrishnan

Q. What is the new name of Pune International Airport as approved by the Maharashtra government?
Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport.



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Adani Energy, Adani Green join Utilities for Net Zero Alliance to aid India's Net Zero goal

- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd have joined the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) to help India accelerate the adoption of renewables and overcome common barriers in the realisation of global Net Zero ambitions.
- AGEL (in renewable energy) and AESL (in transmission and distribution) are the first companies in their sectors to join this global alliance.

Focus Areas:

- AGEL: Will focus on clean power, energy security, and energy efficiency.
- AESL: Will focus on developing reliable green energy transmission and distribution grids.
- Net Zero Target: Both companies aim to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Renewable Energy Growth:

- AGEL plans to expand its renewable energy portfolio from 11.2 GW to 50 GW by 2030.
- Developing the world's largest renewable energy plant with 30 GW capacity in Khavda, Kutch, Gujarat.
- Emission Reduction: AGEL aims to reduce its direct emissions by 72.7% by 2030, compared to 2020 levels.

Q. What sectors do Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) represent in UNEZA?
AGEL (in renewable energy) and AESL (in transmission and distribution)



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Blue Origin's massive new rocket completes critical test

- New Glenn's second stage successfully completed a risk reduction hot-fire test, a crucial step towards its first flight.
- **Test Duration:** The hot-fire lasted 15 seconds and was the first operation of the vehicle as an integrated system.
- **Purpose:** The test aimed to validate interactions between the second stage's subsystems, its two engines, and the ground control systems.
- **Operational Practice:** The hot-fire test provided the launch operations team with an opportunity to practice launch day procedures and verify timing for critical operations.
- **Specifications of the Second Stage:** New Glenn's second stage is approximately 26.8 meters tall and 7 meters in diameter, designed for high-energy missions to low Earth orbit, medium Earth orbit, and geosynchronous orbit.
- **First Flight Target:** The first flight of New Glenn is scheduled for later in 2024, with NASA's ESCAPE mission to Mars as its payload.
- **Significance:** This mission marks a significant milestone for Blue Origin in launching satellites and contributing to space exploration efforts.

Q. What was the purpose of New Glenn's hot-fire test? **To validate interactions between the second stage's subsystems, engines, and ground control systems.**

ADB

ASIAN
DEVELOPMENT
BANK

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

ADB launches 5-year strategy to bolster Fiji's climate resilience

- ADB has launched a new country partnership strategy with Fiji for the period 2024-2028.
- **Objective:** The strategy aims to support Fiji's resilience to economic and climate-related shocks.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Fostering regional cooperation and integration is also a key focus area.
- **ADB's Support History:** ADB has been supporting Fiji since 1970, committing 117 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totaling 991 million U.S. dollars.

Key Priorities:

- **Public Sector Management:** Enhancing public sector management capabilities.
- **Transport Infrastructure:** Improving access to climate-resilient transport infrastructure.
- **Water and Wastewater Services:** Boosting climate-resilient urban water and wastewater services.

Emerging Areas of Engagement:

- **Coastal Protection:** Focusing on coastal protection for vulnerable communities.
- **Healthcare Upgrades:** Upgrading national healthcare facilities.

Q. What is the period of the new country partnership strategy launched by ADB for Fiji? **2024-2028**

ECONOMY



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

S&P Global Ratings retains India's GDP growth at 6.8 pc for FY25, cuts China's forecast

- S&P Global Ratings retained India's growth forecast at 6.8 per cent for the fiscal 2024-25, while reducing China's economic growth by 0.2 per cent to 4.6 per cent in the calendar year 2024.
- India's solid growth allows the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to focus on bringing inflation in line with its target.
- The rating agency also retained India's growth forecast for FY 2025-26 at 6.9 per cent.
- Meanwhile, S&P further reduced China's GDP growth to 4.3 per cent in the calendar year 2025.
- This reflects the country's sluggish property sector, weak domestic demand generally, and reluctance among policymakers to ease fiscal policy.

Recent projections for India's GDP by various organizations:

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):** The IMF has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2024-25 to 7%, an increase from its previous estimate of 6.8%.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):** The ADB maintains its growth projection for India at 7% for the fiscal year 2024-25, aligning with the IMF's estimate.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):** The RBI has estimated a GDP growth rate of 7.2% for the fiscal year 2024-25, which is higher than the projections from the IMF and ADB.

Q. What is S&P Global Ratings' growth forecast for India in FY 2024-25? **6.8%.**



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Sir Ronnie Flanagan, ICC anti-corruption unit chair, to retire in October

- Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the independent chair of the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) since 2010, will retire at the end of October.
- **Upcoming Retirement of ACU Head:** Alex Marshall, head of the ACU, is also set to retire in November.
- **Successor History:** Flanagan replaced Lord Paul Condon, who stepped down in 2010 after a decade as ACU's inaugural head.
- **Establishment of ACU:** Lord Paul Condon established the ACU in 2000 in response to increasing incidents of match-fixing, leading to life bans for players like Mohammad Azharuddin, Saleem Malik, and Hansie Cronje.
- **Challenges to Integrity:** Condon had warned that T20 cricket, particularly domestic franchise cricket, posed significant challenges to the integrity of the sport.
- **IPL Scandal:** The warning came shortly before the IPL corruption scandal erupted in 2013.
- **Call for Stronger Anti-Corruption Laws:** At the ICC annual conference in June 2013, Flanagan urged cricket boards to implement stronger anti-corruption laws to prosecute those involved in corrupt practices within domestic T20 leagues.

Q. Who is set to retire as the independent chair of the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) at the end of October? **Sir Ronnie Flanagan.**



Wednesday, 25 September 2024

India to sign bilateral investment treaty with Uzbekistan during FM Sitharaman's visit

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will visit Uzbekistan from September 24-28.
- **Purpose of Visit:** To attend the ninth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- **Bilateral Meetings:** FM Sitharaman will hold discussions with counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, and China, along with the AIIB President.
- **India's Role in AIIB:** India is the second-largest shareholder of the AIIB.
- **Bilateral Investment Treaty:** India will sign a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Uzbekistan to enhance long-term economic cooperation for mutual benefit.
- **Additional Engagements:** During her visit, FM Sitharaman will also tour the Samarkand State University and the Lal Bahadur Shastri Monument in Tashkent.
- **AIIB Participation:** The AIIB annual meeting will involve delegations from approximately 80 countries and various international organizations.
- **AIIB Focus:** As a multilateral development bank, the AIIB aims to develop sustainable infrastructure in Asia and promote investments in infrastructure and productive sectors to foster economic development and improve connectivity.

Q. What significant treaty will India sign with Uzbekistan during Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to Uzbekistan? **A bilateral investment treaty (BIT).**



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