

### ❖ India hands over missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam

- The Navy decommissioned INS Kirpan and handed it over to Vietnam People's Navy (VPN), reflecting the growing defense ties and strategic partnership between New Delhi and Hanoi.
- The handing over ceremony took place at Cam Ranh in Vietnam and was presided over by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy and Rear Admiral Pham Manh Hung, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Chief of Staff, VPN.
- INS Kirpan, an indigenously built missile corvette was decommissioned after completing 32 years of service to be gifted to Vietnam.
- It was handed over to VPN with a complete weapon complement. The ship has been an integral part of the Navy's Eastern Fleet and has participated in several operations.
- Both countries had signed a Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030 and had inked a pact on mutual logistics support to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between them.

### ❖ Italy pays tribute to Indian Army

- The Commune of Montone and Italian Military historians have unveiled "V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial" at Montone (Perugia, Italy) as a tribute to the Indian troops who fought during Italian Campaign during the Second World War.
- They also honoured Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, Victoria Cross, who was killed in action fighting on the heights of Upper Tiber Valley.

- Dr Neena Malhotra, Ambassador of India in Italy and the Indian Defence Attached represented India during the ceremony.
- Indian Soldiers played a central role in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War, wherein more than 50,000 Indian Army soldiers from the 4th, 8th and 10th Divisions took part.
- Out of the 20 Victoria Crosses awarded in Italy, six were won by Indian soldiers. Indian soldiers suffered 23,722 casualties, of which 5,782 Indian soldiers made the supreme sacrifice, and are commemorated in the 40 Commonwealth War Graves spread all over Italy.
- To make this memorial a participative endeavour, an Indian Army plaque has been placed at the memorial commemorating the gallant sacrifice of all ranks of the Indian Army who fought in the Italian Campaign.

#### ❖ **Algeria applies to join BRICS Bank**

- Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced that the country has applied to join the BRICS group and submitted a request to become a shareholder member of the BRICS Bank.
- The North African country is rich in oil and gas resources and seeking to diversify its economy.
- The BRICS group of nations comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- It accounts for more than 40 percent of the world's population and about 26 percent of the global economy.
- More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining the BRICS group of nations, South Africa's top diplomat in charge of relations with the bloc. Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kazakhstan are among the countries that expressed interest.

## ❖ World Drowning Prevention Day - 25 July 2023

- World Drowning Prevention Day is a globally observed on the 25th of July every year since 2021.
- The World Health Assembly marked this day as the World Drowning Prevention Day to spread the awareness on drowning and devise various counteractions to restrain it.
- Various preventive measures as well as emergency responses are also advocated as part of the integrated health-care delivery, thus countering the growing burden of injuries and deaths related to drowning.
- The World Drowning Prevention Day resolution is "Anyone can drown, no one should".
- This global call symbolises the work World Health Organisation (WHO) performs at various levels to avoid deaths due to drowning.

## ❖ Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Releases 'Swachhata Chronicles : Transformative Tales From India'

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, released the compendium of 75 ODF Plus Best Practices.
- The compendium, titled Swachhata Chronicles: Transformative Tales from India, showcases the innovations, measures taken to overcome barriers and raise awareness, special campaigns launched, and other ventures of States/UTs in various ODF Plus activities in order to meet the goals of SBM-G Phase-II.
- The compendium is developed by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen IEC team and comprises stories for each of the thematic pillars of SBMG phase - II.
- The overall selection of stories is based on following key criteria:
- **Innovations:** This section highlights the innovative approaches that have been used to achieve ODF Plus.

➤ **Overcoming Barriers:** This section discusses the challenges that have been faced in achieving ODF Plus and how these challenges have been overcome.

➤ **Raising Awareness:** This section highlights the measures that have been taken to raise awareness about sanitation.

➤ **Special Campaigns:** This section discusses the special campaigns that have been launched to achieve ODF Plus.

### ❖ **Tamil Nadu unveils ‘Bomman’, the mascot for Asian Champions Trophy**

➤ Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin unveiled the trophy and the ‘Bomman’ mascot for the prestigious Asian Champions Trophy 2023 hockey tournament to be held in Chennai from August 3 to 12.

➤ The minister also launched the ticket sales by receiving the first ticket from Hockey India General Secretary Bhola Nath Singh at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Egmore.

➤ Six teams from the Asia continent - India, China, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan and Korea will compete for the coveted trophy.

➤ According to the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), the illustrious sporting event, now in its seventh edition, will be held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium.

➤ This will be the first time since the Asia Cup in 2007, the stadium is hosting a major event.

➤ Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 17 crore for the conduct of the event.

## ❖ **Bharat Dynamics announces appointment of Chairman and MD**

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) announced that the Ministry of Defence has approved the appointment of A Madhavarao as its chairman and managing director.
- He had joined BDL in March 2020 as executive director and was currently holding the post of Director (technical) with additional charge of Director (production).
- He played a significant role in establishing a product support group to provide credible support to the Indian Armed Forces, enhancing the in-house R&D activities and establishing an effective supply chain to meet production schedules.
- He has worked towards various contract signing with the Indian Armed Forces , Ministry of Defence and other foreign countries contributing to the current healthy order book of the company.

## ❖ **Amit Shah inaugurates Aviation Security Control Centre in Delhi**

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Aviation Security Control Center (ASCC) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Mahipalpur campus in New Delhi.
- The Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) that will present a one-stop solution to all aviation security needs including real-time monitoring of bomb threat calls and VVIP movement, maintenance of contingency plans and researching the latest technologies and gadgets in the field.
- Aviation Sector is one of the most dynamic, publicly visible and international environment sensitive sectors.
- CISF has done a commendable job in effectively establishing the security arrangements, right from the day of assuming the responsibility of the aviation sector.
- CISF has firmly established itself in Aviation Security in particular and internal security apparatus in general by continued proactive operational orientation.

## ❖ **India Bans Non-basmati White Rice Exports**

- India banned the export of non-basmati white rice to stabilise the volatility in retail prices within the country.
- This decision was taken by the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs.
- The ban applies to all exports of "non-basmati white rice".
- Rice production has taken a hit owing to vagaries of weather such as heavy monsoon rains in rice-producing States in the North and deficit rainfall in other parts of the country.
- India's decision is significant as it is the world's leading rice exporter.
- The primary objective of the ban is to stabilise the volatility of retail prices within India.
- Two major challenges affecting India's rice production are global food prices affected by the war in Ukraine and unpredictable weather conditions, including heavy monsoon rains in northern rice-growing states and insufficient rainfall in other regions.

## ❖ **Former Australian wicketkeeper Brian Taber passes away at 83**

- Former Australian wicketkeeper Brian Taber passes away at 83 .
- Taber was one of the best wicketkeepers that Australia has ever produced.
- He had played 16 Test matches for Australia between 1966 and 1970.
- He scored the highest score of 48 in a Test match against West Indies at Sydney in 1969 where Australia won by 382 runs.
- He played more than 100 games for New South Wales during his domestic career and is a member of the state's Hall of Fame.

### ❖ Lokesh M appointed as new CEO of NOIDA Authority

- Lokesh M has been appointed as the new CEO of the Noida Authority. Replacing Ritu Maheshwari, who is now the Divisional Commissioner, Agra.
- Key priorities of CEO Lokesh M are Focusing on industrial development and setting up a better public hearing system.
- Scheme to address the issues of allottees, farmers and citizen grievances.
- They aim to make Noida a "City Beautiful" and improve the living conditions for the residents.
- Emphasis was laid on efficient delivery of services to the citizens.
- Lokesh M is originally from Karnataka. On 31 May he was appointed as Agra Commissioner.
- Prior to joining as the CEO of Noida Authority, he served as the Kanpur Commissioner.

### ❖ Odisha CM approves Mission Shakti scooter scheme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the Mission Shakti Scooter Scheme, a scheme designed to provide interest subsidy to beneficiaries on bank loans up to Rs 1,00,000 to buy scooters.
- Odisha Mission Shakti Minister Tukuni Sahu announced that around 75,000 SHG community support staff and nearly 1,25,000 SHG federation leaders will be benefited under the new scheme.
- The state government has made budgetary provision of INR 528.55 crore for execution of the scheme over a period of next five years.
- The cabinet has also decided to allocate INR 5,700 crore for implementation of the state sector scheme.
- The goal is to empower a large number of Community Support Staff and Executive Committee (EC) members across the state.

- The initiative targets Mission Shakti federation leaders and community support staff, providing affordable access to two-wheelers.
- This is expected to increase their efficiency, effectiveness and reach within the community.

### ❖ **Twitter unveils new logo 'X'**

- Twitter unveiled its new logo X, replacing the famous Twitter bird or 'Larry Bird' which is now featured prominently on the website.
- The social networking site unveiled the new logo through its social media handle.
- The new logo comprises a white X on black background.
- The new logo was announced jointly by Twitter founder Elon Musk and CEO Linda Yacarino, indicating their involvement in the rebranding process.
- This logo change represents the latest significant update since Elon Musk acquired Twitter last year for a whopping \$44 billion.

### ❖ **World number 246 Maria Timofeeva wins Budapest WTA title**

- Maria Timofeeva from Russia won the Budapest WTA title by defeating Ukraine's Kateryna Baindl in a three-set final.
- The 19-year-old Timofeeva, ranked at a lowly 246 in the world, came through 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 over her 100th-ranked opponent.
- The teenager almost missed this week's main draw entirely, having fallen in the final qualifying round last weekend.
- India's Karman Kaur Thandi, with her W60 title at Evansville, jumped 51 spots to 210.
- Ana Bogdan (39th), Kayla Day (94th) and Aranxta Rus (60th) achieved new career-high rankings.

### ❖ **Adrian Mannarino downs US teen Alex Michelsen - Third ATP title**

- French veteran Adrian Mannarino ended Alex Michelsen's dream run in Newport , beating the 18-year-old American 6-2, 6-4 to capture the third ATP title of his career.
- Mannarino, ranked 38th in the world and seeded second in the grass court tournament in Rhode Island, continued his strong season on the surface that included reaching the final in Mallorca and the quarter-finals at Queen's Club in London and 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands.
- The 35-year-old out-foxed Michelsen, who was trying to become the fourth teenager to win an ATP title this year.

### ❖ **Kamaljeet bags two gold medals in free pistol**

- Kamaljeet helped India add two more gold medals by bagging the individual and team honours in the 50m free pistol event in the Junior World Championship in Changwon, Korea.
- The 19-year-old Kamaljeet won gold in Men's 50m Pistol individual and then helped India claim gold in the Team event too.
- Kamaljeet, who had impressed during the National trials by winning the top spot in air pistol ahead of World Cup gold medalist Sarabjot Singh, shot 544 for the individual gold.
- Ankait Tomar and Sandeep Bishnoi, he helped India bag the team honour, four points ahead of Uzbekistan.
- India thus finished second behind China with a total of 17 medals, including six gold, six silver and five bronze medals. China won 28 medals, including 12 gold.

## ❖ GVK firm signs PPA with Punjab

- In a first-of-its-kind, a Hyderabad based company has signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to sell power.
- Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has offered ₹1,080 crore to lenders to acquire GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) that is undergoing corporate insolvency resolution.
- The offer from the state power distribution company equates to a 16% recovery of the claims filed by lenders with the resolution professional.
- Chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi approved the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited's (PSPCL) proposal to terminate the power purchase agreement (PPA) with GVK Goindwal Sahib (2x270 MW) plant.
- This power generation system was developed by city based researchers couple Chaganti Srinivas Bhaskar.