

❖ Harmanpreet Kaur suspended for 2 matches for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended India women's team skipper, Harmanpreet Kaur, for the next two international matches after she was found guilty of two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct.
- In the match, after she was adjudged LBW, Kaur smashed her stumps with her bat and called the umpiring “pathetic” in the post-match presentation.
- The first incident occurred specifically when Kaur expressed frustration after her dismissal by hitting the wickets with her bat after she was adjudged caught at slip off spinner Nahida Akter in the 34th over of India’s innings.
- Kaur was fined 50 percent of her match fee for the Level 2 offence and received three demerit points on her disciplinary record.

❖ First Rupee trade shipment from Petrapole border to Bangladesh

- The first Rupee trade shipment from West Bengal's Petrapole border to Bangladesh.
- Petrapole, located in North 24 Parganas, is the major land port for bilateral trade with the neighbouring country.
- The Indian government has been promoting Rupee trade with several countries to save forex, aiming at reducing dependence on the US Dollar and strengthening regional currency and trade.
- It was a shipment of vehicle chassis from Tata Motors, and the value of the shipment is Rs 1.23 crore.
- Banks in Bangladesh and India have been given permission to open nostro accounts.
- It is an account in a bank of another country for the purpose of foreign currency transactions.

❖ National Conference on 'Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions' Inaugurated

- As per the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, there are over 90 million Indians or 7.5% of the population suffering from mental health issues.
- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated a national conference on "Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions"
- National Conference on 'Moving Mental Health Beyond Institutions' was inaugurated with the objective to discuss the challenges in the implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.
- The National Conference will also deliberate on the way forward on resolution of mental health issues.
- The Union Minister underlined the need for a new mental healthcare paradigm that transcends the limitations of institutions and focuses on community-based support.
- She urged the dignitaries to deliberate on the pressing issues of mental health challenges in India and work towards a future where mental healthcare is accessible, affordable, inclusive and compassionate.

❖ Ministry of Textiles organized 6th National Conclave

- Ministry of Textiles, under its flagship scheme National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), organized the 6th National Conclave on Standards & Regulations in association with FICCI and BIS, emphasizing on importance of Standards, Quality regulations & Rationalization of HSN codes for Technical Textiles in India.
- The event encompassed 5 technical sessions focusing on Standards and Regulations under specialized areas of Technical Textiles like Protective textiles, Geotextiles, Build tech, Oekotech, Medical textiles and in other emerging areas of Technical Textiles.
- More than 150 participants attended the conclave including officials and representatives from Central Ministries, user Departments of Central and State Governments, Institutes, industry leaders, scientific experts, researchers, and professionals related to technical textiles across various categories.
- Shri Manmohan Singh, Co-Chaired FICCI-Textiles and Technical Textiles Committee highlighted that there is huge potential in the country for Technical Textiles both for investments and consumption.
- It is vital to understand and establish robust standards and regulations that foster growth, ensure quality and safety.

❖ **Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi elected as chair of WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference**

- UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi has been elected as the chair of the World Trade Organisation's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) that will be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024.
- The announcement was made during the WTO General Council in Geneva, where Dr Al Zeyoudi met with the WTO director general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.
- The conference will be attended by representatives from the 164 countries and customs blocs that make up the WTO.
- It will review the performance of the trading system, make decisions on future work and set up the road map for the next conference.
- MC13 comes at a critical time for world trade, and the conference will build on the outcomes of MC12, review the performance of the multilateral trading system, make decisions on the future work of the WTO, and set up the roadmap for MC14.

❖ **World Health Organization (WHO) identifies first case of MERS-CoV in UAE**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in a 28-year-old male from United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- According to WHO, the patient is a resident of Al Ain city in Abu Dhabi, and had no travel history. He also presented no history of direct or indirect contact with dromedaries (camels), goats, or sheep.
- The patient rushed to the hospital on 8 June with symptoms like fever, cough and shortness of breath where he was confirmed MERS-CoV positive.
- As a part of surveillance and contact tracing, authorities have identified 108 immediate contacts of the case who are being monitored for being exposed to the MERS-CoV patient.
- MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory infection that is caused by a coronavirus called Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

❖ Bengal BJP MLA Bishnu Pada Roy dies at 61

- BJP MLA from Dhupguri, Bishnu Pada Roy, who was suffering from lung infection for quite for some time, died at the age of 61
- He was elected as Member of Parliament in 13th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabha representing Andaman and Nicobar Islands constituency in the years 1999, 2009 and 2014, respectively.
- He was a hardworking legislator who made many efforts to fulfil people's aspirations. He also worked hard to strengthen @BJP4Bengal.

❖ Aditya is India's 83rd Chess Grand Master (GM)

- Aditya Samant became India's 83rd Grandmaster after earning his third GM norm at the Master Tournament (MTO) in the Biel International Chess Festival.
- The Maharashtrian player had earned his first norm to become a grandmaster at the Abu Dhabi Masters last year in August.
- His second norm was achieved in December last year at the 3rd El Llobregat Open.
- According to Chessbase India, Aditya has already crossed 2500 in the live ratings to achieve his third norm, he just needed to play his 9th round game against Aryan Chopra.

❖ Malaysian Syazrul Idrus records best men's T20I figures

- Malaysian seamer Syazrul Idrus became the first male cricketer to take seven wickets in a T20 International when he achieved the feat against China in the opening game of the T20 World Cup Asia B Qualifier.
- Idrus' astonishing figures of 7 wickets for 8 runs, the best bowling figures in a men's T20I, helped Malaysia record a commanding eight-wicket victory over China at Bayuemas Oval.
- Idrus, aged 32, had previously represented Malaysia in 22 T20Is, but his latest performance set a new record for the best bowling figures in men's T20Is.
- He surpassed Nigerian Peter Aho's previous record of 6 for 5, with all of Idrus' dismissals coming via bowled deliveries.
- Idrus' extraordinary achievement is now the joint-third best overall, along with Dinesh Nakrani of Uganda.

❖ India can have a \$40-100 billion space industry by 2040: Arthur D. Little

- India has the potential to develop a \$40-\$100 billion space industry by 2040 on the back of a rising space budget, increased number of launch services from the country, entry of private players and startups, and a boom in the country's satellite internet market.
- India's space industry is valued at \$8 billion with a 2% share in the global space economy.
- The government spending on space is around \$2 billion and the country has launched 381 foreign satellites since 1999 for 34 countries clocking \$279 million in revenues.
- With its current trajectory, India's space economy could reach \$40 billion by 2040.
- However, India has the potential to claim a much larger share of the global space economy, amounting to a staggering \$100 billion addressable opportunity by 2040.
- The Indian government's commitment to encouraging private participation has yielded remarkable results, with new-age space startups in India securing an impressive \$112 million in funding in 2022.

❖ Axis Bank Q1 net profit rises 40% to Rs 5,797 crore

- Private sector lender Axis Bank posted a 40.5 per cent increase in standalone net profit at Rs 5,797 crore in the April-June quarter, mainly due to decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income.
- The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 4,125 crore in the year-ago period.
- Total income in the first quarter of the current fiscal rose to Rs 30,644 crore as against Rs 21,657 crore.
- The lender's interest income also increased to Rs 25,557 crore from Rs 18,729 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

❖ In a first, Taiwan conducts military drill at main airport

- Taiwan conducted an anti-aircraft landing drill at its main international airport for the first time, simulating the repulsion of an invading force as China ramps up military pressure to force the island to accept its sovereignty.
- The drill at the island's main Taoyuan international airport was part of Taiwan's main annual Han Kuang exercises that started on Monday, focusing on protecting its infrastructure and striking incoming enemy ships to keep key waterways open.
- China's ruling Communist Party claims the self-governing democracy of Taiwan as its territory despite never having controlled it, and has spent decades trying to isolate it diplomatically.
- At Taoyuan, soldiers wearing red helmets to mark themselves as simulated infiltrators engaged in a shootout drill with airport police. Firefighters also practiced putting out simulated fires.
- The drills, which lasted for 30 minutes, wrapped up as the Taiwanese military practiced clearing out residual enemy forces, brandishing Taiwan's flag in the end to signify their simulated successful defense of the airport.

❖ Acclaimed Irish singer Sinead O'Connor dies aged 56

- Acclaimed Irish singer Sinead O'Connor has died at the age of 56.
- Her music was loved around the world and her talent was unmatched and beyond compare.
- The acclaimed Dublin performer released 10 studio albums, while her song Nothing Compares 2 U was named the number one world single in 1990 by the Billboard Music Awards.
- Her version of the ballad, written by musician Prince, topped the charts around the globe and earned her three Grammy nominations.
- The accompanying music video, directed by English filmmaker John Maybury, consisted mostly of a close-up of O'Connor's face as she sung the lyrics and became as famous as her recording of the song.
- A video that has been viewed 400 million times on You Tube.

❖ Former Indian-origin minister in Singapore officially launches presidential bid

- Singapore's former Indian-origin minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam formally launched his presidential campaign and pledged to evolve the country's culture to keep it a "shining spot" in the world.
- The official launch comes more than a month after Tharman first announced his intention that he will run for president.
- Tharman, 66, stepped down from active politics after 22 years last month.
- Accompanied by his wife Jane Yumiko Ittogi, Tharman outlined challenges facing Singapore both globally and domestically and emphasised that the nation's real challenge was to avoid becoming a divided society.

❖ PM Modi to inaugurate Gujarat's first Greenfield International Airport

- Prime minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the Hirasar Greenfield International Airport, Gujarat's first Greenfield Airport to the nation.
- The PM has performed Bhoomi poojan on October 7, 2017 at Hirasar village, near Chotila for the construction of the international airport.
- An MoU was signed between the Airport Authority of India and the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of Gujarat for the construction of a new greenfield airport.
- Along with the airport, PM Modi will dedicate a number of key projects worth over ₹860 crore including packages 8 and 9 of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana.
- According to the press statement by the prime minister's office (PMO), the new airport, spanning across 2,500 acres, is envisioned to be a transportation hub for people traveling abroad from the state.
- The Hirasar Greenfield Airport, located at around 30 km from Rajkot, spans over 2500 acres and has been developed at a cost of ₹1,405 crore.
- The airport boasts a well-designed 3040 m (3.04 km) long and 45-meter-wide runway, capable of accommodating 14 planes simultaneously.

❖ **HDFC Bank partners Dvara KGFS for micro loans**

- Chennai-based non-banking financial company Dvara KGFS and private sector lender HDFC Bank have entered a co-lending partnership to provide credit to micro enterprises operating primarily in the unorganized sector facing challenges in accessing formal credit sources.
- The tie-up aligns with the NBFC's this year's Annual Operating Plan (AOP) looking to enable credit for micro businesses across the 10 states that it serves.
- This engagement will enhance our capabilities in empowering micro businesses operating in rural areas.
- Dvara KGFS launched enterprise loans in 2020, focusing on three value chains - grocery, dairy, and agriculture.

❖ **CRPF celebrated 85th Raising Day on 27 July 2023**

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), India's largest Central Armed Police Force, is observing its '84th Raising Day' on 27 July 2023.
- CRPF is organizing its Raising Day Parade for the first time in Chhattisgarh's Bastar, the epicenter of Left Wing Extremism, and it is a matter of pride for the entire nation.
- The 85th Raising Day of the CRPF is a testament to the force's commitment and service in ensuring the safety and security of the nation and its citizens.
- The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.
- The headquarters of the CRPF is located in the CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
- The current Director General of the CRPF is Dr. Sujoy Lal Thakur, IPS.

❖ **Bandhan Financial Holdings Set To Acquire Aegon Life Insurance**

- Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd. has entered into a definitive agreement with Aegon India Holding and Bennett, Coleman & Corporation for acquisition of the entire shareholding of the two entities in Aegon Life Insurance Corporation.
- This will mark Bandhan Financial Holdings' foray into the country's life insurance sector in addition to their presence in banking and mutual fund sectors.
- Aegon Life, a digitally focused life insurance company serving around 300,000 customers, witnessed a competitive bidding process in which various investors participated.
- Bandhan Financial Holdings, the promoter company of Bandhan Bank, was selected as the successful bidder to acquire Aegon Life.
- The agreement envisages continuity of the current management team and existing employees, which will help in actively developing and supporting Aegon Life's strategy under the new ownership.