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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Indian Navy to take part in Exercise Malabar with indigenous warships

- Two of Navy's indigenous frontline warships INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata will participate in Exercise MALABAR-2023 scheduled off Sydney from 11 - 21 August 23 along with ships and aircraft from the US Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- This is the first time that the Royal Australian Navy is hosting the exercise. Interestingly, the exercise saw the maiden participation of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 2020 during the thick of the military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh.
- This year marks the 27th edition of MALABAR which is being hosted by Royal Australian Navy (RAN).
- MALABAR 2023 is scheduled to be conducted in two phases. The Harbour Phase involves wide ranging activities such as cross deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures and several interactions for planning and conduct of the Sea Phase.
- The Sea Phase will include various complex and high intensity exercises in all three domains of warfare, encompassing anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine exercises including live weapon firing drills.
- INS Sahyadri is the third ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-17 class multi role stealth frigates and is presently commanded by Capt Rajan Kapoor.
- INS Kolkata is the first ship of the indigenously designed and built Project-15A class destroyers and is commanded by Capt Sharad Sinsunwal.

❖ **IIT Delhi signs MoU with YES BANK to scale up Indian startups**

- IIITD Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC), a section 8 company promoted by the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with YES BANK.
- Through this partnership, YES BANK will offer best in class banking facilities to Startups that are in a developmental phase at IIITD-IC under the Bank's YES Head Startup programme, a dedicated programme for Startups that aims to cater to this segment with a dynamic and agile bouquet of offerings.
- These include, a salary account proposition for Startups with only five employees, a fungible limit for credit cards for business and personal use, as well as an API Sandbox facility.
- Aims to enable enterprise banking, personal banking and beyond banking solutions required by the Startups and further strengthen the mentoring support for Startups, with their access to experts and the industry.
- These introductions will expand the Startups' network within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, opening doors to new business opportunities, partnerships, and potential customers.

❖ **Russia to launch its lunar lander after almost 5 decades**

- In a race with India to reach the south pole region first, Russia is all set to launch its first lunar landing mission on August 11 after almost 5 decades.
- July 14, the day when India's Chandrayan-3 was launched, Russia is ready to launch its spacecraft just after 28 days of Indian Spacecraft.
- A Soyuz 2.1v rocket carrying the Luna-25 craft will blast off from the Vostochny cosmodrome, 3,450 miles (5,550 km) east of Moscow, With its upper stage boosting the lander out of Earth's orbit toward the moon over an hour later, Russia's space agency Roscosmos confirmed.

- Luna-25, roughly the size of a small car, will aim to operate for a year on the moon's south pole, where scientists at NASA and other space agencies in recent years have detected traces of water ice in the region's shadowed craters.
- The spacecraft is expected to reach the lunar world on Aug 21, Russia's space chief Yuri Borisov told Interfax .
- Russian space agency Roscosmos previously pegged Aug 23 as the landing date.

❖ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un replaces its Chief of General Staff, Pak Su Il

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has replaced its Chief of General Staff, Pak Su Il. Pak was replaced by General Ri Yong Gil, who previously served as Defence Minister.
- According to reports, North Korean leader has instructed military to be prepared in case of war.
- Kim has also directed to conduct drills with country's latest weapons and equipment.
- This comes after Kim Jong Un visited a weapons factories last week where he called for more missile engines, artillery and other weapons to be built at a large scale.
- North Korea is set to stage a parade on 9th September which marked 75th anniversary of Foundation of the Republic.
- Meanwhile, the US accused North Korea of providing arms to Russia for its war in Ukraine. However, Russia has denied these claims.

❖ India's first AU bank to provide 24x7 video banking service.

- AU Small Finance Bank has achieved an unprecedented feat with the launch of its ground breaking customer service 24x7 via Video Banking.
- This service provides a virtual platform where customers can communicate with a video banker in real time via video calls, like video conferencing.
- AU Small Finance Bank's foray into round the clock Video Banking represents a paradigm shift in modern banking.
- Even on holidays and weekends, AU's dedicated team would ensure face to face, human centric interactions, underscoring the bank's commitment to enhancing nationwide banking experiences.
- In essence, AU's 24x7 Video Banking extends the reach of banking services to areas with limited infrastructure and resources, offering a convenient and personalized banking experience that addresses the unique needs of tech-savvy millennials, new to banking customers, busy professionals, and senior citizens alike.

❖ New Amravati Station Becomes Central Railway's Third 'Pink Station'

- Central Railway's New Amravati station becomes the first station in Bhusaval Division and third station of Central Railway CR to be a Pink Station to be fully managed by women staff.
- Central Railway has inaugurated the New Amravati station under the capable management of an all women team.
- This remarkable accomplishment of establishing an all women managed station at New Amravati follows in the footsteps of the trailblazing examples set by Matunga station in the Mumbai division and Ajni station in the Nagpur division.
- The New Amravati station has a staff strength of 12 women employees 4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel and 1 Station Ticket Booking Agent. These women work in unison to ensure the smooth functioning of the station.

➤ According to the press release issued by the Central Railway, the New Amravati station, which joins the ranks of “Pink Stations,” caters to the needs of approximately 380 passengers.

❖ **SEBI halves IPO listing time to three days from six**

➤ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) halved the timeline for listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of initial public offerings (IPOs) to three days from six days at present.

➤ The new listing time frame will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after September 1 and mandatory for all the issues which come after December 1.

➤ The move came after the board of SEBI approved a proposal in this regard in June.

➤ The reduction in timelines for listing and trading of shares will benefit both issuers as well as investors.

➤ Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business and the investors will have the opportunity for having early credit and liquidity for their investment.

➤ It has been decided to reduce the time taken for listing of specified securities after the closure of public issue to three working days (T+3 days) as against the present requirement of 6 working days (T+6 days).

❖ **International Youth Day 2023 - August 12**

➤ International Youth Day 2023 is a significant occasion, acknowledging the vital role that the youth play as the backbone of our nations.

➤ Their strength, resilience, and dedication hold the potential to drive positive changes, both large and small, across the globe.

➤ In 1999, the United Nations designated August 12 as International Youth Day.

➤ This significant observance was established with the purpose of acknowledging and celebrating the immense potential and valuable contributions of young individuals across different spheres of society.

Theme: 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World.'

❖ Union Health Minister inaugurates the 2nd phase of the annual Nationwide MDA initiative for Lymphatic Filariasis

➤ India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the global target through mission mode, multi partner, multi sector targeted drive.

➤ This was stated by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya as he inaugurated the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA).

➤ The Union Minister further stressed that Through Jan Bhagidaari and 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach, we shall be able to eliminate this disease from the country.

➤ The second phase, commencing on August 10, 2023, will cover 81 districts in 9 endemic States (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh).

➤ To further strengthen efforts, Dr. Mandaviya advocated that greater emphasis should be placed in consumption of medicine in front of healthcare workers or professionals as measure in eradicating this disease.

❖ Gujarat CM launches mobile app to help forest dept track movement of lions

- On the occasion of World Lion Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched a mobile application that will help the state forest department track the movement of lions through the information shared by common people using the app.
- The application named '**Sinh Suchna**' was launched at an event held in Gandhinagar.
- Using the Sinh Suchna app, common people can directly inform the state forest department about the movement of lions in their area so that timely steps can be taken.
- This mobile will help us in locating lions in real time and also help the authorities in avoiding human animal conflicts.