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❖ Subhash Runwal Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at RICS South Asia Awards

➤ Subhash Runwal, Chairman of Runwal, a renowned real estate developer, has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural RICS South Asia Awards.

➤ The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), a global industry body, established these awards to acknowledge remarkable accomplishments in the built and natural environment sectors.

➤ Runwal has been instrumental in the real estate industry for over four decades, and this prestigious recognition testifies to his exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication to the sector.

➤ He has consistently upheld the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, setting an example for individuals and teams across the industry.

➤ Runwal, founded in 1978, is an esteemed real estate developer in Mumbai. With a strong track record of delivering 42+ projects and currently working on 24 ongoing projects, the company has made a significant impact in the residential, commercial, and organized retail sectors.

❖ 69th edition of Nehru Trophy Boat Race to be held in Kerala

- In Kerala, the 69th edition of the famed Nehru Trophy Boat Race will be held at the picturesque Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha district.
- 72 boats, including 19 Chundan Valloms or Snake Boats vying for the coveted trophy, will be participating in the boat race, held every year on the second Saturday of August.
- The race will begin with the heats round of smaller boats in the morning session.
- Women participating in the race have been provided track suites, as wearing traditional sarees has been found disadvantageous to swim, in the event of a boat capsize.

❖ Telangana launches India's first Agricultural Data Exchange platform

- Telangana Minister for IT and Industry KT Rama Rao launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
- The ADeX is collaboration between Telangana Government, World Economic Forum, and the Indian Institute of Science.
- Both ADeX and ADMF provide the right platform to ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and startups and provide a big boost to the data economy specifically in the agriculture sector.
- These initiatives help Telangana lead the country from the front in using innovation and technology to drive food systems transformation and improve the livelihoods of farmers.
- In Phase-I of the project, the ADeX Platform is currently deployed in Khammam district and will be expanded to the entire state over a period.
- ADMF has been developed after extensive public and industry consultations on the crucial aspects of data protection, management, and innovation.

❖ CM Solar Mission launched in power deficit Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Rs. 500 crore Chief Minister's Solar Mission here aimed at minimizing the power deficit in this north eastern hill state.
- The money will be invested by the government in the next 5 years.
- The people-centric CM Solar Mission will be a flagship Renewable Energy intervention committed to fostering green and clean energy transformation across the state.
- The mission will not only address power deficits but also usher in a new era of resilience, independence and green progress for Meghalaya.
- Apart from a substantial subsidy, it has back end bank financing to enable beneficiaries avail the benefit at minimal investment.
- The state government will earmark investment of Rs. 100 crore annually for the solar mission initially.
- It intends to attract and invite more partners to diversify the portfolio for funding, including from corporate social responsibility, carbon credits or investment by like-minded organisations from across the world.

❖ NCLT approves \$10 bn mega-merger between Zee and Sony

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger scheme of India's homegrown entertainment company Zee Entertainment Enterprises with Culver Max Entertainment.
- While announcing the order, the bench comprising Justice HV Subba Rao and member Madhu Sinha, gave approval to the scheme and dismissed all objections raised by some lenders including Axis Finance, JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Co, IDBI Bank, Imax Corp, and IDBI Trusteeship.
- The two companies are likely to start the integration process by early next week.

➤ ZEE will have 30 days to file with the registrar of companies, following which, the shares of the company will be de-listed from the stock exchanges and the merged company will get re-listed in another six weeks.

❖ IEPFA and Common Service Centre (CSC) launches “Niveshak Sarathi” Vans for Delhi-NCR

➤ Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Ms. Anita Shah Akella launched two Investor Awareness Vans titled “Niveshak Sarathi”, from IEPFA's headquarters as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aligning with the theme “From Unawareness to Financial Independence.”

➤ This strategic initiative aims to disseminate crucial financial education and raise awareness against fraudulent schemes across the Delhi NCR region.

➤ These specially equipped vans are equipped with a TV screen running “Hisab Ki Kitab,” a series of investor awareness movies meticulously developed by IEPFA.

➤ The initiative spanned five key locations, with each location across Delhi-NCR, hosting dedicated sessions conducted by the VLEs (Village Level Entrepreneurs) of IEPFA.

➤ These informative sessions collectively reached approximately 500 people, further emphasising the commitment to widespread financial literacy.

➤ The endeavour was fortified by the partnership of Common Service Centre as the knowledge partner.

❖ Dharmendra Pradhan launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen apprenticeship ecosystem in India

➤ To bolster the participation of industries and young individuals in apprenticeship training nationwide, Union minister for education and skill development & entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS).

➤ An allocation of approximately ₹15 crore has been made under the scheme which will benefit one lakh apprentices, and also help usher in a new era of skill development and training.

➤ Since its inception in 2016 until 31 July, 2023, a staggering 2.5 million youth have been actively engaged as apprentices under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme.

➤ The fiscal year 2023-24 witnessed around 260,000 apprentices successfully completing their training.

❖ Shakib Al Hasan to lead Bangladesh in Asia Cup, World Cup

➤ Bangladesh appointed veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as their ODI captain for both the Asia Cup and the 2023 World Cup.

➤ Apart from the two marquee events, Bangladesh will also face New Zealand in a white ball series in late September before travelling to India for the World Cup beginning October 5.

➤ The selectors will pick a squad of 17 members.

➤ Shakib has taken over from Tamim Iqbal, who was ruled out of the Asia Cup with a back injury.

➤ Now, Shakib has become the Bangladesh captain in all three formats of the game.

➤ He has been the team's Test and T20I skipper since early last year.

➤ Shakib's last assignment as ODI captain of Bangladesh was against Ireland at Malahide on May 12, 2017, and the match ended without a result.

❖ **World Organ Donation Day - August 13**

➤ Every year, the World Organ Donation Day is celebrated on August 13 to sensitise people of the need to donate organs and save lives.

➤ The day is a wonderful chance for everyone to make a decision to donate their priceless organs.

➤ According to Dr Sanjeev Gulati, Executive Director, Nephrology & Kidney Transplant, Fortis Escorts, Okhla Road, New Delhi, the shortage of organs is a universal problem.

➤ India too has a wide gap between those who need transplants and the organs that are available creating a huge demand-supply gap.

➤ This is further exaggerated by low organ cadaveric organ donation.

➤ One of the prime reasons for this is the lack of awareness among the public about the process of organ donation and the prevalence of numerous myths.

❖ **Traditional Medicine Global Summit to be held in Gandhinagar**

➤ The World Health Organisation (WHO) will organise the Traditional Medicine Global Summit on August 17 and 18 in Gujarat's Gandhinagar to explore the role of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine in addressing pressing health challenges.

➤ Co-hosted by the government of India, the summit will also explore ways to realise the potential of evidence-based knowledge in the use of traditional medicine for people's health and well-being around the world.

➤ Traditional medicine can play an important and catalytic role in achieving the goal of universal health coverage and meeting global health-related targets that were off-track even before the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ **RBI Taps McKinsey and Company, Accenture Solutions to Harness AI and ML for Enhanced Regulatory Supervision**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step in incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) into its supervisory functions by partnering with two renowned global consultancy firms, McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India.
- The collaboration aims to develop advanced systems that leverage AI and ML technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the RBI's supervisory tasks.
- These technologies can help analyse vast amounts of data, identify patterns, and provide insights that can assist regulatory decision making processes.
- McKinsey and Company India LLP, with its expertise in management consulting, and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India, known for its technology consulting services, are expected to contribute their extensive knowledge in AI and ML to create tailored solutions that align with the RBI's supervisory objectives.

❖ **Asian Champions Trophy 2023: India defeat Malaysia**

- The Indian men's hockey team came from two goals behind to defeat Malaysia 4-3 in the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Chennai earlier hosted 2007 Men's Hockey Asia Cup.
- India became the most successful team in the Asian Champions Trophy, ahead of three-time champions Pakistan.
- India's Gurjant equalised the score, which resulted in 3-3 in thriller against Malaysia.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the Indian men's hockey team on its spectacular win in the Asian Championship.

❖ India: Ayush Visa launched for foreign travellers to promote medical tourism

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has notified the creation of a new visa category, Ayush Visa, for foreign nationals, who are keen to visit the country for medical treatment including therapeutic care, wellness and yoga in India.
- The introduction of this special visa will meet the purpose of introducing a special visa scheme for foreigners visiting India for treatment across different streams.
- Ayush Visa aims to fulfil the need for introduction of a special visa scheme for foreigners.
- Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal added that this new initiative will help boost medical tourism in India, and will strengthen their endeavour of making Indian traditional medicine a global phenomenon.

❖ IIT Roorkee scientists discover oldest fossil of plant-eating dinosaur in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have discovered the oldest fossil remains of a plant-eating dinosaur in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer.
- The fossil that, was collected from the region in 2018, was found to be 167-million-year-old, according to the study published in the international journal Scientific Reports.
- Scientists have now discovered that the fossil remains could be of a long-necked dicraeosaurid dinosaur.