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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches web portal ‘Apna Chandrayaan’**

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched a web portal ‘Apna Chandrayaan’ having activity-based support material such as quiz, puzzles, etc for school students on Mission Chandrayaan-3 developed by NCERT in New Delhi.
- 10 special modules on Mission Chandrayaan-3 also launched at the event.
- Shri Pradhan described the success of Chandrayaan 3 one of the most significant achievements of the 21st century that has inspired the children of the country the most.
- He suggested the development of the APP of the web portal to make it more accessible facilitating self-learning among students.
- Chandrayaan 3 has ignited confidence among students and inspired them to understand technology, which will help in developing scientific temperament among them.
- He added more modules will be prepared on 14 different topics including women empowerment, COVID-19 vaccination, India’s G20 Presidency, etc. Chandrayaan 3 also reflects the strength of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

❖ **India-Sri Lanka Ferry Service Reopens after Four Decades**

- India and Sri Lanka launched a ferry service across the Palk Strait under a new roadmap for greater connectivity.
- Nearly four decades later the link between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Jaffna was disrupted by the civil war in the island nation.
- The ferry service is expected to boost travel and trade with Kankesanthurai, the Sri Lankan port located closest to ports on India's west coast.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Wickremesinghe recalled the age-old cultural and trade links between the two countries and highlighted the importance of connectivity in video messages that were beamed at a ceremony in Nagapattinam.

❖ **MeitY inaugurated Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab in NIELIT Gorakhpur**

- Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Shri S Krishnan (IAS) inaugurated Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Lab in NIELIT Gorakhpur during 26th All India Director's Meet of NIELIT.
- This is the First-of-its-kind lab in Uttar Pradesh under Future Skill PRIME Project, which has been established to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia.
- The state-of-art RPA lab has been built under the Future Skill PRIME Project funded by MeitY with an objective to upskill / reskill manpower in emerging technology of RPA.

➤ He highlighted the importance of skilling for manufacturing sector especially in Industry 4.0 by NIELIT and supported the intervention of NIELIT in creating local entrepreneurs through digital skilling.

➤ The Meeting was attended by all the Executive Directors, Directors and Director In-Charges of all the 49 NIELIT Centres across the India.

➤ The objective of Directors Meet is to harness the capabilities and resources available with the Centres & to bring collective efforts and plans towards addressing digital skilling needs of the country.

❖ **Ayurveda Day to be celebrated internationally in about 100 countries across the globe**

➤ In 2023 Ayurveda Day will be celebrated internationally in about 100 countries across the globe.

➤ The Ministry of Ayush organized a meeting of various Ministries for the successful organization of Ayurveda Day scheduled on Dhanvantari Jayanti, **11 November** this year.

➤ The day will be celebrated on the theme of **Ayurveda for One Health**.

➤ Objective: To promote and disseminate Ayurveda at the international level and establish it in the global scenario for the welfare of mankind, animals, plants, and the environment.

❖ Puma ropes in Mohammed Shami as its brand ambassador

- Puma has roped in Team India's fast bowler Mohammed Shami as its brand ambassador.
- The sports brand has a star-studded roster of brand ambassadors which includes Virat Kohli, champion sprinter Usain Bolt.
- Under this partnership, the Indian pacer will endorse Puma's footwear, apparel and accessories through multiple activities and campaigns throughout the year.
- The brand has also launched a new bowling spikes with a mid-sole meant for runners, to support fast bowlers.

❖ Christopher Luxon was elected as the Prime Minister of New Zealand

- Former airline executive Christopher Luxon is set to become the 42nd Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- He completed a rapid political ascent four years after leaving one of the country's top executive roles.
- He spent 7 years as chief executive of Air New Zealand, and was hailed a likely future leader upon entering politics in 2019.
- National hoped he could repeat the "glory days" under John Key, a former Merrill Lynch broker who won three elections for the party and served as PM from 2008 to 2016.

❖ Daniel Noboa is elected as Ecuador's youngest President

- Businessman Daniel Noboa became the youngest president in Ecuador's history.
- Noboa had won more than 52% of the vote, while his leftist adversary Luisa Gonzalez won about 48%, with more than 90% of ballot boxes counted.
- The election campaign was overshadowed by unprecedented levels of violence, which saw one of the candidates, Fernando Villavicencio.
- Thirty five-year-old Noboa, a surprise qualifier for the run-off in the early election, has pledged to improve the economy and create jobs for young people, as well as to house dangerous criminals on prison ships.
- Ecuador has all the elements needed to be a global example of progress.
- He will have just 17 months to govern, serving a truncated term from December this year until May 2025.

❖ UP CM Announces Free Gas Cylinder For Ujjwala Scheme Beneficiaries

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the beneficiaries under the Ujjwala scheme will get a cooking gas cylinder free of cost as a "Diwali gift".
- The decision is expected to benefit 1.75 crore families in the state.
- The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a flagship initiative of the central government aimed at providing financial assistance for LPG connections to families falling below the poverty line (BPL).

➤ The chief minister asserted that before the BJP government assumed power at the national level in 2014, securing LPG gas connections had been a challenging endeavor.

❖ **Ashutosh Sharma breaks Yuvraj's record for fastest T20 fifty by an Indian**

- Ashutosh Sharma, recently made headlines by shattering the long-standing record set by Yuvraj Singh for the fastest fifty by an Indian player in T20 cricket.
- He achieved this feat during a match against Arunachal Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, reaching his fifty in just 11 balls.
- Ashutosh took the crease at the score of 131 for 4 with just five overs to go.
- He then went on to smash 53 off 12 studded with eight sixes and just one four, which came through the covers.
- Ashutosh, 25, was playing his second T20 for Railways and tenth overall. He had made his T20 debut in 2018 for Madhya Pradesh and last played the format in 2019.
- He has featured in just one 50-over game, for MP also in 2019, and is yet to make his first-class debut.
- Yuvraj had held the record for the last 16 years, having struck a fifty off 12 balls against England in the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007.

❖ **India likely to sign deal with U.S for 31 MQ-9B drones by February 2024**

- The deal for 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) with the U.S. is expected to be concluded by February 2024 and deliveries will begin from February 2027, three years from the signing of the contract.
- The UAV maker General Atomics (GA) is scheduled to establish a global maintenance, repair, and overhaul facility in India.
- The Defence Ministry cleared the procurement of 31 MQ-9B UAVs from GA, including 15 Sea Guardians for the Navy and eight Sky Guardians each for the Army and the Air Force, at an estimated cost of \$3,072 million through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden on the side lines of the G-20 summit, the Ministry issued the Letter of Request to the U.S. government
- Details of equipment and terms of the procurement will be negotiated and finalised in accordance with the FMS programme.
- The deal has to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security of the Indian government after which the contract will be concluded.

❖ **President launches fourth Krishi Road Map of Bihar**

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-28) of Bihar with an estimate of ₹1.62 lakh crore.
- The map focuses on increasing agricultural production, while also increasing farmers' incomes in the five years.

➤ The road map, the fourth of its kind, focuses on storage, processing, and expansion of seed and irrigation along with crop diversification and improved agriculture.

❖ **Ex-Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das is Odisha's new Governor**

➤ Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Indra Sena Reddy Nallu have been appointed as the Governors of Odisha and Tripura, respectively.

➤ A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said that President Droupadi Murmu is pleased to make the appointments that will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices.

➤ Mr. Das, currently a national vice-president of the BJP, was the Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019. Mr. Nallu is a BJP leader from Telangana.

❖ **Mohammad Akhone is elected as the CEC of Kargil hill council**

➤ National Conference (NC) leader Mohammad Jaffer Akhone was elected Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil.

➤ An official said the NC proposed the name of Dr. Akhone as the elected members of the new Council met in Kargil.

➤ His nomination had the support of 12 elected members of the NC and 10 members of the Congress.

- The NC and the Congress are rotating the term after two-and-a-half years. Dr. Akhone assumed office soon after the council's meeting.
- Dr. Akhone is a retired Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and brother of senior NC leader Qamar Ali Akhoon.
- ❖ **State's elderly population projected to reach 17.1% by 2036**
- The anticipated proportion of the elderly population in Telangana is forecast to rise to 17.1% in 2036, a notable increase from the 11% recorded in 2021, according to the India Ageing Report 2023 released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- Ageing is defined in terms of chronological age with a cut-off at 60 or 65 years
- At the national level, the share of the elderly population is projected to increase from 10.1% in 2021 to 15% in 2036.
- The India Ageing Report 2023, reveals that in Telangana the life expectancy at 60 years stands at 17.3 for males and 18.3 for females. Life expectancy at 60 is a measure of the average number of years a person of 60 years can expect to live based on prevailing sex- and age-specific death rates.
- Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Tata Trusts and NSE Foundation have implemented comprehensively in the elder care sector.
- Their efforts, including a project initiated in Hyderabad in collaboration with Andhra Mahila Sabha (DDMS) in 2019, aim to address the diverse needs of the elderly population with support from Tata Advanced Systems Limited.

❖ **RGIA ranks third for on-time performance in September**

- In September, Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) secured the third position in global airport punctuality, according to the monthly report by aviation analytics firm Cirium.
- The report assessed the on-time performance of airports world-wide.
- During the month, RGIA handled a total of 13,973 flights, achieving an 86.84% on-time departure rate and an 81.38% on-time arrival rate.
- The average departure delay was a mere 45 minutes.
- A total of 27 airlines operated on 76 routes during this period.
- Topping the leader-board was Bangalore's Kempegowda International Airport, which recorded 18,193 flights with an on-time departure rate of 88.5% and an on-time arrival rate of 79.46%.
- Cirium's monthly assessment involves reviewing the total number of flights for each airport globally and ranking them based on their on-time performance.