

Daily News Decode

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UK and Australia agreed on historic free trade agreement



- A new free trade agreement with the United Kingdom will deliver more Australian jobs and business opportunities for exporters, bringing both countries closer together in a changing strategic environment.
- Prime Ministers Scott Morrison and Boris Johnson have agreed on the broad outlines of an Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- The FTA is the right deal for Australia and the United Kingdom, with greater access to a range of high-quality products made in both countries as well as greater access for businesses and workers, all of which will drive economic growth and job creation in both countries.
- Australian producers and farmers will receive a significant boost by getting greater access to the UK market.

Govt appoints Aashish Chandorkar as director at India's WTO mission



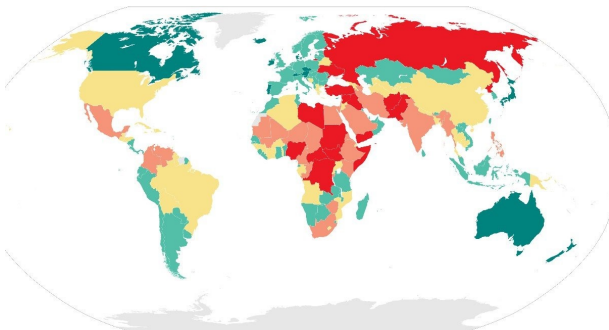
- The government of India has appointed a private person Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation for three years.
- For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission.
- Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.
- The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade. India is a member since 1995.

India ranked 2nd in share of central bank surplus transfers



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was second in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2020-21.
- Turkey has been ranked first.
- RBI has transferred Rs 99,122-crore surplus to the government for FY21 which is 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.
- The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes 0.44% of GDP, while that of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constitutes 0.5% of GDP.

Global Peace Index 2021 announced



- The 15th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) announced by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Sydney, the GPI is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness.
- The index ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness.
- This report presents the most comprehensive data-driven analysis to date on trends in peace, its economic value, and how to develop peaceful societies.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008.
- It is joined at the top of the index by New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal, and Slovenia.
- Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and Iraq.
- India has moved up two notches from its previous year's ranking to become the 135th most peaceful country in the world and the 5th in the region.
- Bhutan and Nepal are named as the first and second most peaceful in this region.
- Bangladesh has been ranked 91th out of 163 countries in Global Peace Index for 2021.
- According to the list, Bangladesh is the 3rd most peaceful in South Asia.
- Sri Lanka has slipped down 19 rungs from 2020, to become 95th globally in this year's rankings, and the 4th in South Asia.
- The largest improvement in peacefulness in South Asia occurred in Pakistan, which ranked 150th globally and 6th in the region, by moving up two notches from the previous year's ranking.

India and Bhutan sign MOU for developing cooperation in the areas of Environment



- India and Bhutan today inked an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the area of environment.
- The MoU was signed virtually by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side.
- The MoU is a platform to further enhance Indian and Bhutanese partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air Pollution, Waste Management, Chemical Management, Climate Change, etc.
- It also provides the possibility to have joint projects in areas of mutual interest.
- The MoU will also strengthen technological, scientific and management capabilities and expand the areas of cooperation in the field of environment to promote a mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries.

Climate change to increase sea level in Lakshadweep Islands, will affect airport & residential areas



- Sea-level will rise around the Lakshadweep Islands in the range between 0.4 mm/year to 0.9 mm/year, says a study conducted projecting different greenhouse gas scenarios.
- The study highlights that the worst possible inundation scenarios projected for Lakshadweep Islands are almost similar under different emission scenarios projected and all the islands in the archipelago would be vulnerable to impact from sea-level rise.
- One of the major threats in the coming years is rising sea level and its significant impact on small islands and this is for the first time, that climate model projections were used to assess the potential areas of inundation over the archipelago of Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea.
- The study estimated that smaller islands Chetlat and Amini are expected to have major land-loss.
- Projection mapping indicated that about 60%-70% of existing shoreline would experience land-loss in Amini and about 70%-80% in Chetlat.
- The present work highlights that, larger islands Minicoy and the capital Kavaratti are also vulnerable to sea-level rise, and expected to experience land-loss along 60% of the existing shoreline.

- Sea-level rise effects are seen to have the least impact on Androth Island under all emission scenarios.
- This study also opens up a new outlook and dimension on future research to assess the directional nature of wave energy, impact of storminess in the Arabian Sea region, islands that are exposed and sheltered and amenities such as potable water, sanitation and so on.

Quality Council of India (QCI) launches Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) Plus Scheme



- The Quality Council of India (QCI), and the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) have added further features to the ICMED the Scheme that had been launched for Certification of Medical Devices in 2016.
- The ICMED 13485 PLUS, as the new scheme has been christened, will undertake verification of the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices.
- The ICMED 13485 PLUS Scheme was launched digitally today .
- ICMED 13485 Plus has been designed to integrate the Quality Management System components and product related quality validation processes through witness testing of products with reference to the defined product standards and specifications.
- This is the first scheme around the world in which quality management systems along with product certification standards are integrated with regulatory requirements.
- This scheme will be an end to end quality assurance scheme for the medical devices sector in India.
- This scheme provides the much-needed institutional mechanism for assuring the product quality and safety.
- It will go a long way in assisting the procurement agencies to tackle the challenges relating to the menace of counterfeit products and fake certification.
- This will also help in eliminating the circulation and use of sub-standard medical products or devices of doubtful origin that could prove to be serious health hazards.

Fish still around from dinosaur era can live for 100 yrs, 1 pregnancy lasts 5 yrs



- The coelacanth, a fish that has survived since the time of dinosaurs, can live for 100 years, a study found.
- The slow-moving fish, which grow to be the size of a human, are nicknamed 'living fossil', and also grow at a "very slow" pace, the study by French scientists said.
- Pregnancy in this fish lasts about five years, said researchers.

US startup's ₹37 lakh helmet claims to monitor brain activity



- US-based startup Kernel will begin shipping a \$50,000 (₹37 lakh) helmet that contains sensors and other electronics to measure and claims to analyse the brain's electrical impulses and blood flow.
- Researchers expect it could help them gain insight into brain aging, mental disorders, concussions and strokes.
- Users need to plug the helmet into a computer, using a USB-C cable.

The 26th National Reading Day



- National Reading Day 2021 would be celebrated across the country on June 19, 2021.
- The day is celebrated in honour of P.N. Panicker, the man behind Kerala's Universal Literacy Rate of 100%.
- Reading Day has celebration started in 1996 in the state of Kerala in honour of Panicker's memory. This has, since, become a movement

19 June - World Sickle Cell Awareness Day



- World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is held annually since 2008 to raise awareness about Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and the struggle that the sufferers or a patient family face.
- This day was officially adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nation, to recognise SCD as a public health concern.

19 June - World Sauntering Day



- This day is observed annually to make people remind to slow down and enjoy life as possible instead of rushing always.
- This day also reminds us to take easy, take time to smell roses, take time to see nature that is so beautiful, look at the sky and enjoy life.

- The day was invented by W.T. Rabe in 1979. It was a response to jogging, which became kind of a hype back then.
- The day is said to be first celebrated at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan, USA.
- In 2021 the theme of this day is “The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk”. you will be able to do it and the body will also be healthy

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