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BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS

LIC-CSL, IDBI Bank launch 'Shagun'

LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC-CSL) has joined hands with IDBI Bank to launch contactless prepaid gift card 'Shagun' on the RuPay platform. The Shagun card will initially be available to LIC and its subsidiaries and associates for official use. It will be used to facilitate awards and special rewards during official conferences and functions.

Canara Bank to buy 12% stake in bad bank

Canara Bank will be the lead sponsor of National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) or a bad bank with a 12 percent stake in the entity. A bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over the bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution. The bank has sought approval from the Reserve Bank of India for participating in NARCL as a sponsor contributing a 12 percent stake.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Sustainable Gastronomy Day: 18 June

Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed on 18 June every year. It emphasizes the need to focus attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. Gastronomy is called the art of food and can also refer to a style of cooking from a particular region. The UN General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2016 resolution and designated 18 June as Sustainable Gastronomy Day.

Autism Pride Day: 18 June

Autism Pride Day is observed on 18 June every year. The day was first celebrated by Aspies for Freedom in 2005. According to the WHO, one in 160 children have Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication.

SPORTS

IOA names MPL, Amul as sponsors

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has entered a sponsorship agreement with MPL Sports Foundation as the 'Principal Sponsor' covering the Tokyo Olympic Games, 2022 Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Amul also has come forward to support IOA for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Amul's sponsorship is for Rs 1 crore for a period till 31st December 2021.

MP para shooter wins gold at Peru event

Madhya Pradesh shooter, Rubina Francis won the gold in the 10-metre air pistol para women event at the World shooting Para Sport Cup in Peru on 16 June 2021. Rubina scored 238.1 points and beat the world record of Aysegul Pehlivanlar of Turkey in 10m air pistol shooting. She has also secured the Paralympic quota for India at Tokyo Olympic 2020.

D. Gukesh wins Gelfand Challenge

World's second youngest Grandmaster D. Gukesh won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title in June 2021. With this win, he has also won a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour. Gukesh won all four rounds, including the key battle against Praggnanandhaa, and emerged on top after a series of favorable results from the games involving other title-contenders.

Shefali: Youngest to score twin half-centuries

In the Women's Cricket Test at Bristol, India's 17-year-old Shafali Verma became the youngest woman and the fourth overall, to score twin half-centuries in her debut Test. The record was previously held by Australia's Jessica Louise Jonassen, who was 22, when she scored the fifties in both innings of her debut Test against England.

Romania banned from Olympic weightlifting

Romania has been banned from competing in weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympics over past doping cases, the International Weightlifting Federation ruled in a decision. The Romanian Weightlifting Federation was issued a one-year ban from competition over five doping cases. Romania becomes the fourth country barred from the Tokyo weightlifting competition after Egypt, Malaysia and Thailand.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

Aashish: Director at India's WTO mission

The government has appointed Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for three years. For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission. Chandorkar is the Director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research. India has been a member of WTO since 1995.

Karim Khan: New ICC Chief Prosecutor

British lawyer Karim Khan has been sworn in as the new Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague on He replaces outgoing prosecutor Fatou Bensouda of Gambia. Khan is a specialist in international criminal law and human rights law. During a career spanning decades, he has argued in all the major international courts and conducted high-profile probes.

Ebrahim Raisi: New President of Iran

Ebrahim Raisi has won Iran's presidential election. Mr. Raisi is Iran's top judge and holds ultra-conservative views. He is under US sanctions and has been linked to past executions of political prisoners. Iran's President is the second-highest-ranking official in the country, after the supreme leader.

SCHEMES AND POLICIES

Odisha CM announces Covid assistance package

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has announced a COVID package of Rs 1690.46 crore for the assistance of landless farmers, construction workers, etc. who have been affected by the pandemic. Under this package, Rs 178.911 crore will be provided to around 17.84 lakh landless farmer families in the state.

Tamil Nadu: 2nd under IBPS scheme

The India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme (IBPS) launched by the Centre has facilitated expansion of several IT and BPO companies in tier-II and III cities across the country. Tamil Nadu has become the second state in new job generation. Under the IBPS Scheme, Andhra Pradesh is the highest in employment generation by creating 12,234 new jobs followed by Tamil Nadu at 9,401.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

India maintains 43rd rank on IMD's index

India maintained 43rd rank on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). The 64-nation list was led by Switzerland, while Sweden has moved up to the second position, Denmark has lost one place to rank third, the Netherlands has retained its fourth place and Singapore has slipped to fifth place.

135 soldiers receive medals of recognition

135 Indian and 103 Sri Lankan peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) received medals of recognition from the UN Force Commander in Bor in June'21. Indian peacekeepers are mainly stationed in Bor, Pibor, and at a temporary operating base in Akobo in South Sudan. Medal winners from Sri Lanka are from the Blue Berets aviation unit.

Global Peace Index 2021

India has become the 135th most peaceful country in the world and the 5th in the South Asia region. Global Peace Index 2021 placed Bangladesh at 91st position compared to 98th of 2020, making it the third most peaceful country in South Asia placed behind Bhutan and Nepal. Globally, Iceland was on the top of the peace index followed by New Zealand, Denmark, and Portugal.





NATIONAL

Solar Carport inaugurated in Pune

Tata Motors and Tata Power have inaugurated India's largest Solar Carport in Pune. It is estimated to reduce 7,000 tons of carbon emissions annually. The 6.2 MWp solar carport deployed by Tata Power will generate 86.4 lakh kWh of electricity per year and is estimated to reduce 7,000 tons of carbon emissions annually and 1.6 lakh tons over its lifecycle.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan to issue vaccine passports

Japan will make a vaccine passport available from July 2021 for Japanese travellers. The certificate will be paper-based rather than digital and will be issued by local governments. The passports will include information such as the holder's date of inoculation and the manufacturer of the shot they received.

India and Bhutan ink MoU

India and Bhutan have inked an MoU for developing cooperation between two countries in the area of environment. The MoU is a platform to further enhance Indian and Bhutanese partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of air pollution, climate change, etc.

DEFENCE

India has 156 nuclear warheads

China, Pakistan, and India have 350, 165, and 156 nuclear warheads respectively as of January 2021 and the three countries appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals. The data was given in a study by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). As per its assessment, Russia and the US together possess over 90 percent of the estimated 13,080 global nuclear weapons.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's most powerful magnet

France is set to get the world's most powerful magnet for a fusion reactor that aims to replicate the process that powers the Sun. Dubbed as Central Solenoid, the powerful magnet is strong enough to lift an aircraft carrier 6 feet in the air.

OBITUARIES

Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda passes away

Zambia's first President Kenneth David Buchizya Kaunda passed away in June 2021. He served as the President of Zambia from 1964-1991. He was also one of the founding leaders of post-colonial Africa.

Milkha Singh passes away

Indian sprint legend Milkha Singh passed away in June 2021. The legendary athlete was a four-time Asian Games gold medallist and 1958 Commonwealth Games champion. His timing at the Italian capital was a national record for 38 years till Paramjeet Singh broke it in 1998. He was honored with the Padma Shri in 1959. He also represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics.

MISCELLANEOUS

Amitav Ghosh's new book to release in October

Jnanpith awardee, author Amitav Ghosh's new book 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis' is all set to release in October 2021. The upcoming book is said to be a panoramic history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, told through the story of the nutmeg. Some of Ghosh's other notable works include the Ibis Trilogy and 'The Great Derangement' among others.

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

LIC-CSL = LIC Cards Services Limited

V= National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

V= autism spectrum disorder

IOA = Indian Olympic Association

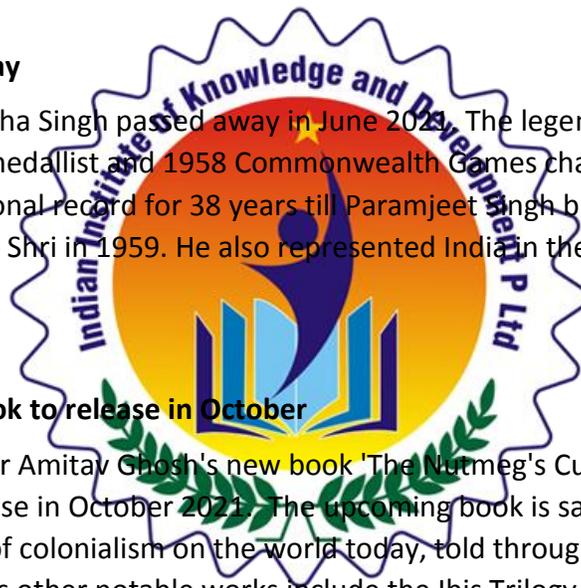
WTO = World Trade Organisation

ICC = International Criminal Court

IBPS = India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme

IMD = Institute for Management Development

UNMISS = United Nations Mission in South Sudan



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