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BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS

No major Updates

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Coconut Day:2nd September



- World Coconut Day is observed on September 02 every year since 2009. It is observed for promoting this tropical fruit and bringing awareness regarding its health benefits. The theme of World Coconut Day 2021 is ‘Building a Safe Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Community Amid COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond’. The WCD also commemorates the formation of the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), which aims to promote, coordinate and harmonize all activities of the coconut industry.

SPORTS

No Major Updates

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

1. IRS officer JB Mohapatra appointed as CBDT chairman



- IRS officer JB Mohapatra was appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. His appointment was approved today by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He has already served as the acting chairman of the CBDT.
- A 1985-batch IRS officer, Mohapatra was given the additional charge as CBDT chairman after the tenure of incumbent PC Mody ended this year in May. Earlier, Mohapatra had served as the principal chief commissioner of Income Tax for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 names announced



- Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 awardees have been announced, the winners will be formally awarded the Magsaysay Award during the November 28 event at the Ramon Magsaysay Centre in Manila. Among the awardees is Dr Firdousi Qadri of Bangladesh and Muhammad Amjad Saqib of Pakistan, as well as Philippine fisheries and community environmentalist Roberto Ballon, American citizen Steven Munci, who works for humanitarian work and help refugees, and Indonesian WatchDoc for investigative journalism.
- **List of awardees of Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2021:**
- Muhammad Amjad Saqib: A visionary who founded one of the largest microfinance institutions in Pakistan, servicing millions of families.
- Firdausi Qadri: A Bangladeshi scientist who has been instrumental in discovering vaccines that have saved millions of lives.
- Steven Muncy: A humanitarian who has been helping the displaced refugees of Southeast Asia rebuild their lives.
- WatchDoc: A production house that ingeniously combines documentary filmmaking and alternative platforms to highlight underreported issues in

Indonesia.

- Roberto Ballon: A fisherman from Southern Philippines who has led a community in restoring their rich aquatic resources and their primary source of livelihood.
- **About the Ramon Magsaysay Award:**
- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honor and is widely regarded as the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine president after whom the award is named, and is given every year to individuals or organizations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.

NATIONAL

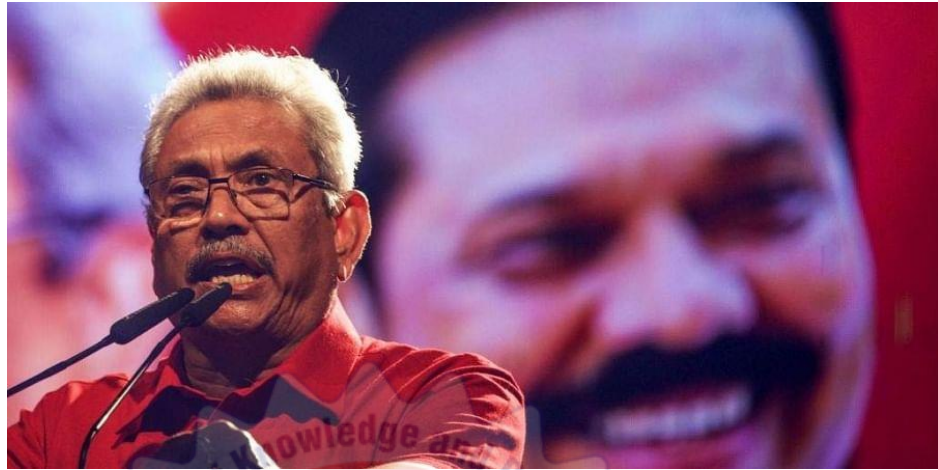
1. Ayush Minister Sarbananada Sonowal launches "Y-Break" app



- The Union AYUSH Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal has launched 'Y Break' Yoga protocol mobile application in New Delhi. The app has been developed by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY). The app was launched as a part of the week-long activities and campaigns organised by the Ministry of Ayush to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav from August 30 to September 5, 2021.
- **About the app:**
- The Y-Break (or the "Yoga Break) mobile application is a unique five-minute Yoga protocol app, designed especially for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace to increase their productivity, and consists of Asanas, Pranayam and Dhyana.
- While on one hand the app will facilitate doing yoga and meditation with ease anywhere in just 5 minutes, it will also bring awareness about different Yoga practices.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Sri Lanka declares food emergency as forex crisis



- Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency as the food crisis worsened after private banks ran out of foreign exchange to finance imports. With the country suffering a hard-hitting economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he ordered emergency regulations to counter the hoarding of sugar, rice and other essential foods. The Sri Lankan rupee has fallen by 7.5% against the US dollar this year.
- Rajapaksa has named a top army officer as “Commissioner General of Essential Services to coordinate the supply of paddy, rice, sugar and other consumer goods”. The move followed sharp price rises for sugar, rice, onions and potatoes, while long queues have formed outside stores because of shortages of milk powder, kerosene oil and cooking gas.
- The government has increased penalties for food hoarding, but the shortages come as the country of 21 million battles a fierce coronavirus wave that is claiming more than 200 lives a day. The economy shrank by a record 3.6 per cent in 2020 because of the pandemic and in March last year, the government banned imports of vehicles and other items, including edible oils and turmeric, an essential spice in local cooking, in a bid to save foreign exchange.

DEFENCE

1. Indian Army contingent to participate in Exercise ZAPAD 2021



- Indian Army will participate in Exercise ZAPAD 2021, a Multi Nation exercise being held at Nizhniy in Russia from 3-16 September. ZAPAD 2021 is one of the theatre level exercises of the Russian Armed Forces and will focus primarily on operations against terrorists. Over a dozen countries from the Eurasian and South Asian Regions will participate in this signature event.
- **About the exercise:**
- The exercise aims to enhance military and strategic ties amongst the participating nations while they plan and execute this exercise.
- The Indian contingent has been put through a strenuous training schedule that encompasses all facets of conventional operations including mechanised, airborne and heliborne, counter-terrorism, combat conditioning and firing.
- In all, 17 countries are participating in ZAPAD including Mongolia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Russia, India and Belarus.
- Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka are observers at the exercises.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. IIT Ropar develop's world's first "Plant Based" smart air-purifier



- Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), Ropar and Kanpur and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University have jointly launched a living-plant based air purifier named "Ubreathe Life". This air purifier will boost the air purification process in indoor spaces, such as hospitals, schools, offices and Homes. It is the world's first, state-of-the-art 'Smart Bio-Filter' that can make breathing fresh.
- **About the Ubreathe Life:**
- The Ubreathe Life technology works through the air-purifying natural leafy plants. The room air interacts with leaves and goes to the soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified.

- It has been developed by the IIT Ropar incubated startup, Urban Air Laboratory. The specific plants tested for air-purification include Peace Lily, Snake Plant, Spider plant etc. and all have given good results in purifying indoor-air, the company has claimed.
- The purifier effectively improves indoor air quality by removing particulate, gaseous and biological contaminants while increasing the oxygen levels in the indoor space through specific plants, UV disinfection and a stack of Pre-filter, Charcoal filter and HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter fitted in a specially designed wooden box, the company has said about the air purifier's functioning mechanism.

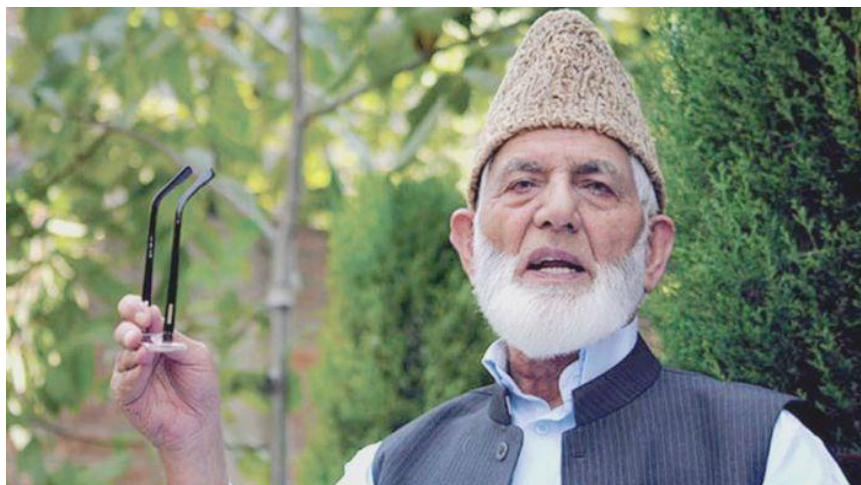
OBITUARIES

1. Bigg Boss 13 Winner Sidharth Shukla passes away



- Bigg Boss 13 winner actor Sidharth Shukla has passed away. He has been a part of films like Humpty Sharma Ke Dulhania. The actor's last screen outing was Ekta Kapoor's popular show 'Broken But Beautiful 3' in which he played the role of Agastya. He is known for his roles in daily soaps such as "Balika Vadhu" and "Dil Se Dil Tak". He is also popular for his tints in reality shows such as "Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 6", "Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi" and "Bigg Boss 13".

2. Veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani passes away



- Veteran Kashmiri separatist leader and former chief of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Shah Geelani passed away. He was 91 years old. Syed Ali Gilani was born on September 29, 1929, to Syed Peer Shah Gilani of Zoori Munz village in Tehsil Bandipora. Gilani received his early education at Sopore and finished his studies at the Oriental College, Lahore Pakistan.

MISCELLANEOUS

No major Updates



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