

# News Digest

## NATIONAL

### India and Sri Lanka Strengthen Ties with Agreements on UPI, Oil Pipeline

India and Sri Lanka have adopted a 'Vision Document for the Economic Partnership' aiming to strengthen maritime, air, energy, and people-to-people connectivity. The vision aims to accelerate cooperation in tourism, power, trade, higher education, and skill development. This was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi after his meeting with visiting Sri Lankan President Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on July 21. The leaders signed an agreement to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Sri Lanka, promoting Fintech connectivity. Additionally, they discussed the construction of a multi-project petroleum pipeline from southern India to Sri Lanka and announced passenger ferry services between Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam and Sri Lanka's Kankasanturai. Addressing the joint press conference, PM Modi highlighted the profound importance of Sri Lanka in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and 'SAGAR' vision. The Sri Lankan President's visit comes as India and Sri Lanka celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.



Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated four first-time women Parliamentarians to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons. They are Smt. P.T. Usha, Smt. S. Phangnon Konyak, Dr. Fauzia Khan, and Smt. Sulata Deo. The reconstituted panel, consisting of eight members, is the first in the Upper House's history to provide equal representation (50%) to women in the Vice-Chairpersons' panel. In addition to this historic move, the Rajya Sabha Chair has embraced digitization, utilising electronic tablets for conducting House business, managing attendance, and gathering details of Members' contributions.

### In a First, Rajya Sabha Vice Chairpersons' Panel Occupied by 50% Women

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said that social protection approaches should be tailored to suit each country's unique circumstances. He was virtually addressing the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers Meet held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on July 21. Emphasising the significance of technology as the core driver for employment in the Fourth Industrial Revolution era, the PM highlighted skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling as crucial elements for the future workforce. The Prime Minister praised India's 'Skill India Mission' and 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana,' which have trained millions of youth, with a focus on AI, robotics, IoT, and drones. He recognised the gig economy's resilience during the pandemic and called for policies to ensure social security and empowerment.

### PM Modi Advocates Tailored Social Protection at G20 Labour & Employment Meet

The Startup20 Engagement Group and Jagriti Foundation, an NGO, have come together to launch the "Jagriti-Startup20-G20 Yatra 2023" initiative. Under India's G20 presidency, this project aims to revolutionise entrepreneurial ecosystems in Tier 2/3 cities by fostering inclusive entrepreneurship and cross-border collaboration. The yatra will bring together 350 Indian participants and 70 foreign delegates from G20 countries on a 14-day entrepreneurship journey. Starting from Mumbai on October 28, the Yatra that will continue till November 10, will span across prominent Indian cities, enabling participants to exchange ideas, forge partnerships, and create sustainable and innovative solutions to address pressing global challenges.

### Startup20, Jagriti Foundation Launch 'Yatra' for Inclusive Entrepreneurship

NITI Aayog unveils tools for tracking India's clean energy transition journey. The India Climate & Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0 and the revamped India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 V3.0. The ICED 3.0 offers real-time data on the energy sector and climate, featuring over 500 parameters and 2000 infographics for a comprehensive view of India's energy landscape. Meanwhile, the user-friendly IESS 2047 enables the assessment of various green energy policies' integrated impact, supporting net-zero pathways until 2047. Both tools promise to facilitate the nation's sustainable energy transition journey.

### NITI Aayog Unveils Tools for Tracking India's Clean Energy Transition Journey



NITI Aayog has launched two cutting-edge tools: the India Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0 and the revamped India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 V3.0. The ICED 3.0 offers real-time data on the energy sector and climate, featuring over 500 parameters and 2000 infographics for a comprehensive view of India's energy landscape. Meanwhile, the user-friendly IESS 2047 enables the assessment of various green energy policies' integrated impact, supporting net-zero pathways until 2047. Both tools promise to facilitate the nation's sustainable energy transition journey.

### G20 Energy Transition Working Group Discuss Pathways for e-Mobility Growth

NITI Aayog organised the "Policy Support & Enablers to Accelerate India's Electric Mobility" conference alongside the G20 Presidency's fourth Energy Transition Working Group meeting that recently concluded in Goa. The event brought together national and international stakeholders to showcase India's electric mobility

ecosystem and discuss pathways for future growth. India's EV market is projected to grow at a remarkable 49% CAGR from 2022 to 2030, aiming for a 30% global market share by 2030. The conference emphasised the potential for job creation and environmental benefits, aligning with India's net zero vision of 2070. Meanwhile, the Department of Science and Technology also organized Technology Showcase on the sidelines of the meet, exhibiting India's advancements in various sectors, including electric vehicle and charging infrastructure, mission innovation, and clean tech start-up.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Britain Joins Asia-Pacific Trade Group in Landmark Deal with 11 Nations

Britain has officially become a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a trade bloc that includes Japan and 10 other nations. This marks the largest trade deal for Britain since its exit from the European Union over three years ago. The CPTPP covers over 500 million people and 15 percent of the global economy. British Trade Minister Mr. Kemi Badenoch expressed that this modern and ambitious agreement opens up new opportunities for British workers and businesses, with over half a million Britons already employed by companies from the bloc's member nations. Britain has signed separate trade deals with Australia and New Zealand after Brexit.



### EU Announces 7.6 Million Euros Humanitarian Aid for Afghanistan

The European Union has announced a humanitarian aid of 7.6 million euros for Afghanistan to help with the burgeoning food shortage and economic crisis. With the ultimate aim of improving unirrigated land in six provinces of Afghanistan, the aid will help alleviate poverty and hunger in rural areas by supporting income generation programmes and smart farming methods. The project will be carried out in provinces like Badakhshan, Dykundi, Ghor, Jawzjan, Samangan, and Takhar.

## ECONOMY

### India, Japan Sign MoU to Develop Resilient Semiconductor Supply Chain



India and Japan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a resilient semiconductor supply chain. Recognising Japan's prominence as a semiconductor producer and technology developer, India has sought collaboration in manufacturing, equipment research, design, talent development, and supply of semiconductors. Electronics and IT Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted India's rapid progress in its semiconductor mission while emphasizing that the MoU signifies the global confidence in India's capabilities and dedication to establishing a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem within the country. Additionally, India and Japan are also exploring cooperation in decarbonisation of the steel sector. Steel Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Mr. Nishimura Yasutoshi met in New Delhi on July 20 to discuss the matter. India and Japan, being the world's second and third-largest steel producers, acknowledge the significance of collaboration to achieve their respective net-zero goals, taking into account the diverse pathways towards steel decarbonisation.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.4 percent for the current financial year and 6.7 percent for the next. The ADB said robust domestic demand will continue to support the region's recovery. In an update to its Asian Development Outlook, the ADB said inflation is expected to continue to fall, approaching pre-pandemic levels as fuel and food prices decline. It forecast 3.6 percent inflation this year for developing economies in Asia, and 3.4 percent in 2024. The Indian economy grew 7.2 percent in the 2022-23 fiscal ended March 2023.

### ADB Retains India's Current Year Growth Forecast at 6.4 %

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy creates Guinness World Record with lightning-fast badminton shot. Indian badminton star Satwiksairaj Rankireddy has achieved an extraordinary feat, securing the Guinness world record for the fastest badminton shot by a male player. During a game on July 19, he unleashed a stunning smash at an incredible speed of 565 kilometers per hour, shattering the previous record set in 2013. The record-breaking shot was officially verified by Guinness world records judges, solidifying Satwik's place in history. This impressive achievement took place in a controlled environment at the Yonex factory gymnasium in Japan. Malaysia's Tan Pearly also clinched the world record for the fastest female badminton hits, reaching an impressive speed of 438 kilometers per hour.

## SPORTS

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(Source: AIR/PIB)