

News Digest

NATIONAL

Global Maritime India Summit 2023 Unveils India's Maritime Blueprint for Amrit Kaal

The Global Maritime India Summit 2023 held in Mumbai, unveiled a blueprint for India's maritime future, 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047,' setting the stage for a new era of development and growth in the country's maritime sector. This visionary document seeks to enhance port facilities, promote sustainable practices, and facilitate international cooperation, charting a course for India to become a prominent player in the global maritime community. Among the notable projects aligned with this vision is the Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal, strategically located to serve as a gateway for Indian trade via the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). Over 300 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore were also inked during the summit, marking global and national partnerships in the maritime sector. CEOs, business leaders, investors, officials, and stakeholders from around the world joined the discussions, creating a collaborative platform for shared expertise and future opportunities on crucial areas like the ports of the future, decarbonisation strategies, coastal shipping and inland water transportation, shipbuilding and repair, finance, insurance, arbitration, maritime clusters, innovation, technology, maritime safety, security, and maritime tourism.



The 69th National Film Awards Celebrates Excellence in Cinematic Art



The 69th National Film Awards ceremony held on October 17, 2023, in New Delhi, graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, witnessed the recognition of outstanding talent in the Indian film industry. The prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2021 was awarded to the legendary Waheeda Rehman. Allu Arjun became the first Telugu star to clinch the Best Actor award for his outstanding performance in "Pushpa."

Meanwhile, Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon Bhatt jointly secured the Best Actress accolade for their film "Gangubai Kathiawadi" and "Mimi" respectively. The Best Feature Film honour went to "Rocketry," while "The Kashmir Files" received the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration. The awards were also conferred on winners of other Categories including Best Child Artist, Best Makeup, and Best Music Direction, painting a vivid picture of India's cinematic prowess.

ECI Unveils Mobile App for Candidate Criminal History Information

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced a specialised mobile application known as "Know Your Candidate" (KYC) aimed at providing comprehensive insights into the criminal history and record status of electoral candidates. This app enables citizens to access information about candidates, with or without a criminal history. "KYC-ECI," the mobile application, is accessible on both Android and iOS platforms. To facilitate easy access, the app download link is readily available on the Election Commission of India website within the "ICT APPS" section.

ICMR Studies Feasibility of Drone Delivery of Medicines to High Altitude Regions

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has initiated a pioneering feasibility study in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul & Spiti district to explore the use of drones for transporting crucial medical resources, including medications, diagnostic blood samples, and sputum to challenging regions with subzero temperatures and altitudes exceeding 12,000 feet. The ICMR is currently testing drone flights carrying vital medical supplies from regional hospitals in Keylong to over eight Primary Health Centers (PHCs) connecting locations like Sissu, Gondhal, Thiort, Tholang, Jahalma, Gemur, Darcha and Shansha, among others. This transformative initiative not only enhances healthcare accessibility in remote and rugged terrains but also showcases the potential of drone technology in advancing medical logistics.

CBSE Unveils Vidya Samiksha Software to Revolutionise Education Decision-Making

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced a software named "Saagar se Saraansh," as part of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiative ushering in a new era of data-driven decision-making. This innovative software is designed to harness the power of data and technology to drive substantial improvements in governance and educational choices. The software encompasses data from more than 28,000 CBSE-affiliated schools, a pool of over 13 lakh teachers, and approximately three crore students. It will facilitate effective analysis of academic enrichment projects within schools, enhancing the overall monitoring and governance of the CBSE education system.

INTERNATIONAL

India-Sri Lanka Ferry Service Boosts Bilateral Connectivity and Trade

A new ferry service connecting Nagapattinam, India, and Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka, has been inaugurated, marking a crucial step in strengthening diplomatic

and economic ties. This ferry service, which revives age-old connections between India and Sri Lanka, serves as a bridge to enhance trade, tourism, and people-to-people ties while creating fresh opportunities for the youth in both countries. During a recent joint vision document adopted by the two countries for an economic partnership, connectivity was identified as a central theme.



G20 FMCBGs Resolve to Coordinate Global Strategy for Crypto Asset Regulation

The fourth and final meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) in Marrakech, Morocco, culminated in the adoption of a Communiqué, placing a strong emphasis on the regulation of crypto assets. The FMCBGs embraced the G20 Roadmap aimed at coordinating global policies and developing strategies for the rapidly evolving world of crypto assets. The meeting also underscored the need for transformative changes in the vision, operational models, and financial capacities multilateral development banks.

ECONOMY

India's Total Food Grain Production Estimated at Record High of Over 3.2 Lakh Tonnes



The total foodgrain production for the country has reached an estimated record high of approximately 3,297 lakh tonnes, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. This marks a substantial increase of about 141 lakh tonnes compared to the previous year's foodgrain production figures. The Ministry further reported that rice production for 2022-23 is estimated at around 1,350 lakh tonnes, wheat

production at approximately 1,100 lakh tonnes, and total pulses production at roughly 260 lakh tonnes. Minister of Agriculture Shri Narendra Singh Tomar attributed the growth to the government's effective implementation of agricultural schemes and programmes, and the collective efforts of all involved in the agricultural sector.

RBI Slaps Monetary Penalties on ICICI and Kotak Mahindra for Regulatory Violations

The RBI has slapped hefty penalties on ICICI and Kotak Mahindra Banks, amounting to Rs 12.19 Crore and Rs 3.95 Crore, respectively. According to an RBI press release, the ICICI Bank violated multiple regulations, including granting loans to companies where its Directors held positions, marketing non-financial products, and failing to promptly report fraud to the RBI. Kotak Mahindra Bank, on the other hand, didn't adhere to customer contact time restrictions, miscalculated interest dates, and imposed foreclosure charges without contractual authorisation.

Indian SMEs Embracing Digitalization and Sustainability: FICCI Report

A report unveiled by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) highlights how Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are increasingly incorporating e-commerce, digital marketing, cloud computing, and automation tools, resulting in cost reduction, expanded customer bases, and market growth. The report also points out that SMEs are keenly adopting sustainable practices that help reduce their environmental impact, optimise resource usage, and minimise waste generation. The report says that challenges faced by SMEs include a shortage of skilled talent, limited technological expertise, and insufficient knowledge of industry-specific technology solutions, recommending improving access to finance, continuous evaluation of government initiatives, and streamlining compliance processes.

SPORTS

Indian Chess Grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali Triumphs over World Number One Magnus Carlsen

In the prestigious Qatar Masters Chess Tournament, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster, Karthikeyan Murali, emerged victorious over the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen, in a classical showdown. Karthikeyan Murali now joins the esteemed company of Indian chess legends Harikrishna and Viswanathan Anand, becoming the third Indian to claim victory against Carlsen. During the seventh round of the tournament, Karthikeyan, deftly wielding the black pieces, outmaneuvered the reigning world champion, exhibiting his strategic brilliance and tactical prowess.



IOC Includes T20 Cricket and 4 Other Sports in Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to include Twenty-20 cricket, football, lacrosse, squash, and baseball-softball in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. The newly added disciplines comprise flag. The inclusion of Twenty-20 cricket is a particularly exciting development, as it rekindles the Olympic flame for the sport, which last featured in the 1900 Paris Olympics when Britain triumphed over France, securing a Gold Medal. The reintroduction of cricket to the Olympic program carries the potential to tap into the vast South Asian market, garnering the avid support of fans in cricket-loving nations such as India and Pakistan.

(Source: AIR/PIB)