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NATIONAL

1) PANEX-21

PANEX-21 is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise. It is to be held for the BIMSTEC countries. The exercise is to be held among the BIMSTEC countries: Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. The main aim of the exercise is to build regional cooperation in responding to natural disasters.

2) 5th Indian Ocean Conference

Union Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has visited Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to attend the 5th Indian Ocean Conference. The theme of the conference was 'Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic'. The Conference is chaired by Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

3) EKUVERIN-21

The 11th edition of Exercise EKUVERIN-21 between India and Maldives, held at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives. Ekuverin means "Friends" in the Dhivehi language. The exercise enhances synergy and inter-operability between the Armed Forces of both nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) On-the-Go contactless wearable keychain

City Union Bank, in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its manufacturing partner Seshaasai, has announced the launch of RuPay On-the-Go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card customers. It enable customers to tap and make cashless payments securely.

2) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

The Board of Directors of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank appointed Ittira Davis as the MD and CEO of the bank. Davis has been appointed as the MD and CEO for a period of 3 years from the date of approval of the RBI or such other period as may be approved by RBI.

3) Monetary Policy Committee

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent for the ninth consecutive time.

- The reverse repo rate will continue to be 3.35 per cent.
- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%. Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%.
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%.
- Bank Rate: 4.25%.
- CRR: 4% and SLR: 18.00%





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APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) 'She is a Changemaker'

National Commission for Women has launched a pan-India capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker' for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties.

2) Sunil Arora

Former chief election commissioner Sunil Arora has been invited to join the board of advisers at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, also known as International IDEA. IDEA has a 15-member board of advisers, all of whom are eminent personalities from a wide variety of backgrounds.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) 56th Jnanpith Award

Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award. The country's highest literary award, the Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution to literature".

2) Sanjiv Mehta

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry announced that Sanjiv Mehta, the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), will be appointed as its President.

OBITUARY

1) General Bipin Rawat

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat has passed away in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. Thirteen people have succumbed to the crash, including CDS Rawat, Madhulika Rawat and 11 others. An IAF Mi 17 V5 helicopter with a crew of 4 members carrying the CDS and 9 other passengers met with a tragic accident.

2) Eileen Ash

World's oldest Test Cricketer, former English legend, Eileen Ash passed away at the age of 110. The right-arm seamer made her debut to the national side in 1937 against Australia and in a career spanning till 1949, she took 10 wickets in the seven matches she played.

SPORTS

1) "Diplomatic Boycott" of 2022 Winter Olympics

The Biden administration has announced that US officials will not attend the 2022 Winter



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Olympics in Beijing after China pledged unspecified “countermeasures” against any such diplomatic boycott. The US cited that “China’s human rights ATROCITIES” is the main reason for its boycott.

2) Davis Cup 2021

The Davis Cup 2021 was won by the Russian Tennis Federation by a 2-0 lead over Croatia in the Davis Cup final in Madrid. Medvedev defeated Marin Cilic in the second singles match to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Croatia and its first Davis Cup title since 2006.

