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 **Friday, 06 September 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Friday, 06 September 2024

Centre approves Centralized Pension Payments System enabling EPFO registered employees to receive their pension in any Bank

- The Central Government has approved a Centralized Pension Payment System under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), enabling registered employees to receive their pension through any bank across the country.

Key Points:

- **Centralized Pension Payment System Approved:** The Central Government has approved the Centralized Pension Payment System, aimed at benefiting pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme of EPFO.
- **Implementation Date:** From January 1, 2025, EPFO pensioners will be able to receive their pension from any bank across India.
- **Beneficiaries:** This system will benefit over 78 lakh pensioners registered with EPFO.

Advantages:

- Pensioners will not need to visit the branch for verification at the commencement of their pension.
- Pension will be credited immediately upon release.

Q. From which date will EPFO pensioners be able to receive their pension from any bank under the Centralized Pension Payment System? **January 1, 2025.**



Friday, 06 September 2024

India ranks 40th in world for alcoholic beverage exports

- India ranks 40th in global alcoholic beverage exports; Government aims to boost exports to \$1 billion.

Key Points:

- **Export Revenue:** In FY24, India exported alcoholic beverages worth over Rs 2,200 crore. The key export destinations include UAE, Singapore, Netherlands, Tanzania, Angola, Kenya, and Rwanda.
- **Government Target:** The Government of India plans to boost both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage exports, with a target of reaching \$1 billion in revenue in the coming years.
- **APEDA's Role:** The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) is working to expand Indian spirit exports to major global markets.
- **Landmark Development:** Diageo India (United Spirits Ltd) will launch Godawan, an artisanal single malt whisky from Rajasthan, in the United Kingdom under the Make in India initiative. This initiative represents an investment exceeding Rs 200 crore.
- **India's Export Vision:** The Government of India aims to achieve \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, divided into \$1 trillion in goods and \$1 trillion in services, driven by the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

Q. What is India's current global rank in alcoholic beverage exports? **40th**



Friday, 06 September 2024

Indian Navy and South African Navy signs Implementing Agreement to enhance submarine rescue support cooperation

- The Indian Navy and the South African Navy signed an Implementing Agreement to enhance their submarine rescue support cooperation.

Key Points:

- **Objective:** Under this agreement, the Indian Navy will assist by deploying its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) to provide support during submarine-related distress or accidents for the South African Navy.
- **Significance:** The agreement ensures the safety of South African Navy submarine crews in emergencies and highlights the growing maritime cooperation between India and South Africa.
- **Strengthening Bilateral Relations:** This partnership will further strengthen naval collaboration and deepen the maritime relationship between the two countries.
- **Key Signatories:** The agreement was signed by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (India), and Vice Admiral Monde Lobese, Chief of the South African Navy.

Q. Which country signed an Implementing Agreement with India to enhance submarine rescue support cooperation? **South Africa**



Friday, 06 September 2024

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launches Notary Portal

- Union Minister for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, has launched a Notary Portal in New Delhi to facilitate a paperless and efficient notary system.

Key Points:

- Objective:** The portal aligns with the goal of Digital India by providing a faceless and user-friendly interface for notaries and the public.
- Services Provided:** The portal enables notaries to:
 - Submit applications for appointment.
 - Issue and renew Certificates of Practice.
 - Change practice areas.

Submit annual returns.

- Key Features:** With the Notary Portal, notaries can submit requests online, monitor their application progress, and download digitally signed Certificates of Practice via Digilocker.
- Significance:** The initiative eliminates the need for physical submissions, contributing to a more efficient legal and administrative process.

Q. Which Union Minister launched the Notary Portal in New Delhi? **Arjun Ram Meghwal**



Friday, 06 September 2024

Harvinder Singh creates history by becoming first-ever Indian archer to win Paralympic gold medal

- Harvinder Singh became the first-ever Indian archer to win a gold medal at the Paralympics by securing the top position in the men's archery individual recurve open final at the Paris Paralympics 2024.

Other Notable Performances:

- Dharambir won gold in the Men's Club Throw F51 Final, setting an Asian record with a throw of 34.92 meters.
- Pranav Soorma won silver in the same event with a throw of 34.59 meters.
- Sachin Sarjerao Khilari secured a silver medal in the men's shot put F46 category with an Asian record throw of 16.32 meters.
- Overall Achievement: Indian athletes have achieved their highest-ever medal count in a single Paralympic edition. As the games near their close, Team India is ranked 13th in the medal tally with 5 gold, 9 silver, and 10 bronze medals.

Q. Who is the first Indian archer to win a Paralympic gold medal? **Harvinder Singh.**



Friday, 06 September 2024

India and Singapore Sign Agreements to Enhance Semiconductor and Digital Technology Collaboration

- India and Singapore have agreed to increase their collaboration in semiconductors and digital technologies, aiming for a more significant role in the global chip supply chain, which is being reshaped due to tensions between the US and China.

Key Points:

- **Agreements Announced:** During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore, both countries signed agreements to develop talent in chip design and manufacturing and to facilitate Singaporean tech investment in India. They will also collaborate more closely in cybersecurity, fifth-generation mobile networks, super-computing, and artificial intelligence.
- **Singapore's Role:** Singapore, India, and Malaysia are among the Asian economies benefiting from the ongoing US-China chip conflict. Singapore has played a significant role in the semiconductor sector for decades and hosts some of Southeast Asia's largest chip manufacturing plants.
- **India's Initiative:** India has announced an investment of \$15 billion in chip manufacturing plants and a \$21 billion plan to boost semiconductor capabilities across the country.

Q. What areas did India and Singapore agree to collaborate on in their recent agreements? **Chip design, manufacturing, cybersecurity, mobile networks, super-computing, and artificial intelligence.**



Friday, 06 September 2024

UK and India Sign Infrastructure Financing Bridge Agreement in London

- India and the UK have signed a groundbreaking infrastructure financing agreement aimed at facilitating and unlocking sustainable international investments into India's major infrastructure projects. This agreement, known as the UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB), was finalized in London and is set to benefit national highways, rapid transport systems, and renewable energy schemes.

Key Points:

- Agreement Details:** The UKIIFB, established during the UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in September last year, is operational for an initial two-year period. It involves collaboration between the City of London Corporation and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).
- Steering Committee:** A Steering Committee, comprising representatives from the UK's Treasury department, construction companies, engineering firms, and legal experts from both nations, has been formed to advance the agreement's objectives and prepare major infrastructure projects for bidding.

Q. Which entities are involved in the UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB) agreement? **The City of London Corporation and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).**



Friday, 06 September 2024

TN CM signs MoU worth Rs 2000 crore with Trilliant

- Tamil Nadu government signed an MoU with US-based Trilliant to establish a manufacturing unit and global support center in the state, with an investment of Rs 2,000 crore.
- The MoU was signed in Chicago during Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's official US trip aimed at attracting investments for the state.
- Stalin held discussions with Nike officials on expanding footwear production and setting up a product creation/design center in Chennai.
- The Chief Minister also met with Optum, a healthcare company that employs 5,000 people in Tamil Nadu, and urged them to consider expanding operations in Trichy and Madurai.

Trilliant

- Trilliant is a US-based company specializing in providing advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), smart grid solutions, and energy management services.
- The company focuses on enabling utilities and energy providers to optimize their operations by offering integrated technologies for electricity, gas, and water distribution systems.

Q. What investment deal did Tamil Nadu secure with US-based Trilliant during CM M.K. Stalin's US trip? **To establish a manufacturing unit and global support center, with an investment of Rs 2,000 crore.**



Friday, 06 September 2024

UN allocates 4 million USD for flood-hit Bangladesh

- The United Nations has allocated \$4 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to aid Bangladesh's flood response efforts.
- The floods have affected nearly 6 million people, including men, women, and children, since late last month.
- Around 500,000 people have been displaced and are sheltering in more than 3,400 evacuation centers.
- Over 7,000 schools have been closed, impacting 1.7 million students due to the flooding.
- The floods have caused an estimated \$156 million in losses to livestock and fisheries.
- Bangladesh has experienced four major climate-related disasters this year, including Cyclone Remal and flash floods, affecting about 13 million people and covering 30% of the country.

Q. How much has the United Nations allocated for flood relief in Bangladesh, and how many people have been affected? **\$4 million & 6 million people affected**



Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Friday, 06 September 2024

Maldives signs UN High Seas Treaty, marking key step in ocean conservation

- The Maldives has signed the United Nations High Seas Treaty, also known as the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- Ali Naseer Mohamed, the Maldives' Permanent Representative to the UN, signed the treaty on behalf of the country.
- The treaty's goals include promoting equity and fairness, addressing environmental degradation, combating climate change, encouraging sustainability, and preventing biodiversity loss in international waters.
- The Maldives is the 92nd UN member state to sign the treaty.
- The decision to sign the treaty was approved by the Maldives cabinet on February 11, and the parliament ratified the decision on May 14.

United Nations High Seas Treaty

- The United Nations High Seas Treaty, formally known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty, was adopted in 2023 to protect marine life in international waters, commonly referred to as the "high seas."
- This treaty is a landmark agreement aimed at ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond the jurisdiction of individual nations, which constitute roughly two-thirds of the ocean.

Q. Which country recently became the 92nd UN member state to sign the United Nations High Seas Treaty? **Maldives**



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