

UNGA adopts two India sponsored resolutions on Nuclear disarmament



The first committee of the United Nations General Assembly has adopted two India-sponsored resolutions on nuclear disarmament which aim to reduce risk of nuclear accidents and call for a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons. The two resolutions adopted include Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and Reducing Nuclear Danger under the Nuclear weapons cluster.

The resolution on Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons was backed by a majority of UN Members and was tabled by India since 1982.

The resolution on Reducing Nuclear Danger which was tabled since 1998 puts focus on unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons and underscore the need for a review of nuclear doctrines.

Bangladesh and US launch joint naval exercise CARAT Bangladesh 2020



The Bangladesh and US navies launched the 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020' to expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness between the two countries. Historically, the CARAT exercises involve people to people interactions and a variety of professional exchanges. These will take place online this year due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The sea-phase of the exercise will take place in the Bay of Bengal with ships from both countries. The events are designed to enhance interoperability between the two navies. U.S. and Bangladesh will work through coordinated deployment of surface ships, to include tactical maneuvers among other activities.

Indian-American Democrats re-elected



All the four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers namely Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi have been re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with for the first time in the history of the U.S. presidential election.

Both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns had initiated several measures to woo the approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.

U.S. formally exits Paris pact on curbing climate change



The United States formally left the Paris Agreement, a global pact forged five years ago to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change. The move, long threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump and triggered by his administration a year ago, further isolates the U.S. in the world.

Some 189 countries remain committed to the 2015 Paris accord, which aims to keep the increase in average temperatures worldwide “well below” 2 degrees Celsius, ideally no more than 1.5C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Myanmar Army chief accuses govt of 'unacceptable mistakes' ahead of election



The Commander in Chief of the Defense Services of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has accused the civilian government of the country of making ‘unacceptable mistakes’ in the preparation

for the elections scheduled for November 8. The Army Chief said some opposition parties had complained about the irregularities over the voter list which could have been taken care of as there was enough time for that.

The Military Chief also criticised the Union Election Commission (UEC) of mistakes in preparing the voter list, disputes on early voting and campaign amid the COVID 19 outbreak despite having enough time for preparation.

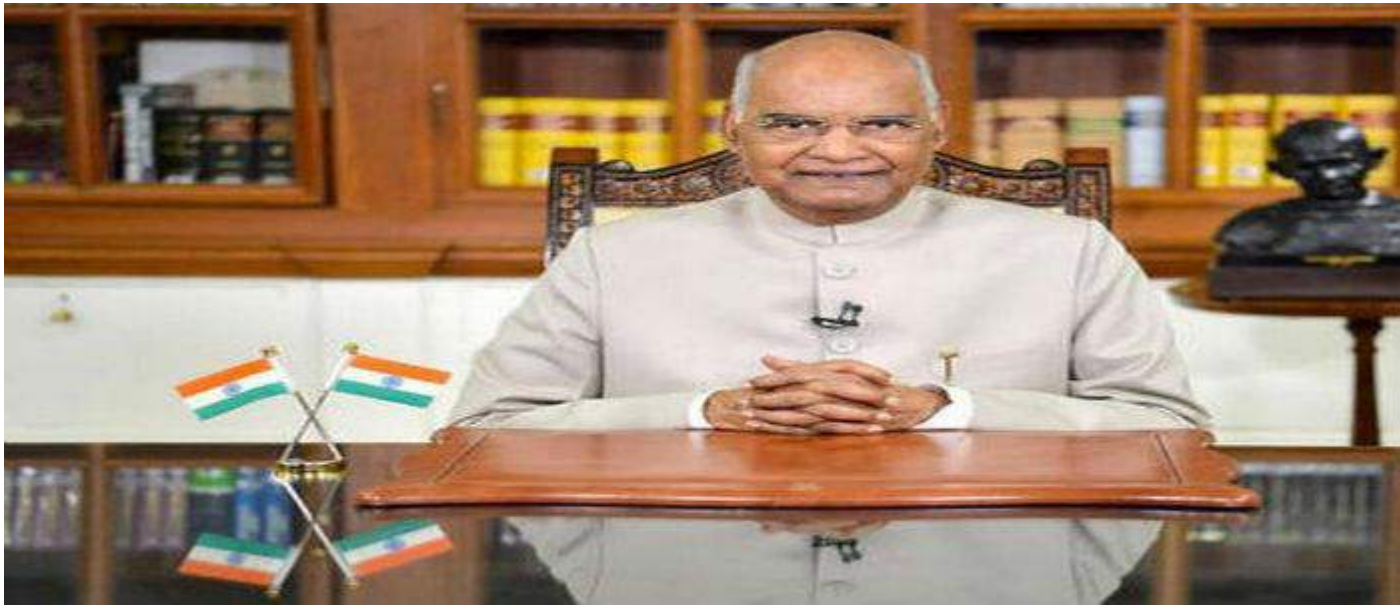
Hardeep Singh Puri launches 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge'



Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge focusing on shaping cities for young children and their families. The challenge is conducted with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands with technical support from WRI India.

Through the challenge, selected cities will receive technical assistance and capacity-building to reimagine parks and open spaces, improve access to early childhood facilities, adapt public spaces with early childhood-oriented amenities and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for young children and families. The challenge will be open to all Smart Cities, other cities with more than five lakh population, and capitals of States and Union Territories.

President Kovind promulgates Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020



President Ram Nath Kovind today promulgated the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to further amend Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996. The Ordinance aims to ensure that all the stakeholders get an opportunity to seek unconditional stay of enforcement of arbitral awards where the underlying arbitration agreement or contract or making of the arbitral award are induced by fraud or corruption.

Prasar Bharati signs MoU to launch 51 education TV channels



India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology today. Under the MoU, 51 DTH education TV channels will be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD FreeDish viewers. This move aims to bring quality educational programmes to every household, including those in rural and remote areas. The services will be available free of cost for all the viewers 24x7, in line with

Government's commitment towards skill development and providing quality education to the last person in the country.

Govt constitutes committee to review guidelines on Television Rating agencies



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has constituted a committee to review guidelines on Television Rating agencies in India. Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati will be Chairman of the Committee. The Members of the Committee are Dr Shalabh, Professor of Statistics in Department of Mathematics and Statistics in IIT Kanpur, Dr Rajkumar Upadhyay, Executive Director of C-DOT and Professor Pulak Ghosh of Decision Sciences Centre for Public Policy.

ECI organizes 3-day International Virtual Election Visitors Programme for Foreign Election Management Bodies



Election Commission of India is organizing a three-day International Virtual Election Visitors Programme for Foreign Election Management Bodies and Organizations, in the context of the ongoing Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections.

Delegates from over 40 countries across the world including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Maldives, Moldova, Mongolia, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zambia along with three international organizations, International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems and Association of World Election Bodies have been invited to participate in the programme.

Enhanced PINAKA rocket successfully flight tested



Enhanced PINAKA rocket, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO has been successfully flight tested today from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha . A total of six rockets were launched in quick succession and the tests met complete mission objectives.

Development of Enhanced Pinaka system was taken up to achieve longer range performance compared to earlier design with reduced length. The design and development has been carried out by Pune based DRDO laboratories, namely Armament Research and Development Establishment, ARDE and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, HEMRL.

Enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets which are currently under production.

SBI Q2 profit surges 52% to Rs. 4,574 crore



State Bank of India (SBI) reported second-quarter net profit jumped 52% to Rs. 4,574 crore as net interest income rose and the lender cut its provision for bad loans. Operating profit (excluding exceptional items) rose 12% to Rs. 16,460 crore, from Rs. 14,714 crore a year earlier, as the economy showed signs of revival.

Net interest income grew by 14.6% and domestic net interest margin improved by 12 basis points (bps) to 3.34%. Loan loss provisions stood at Rs. 5,619 crore, 49.1% lower than the Rs. 11,041 crore in the year-earlier quarter.

Six women led startups win COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov



Six women led startups have won COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN Women. MyGov launched the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge in April this year in collaboration with UN Women with an objective to encourage and involve women led

startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID-19. The challenge received an overwhelming response with a total of 1 thousand 265 entries, from across the nation.

No service charge applicable on Basic Savings Bank Deposit accounts: Govt



Government said that no service charge is applicable on the 60 crore Basic Savings Bank Deposit accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts. Finance Ministry said, there have been several media reports alluding to steep increase in service charges by certain Public Sector Banks.

The number of free cash deposits and withdrawals, have been reduced from five each per month to three each per month, with no change in the charges for transactions in excess of these free transactions.

As per RBI guidelines, all banks, including Public Sector Banks, are permitted to levy charges for their services in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

Oct. services sector PMI signals first expansion since February



Indian services sector activity ended the seven-month sequence of decline and registered growth in October, supported by improved market conditions amid easing COVID-19 restrictions, a monthly survey said. At 54.1 in October, up from 49.8 in September, the seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index posted above the 50.0 no-change mark for the first time since February. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

Fundraising via markets falls 31% in Sept.



Companies garnered over Rs. 75,000 crore from capital markets in September, a decline of 31% from the preceding month, with private placement of debt instruments continuing to be the most-preferred route for financing business. The funds were mopped up mainly for business expansion plans, loan repayments and working capital requirements.

According to data available with SEBI, companies raised a total of Rs. 75,230 crore in September as compared to Rs. 1.1 lakh crore in August by way of issuing equity and debt securities. Out of the Rs. 75,230 crore, Rs. 64,389 crore was mopped up from private placement of debt securities and Rs. 9,022 crore through private placement of equity.

CBDT issues refunds of over Rs. 1.29 lakh cr to more than 39.49 lakh taxpayers



The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT has issued refunds of over one lakh 29 thousand crore rupees to more than 39 lakh 49 thousand taxpayers between 1st April to 3rd November this year. Income tax refunds of 34 thousand 820 crore rupees have been issued in over 37 lakh 55 thousand cases and corporate tax refunds of 94 thousand 370 crore rupees have been issued in over one lakh 93 thousand cases.

Gland Pharma's Rs. 6,500-cr. IPO to open on Nov. 9



Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma's initial public offering (IPO) to raise almost Rs. 6,500 crore, making it one of the largest IPOs in India's pharmaceutical space, is set to open on November 9. The price band has been set at Rs. 1,490 – Rs. 1,500 per share (of face value Rs. 1 each). An injectables-focused company operating primarily under a B2B (business to business) model, Gland Pharma's majority stakeholder is Shanghai Fosun Pharma. The IPO, which includes the sale of new shares and offer for sale from existing shareholders, will reduce Fosun Pharma's holding from 74% to 58.3%.

Samuels calls it quits



West Indian batsman Marlon Samuels, who top-scored in both of the team's T20 World Cup final wins during a career that also had its share of controversies including a two-year ban for corruption, has retired from all forms of cricket. He played 71 Tests, 207 ODIs and 67 T20Is for the West Indies. He scored over 11,000 international runs and also picked more than 150 wickets.

Ramkumar enters two quarterfinals



Ramkumar Ramanathan made the quarterfinals of singles and doubles in the €88,520 Challenger tennis tournament. He got past Hiroki Moriya 7-6(1), 6-4, in the singles pre-quarterfinals, before pairing up with Purav Raja to pip Evgeny Donskoy and Ilya Ivashka 11-9 in the super tie-break.

IPL Cricket, Mumbai Indians to take on Delhi Capitals in first Qualifier in Dubai



In the Indian Premier League cricket, Mumbai Indians will take on Delhi Capitals in the first Qualifier in Dubai this evening. The match will begin at 7.30 P.M. While the winner gets a ticket to the final, the loser will have a chance to redeem themselves in the Eliminator. The four-time champions have won four of their last five playoff games.