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INTERNATIONAL

Engagement with Indo-Pacific goes back several centuries

Synopsis:

- ❖ India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific goes back several centuries and the country stands for an open, balanced, rules-based and stable international trade regime in the strategically vital region, President Ram Nath Kovind
- ❖ Interacting with young students at the prestigious Institute of International Relations here President Kovind said India's approach is based on cooperation and collaboration and is elaborated through the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).



Key Highlights:

- ❖ SAGAR guides our approach towards both the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific regions," in a statement issued by the External Affairs Ministry
- ❖ "While 'Indo-Pacific' is a recent addition to the geopolitical lexicon, India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region goes back several centuries. The dynamism and vitality of the region make it a global economic centre.
- ❖ We stand for an open, balanced, rules-based and stable international trade regime in the Indo-Pacific," the president in a veiled reference to China which has been acting aggressively in the region.
- ❖ India, the U.S. and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-rich region.
- ❖ China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea.
- ❖ The president connectivity with the Central Asian countries remains a key priority for India, which is a member of both the International North-South Transport Corridor and the Ashgabat agreement.



NATIONAL

13 New districts emerge in Andhra Pradesh

Synopsis:

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh today created 13 new districts taking the total number to 26.
- ❖ Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy digitally inaugurated 13 new districts in the state from his office camp in Tadepalli in the Guntur district.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, during his election campaign for the 2019 Assembly elections, promised to transform every Lok Sabha constituency into one district if his party came to power.
- ❖ There are 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state. An additional district was formed by dividing the tribal areas in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The revenue line has been raised from 51 to 73. In this context, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy inaugurated the 13 newly formed districts with a video presentation at Thadepalli in Guntur district.
- ❖ Websites and manuals of the new districts were published. The Chittoor district will be divided into two and the Chittoor-headquartered Chittoor district and the Tirupati-headquartered Balaji district will be operational from today.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the government has ordered the appointment of collectors and SPs for the newly formed districts. They are set to begin their mission from today.

Indian exports worth Rs 32 lakh crore: Piyush Goyal

Synopsis:

- ❖ According to Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, the country's cargo exports have crossed the Rs 32 lakh crore (\$ 418 billion) mark in the last 2021-22 financial year. Awa told reporters on Sunday that the country's cargo exports had crossed the Rs 32 lakh crore (\$ 418 billion) mark in the 2021-22 financial year.
- ❖ As on March 21, our target of \$ 400 billion (Rs. 30.4 trillion crore) in cargo exports has been surpassed. Last March alone, exports stood at Rs 3.06 lakh crore (40.38 billion), the highest in any month.





Key Highlights:

- ❖ Most of the exports were petroleum, construction materials, jewelery and chemicals to the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Singapore, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Jomanny.
- ❖ Wheat plays an important role in meeting the food needs of many countries. On a large scale we export wheat and help countries that do not import wheat from conflicting regions. I expect India's wheat exports to cross one crore tonnes in the current financial year due to increased demand in the international market.
- ❖ Russia and Ukraine account for about a quarter of the international wheat supply. Their wheat crop matures in August and September. Farmers are focusing on increasing wheat production to suit India. Regions like Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have been exporting large quantities of wheat since last year.
- ❖ Final negotiations are underway with Egypt on wheat exports. "We are also in talks with countries like China, Turkey and Iran," he said.
- ❖ Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said, "Most of the exports from India are made through Kandla Port (Gujarat). In this context, we are in consultation with the Railways for the export of wheat through Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Nava Sheva ports.

500-kg GP bomb to IAF

Synopsis:

- ❖ O.F.K. The 500 kg factory-made bomb will enhance the attack capability of the Indian Air Force. In the first phase, 48 bombs were handed over to the Air Force.
- ❖ Experts from various companies in the defense sector were involved in the preparation of this bomb.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ OFK manufactures military ammunition in Jabalpur area of Madhya Pradesh. The factory (Kamaria Arms Factory) was started in 1943. The factory manufactured and supplied ammunition during World War II.
- ❖ The factory manufactured and supplied various explosives during the 1962 war with China and the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. Weapons and ammunition for paramilitary forces were also seized by the OFK. The factory is preparing.
- ❖ In this case the O.F.K. The factory has produced a bomb weighing 500 kg. It is the largest bomb ever made entirely locally. The bomb was delivered yesterday for the use of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ Founded in 1943, the factory is one of the main units of ammunition production, according to the OFK website. It provided supplies during World War II. After independence, the factory played a key role in supplying various types of ammunition to the Armed Forces during the Chinese War of 1962 and the Pakistan Wars of 1965 and 1971.
- ❖ The factory also supplies ammunition to paramilitary forces. The factory also supplies ammunition to paramilitary forces.



- ❖ Currently, the manufacturing process is carried out with the latest combination of hardware components manufacturing, ammunition filling and ammunition assembly. The factory has three divisions for the production of various types of ammunition, namely the ammunition component and engineering division, the small arms ammunition division and the ammunition filling division.

Logo of Khelo India University Games launched

Synopsis:

- ❖ The logo of the 2021 Khelo India University Games, to be held in Karnataka, was unveiled at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Friday.
- ❖ Karnataka Governor TC Gehlot and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur were present at the occasion



Key Highlights:

- ❖ The event, postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, will be the second edition of the Games after Odisha hosted the event in 2020.
- ❖ A Khelo India App for live updates on the Games was also launched by the state.
- ❖ The Khelo India University Games is a platform through which we intend to identify talent for the Asian Games, CWG and the Olympics. This year around 4,500 athletes from across India will participate in the Games and I am confident that we will be able to find a few players who will represent India in the upcoming Olympics."
- ❖ As part of the Games being green, it has been decided that everything used outside the field of play will be made of reusable material, moreover, electric vehicles will be used for transportation and all waste will be segregated as wet and dry at the source in every venue.
- ❖ It will therefore be a zero-waste, zero-plastic Games

SPORTS

Coimbatore girl Vaishnavi shines in Asian yoga meet

Synopsis:

- ❖ Coimbatore girl Vaishnavi shone in the first Asia level yoga competition in Thailand recently by winning two gold medals in the junior category (13 to 15 years) and the overall championship.
- ❖ Talking to reporters here, Vaishnavi said she had given over 1,000 performances and won more than 200 gold medals, including 60 in national-level yoga competitions held at Kochi, Gujarat and Bengaluru among other places.





Key Highlights:

- ❖ Over 150 participants from Singapore and Thailand, apart from India, took part in the meet held in Bangkok.
- ❖ A standard X student of Park Global School here, Vaishnavi has received various awards and titles including “Yoga Rani” and “Yoga Natchathra” and “Young Achiever Award” from India Yoga Association and Government of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Talking to reporters here, Vaishnavi said she had given over 1,000 performances and won more than 200 gold medals, including 60 in national-level yoga competitions held at Kochi, Gujarat and Bengaluru among other places.
- ❖ Park Global School CEO Anusha Ravi lauded her achievement and said the institution was offering Vaishnavi free education and sponsoring gymnastics training and supporting all her endeavours.

Swiatek Champion - Open Tennis

Synopsis:

- ❖ Poland’s Iga Swiatek was confirmed as the new WTA number one in the rankings released Monday, replacing the retired Ashleigh Barty.
- ❖ The 20-year-old celebrated her new status in style on Sunday, winning the Miami Open with a straight-sets victory over four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka.
- ❖ Swiatek’s victory made her only the fourth women’s player in history to win the Indian Wells and Miami tournaments back-to-back.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ Swiatek, who will be formally confirmed as world number one when the new WTA rankings are announced on Monday, has now won 17 straight games, a winning streak that includes titles in Doha, Indian Wells and now Miami.
- ❖ Osaka, 24, enjoyed a welcome return to form in Florida even if the four-time Grand Slam champion's first final since the Australian Open in 2021 ended in a comprehensive defeat.
- ❖ "I feel privileged to be among those players who have done this double before, I knew it would be tough playing these tournaments in a row but I took it step by step," Swiatek, who won her maiden Grand Slam at the French Open in 2020 as a 19-year-old and will be the favorite to win another Roland Garros crown next month on her favored surface.
- ❖ "I was in the zone in the second set - that's the easiest way for me to be dominant. I was surprised I could handle all these matches.
- ❖ "I am still the same person though. My idols were like that and I don't want the success to change me in a negative way. It gives me confidence.



Australia wins ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022

Synopsis:

- ❖ Australia beat England by 71 runs in the finals to claim their seventh Women's World Cup on April 03, 2022, at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- ❖ Australia posted a record of 356 on the board. In reply, Nat Sciver waged a lone battle and remained unbeaten on 148 but it was not enough as England was bowled out for 285 in 43.4 overs.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ Alyssa Healy of Australia scored 170 runs in the match, the highest individual score made by any cricketer, male or female, in the World Cup Final. She was also the leading run-scorer in the tournament with 509 runs.
- ❖ The Player of the Tournament went to Alyssa Healy. Sophie Ecclestone of England was the leading wicket-taker in the tournament, with 21 dismissals. The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup was the 12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. The tournament was held in New Zealand from 4 March to 3 April 2022.
- ❖ England dropped a few chances and they were made to pay heavily. Then, spinners Alana King and Jess Jonassen took three wickets each as Australia defeated England by 71 runs in the summit clash.
- ❖ Australia have again won 12 ODIs on a trot, and the side did not drop even a single game in the ICC Women's World Cup 2022.
- ❖ They have won seven out of the 12 World Cups that have taken place in women's cricket.
- ❖ Since 2017, Australia have won two T20 World Cup titles (2018 and 2020), and now they have a 50-over World Cup title as well. In the 50-over World Cup in New Zealand, Australia did not lose a single game and won nine consecutive matches to secure the title.