

23 August 2024

Reliance Foundation signs MoU with IMD to strengthen weather information



Key Points:

- ❖ Reliance Foundation has signed an MoU with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to provide improved weather information and support to climate-affected communities.
- ❖ The main objective of this partnership is to prepare communities to face climate change and weather-related challenges.
- ❖ Under this, research will be done to strengthen weather forecasting and early warning services and discussions will be held with various experts.
- ❖ This effort will increase people's tolerance towards weather changes.

Rajesh Nambiar quits as Cognizant's India head to become Nasscom president



Key Points:

- ❖ Rajesh Nambiar has stepped down as Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp's India Chairman and Managing

Director to become president of information technology (IT) industry body National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).

- ❖ Cognizant named Rajesh Varrier as his successor. He will take over as global head of operations from 2 September and as chairman and managing director of the Nasdaq-listed from 1 October.
- ❖ Nambiar, now president-designate at Nasscom, will replace Debjani Ghosh, who has been the industry body's president since 2018.
- ❖ Ghosh will serve in her position till her tenure ends in November this year

Net foreign direct investment rises to \$6.9 billion in Q1: RBI



Key Points:

- ❖ Net foreign direct investment (FDI) during the April-June period of the current financial year was \$6.9 billion, compared to \$4.7 billion in the year-ago period, the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.
- ❖ The increase was due to an improvement in gross inward FDI, which grew by 26.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$22.5 billion during Q1 of 2024-25.

- ❖ Manufacturing, financial services, communication services, computer services, electricity and other energy sectors accounted for about 80 per cent of the gross FDI inflows.
- ❖ With around 75 per cent of the flows, the major source countries were Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands, the US, and Belgium,” according to RBI’s State of the Economy report. Net FDI flow dropped sharply to \$9.8 billion in FY24, from \$28 billion in the previous year. In FY22, net FDI flows into the country were \$38.6 billion.

Amardeep Singh Bhatia takes charge as Secretary of DPIIT



Key Points:

- ❖ IAS Amardeep Singh Bhatia has assumed the charge of Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Bhatia is an Indian Administrative Service Officer of the 1993 Batch from the Nagaland cadre.
- ❖ In Central Government, he has held many important positions in the Ministries of Corporate Affairs and Health & Family Welfare.

- ❖ Ministry of Commerce and Industry vice Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS consequent upon his appointment as Officer on Special Duty, Department of Defence.

RGIA Hyderabad wins best airport award for third consecutive year



Key Points:

- ❖ Hyderabad’s Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has once again clinched the prestigious title of Best Airport at the India Travel Awards, marking its third consecutive win.
- ❖ Last year, RGIA was also honored with Skytrax’s ‘Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024’ award in Frankfurt, Germany.
- ❖ The airport received recognition at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany for emerging on top among all other airports across South Asia and India.
- ❖ The RGIA team is dedicated to building upon this success and maintaining its position as the Best Airport.

- ❖ Ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure, upgrade facilities, and introduce innovative services will be crucial in sustaining this level of excellence.

BEML signs MoU with Indian Navy to develop advanced marine applications for Defence



Key Points:

- ❖ Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), which is into defence and heavy engineering manufacturing, has signed an MoU with the Directorate of Marine Engineering, Indian Navy, for indigenous design, development, manufacture, testing, and product support of critical marine equipment and systems.
- ❖ Aligned with the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the partnership aims to strengthen self-reliance in defence production and minimise reliance on foreign imports.
- ❖ This initiative is a pivotal step in enhancing bilateral cooperation for indigenous design, development, manufacture, testing and product support of critical Marine Engineering equipment and systems.

Amit Shah releases Tarun Chugh's book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity'



Key Points:

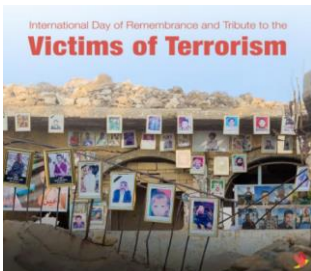
- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book written by BJP leader Tarun Chugh which, captures the "transformative" changes brought by the Modi government in a host of sectors and regions, including in the poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity' was "inspired" by the prime minister's decadeslong public life which was always "dedicated" to the country.
- ❖ It examines the broad spectrum of Narendra Modi's policies, including the 'Make in India' campaign designed to boost domestic manufacturing and attract foreign investment. This initiative is analysed alongside the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

ADB commits USD 500 mn loan for improving healthcare in Maharashtra



- ❖ India has signed a loan package of USD 500 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The loan will help establish four medical colleges attached to tertiary care teaching hospitals incorporating climate- and disaster-resilient, gender-responsive, and socially inclusive features in under-served districts.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism



- ❖ International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on 20 August.

- ❖ The commemoration of this day is of particular importance for the countries of the African continent located along the SaharaSahelian Belt, which are on the front line in the global fight against terrorism.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted a significant resolution, 72/165, on December 20, 2017, establishing the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The resounding consensus that endorsed this resolution underscores the global commitment to confronting terrorism and standing by its victims.

Rohit Sharma Virat Kohli honoured at the 26th CEAT Cricket Awards



- ❖ The Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma was awarded the 26th CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award at a ceremony held in Mumbai on 21 August 2024.
- ❖ The CEAT Cricket Awards is one of the most prestigious awards in

cricket. It honours the exceptional performance of cricketers worldwide.

- ❖ The CEAT Cricket Awards started in 1995-96, is sponsored by RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres. The latest 26th CEAT Award takes into account the players' performance during the 2023-24 cricketing session.
- ❖ **Men's International Cricketer of the Year**
- ❖ Award Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma was honoured for his exceptional performance in the 2023-24 season.
- ❖ Under his captaincy, India reached the final of the 13th ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup but lost to Australia.
- ❖ During this period, Rohit scored around 1800 international runs, including 597 runs during the 13th ODI World Cup. After fellow India Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma was the second highest run scorer in the World Cup.
- ❖ **ODI Batter of the Year -Virat Kohli**
- ❖ Virat Kohli, who had a terrific year in the One Day Internationals (ODI), was honoured with the Best ODI Batter of the Year award.
- ❖ In the 2023-24 season, Kohli scored 1377 runs, which included six

centuries and eight fifties. Kohli was the leading scorer of the 2023 ODI World Cup with 765 runs at an average of 95.62.

- ❖ During the World Cup, Kohli equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of most centuries -49 in ODI. With 50 ODI centuries, Virat Kohli has surpassed Tendulkar's record.

Cabinet Secretary to head NTF on Medical Professionals Safety



- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, Government of India, has issued an office order on the constitution of the 14-member National Task Force formed by the Supreme Court on 20 August 2024 for the safety of medical professionals.
- ❖ The office order issued by the ministry on 21 August 2024 appoints Cabinet Secretary as the Chairperson of the National Task Force. On 9 August 2024, a postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata.

- ❖ Following widespread protests by doctors nationwide, the Supreme Court suo motto started hearing the case.
- ❖ The three-member bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud, ordered the setting up of the National Task Force to suggest measures for the safety of the medical professionals in the country.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will bear all the expenses of the National Task Force.

Members of the National Task Force

- ❖ The 14-member task force includes the 9 eminent doctors suggested by the Supreme Court. The task force headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, includes the Home Secretary and Health Secretary.
- ❖ It also includes the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission and the president of the National Board of Examinations.
- ❖ The eminent doctors in the task force are Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, Director of General Medical Services (Navy), Director All India Institute of Medical Sciences Dr M Srinivas, Chairman and Managing Director of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIQ Hospitals, Hyderabad, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Dean, Grant

Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, Dr Pallavi Saple, Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Dr Pratima Murthy, Executive Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur, Dr Goverdhan Dutt Puri, Chairperson, Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, Dr Saumitra Rawat, Vice-Chancellor, Pandit BD Sharma Medical University, Rohtak, Professor Anita Saxena, Chairperson of Neurology at Paras Health Gurugram. Dr Padma Srivastava.

Function of the National Task Force

- ❖ According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the national task force will recommend: Measure to prevent violence against all medical professionals (interns, residents, senior residents, doctors, nurses and all medical professionals.), Dignified and safe working conditions for medical professionals, Any other matters related to the working of medical professionals.
- ❖ Submission of the Report The National Task Force has to submit an interim report on its proposed action plan within three weeks, with a final report due within two months. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare-J P Nadda

**Nation Observes first National Space Day
on 23 August 2024**



Key Points:

- ❖ The country will celebrate its first National Space Day on 23 August 2024 to mark its remarkable capability and achievements in space.
- ❖ The Indian space programme, which started with the launching of a sounding rocket from Thumba in Kerala on 21 November 1963, has reached a stage where it has developed the capability to land rovers on moons and send rockets to explore other planets like Mars (Mangalyaan Mission) and Sun (Aditya mission).
- ❖ The Indian Space Programme flag bearer, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is considered one of the world's best space agencies
- ❖ **Background to the National Space Day**
- ❖ The government of India announced 23 August as National Space Day to mark the landing of the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan -3 mission on the moon's south pole.
- ❖ India became the fourth country after the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and China to land a rover on the moon and the first country to land on the moon's south pole.
- ❖ The Vikarm lander landed on the 23rd of August, 2023, at 18.04 Indian time at the 69.37-degree South latitude and 32.35-degree East longitude of the moon's surface.
- ❖ The government of India later renamed the place where the Vikram lander landed as Shiv Shakti Point.
- ❖ **Chandrayaan -3 mission**
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched by ISRO from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on 14 July 2023 on a GSLV—Mark III (LVM-3) heavy-lift rocket.
- ❖ The spacecraft carried a lander, Vikram, and a rover, Pragyan.
- ❖ Unlike the Chandrayaan -2 mission, the Chandrayaan -3 mission did not have an orbiter to orbit around the moon.
- ❖ The estimated budget of the Chandrayaan -3 mission was Rs 615 crore. A 2-meter-tall Vikram, with a mass of just over 1,700 kg, carried a 26-kg lunar rover named Pragyan to the surface of the moon.

- ❖ The lunar Rover Pragyaan conducted a series of experiments, including a spectrometer analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.
- ❖ The Pragyan rover, deployed on the lunar surface, explored the nearby area by traversing about 103 meters over the next ten Earth days. 14 Earth Days is equal to one Lunar Day

Regressive move: On minimising night duty for women



- ❖ The last thing that a rape and murder need are platitudes, and a predictably tiresome one is being peddled after the brutal killing of a woman doctor on duty at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Hospital on August 9. One of the guidelines issued by the West Bengal government calls for minimising night duty for women.
- ❖ How will this dictum — “wherever possible, night duty may be avoided for women to the extent possible” — secure safety at the workplace? This regressive move will only end up removing women from the

workforce, instead of ensuring a stop to violence.

- ❖ **Low Participation:** India's urban women (aged 15+) have a labour force participation rate of just 25.2% as of April–June 2024 (PLFS data).
- ❖ **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** Social activists said that the government's duty is to ensure that women should be able to work anywhere in the state safely and with dignity. They also added that doctors, nurses, Asha workers, gig workers, women need to work in different professions during the night.
- ❖ If their work hours are reduced, many women will lose their jobs and income, they felt. Yet some others said that the guideline is against women's rights.
- ❖ **Government Directive:** The government's directive to minimise night shifts for women could worsen the situation.
- ❖ **Reduced Opportunities:** This policy may push women out of the workforce, limiting employment opportunities.
- ❖ **Financial Impact:** Restricting night shifts could reduce women's financial independence.

- ❖ **Unintended Consequence:** The focus on restricting work hours might lead to job losses rather than improving workplace safety.

What Can Be Done?

- ❖ **Rattirer Shaathi Program:** A programme by West Bengal Government highlights crucial safety measures like separate restrooms, CCTVs, and a special mobile app—essential but overdue steps.
- ❖ **Enhanced Security:** Install CCTVs, ensure well-lit safe zones, and provide emergency response systems.
- ❖ **Improved Infrastructure:** Create separate restrooms and safe facilities for women.
- ❖ **Robust Protocols:** Develop comprehensive safety protocols for all sectors, including informal sectors.
- ❖ **Mandatory Implementation:** These measures should be mandatory and effectively enforced instead of restricting women's work opportunities, which could harm employment.

Are Laws Enough to Prevent Rape?

- ❖ **NO:** Laws alone are insufficient to prevent sexual violence. NCRB Report 2022: 4.45 lakh crimes against

women were registered, nearly 51 FIRs every hour.

- ❖ **Need for Societal Change:** Legal frameworks must be supported by societal changes, awareness, and effective enforcement.
- ❖ **Chief Justice's Emphasis:** Protocols must be actively enforced, not just remain on paper.

Recommendations

- ❖ **Strengthen Safety Protocols:** Implement and rigorously enforce comprehensive safety measures across all sectors.
- ❖ **Promote Gender Equality:** Develop policies supporting women's workforce participation while addressing safety without discrimination.
- ❖ **Enhance Awareness and Education:** Promote societal change through awareness programs focused on gender justice and violence prevention.

Conclusion

- ❖ The government's decision to reduce night shifts for women may worsen their economic marginalisation instead of tackling workplace violence. Initiatives like Kolkata's Reclaim the Night march highlight the need for

genuine support for women's rights. There's a strong call for safety measures that protect women without limiting their job opportunities. To truly make a

difference, both the government and society must prioritise strong safety protocols and ensure women can work safely and equally at all times.



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