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 **Wednesday, 03 July 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

Finnish parliament approves defence pact with US

- The Finnish parliament has approved the Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with the US.
- Under the agreement, Finland will open 15 of its military bases for potential use by the military forces of the US and will also allow the US to bring defence equipment, supplies, materials, and soldiers to Finland.
- In addition, the agreement will authorize the establishment of certain military zones, which will include facilities accessible only to the personnel of the US.
- The negotiations for the DCA started in August 2022, three months after Finland applied for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership.
- After a total of five rounds of negotiations, the agreement was reached at the end of October 2023.
- Finland and the US signed the DCA in Washington on December 18, 2023.
- The Finnish government submitted the proposal for the agreement to the parliament for approval at the end of May 2024.

Finland:

- Capital: Helsinki
- Prime minister: Petteri Orpo
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

Q. Finland's Parliament has approved the Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with which country?

America



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

India gets one of the most powerful non-nuclear bombs, 2x lethal than TNT

- In a significant advancement for the army, the Indian Navy has successfully developed and certified a new explosive Named SEBEX 2 with a lethality 2.01 times greater than standard TNT (Trinitrotoluene).
- This high-performance explosive, developed by Solar Industries, is now among the most powerful non-nuclear explosives in the world.
- The newly formulated explosive, which has undergone extensive testing and certification by the Navy, has the potential to significantly enhance the destructive power of bombs, artillery shells, and warheads without adding extra weight.
- Named SEBEX 2, this explosive has been evaluated, tested, and certified by the Indian Navy under its Defence Export Promotion Scheme.
- The development of the explosive will enhance the potency and efficiency of weapons and ammunition in use.
- Explosive performance is gauged by TNT equivalence, with higher values indicating greater lethality. Currently, the most powerful conventional explosive used in India, specifically in the Brahmos warhead, has a TNT equivalence of about 1.50.
- Most conventional warheads worldwide have a TNT equivalence ranging from 1.25 to 1.30.

Q. The Indian Navy has successfully developed and certified a new explosive called _____, which has a lethality 2.01 times greater than standard TNT (trinitrotoluene). **SEBEX 2**

**10-TIME
CHAMPION**XXXVII TORNEO MAGISTRAL DE
AJEDREZ
CIUDAD DE LEÓN
... ..**Wednesday, 03 July 2024**

Viswanathan Anand Wins 10th Leon Masters Chess Championship

- Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand has won his 10th Leon Masters title after defeating GM Jaime Santos in the final match.
- The 54-year-old Anand took over to win the last two games after a shaky start and has now won the event in northwest Spain in 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2016, and 2024.
- The Leon Masters chess tournament is held in the Leon city of Spain. The tournament features four players.
- Apart from Viswanathan Anand, other players participating in the tournament were world number four ranked Arjun Erigaise of India, Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain.
- In the semifinal Anand defeated Veselin Topalov while Arjun lost to Jaime Santos Latasa.

Viswanathan Anand:

- At the age of 15 years he became the youngest Indian to earn the International Masters (IM) norms.
- Anand became India's first chess Grand Master in 1988.
- He has been world chess champion five times. From 2000 to 2002, Anand was the FIDE World Chess Champion.

Q. Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand has won his 10th Lyon Masters title by defeating whom in the final match?
GM Jaime Santos



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

Air India to Set Up South Asia's Largest Flight Training School in Amravati

- Air India will set up South Asia's largest Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Amravati in the Vidarbha area.
- This FTO will strengthen the available pilot training capacity in India.
- The Amravati airport runway was recently expanded by the state-owned Maharashtra Airport Development Company.
- The infrastructure in Belora airport was recently upgraded and it now has the instrument-landing and the night-landing systems.
- The flying school will be operational by mid 2026 and 180 commercial pilots will pass out every year.
- The FTO, the first by any Indian airline in the country, will have 31 single-engine and 3 twin-engine aircraft for training.
- Air India was awarded a tender by the MADC to establish and operate this DGCA-licensed FTO for a period of 30 years.
- The young pilots coming out of this FTO will fuel Air India's ambition of becoming a world-class airline, as it moves ahead in its transformation journey.”
- The flying school will be spread over 10 acre, with smart classrooms, world-class hostels, digitized operations centre, and its own maintenance facility to elevate operational efficiency.

Q. Which airline company will set up South Asia's largest flight training school in Amravati? **Air India**



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

Indian Army Contingent Departs For 13th Edition Of India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE

- The Indian Army contingent departed for the 13th edition of Exercise MAITREE, a joint military exercise with Thailand. Scheduled from July 1st to 15th, 2024, the exercise will take place at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand.
- The previous edition occurred in Umroi, Meghalaya, in September 2019.
- The Indian Army's 76-member contingent is primarily from the LADAKH SCOUTS, alongside personnel from other units.
- Similarly, the Royal Thailand Army contingent also consists of 76 personnel, mainly from the 1st Battalion, 14 Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division.

Exercise MAITREE:

- Exercise MAITREE aims to enhance military cooperation between India and Thailand.
- It focuses on joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in jungle and urban settings, aligning with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- Key activities will include joint planning, tactical drills, and physical fitness exercises.

Q. Indian Army contingent left for Fort Wachiraprakan in Tak province of Thailand for which edition of India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise Maitri? **13th**



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

Mauritania re-elects President Ghazouani for a second term

- Incumbent Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani has won Mauritania's presidential election, securing a second term.
- Ghazouani, 67, won 56.12 percent of the votes in the first round of the presidential poll, well ahead of his main rival, anti-slavery activist Biram Dah Abeid, who won 22.10 percent.
- Ghazouani's other main rival, Hamadi Ould Sid' El Moctar, who heads the Tewassoul party, came third with 12.78 percent.
- The election victory gives former army chief Ghazouani, 67, a second term as head of the vast desert country, seen as relatively stable in Africa's volatile Sahel region and set to become a gas producer.

Mauritania:

- Capital: Nouakchott
- Currency: Mauritanian ouguiya
- President: Mohamed Ould Ghazouani
- Prime minister: Mohamed Ould Bilal

Q. Recently who has been elected as the President of Mauritania? **Mohamed Ould Sheikh El Ghazouani**



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

India to be part of citizen astronaut programme by SERA, Blue Origin

- The Space Exploration and Research Agency and Blue Origin announced India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight programme for citizens from countries who have sent a few or no astronauts to space.
- SERA, a US-based agency, will offer citizens from across the world six seats on a future mission of New Shepard, Blue Origin's reusable suborbital rocket.
- New Shepard will fly the selected astronauts on an 11-minute journey past the Kármán line (100 km), the internationally recognised boundary of space.
- Astronauts will experience several minutes of weightlessness before making a controlled descent back to the landing pad.
- Any Indian citizen can register for the programme by paying a fee of approximately USD 2.50 to cover the costs of verification checks that ensure safe and fair voting.
- The final candidates will be voted on by the public for an opportunity to fly to space onboard the New Shepard mission.
- The potential astronauts will be required to meet Blue Origin's physical requirements.

Q. Recently the Space Exploration and Research Agency and Blue Origin have announced which country as a partner nation in their human space flight program for citizens of those countries? **India**



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

World Bank approves \$650 mn to help Bangladesh develop Bay Terminal

- The World Bank approved \$650 million to help Bangladesh invest in infrastructure critical for developing the Bay Terminal deep seaport, a mega project in the country's southeastern Chattogram region.
- The Bay Terminal would significantly improve Bangladesh's global trade competitiveness and reduce import and export costs by increasing port operational efficiency and mobilising private investment.
- The government has planned to develop two container terminals, a multipurpose terminal and an oil and gas terminal under the Bay Terminal.
- The World Bank earlier promised to finance the Bay Terminal Marine Infrastructure Development Project, under which a 6-km-long climate-resilient breakwater would be constructed to protect the harbor from the force of waves, current and extreme weather.
- It will also carry out dredging of the port basin, entrance and access channels.
- The Bay Terminal, located in the Anandangar near Sandwip channel, west of the Chattogram port, and close to existing road and rail links to Dhaka, is expected to handle 36 percent of Bangladesh's container volumes.

Q. The World Bank has approved \$650 million to help which country invest in critical infrastructure to develop the Bay Terminal Deep Seaport? **Bangladesh**



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

Samsung Heavy wins \$1 billion order for 4 LNG carriers

- South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries has won a 1.4 trillion-won (\$1 billion) order to build four liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers for a Middle Eastern shipper.
- The vessels will be delivered to the undisclosed shipping company by August 2028, Samsung Heavy Industries said in a regulatory filing.
- So far this year, the shipbuilder has clinched orders worth \$4.9 billion to build 22 ships, or 51 percent of its 2024 target of \$9.7 billion.
- The ships include 19 LNG carriers, two very large ammonia carriers and one shuttle tanker.
- Samsung Heavy Industries is the shipbuilding arm of South Korea's top family-controlled conglomerate, Samsung Group, whose marquee unit is Samsung Electronics Co.

Q. South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries has received an order for 4 LNG carriers worth how many billion dollars? **\$1 billion**



Wednesday, 03 July 2024

Chinese Badminton Player, 17, Dies After Collapsing On Court In Asia Junior Championship Match

- Zhang Zhijie, a 17-year-old Chinese badminton player, died after collapsing on the court during the Badminton Asia Junior Championships in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- The shuttler was playing against Japan's Kazuma Kawano in the opening game on June 30, which was tied 11-11 when he collapsed. He was immediately given medical treatment, however, he was declared dead at the hospital.
- The young player, who originally hailed from Jiaxing in the Chinese province of Zhejiang, joined the national junior squad in 2023 and won many championships, including the team and men's titles in Group B of the China Badminton Junior Championships in 2023 and 2024.

China:

- Capital: Beijing
- Premier: Li Qiang
- President: Xi Jinping
- Official language: Mandarin

Q. Recently a 17-year-old badminton player died after falling on the court during the Asia Junior Championship match. He was from which country?

China



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