

**RACE™****18.09.2021**

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INTERNATIONAL

1) 21st Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The 21st Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held in hybrid format in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon. This was the first SCO Summit held in a hybrid format and the fourth Summit in which India participated as a full-fledged member of SCO.

2) Global Methane Pledge

US President has announced the Global Methane Pledge, which is an US-EU led effort to cut methane emissions by a third by the end of this decade. The announcement has come ahead of 26th Conference of the Parties of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, UK. This will also help in abiding by the targets of the Paris climate deal.

3) World Bank Stops 'Ease of Doing Business' Report

The World Bank would discontinue the practice of issuing 'Doing Business report' following an investigation reported "data irregularities" in its 2018 and 2020 editions (released in 2017 and 2019, respectively) and possible "ethical matters" involving bank staff. It will be working on a new approach to assessing the business and investment climate.

NATIONAL

1) 15th edition of Indo–Nepal Joint Military

The 15th edition of Indo–Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise Surya Kiran will be held from September 20, 2021, at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The previous edition of the Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Nepal in 2019. The exercise was called off in 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Both the armies would share their experiences of various counter-insurgency operations.

2) Gupta Period temple remains found

The Archaeological Survey of India discovered remains of an ancient temple dating back to the Gupta period (5th century) in Bilsarh village in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district. Two pillars were excavated on which there is an inscription about Kumaragupta I, the powerful ruler of Gupta dynasty, in 'sankh lipi' (conch script or shell script) typical of the 5th century AD.

3) SPIN scheme

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission launched the SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) scheme to make potters self-sustainable. Under SPIN, KVIC will facilitate potters to get easy loans from banks that will help the potters to diversify their activities and enhance their income. KVIC functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.





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STATE NEWS

1) 61st Software Technology Park of India

Nagaland's first and India's 61st Software Technology Park of India centre was inaugurated at Kohima. The inauguration of the STPI centre in Kohima is a fulfilment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a technology ecosystem in the northeast to create opportunities for future generations in the region.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) RBI Innovation Hub

Amit Saxena has joined RBI Innovation Hub as the Chief Technology Officer. The Reserve Bank announced that it would set up Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment that would facilitate and foster innovation.

2) 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'

NITI Aayog has launched the report titled 'Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India'. As per the report, Urbanisation is an increase in the number of people living in towns and cities. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Alka Nangia Arora

Alka Nangia Arora has been appointed as the Chairman cum Managing Director of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC). She has taken the additional charge of the post on September 14, 2021. She is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) International Red Panda Day

The International Red Panda Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of September every year to raise public awareness and support for red panda conservation issues. In 2021, the IRPD is being observed on 18 September 2021. The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010. The first international red Panda day was celebrated on 18th September 2010.

2) International Coastal Cleanup Day

The International Coastal Cleanup Day is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September. In 2021, the day is being held on 18 September. The theme of International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021: "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean". Coastal Cleanup Day was established by the Ocean Conservancy.

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3) World Water Monitoring Day

The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18 since 2003 to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. This day is celebrated to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world.

4) International Equal Pay Day

International Equal Pay Day is celebrated on 18 September. The inaugural edition of the day was observed in the year 2020. The day aims to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and break the walls against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

