



25.08.2021

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INTERNATIONAL

1) Havana Syndrome

Havana Syndrome was first reported in diplomats who were stationed in Cuba in 2016. They experienced a strange set of symptoms that prompted a series of government and scientific investigations. Most recent cases were reported in central Europe in 2021. Symptoms associated with the syndrome includes headache, dizziness, fatigue, anxiety etc.

2) World's largest and tallest observation wheel

World's largest and tallest observation wheel, called Ain Dubai, will be opened in the UAE. It is located at Bluewaters Island, near Dubai Marina. Its base will act as an entertainment zone. This observation wheel will offer dining in the sky and other exclusive celebration packages for corporate and event offerings.

3) "Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021"

According to a new report titled "Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021" released by Asian Development Bank, COVID-19 pandemic has pushed an estimated 75 million to 80 million people in developing Asia into extreme poverty as compared to what would have happened without COVID-19.

4) Safe Cities Index 2021

Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark, has been named as the world's safest city from among 60 global cities, in Safe Cities Index 2021, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Yangon is at the bottom of the index, as least safe city, with a score of 39.5. New Delhi (48th) and Mumbai (50th) have found a place in the index.

NATIONAL

1) Highest ever fair & remunerative price for sugarcane

Union cabinet has approved the highest ever fair & remunerative price for sugarcane farmers. FRP for sugarcane has been increased to Rs 290 per quintal for 2021-22. FRP is the minimum price at which sugarcane is purchased by sugar mills from farmers.

2) e-Sharm portal

The labour ministry is set to launch a National Database for Unorganised Workers or e-Sharm portal. This portal will help in bringing millions of unorganised workers in India on a common platform. e-Sharm portal will be a single-point reference that will help authorities to reach out to and track workers across informal sector. It will also offer welfare in times of crisis.

3) Operation Devi Shakti

Operation Devi Shakti name has been given by India to its operation of evacuating its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan. External affairs minister S Jaishankar called the evacuation process

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as 'Operation Devi Shakti' while saluting the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) India's exports to ASEAN to be at \$46 billion in FY22

According to Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel, India is likely to export USD 46 billion to ASEAN in financial year 2022. India and ASEAN have large share of skilled population, robust service as well as manufacturing sectors. They also have several complementary sectors and products that can help in greater cooperation.

2) Cushman & Wakefield's 2021 Global Manufacturing Risk Index

India has emerged as a global manufacturing hub and effectively surpassed the United States to become the world's second most desired manufacturing destination. This indicates the growing interest in India by manufacturers as a preferred manufacturing hub over other countries including the United States and the manufacturing giant nation, China.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1) Evidence of Solar-Driven Change traced on moon

A study led by scientists at Northern Arizona University has highlighted clues to help in understanding the active lunar surface. Researchers have found that solar radiation is the more significant source of lunar iron nanoparticles than it was earlier thought.

2) Pakistan conducted a successful test flight of Fatah-1

Fatah-1 is a Pakistan-made guided multi-launch rocket system. It is capable of delivering conventional warheads up to a range of 140 kilometres. This new weapons system will equip the military with the capability to strike deep into enemy territory.

3) Krivak class stealth frigates

According to head of United Shipbuilding Corporation of Russia, first of two additional Krivak class stealth frigates, which are being built by Russia, is likely to be delivered to India by 2023. Frigate is a type of warship that was built for speed and maneuverability. These could be warships that carry their principal batteries of carriage-mounted guns on a single deck or two decks.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Abhay Kumar Singh

Abhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as joint secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation. This ministry was recently formed with an aim to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country. Singh, a 2004-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Bihar cadre

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Sri Basava International Award

Karnataka government has selected Sri Basavalinga Pattaddevaru, senior seer of Bhalki Hiremath, for the prestigious Sri Basava International Award. Minister for Kannada and Culture V. Sunil Kumar will present the award at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru.

OBITUARY

1) Syed Shahid Hakim

Syed Shahid Hakim, former India footballer and member of the last national team that played in the 1960 Rome Olympics, passed away. Hakim 'saab', as he was popularly known, was 82 years old. Hakim has been a FIFA badge holder international referee having officiated in Asian Club Cup games and was also conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Award.