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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

BANKING

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APPOINTMENT

Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera assumes charge as DG of Assam Rifles

Lieutenant General **Vikas Lakhera**, AVSM, SM has officially assumed the role of the **22nd director general** of the **Assam Rifles** – the oldest paramilitary force in India, often referred to as the “**Sentinels of the Northeast**”.



CONFERENCE

PM Modi to inaugurate 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)



- ❖ The **six-day triennial conference** organized by the **International Association of Agricultural Economists** on August 3rd 2024 in **New Delhi**, an event which is being held in India after 65 years.
- ❖ Theme - “**Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems**”.
- ❖ The conference will witness participation of around 1,000 delegates from around 75 countries.
- ❖ It aims to tackle the pressing need for sustainable agriculture in the face of global challenges such as **climate change, natural resource degradation, rising production costs and conflicts**.
- ❖ The ICAE 2024 will serve as a platform for young researchers and leading professionals to present their work and network with global peers.

INITIATIVE & SCHEME

India commits \$85 million to WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre

- ❖ India has committed **\$85 million** over **10 years** (2022–2032), to support the programming of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Traditional Medicine Centre.
- ❖ In March 2022, an agreement was signed between the **Ministry of Ayush** and **WHO** to establish the **Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** - world's first at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ This global knowledge centre for traditional medicine supported by an investment of **USD 250 million from India**, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet.



NCERT Proposes 10 Bagless Days for School Students 6 – 8

- ❖ The **National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** released guidelines for the implementation of **bagless days for classes 6 to 8** in an effort to make learning in schools **more experiential and stress-free**.
- ❖ Developed by **Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education**, the vocational education unit of the NCERT, the guidelines come after the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

Govt launched cashless treatment scheme for road crash victims

- ❖ **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has formulated a scheme and initiated implementation on pilot basis in **Chandigarh** and **Assam** to provide **cashless treatment to victims of road accidents** caused by use of motor vehicle, on any category of road, in collaboration with **National Health Authority (NHA)**.
- ❖ Victims entitled to cashless treatment up to **Rs. 1.5 lakhs per accident per person** for a **maximum period of 7 days** from date of accident.
- ❖ Applicable to all road accidents caused by use of motor vehicle on any category of road.
- ❖ The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the pilot program, in coordination with police, hospitals, State Health Agency (SHA) etc.
- ❖ This scheme is managed by the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, which was established under **Section 164B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

HONORS

KIIT University Granted UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha has been granted the distinguished **Special Consultative Status** by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**UN ECOSOC**) recognizing the University's substantial contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**).



KIIT Deemed-to-be University
Achieves Prestigious
UN ECOSOC
Special Consultative Status

REPORT

US has become Second Largest Supplier of LNG in India

- ❖ In 2023, the **United States** emerged as **India's second-largest supplier** of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, surpassing the **United Arab Emirates** delivering **3.09 million tonnes (MT)** in 2023.
- ❖ **Qatar** remained the largest supplier with shipments in 2023.

TECHNOLOGY

Zomato to launch new app 'District' to capture its 'going-out' market

- ❖ **Zomato** is launching the **'District' app** to consolidate various going-out services like **dining, movies, sports ticketing, live performances, shopping and stay cations**.
- ❖ The **'District' app** positions Zomato as a competitor to platforms like **BookMyShow** and aligns with their strategy to become a comprehensive one-stop destination for various going-out activities.

Price Monitoring System Mobile App 4.0 launched to curb inflation

- ❖ The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** launched **Version 4.0** of the **Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile App**, adding **16 new commodities** for daily price monitoring, totaling **38 items**, from **550 centers across 34 States/UTs**.
- ❖ The price data monitored by the Department provides advance inputs for policy decision for the Government, RBI and analysts regarding the CPI inflation.
- ❖ Government of India has, in recent past, taken series of measures to contain food price inflation.
- ❖ These includes providing **Bharat Chana Dal at Rs.60 per kg, Bharat Atta at Rs.27.50 per kg and Bharat Rice at Rs.29 per kg** to the retail consumers.

NPCI Re-established Connectivity with C-Edge Technologies After Security Review

- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) re-established the retail payment connections of banks that were using **C-Edge systems** on August 1st after the technology provider was hit by a **ransomware attack**.
- ❖ The impact was limited to just **200 co-operatives** and **regional rural banks**.
- ❖ **C-Edge**, a joint venture between State Bank of India (SBI) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is a technology service provider that offers services to **cooperative** and **regional rural banks**.



NPCI connectivity with C-Edge Technologies re-established.



NPCI connectivity with C-Edge Technologies re-established

1 August 2024 : NPCI connectivity with C-Edge Technologies Ltd. has been re-established following security review by an independent forensic auditing firm. Investigation confirms that the impacted systems have been isolated by C-Edge to contain potential spread of the ransomware. Further, necessary security review and scans have been conducted by the auditor to ensure that rest of the infrastructure is clean.

The impact was limited to C-Edge systems hosted in their data center and not on any of the co-operative banks or regional rural banks' own infrastructure. The services of co-operative banks and regional rural banks, which were dependent on C-Edge, have now been restored. With this, respective banks shall be able to offer full range of services seamlessly to their customers, as it was before.

Microsoft's GitHub launches playground for AI models



- ❖ Microsoft's developer platform **GitHub** has announced **GitHub Models**, an interactive sandbox environment for developers and engineers to explore different AI models for free.
- ❖ Leading models like **Meta AI's Llama 3.1**, **OpenAI's GPT-4o** and **GPT-4o mini**, **Mistral AI's Mistral Large 2** and **Cohere's Command** will be among the options available.

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