

(4th October 2024)

International

Israeli Airstrikes Displace Nearly 1.2 Million People in Lebanon

In Lebanon, the total number of displaced persons has risen to nearly 1.2 million due to Israeli airstrikes. Israel's bombardment has been especially intense in the south of the country. According to a report released by the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Lebanese Council of Ministers, most displaced individuals have relocated to their homes in other areas, stayed with family, rented accommodations, or found shelter in public or private spaces, while thousands of others travelled by air or crossed into Syria.

UN Chief Antonio Guterres Commends India for Troop Contributions to Lebanon Peacekeeping

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed deep appreciation for India and other countries contributing troops to the peacekeeping operation in Lebanon, where they face dangers from a growing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Nearly 900 Indian troops are with the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is deployed along the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon.

India Becomes Affiliate Member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum

India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), which will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide. This membership will also enable Indian medical device manufacturers to meet the regulatory requirements of IMDRF member countries. The IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the

adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence.

International Film Festival on Environment & Wildlife 'Vatavaran' Inaugurated

The International Film Festival and Forum on Environment and Wildlife, Vatavaran, was inaugurated at Paryavaran Bhawan in New Delhi. The theme for the three-day film festival is 'Wetlands for life', focusing on the awareness and conservation of the wetlands eco-system. Around 6 per cent of Indians are directly dependent on wetlands for livelihood, which makes their conservation even more vital.

National

India, U.S. Sign MoU on Critical Mineral Supply Chains

In a new pact involving battery mineral supply chain, India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal signed an agreement with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo to cooperate on strengthening supply chains in India and US for lithium, cobalt and other critical minerals. The MoU deals with minerals that are majorly used in electric vehicles and clean energy applications.

Eight Products Used by Assam Tribe Granted GI Tag

The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to eight products from the Assam region, including traditional food items and several unique varieties of rice beer. The application for GI tags for three variants of rice beer was filed by the Bodo Traditional Brewers Association. The first variant, 'Bodo Jou Gwran', has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%). The second variant, 'Maibra Jou Bidwi', known locally as 'Maibra Jwu Bidwi' or 'Maibra Zwu Bidwi', is revered and served as a welcome drink by most Bodo tribes.

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The third variant, called 'Bodo Jou Gishi', is also a traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage.

Additionally, the Association of Traditional Food Products obtained GI tags for four iconic dishes. The dishes include Napham, Ondla, Gwkha, and Narzi.

Cabinet Approves Classical Language Status for Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit

The Union Cabinet has approved classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit. The primary states involved are Maharashtra (Marathi), Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (Pali and Prakrit), West Bengal (Bengali), and Assam (Assamese). The broader cultural and academic impact will extend nationally and internationally.

The Government of India decided to create a new category of languages as 'classical languages' on October 12, 2004, declaring Tamil as a classical language, and thereafter, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia languages were given classical language status.

Centre Brings Agriculture Sector Initiatives Under Two Schemes

The Union Cabinet has decided to merge all Central schemes in the agriculture sector into two new schemes, Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY). With a projected expenditure of ₹ 1,01,321.61 crore, the schemes will have a Central share of ₹ 69,088.98 crore and the states will have to add the remaining ₹32,232.63 crore.

PM-RKVY, with an allocation of ₹57,074.72 crore, is aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and KY will address food security and agricultural self-sufficiency, with a fund of ₹44,246.89 crore. Both the schemes will be implemented through state governments.

Marital Relations Must be Exempt From Rape Provisions: Centre

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that punishing non-consensual sexual acts by a man with his own wife as 'rape' will impact conjugal relationship and lead to "serious disturbances" in the institution of marriage. The Central Government said it was reasonable to exempt the relationship of marriage from "drastic penal and procedural rigours" of the rape provisions of the IPC.

Piyush Goyal & US Commerce Secretary Co-Chair India-US CEO Forum

nion Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo have jointly chaired the India-U.S. CEO Forum held in Washington D.C., USA. The India-U.S. CEO Forum was convened as a platform to allow private sector members to develop and provide recommendations to the Indian and US governments. The Forum works in tandem with and provides inputs to the government-to-government U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue.

This is the third time the Forum has been convened since its reconstitution in November 2022 by the Indian and US governments.

Aero India to Be Held in Bengaluru From February 10

The Defence Ministry had announced dates for the next edition of Aero India, held biennially in Bengaluru. Aero India 2025 is scheduled to be held from February 10 to 14. Aero India and DefExpo are two major exhibitions that attracts global and Indian defence manufacturers and several official delegations and held alternate years. While Aero India has always been held in Bengaluru, over the years DefExpo has moved to several locations.

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Alexander Dunn Wins the 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for Mathematics

The 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize has been awarded to Alexander Dunn of the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, for his outstanding contributions to mathematics. The prize, established in honor of the renowned Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, recognizes young mathematicians who have made significant impacts in fields inspired by Ramanujan's work, such as number theory and mathematical analysis. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is presented annually by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in Tamil Nadu, India.

Business and Economy

Farmers Earn Less Than 40% in Case of Fruits, Vegetables

As per the various working papers released by the RBI, middlemen and retailers have cornered a large part of the price paid by consumers, thus profiteering at the cost of farmers, during the time of high inflation in case of fruits and vegetables.

Farmers are found to have earned far less share of the consumer rupee in the case of fruits, including banana, grapes and mangoes, and essential vegetables such as tomatoes, onions and potatoes, while their share was much higher in case of dairy and poultry farming and in case of pulses.

Utkarsh SFB Introduces Credit Card, WhatsApp Banking

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd. (Utkarsh SFB) has launched two new products: SuperCard (Credit Card) and WhatsApp Banking for the convenience of its

customers. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank's SuperCard offers a host of benefits, ranging from exclusive rewards to instant payments, designed to meet the modern lifestyle needs. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank's WhatsApp Banking service provides a convenient and secure way for customers to manage their accounts and perform various banking transactions.

The lender also announced Mary Kom and Sunil Chhetri as its new brand ambassadors.

Sports

BWF World Junior Mixed Team C'ships: India Enter Quarters

India beat Turkiye in its last Group E clash 110-99 to top the group and secure a quarterfinals berth in the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships in Nanchang, China. India will face Indonesia in the quarterfinals.

Badminton World Federation (BWF) has introduced the relay scoring system for the first time in the World Junior Mixed Team Championships in which the winning team has to reach 110 points in 10 matches to clinch the tie.

Women's T20 World Cup: ICC Launches AI Tool to Shield Players From 'Toxic Content'

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced a social media moderation tool at the Women's T20 World Cup to protect the cricket community from toxic content and create a safer and more inclusive online environment for players and fans.

The tournament started in Sharjah on Thursday, with the final slated in Dubai on October 20.