

2021-Daily CA APP-August 28

International

India elected to Council of Administration at 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan



India has been elected to the Council of Administration (CA) at 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Abidjan. India with 134 votes got highest votes in CA elections from South Asia and Oceania region. India was also elected with 106 votes out of 156 countries to the Postal Operations Council (POC).

Japan suspends use of about 1.63 million doses of Moderna vaccine due to contamination



Japan has suspended the use of about 1.63 million doses of the Moderna vaccine due to contamination. The Health Ministry said, foreign materials were found in some doses of a batch of roughly 5,60,000 vials. Takeda Pharmaceutical, which sells and distributes the vaccine in Japan, said Moderna had put three batches on hold out of an abundance of caution.

Indian astrophysicists spot rare merger of three jumbo black holes



A rare merging of three supermassive black holes has been spotted by a team of astrophysicists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), working with Professor Francoise Combes from the Paris Observatory. This is only the third time such an event has been observed and the findings were published as a letter in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics in June. The team was observing the merging of two galaxies — NGC7733 and NGC7734 — when they detected unusual emissions from the centre of the latter.

National

India adds 557 new species to faunal wealth



India has added 557 new species to its fauna, which includes 407 new species and 150 new records, reveals Animal Discoveries 2020, a document published recently by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The number of faunal species in India has climbed to 1,02,718 species with the discovery of the new species. Of these 557 species, invertebrates represent the bulk with 486 species, whereas 71 species belong to vertebrates. Among invertebrates, bugs dominated, with 344 species, whereas pisces and reptiles dominated amongst vertebrates.

Among the States, the very best quantity of new species had been found from Karnataka (66 species), adopted by Kerala (51 species). Also in 2020, 46 new species had been found from Rajasthan and 30 from West Bengal.

NITI Aayog, Cisco roll out WEPNxt to nurture women entrepreneurship in India



NITI Aayog and US-based multinational firm Cisco launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). The next phase of the WEP, known as WEPNxt, will utilise Cisco's

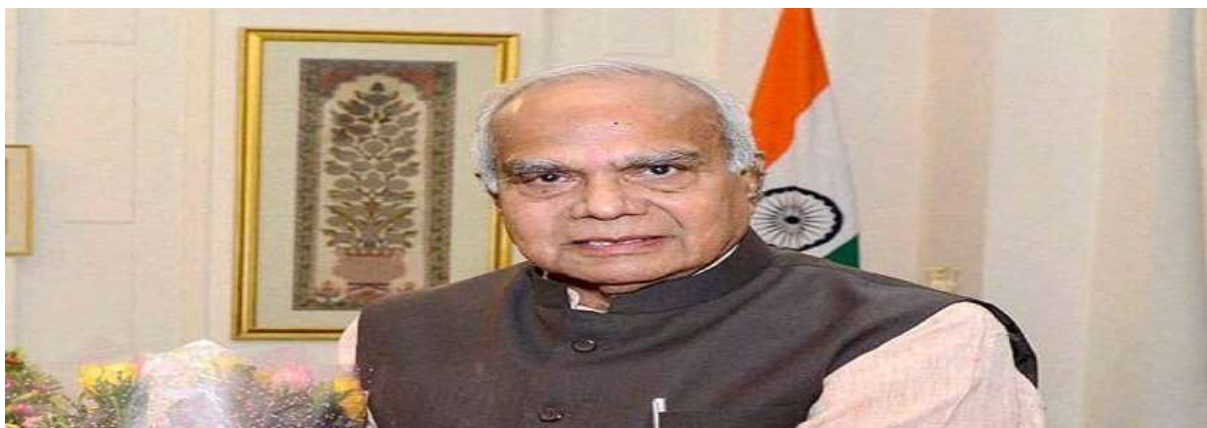
technology and experience of working with Indian startup ecosystem to enable more businesses owned by women all over India. Under this initiative, Cisco will collaborate with Nasscom Foundation, DeAsra Foundation and Sattva Consulting to enable technology-led experiences and engagements for addressing the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs both at individual and enterprise levels while creating new growth opportunities. WEP is a one-of-its-kind, unified portal, which is focused on providing women from different backgrounds with access to resources, support and learning.

Niti Aayog Releases NER District SDG Index Report; East Sikkim Tops Chart



East Sikkim has topped in terms of meeting sustainable development goals in the Niti Aayog's North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report 2021-22 and Nagaland's Kiphire featured at the bottom, as per the specified parameters. It was the release of the first edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER). The index measures the performance of the districts of the eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their corresponding targets and ranks the districts based on the same.

Tamil Nadu Governor given additional charge of Punjab



Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has been given the additional charge of Punjab. He will also officiate as Chandigarh Administrator. Earlier, V P Singh Badnore was the governor of Punjab and the administrator of Chandigarh.

Pay fees for COVID orphans, SC tells States



The Supreme Court of India has ordered the State governments to bear the private school fees of children who have lost both or one parent during the pandemic for the current academic year in case the schools refused to waive it. A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose underscored that the states have the obligation to facilitate the education of such children, as per the mandate of Article 21A of the Constitution of India.

Banking and Economy

RBI prices Series VI Gold Bond at Rs. 4,732



The issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from August 30, has been fixed at Rs 4,732 per gram of gold, the RBI said. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series VI will be open for subscription for the period August 30 to September 3, 2021. The bonds are sold through banks (except small finance banks and payment banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE.

Earlier, the government had announced issuance of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) in six tranches from May 2021 to September 2021. The RBI issues the bonds on behalf of the Government of India.

IBC: Govt. working with RBI on CoC's conduct



The corporate affairs ministry is working with the finance ministry, Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on the issue of the conduct of the committee of creditors under the insolvency resolution process. The role of Committee of Creditors (CoC) is crucial in deciding a resolution plan under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which provides for a market-linked framework for resolving stressed assets.

India-Australia aim for 'early harvest' trade pact by Dec.



The trade ministers of India and Australia have agreed to speed up trade negotiations with an aim to reach an interim 'early harvest' pact by December for liberalising the bilateral flow of goods and services. Under an early harvest pact, two trading partners reduce or eliminate customs duties on a limited number of goods traded between them, while in a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) the reduction and elimination happen on a maximum number of items.

The bilateral trade between the countries stood at USD 12.3 billion in 2020-21 as compared to USD 12.64 billion in 2019-20.

Sports

Bhavina becomes the first paddler to win a medal



Bhavina Patel scripted history by becoming the first Indian table tennis player to secure a medal at the Tokyo Paralympics. She entered semifinals with a stunning win over World No. 5 Rankovic, guarantees at least a bronze.

GM Sethuraman wins Barcelona Open



Indian Grandmaster S.P. Sethuraman won the Barcelona Open chess tournament title while compatriot Karthikeyan Murali finished third. Sethuraman (Elo 2644) collected 7.5 points from nine rounds to emerge winner on the basis of a better tie-break score after Daniil Yuffa of Russia also finished level with the Indian player. In the ninth and final round, Sethuraman beat Hakobyan in a Catalan Closed variation game.

Asian junior championships: Three Indians in finals



Three Indian boxers — Tanu (52kg), Nikita Chand (60kg) and Vishu Rathee (48kg) have stormed into the finals of the Asian junior championships in Dubai with dominating victories in their last-four stage bouts. However, Ashis (54kg) and Anshul (57kg) ended with bronze medals.

Sania enters semifinals



Sania Mirza, in partnership with Christina McHale of the US, knocked out the third seeds Lucie Hradecka and Shuai Zhang 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$235,238 WTA tennis tournament. Mirza and McHale will take on Norway's Ulrikke Eikeri and American Catherine Harrison in the semifinals.