

Germany: Leaders agree to provide financial support for Ukrainian refugees



In Germany, leaders have agreed on a package to support and integrate refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. This includes access to job centers and language courses.

In a statement, Chancellor Scholz said that the federal government would provide 2.17 billion dollars in support of Germany's states for accommodating and integrating Ukrainian refugees.

He further said that refugees from Ukraine will be able to receive basic welfare benefits in Germany as of June 1st.

On the other hand, Canada has increased financial support for Ukraine as the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveiled its new federal budget.

Saudi Arabia to allow one million pilgrims to perform Hajj this year



Saudi Arabia announced that it will allow one million pilgrims to perform the Hajj pilgrimage this year. Muslims from within and outside the country will be able to perform the Hajj as long as they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and are under the age of 65. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only a few thousand domestic pilgrims were permitted to perform the Hajj last year.

According to the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, pilgrims from abroad will also have to present a negative COVID-19 PCR test and will face additional health precautions.

The Hajj is one of Islam's five pillars and a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for all able-bodied Muslims who can afford it.

World Homeopathy Day: 10th April



World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. Hahnemann, born in Paris in 1755, founded this branch of medicine and is considered the father of Homeopathy.

This year, the theme for World Homeopathy Day 2022 in India is 'People's Choice For Wellness.' The theme, like every year, is decided by the Ministry of AYUSH.

Union Culture Minister inaugurates 62nd National Exhibition of Arts and SNA Awardee Performance Festival



Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the 62nd National Exhibition of Arts at Lalit Kala Akademi Gallery and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Performance Festival yesterday evening at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi also graced the event.

On this occasion, Mr Reddy and Ms Lekhi felicitated the fellows and awardees and released the 62nd N.E.A catalogue and also launched the New Website of Lalit Kala Akademi. Chairman of Lalit Kala Academy Ms. Uma Nanduri and other dignitaries were also present on this occasion.

Indian Army, DRDO successfully flight test Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition rocket system



Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System EPRS and Pinaka Area Denial Munition ADM rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges. A total of 24 EPRS rockets were fired for different ranges during the last fortnight. Required accuracy and consistency was achieved by the rockets meeting all trial objectives satisfactorily. With these trails, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials or series production of the rocket system.

The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.

President Kovind inaugurates National Conference on Mediation and Information Technology at Kevadia, Gujarat



President Ram Nath Kovind has called for scientific training and other steps for wider acceptance of mediation before and even after the litigations. He said that information and technology has played a crucial role in judiciary during the difficult time of pandemic.

Mr Kovind was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the National Conference on Mediation and Information Technology organized by the High Court of Gujarat at Kevadia in Narmada district.

Tax collections touch all time high of 27 lakh crore rupees in financial year 2021-22



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The Finance Ministry has said that tax collections during financial year 2021-22 has crossed 27 lakh crore rupees. This is five lakh crore rupees more than Budget Estimates of 22 lakh crore rupees and around 34 per cent more than in financial year 2020-21. Briefing media in New Delhi, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said, growth has been registered in the collection of Corporation Tax, Direct Tax and Indirect Tax.

Mr Bajaj said, the country's economy is showing resilience after the COVID pandemic and the tax collection has been robust in the last fiscal year resulting in growth in direct and indirect taxes. Ministry said, 49 per cent growth has been registered in direct tax collection and 20 per cent in indirect tax collection during the financial year 2021-22. Mr. Bajaj said, last fiscal year marks the highest tax-GDP ratio of 11.7 per cent.

ICCR launches India Alumni Portal for foreign students



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, ICCR, launched an India Alumni Portal in New Delhi. It is a platform to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi launched the portal in the presence of ICCR president Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde.

It is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to build an India alumni network to engage them and keep them connected and updated on a dynamic India so they can be the bridges of friendship.

Govt returns bank guarantees worth Rs 15,000 crore to Vodafone Idea



The Department of Telecommunication has returned bank guarantees worth Rs 15,000 crore to Vodafone Idea (Vi).

This is in line with last year's telecom reforms package which reduced bank guarantee requirements for licence fee and spectrum dues. Vi confirmed the return of guarantee but did not comment on the amount.

While guarantees worth Rs 2000 crore related to licence fee was returned to Vi earlier, spectrum related guarantees amounting to around Rs 15,000 crore were returned a few days back.

The Rs 15,000 crore bank guarantee pertains to spectrum auctions between 2012-16. Vi has opted for a four year moratorium on payment of the dues and thus existing bank guarantee pertaining to the auction has been returned.

RBI imposes penalties of Rs 93 lakh each on Axis and IDBI Bank



Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 93 lakh on Axis Bank for various violations, including those related to KYC guidelines.

The central bank has also slapped a fine of Rs 93 lakh on IDBI Bank.

A monetary penalty of Rs 93 lakh has been imposed on Axis Bank for non-compliance of certain directions issued by RBI, the regulator said in a release.

The private sector lender violated certain provisions on loans and advances, Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and 'levy of penal charges non-maintenance of minimum balances in savings bank accounts', it added.

IDBI Bank has been penalised for non-compliance of directions on 'frauds - classification and reporting by commercial banks and select financial institutions'.

FIH Junior Women's World Cup: India beat South Korea 3-0 to enter semifinals



The Indian women's Hockey team entered the semifinals of the FIH Junior World Cup by beating South Korea 3-0 in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

The Indians, continued their unbeaten run and topped the pool stage with an all-win record, scored through Mumtaz Khan in the 11th minute, Lalrindiki 15th minute and Sangita Kumari 41st minute to emerge winners in the quarterfinal match.

India's best result in the tournament remains the bronze medal finish at the 2013 edition in Monchengladbach, Germany, where they defeated England 3-2 in shootout following a 1-1 stalemate in regulation time.

Thailand Open: Amit, Sumit and Ananta storm into finals



Three Indian pugilists, including world championship silver medallist Amit Panghal, punched their way into the finals of the Thailand Open tournament in Phuket.

Panghal (52kg), Ananta Pralhad (54kg) and Sumit (75kg) assured India of at least a silver as they advanced to the finals. Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg), on the other hand, signed off with bronze medals after losing their respective semifinal bouts.

Seven Indian boxers will fight for gold as Ashish Kumar (81kg), Monika (48kg), Govind Sahani (48kg) and Varinder Singh (60kg) had entered the finals of their respective events.

FIH Women's Hockey Pro League: Indian team loses to second string Netherlands in shootout



FIH Women's Hockey Pro League, India lost to the Netherlands 1-3 in a shootout, in the second match in Bhubaneswar. Both sides were locked 1-1 at the end of the regulated time. Rajwinder Kaur scored in the first minute of the match and the Dutch side equalised it in the 53rd minute with the goal of Captain Jansen Yibbi.

India had won the first match, 2-1, the first over the world champions in over a decade.