

Ukraine and Russia sign UN-backed deal to allow export of grain from Black Sea ports



Ukraine and Russia have signed an UN-backed deal to allow the export of millions of tonnes of grain from blockaded Black Sea ports. The agreement potentially averted the threat of a catastrophic global food crisis.

A signing ceremony at Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul was attended by UN secretary general António Guterres, who had played a key role during months of tense negotiations. The delegates of Russia and Ukraine were also present. Mr. Guterres said that the deal would open the way to significant volumes of food exports from Ukraine and alleviate a parallel food and economic crisis in the developing world.

Asian Development Bank cuts China's growth forecast to 4% in 2022



Asian Development Bank (ADB) has cut its growth forecast for China to 4 percent in 2022 instead of 5 percent due to concerns over the country's zero-Covid approach and strict lockdowns. These measures has deepened the crisis in the already battered real estate sector reeling from the high level of debts and mortgage defaults.

In its Asian Development Outlook, ADB said China's continued adherence to a zero-covid strategy in response to renewed outbreaks early in 2022 has triggered the reimposition of strict lockdowns. Amid a slowdown in China, ADB cut Asia's growth forecast to 4.6 percent as the prolonged war in Ukraine has pushed commodity prices higher and triggered monetary tightening by many central banks to control inflation. By 2023, ADB lowered its economic growth projection for developing Asia and the Pacific region to 5.2 percent from 5.3 percent, while raising the inflation forecast to 3.5 percent from 3.1 percent.

ICJ rejects Myanmar objection to trial of genocide case over treatment of Rohingya



The International Court of Justice (ICJ) set aside Myanmar's objection to the trial of genocide case involving Rohingyas of the country. Now the case filed by Gambia will be heard by the ICJ in full. Myanmar had raised objections to the jurisdiction of the ICJ as well as Gambia for the trial of the case.

Rejecting Myanmar's argument the ICJ said that all members of the 1948 Genocide Convention can and are obliged to act to prevent genocide, and the court has jurisdiction in the case. The Gambia as the party to the Genocide convention has standing, said the ICJ.

Gambia has alleged that the Myanmar army indulged in genocide of the Rohingya community in what it called a 'clearance operation'. A separate fact-finding committee of the UN concluded that the 2017 military campaign forced more than 7.3 lakh Rohingyas to flee Myanmar to neighbouring Bangladesh, reports Reuters.

French National Assembly passes bill to help voters cope with soaring prices



In French, the government took a step forward to boost household purchasing power amid soaring inflation as the National Assembly passed a bill lifting pensions and temporarily freezing rent hikes. Securing 341 votes for the bill, with 116 against, the government was backed by Les Republicains and the far-right Rassemblement National, while Nupes lawmakers did not vote for it. The late-night vote followed heated debates in which politicians of the left-wing Nupes alliance, the largest opposition bloc, criticised the government for measures they said did not go far enough.

The expected budget cost is about 20 billion Euros. Last month, France saw inflation of 6.5 per cent on the year, in line with other Euro Zone countries.

World Fragile X Awareness Day: 22nd July



World **FRAGILE X** Day

The World Fragile X Awareness Day is marked on 22 July every year to celebrate families impacted by Fragile X and highlight the progress of research to find a cure. On this day, communities around the world come together to shine a light on Fragile X, by illuminating monuments and landmarks globally. Fragile X syndrome causes mild to severe intellectual disability. It affects both males and females, but females usually have milder symptoms. Symptoms include delays in talking, anxiety and hyperactive behaviour. Some people have seizures. Physical features might include large ears, a long face, a prominent jaw and forehead and flat feet.

National Broadcasting Day: 23rd July



National Broadcasting Day is observed on July 23 in India. The day aims to remind Indian citizens about the impact of radio on our lives. Akashvani or All India Radio (AIR) is India's homegrown national radio broadcasting service which reaches millions of homes across the nation.

AIR is a division of Prasar Bharati which was previously under government control but is an autonomous body now, set up by an Act of parliament.

India's merchandise exports in first six months of 2022 jump about 27% to 235 billion dollars



India's merchandise exports during the first six months of the calendar year 2022 jumped about 27 per cent to 235 billion dollars, compared with 185.9 billion dollars a year ago. The country's imports during January-June 2022 stood at 361.1 billion dollars, against 258.6 billion in the corresponding period last year.

The total merchandise export was 421.9 billion dollars during 2021-22 against the export target of 400 billion dollars, achieving 105.4 per cent of the export target. Barring a few sectors, all major sectors during the January-June 2022 showed a positive trend with an overall growth rate of 26.7 per cent.

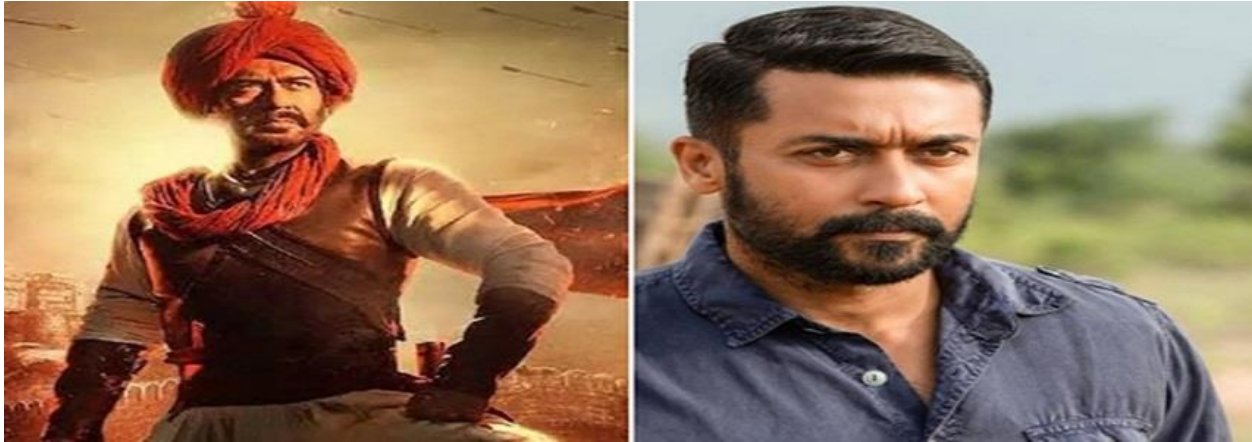
Third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Ghana held in New Delhi



The third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Ghana was held in New Delhi. During the Consultations, both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations covering political, economic, defence, cultural and capacity-building matters. They discussed ways to further strengthen the close bilateral ties between India and Ghana. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of interest and agreed to enhance their cooperation in the multilateral fora.

The bilateral trade during 2021-22 was 2.60 billion dollars. India is one of the largest investors in Ghana, and Indian companies had invested over 1.7 billion dollars in Ghana over 730 projects in diverse sectors including construction, manufacturing, trading, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, services, and tourism.

68th National Film Awards: Actor Ajay Devgan and Suriya jointly bags best actor award; I&B Minister congratulates winners



Bollywood actor Ajay Devgan and Tamil actor Suriya have jointly bagged the National Film Award for the year 2020 for best actor for their roles in *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* and *Soorarai Pottru*. Aparna Balamurali won the award of best actress for her role in the Tamil film *Soorarai Pottru*.

The 68th National Film Awards were announced by Information and Broadcasting Ministry today. The awards in different categories including Non - Feature Films and Feature Films were announced by Chairperson, Non-Feature Jury Chittratha Singh, Chairperson, Best Writing on Cinema Jury Anant Vijay, and Feature Film Jury Member Dharam Gulati in presence of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Neerja Shekhar in New Delhi.

The award for Best Hindi film went to *Toolsidas Junior* and award for Best Feature Film was given to *Soorarai Pottru*. *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* won the Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. *Testimony of Ana* bagged the Best Non-Feature Film award. Vishal Bhardwaj bagged the Best Music Direction award for '*1232 Kilometers Mareng To Wahin Jaakar*'. Best film on Social Issues award went to '*Justice Delayed but Delivered*' and *Three Sisters*. The award of Best Female Playback Singer was won by Nanchamma for the film *AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum* and Rahul Deshpande was adjudged as Best Male Playback Singer.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav meets UK COP26 President Alok Sharma in New Delhi



Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav met UK COP26 President Alok Sharma in New Delhi. Both leaders discussed how India and the UK can continue working together to deliver the Glasgow Climate Pact and how India-UK collaboration on climate action can be strengthened under the 2030 Roadmap. The Minister reiterated India's commitments to the ambitious targets announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the form of five nectar elements "Panchamrit" including the ambitious target of 500 GW of non-fossil energy. He thanked UK for joining India to launch One Sun One World One Grid initiative at COP26.

RBI imposes restrictions, including on withdrawals, on four cooperative banks



The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions, including on withdrawals, on four cooperative banks in view of their deteriorating financial positions. These four banks include Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank in Maharashtra, The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank Ltd at Suri in West Bengal along with two banks from Uttar Pradesh including United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor and National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bahraich.

A depositor of Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank cannot withdraw more than 20,000 rupees from the bank while the withdrawal limit for The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank is 50,000 rupees. In the case of National Urban Co-operative Bank, the limit of withdrawal has been capped at 10,000 rupees per customer. The RBI has also imposed several restrictions on United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor, including a ban on withdrawals of funds by customers. The directions issued by the RBI to these four cooperative banks under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, will remain in force for six months.

Prashant Jain, MF industry's poster boy, quits HDFC AMC after 19-year stint



Prashant Jain, the poster boy for the Rs 38-trillion domestic mutual fund (MF) industry, has quit HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) after 19 years. He was serving as chief investment officer (CIO) at the country's third-largest fund house, overseeing assets of more than Rs 4 trillion.

Jain, an alumnus of IIT Kanpur and IIM Bangalore, has been replaced by Chirag Setalvad, who will be head of equities, and Shobhit Mehrotra, who will helm the fixed-income segment. Both will report to Navneet Munot, managing director and chief executive officer of the company.

India beat West Indies by 3 runs in first ODI to take 1-0 lead in three-match series



In Cricket, India defeated West Indies by 3 runs in the first ODI of three-match series at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain. Chasing a victory target of 309, West Indies scored 305 for 6 in the last ball thriller. Kyle Mayers scored the highest 75 for West Indies while Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur picked up 2 wickets each for India.

Earlier, put in to bat, India scored 308 for 7 wickets in stipulated 50 overs. Shikhar Dhawan's brilliant 97, Subham Gill's 64 and Shreyas Iyer's 54 helped visitors post a massive total. Alzarri Joseph and Gudakesh Motie picked up 2 wickets each for the hosts.

Taipei Open: India's Parupalli Kashyap crash out of Men's Singles quarterfinals



In Badminton, India's Parupalli Kashyap lost to Soong Joo Ven of Malaysia by 12-21, 21-12, 17-21 in the Men's Singles quarterfinals at Taipei Open Badminton.

In Mixed Doubles also, Indian pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto lost to Hoo Pang Ron and Toh Wei of Malaysia by 19-21, 12-21 in quarter-finals.

In Women's Doubles, India's Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra lost to Yoyo Ng Tsz Yau and Yeung Nga Ting of Hong Kong by 16-21, 22-20, 18-21.