

US announces to end policy limiting asylum at US-Mexico border



The United States has announced that it is ending a policy that limited asylum at the US-Mexico border to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) yesterday said it has already taken actions to erect tents and take other steps to prepare for an expected influx of migrants. The CDC order said that the virus is no longer cause for turning away migrants seeking asylum in the U.S.

As per the CDC order, the Department of Homeland Security will provide vaccines to migrants at the border. Last month, CDC officials lifted some of the restrictions ending the limits for children traveling to the border alone. The decision is expected to attract more migrants to the U.S.-Mexico border. The policy, known as the Title 42 Authority, is named for a 1944 Public Health Law to prevent communicable diseases. The policy went into effect under President Donald Trump in March 2020. Since then, migrants trying to enter the U.S. have been expelled several times.

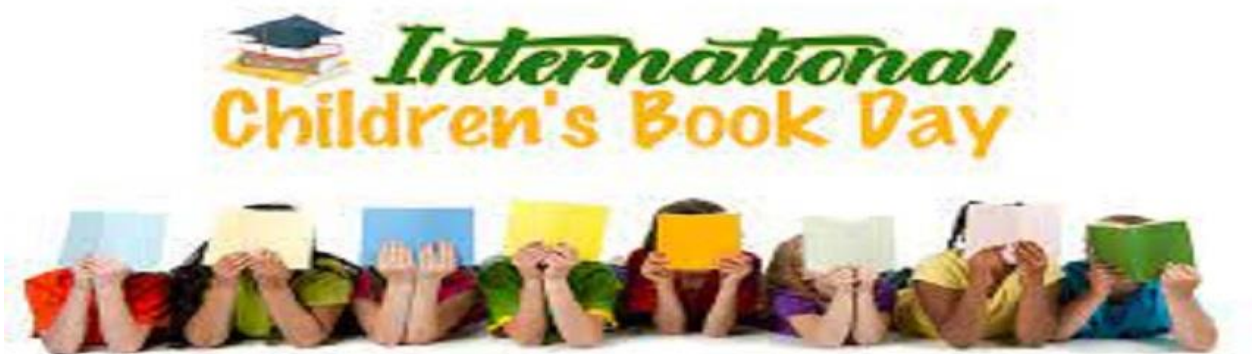
Turkmenistan to promote implementation of stalled 1,800km TAPI gas pipeline



Turkmenistan will promote the implementation of the stalled 1,800km TAPI gas pipeline that will pass through Afghanistan, and Pakistan and culminate in India, according to a joint statement released at the end of a regional conference on Afghanistan held in Tunxi, China.

The announcement which was part of The Tunxi Initiative of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan on Supporting Economic Reconstruction in, and Practical Cooperation with Afghanistan also said that Pakistan will support the probable resumption of work on the TAPI gas pipeline.

International Children's Book: 2nd April



The International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organized annually on the 2nd of April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.

In 2022, Canada is hosting International Children's Book Day with this chosen theme: "Stories are wings that help you soar every day." Every year, a different international section of IBBY hosts a children's books event on or around April 2 (which is the birthday of classic children's book author Hans Christian Andersen).

World Autism Awareness Day: 2nd April



World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on 2nd April by the member states of the United Nations. The day is observed to raise awareness among its citizens about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. World Autism Awareness Day is organized by the UN Department of Global Communications and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of civil society partners including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, the Global Autism Project, and the Specialisterne Foundation.

The theme for 'World Autism Awareness Day 2022' is "Inclusive Quality Education for All".

NMPB prepares draft scheme for promotion of Medicinal Plant Cultivation



National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of Ayush has prepared a draft scheme namely "Pradhan Mantri VRIKSH-AYUSH Yojana" for promotion of Medicinal Plant Cultivation, Post-harvest management and Marketing support by involving farmers and the Ayush industry.

The Minister said that a token amount of Rs. 25 crore was allocated under "Pradhan Mantri VRIKSH-AYUSH Yojana" for the financial Year 2021-22 at the time of Budget Estimate (BE) allocation against the projection of Rs.2,056 crore as the scheme was under consideration. He said the work proposed by the Ministry under aforesaid scheme was to cultivate medicinal plants, establish Post-harvest management units and support market linkages within a budget of Rs. 25 crore.

Govt approves setting up of seven PM MITRA Parks in Greenfield/ Brownfield sites



The government has approved setting up of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield and Brownfield sites. It aims at developing world-class infrastructure including plug and play facilities with an outlay of four thousand 445 crore rupees for a period of seven years upto 2027-28.

PM MITRA Parks sites will be selected from the Preliminary Project Reports (PPRs) received from the State Governments through a challenge matrix by Project Approval Committee.

NARCL chairman Pradip Shah quit before RBI nod: State Bank of India



Pradip Shah, who had taken charge as the chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL), stepped down before the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could approve the proposal, State Bank of India (SBI) said.

Shah, a financial sector veteran, took charge of the NARCL soon after the debt recast firm received the licence from the RBI.

NARCL has been set up by banks to aggregate and consolidate stressed assets for their subsequent resolution. SBI, along with other public sector banks will have 51 per cent stake in NARCL, the government had said.

Torrent Power takes over distribution in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu



Torrent Power announced a formal takeover of the power distribution operations in the Union Territories (UTs) of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, one of the first UTs to be privatised under the government's programme.

Torrent Power will now serve around 150,000 customers in the UTs through a newly formed entity Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (DNHDD Power Distribution Company).

The new entity will see Torrent Power own 51 per cent stake while the administrator of the UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu will own the balance 49 per cent stake.

BoB acquires Union Bank's 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life for ₹766 cr.



Bank of Baroda has acquired Union Bank's 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (IFLIC) for more than ₹766 crore.

The divestment, involving transfer of more than 13.93 crore shares at ₹55 each, was in line with insurance regulator IRDAI's directives to bring down stake in IFLIC to below 10%.

BoB's stake in IFLIC has increased to 65%, while Union Bank of India's share reduced to 9%. The remaining 26% is held by Carmel Point Investments India.

Union Bank, which holds 25.10% stake in Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co., got a 30% stake in IndiaFirst after the amalgamation of Andhra Bank. Towards complying with IRDAI directives, it had made a 'Right of First Offer' to the existing shareholders. BoB said IndiaFirst will continue to have a long-term agency distribution agreement with both BOB and UBI.

Tata Power gets NCLT nod to merge CGPL with itself



Tata Power Ltd. has received approval from the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for the composite scheme of arrangement between Coastal Gujarat Power Limited (CGPL) and Tata Power and their respective shareholders.

CGPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power and operates the 4,000 MW UMPP in Mundra, Gujarat.

The scheme provides for the amalgamation of CGPL with Tata Power and will result in numerous benefits such as streamlining the corporate structure and consolidation of assets and liabilities of CGPL within Tata Power, a more efficient utilisation of capital for the enhanced development and growth of the consolidated business in one entity.

RBI lowers limit for ways and means advances for States to Rs. 47,010 cr.



The Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) has decided that on a review of the limits and keeping in view the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, it has been decided to revert to the WMA limits and timelines for OD for State Governments / UTs as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments. These norms will be effective from April 01, 2022 and are subject to review. The RBI stated that The WMA limit for State Governments/UTs will be Rs 47,010 crore.

The limits for financial accommodation extended by the Reserve Bank of India to State Governments / Union Territories (UTs) through Ways and Means Advances (WMA), Special Drawing Facility (SDF) and Overdraft (OD) schemes were last reviewed and announced in October 2021. Considering the uncertainties related to the ongoing pandemic, it was decided to continue with the higher WMA limit of Rs 51,560 crore for all States, by a further period of six months i.e., up to March 31, 2022.

Lakshmi becomes first woman match-referee in WC final



Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi will become the first woman ever to officiate as match-referee in a World Cup final. This Hyderabad match referee, who was the first woman ever to be appointed in 2019 in the ICC international panel, has been named in the four-member panel for the Sunday's final between England and Australia at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

Incidentally, for the first time in global sport, the title clash will be managed by four women officials. South Africa's Lauren Agenbag and Kim Cotton of New Zealand have been named the two on-field umpires, while West Indies' Jacqueline Williams will officiate as the TV umpire.

According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the 53-year-old Lakshmi also has the distinction of being the first woman match referee in men's ODIs, having stood in the role during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 in the UAE in December 2020.

National weightlifting championships: Ann Mariya M T wins gold medal



Ann Mariya M.T. from Kerala won the women's 87 kilogram gold medal with a National record aggregate of 231 kg on the concluding day of the National weightlifting championships at the KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar.

Ann Mariya lifted one kilogram less than Commonwealth Games gold medalist Purnima Pandey's new snatch record of 104 kg and she tied with eventual third-place finisher Manpreet Kaur's record-breaking clean and jerk effort of 128 kg. However, the Kerala woman totalled two kilograms more than Purnima to emerge champion.