

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Digital MSME Scheme, MoUs with SAP India, Intel and HMT

- It has been celebrated for recognizing the importance of crucial role that the sector plays both in terms of job creation and contribution towards economic growth.
- Digital MSME Scheme and exchange of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with SAP India, Intel and HMT.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

US designates Hizbul chief Syed Salahuddin as global terrorist

- US has designated **Hizbul chief Syed Salahuddin** as a global terrorist
- Both India and the US are facing threats from terrorism across the globe.
- **Salahuddin joins the likes Lashkar chief Hafiz Mohammed Saeed and Dawood Ibrahim** in the list.
- The US public and the international community agree that Mohammad Yusuf Shah, AKA Syed Salahuddin, has committed a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism.

US to declare China among Worst Human Trafficking Offenders

- According to the annual Trafficking in Persons Report the **United States** has declared **China as one among the world's worst offenders on human trafficking** .
- The declaration would place China in the same category as North Korea, Zimbabwe and Syria.
- The US is seeking China's cooperation in combatting North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.
- In this year's report, China has been downgraded to the lowest classification as it had not increased its anti-trafficking efforts from the previous year.
- China will be placed in "**Tier 3**," which will be the ranking system's lowest category.
- Countries listed in this tier are those **who have failed to meet minimum standards to prevent human trafficking**.
- Countries like **Sudan, Iran and Haiti have recently been on that list**.
- Officials of the **Tier-3 countries are also liable to be barred from participating in US government educational and cultural exchange programs**.
- Countries placed on Tier 3 are liable to be penalized with sanctions. It will include the withholding of non-humanitarian aid and assistance that could affect agreements with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Group insurance cover for Amarnath pilgrims raised to Rs 3 lakh

- **Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB)** has announced to enhance the group insurance cover for the pilgrims and service providers from existing **Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh**.
- SASB manages the annual yatra to the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir, Himalayas.
- The supply of power, water, proper installation of baths and toilets and treatment of their flows, dissemination of information through the installation of PA System, maintenance of proper fire gaps, availability of firefighting equipment, etc are also upgraded this year.

Google fined 2.42 billion euros by European Commission

- The fine has been imposed for taking advantage of its dominance in online searches to direct customers to its own online shopping business.
- Under EU antitrust rules Google has done is illegal it denied other companies the chance to compete on the merits and to innovate.
- European regulators gave the company **90 days** to stop or face more fines of up to **5%** of the average daily worldwide revenue of parent company Alphabet.
- Google gave prominent placement in its search results only to its own comparison shopping service, whilst demoting rival services.

Apple acquires SMI eye-tracking company

- **SMI** is a **German-based company specialized in eye-tracking founded in 1991**.
- The company has in recent years turned its expertise toward AR and VR, where eye-tracking data can be used for a wide range of useful things from foveated rendering to avatar eye-mapping.
- The company has demonstrated its eye-tracking solution in the HTC Vive, Oculus Rift, Gear VR, and other head-mounted displays.
- SMI has also offered eye-trackers for desktop applications as well as measurement-only head-worn devices for data collection and analysis.
- Apple plans to **integrate eye-tracking technology into its computers or smartphone**.
- An eye-tracking use-case which has seen little to no consumer adoption, the operative use of the company's tech seems to be aimed at AR or VR.
- Apple is planning to develop its own AR headset, a new augmented reality toolset for building AR apps on iOS devices.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Priyanka Chopra appointed as ambassador for Government's Skill India campaign

- **Priyanka Chopra** has appointed as ambassador for government's flagship Skill India campaign, with the **National Skill Development Corporation**.
- Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.

- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, Bollywood actors Sidharth Malhotra and Shabana Azmi and singer Mohit Chauhan had also become goodwill ambassador for Skill India.

Mihai Tudose named as prime-minister designate in Romania

- **Tudose** has replaced **Sorin Grindeanu** whom they ousted last week in an internal party rift over anti-corruption policy.
- PSD filed a no-confidence motion against ex-Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu for causing delays in implementing reforms.
- Grindeanu has been ousted from power barely six months after PSD swept back to victory in elections.

AWARDS

Former Indian hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay to get Bharat Gaurav

- Former India hockey captain **Dhanraj Pillay** will be conferred **East Bengal football club's highest** honour that is **Bharat Gaurav**.
- Indian hockey's biggest stars Pillay has the distinction of representing India at four Olympics, World Cups, Champions Trophy and Asian Games in his career spanning over 15 years.
- He made 339 appearances for the national team and scored 170 goals.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russian Navy test-fires submarine-launched missile

- The **Russian military** has successfully test-fired a submarine-launched **intercontinental ballistic missile**.
- The **Bulava**, which has been commissioned by the Russian navy after a long cycle of development, **carries 6 nuclear warheads and has a range of up to 9,300 kilometers (about 5,770 miles)**.
- According to ministry the missile's mock warheads reached their designated targets on the opposite side of Russia, the Kura shooting range on the far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula.

Scientists create brightest light ever produced on Earth

- Scientists have created the **brightest light ever produced on the Earth, shining a billion times stronger than the surface of the sun**.
- The **researchers discovered** that it could be **used as a new type of X-ray, capable of taking higher resolution images than the traditional kind**.
- This could be used **to find tiny tumors or micro fractures that are currently missed by conventional X-rays**.

- It may also be useful as an ultrafast camera to take images of chemical reactions or electrons as they move, among other potential uses by scientists.

SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

Leander Paes and Adil Shamasdin clinch Aegon Ilkley Challenger title

- **Leander Paes** and **Adil Shamasdin** has defeated **Brydan Klien** and **Joe Salisbury**.
- Both the teams broke each other twice and won 52 points each in the 66 minute match.
- The Aegon Ilkley Trophy is a tennis tournament for male and female professional players played on grass courts.
- The event is classified as a €42,500 ATP Challenger event and a \$100,000 ITF Women's Circuit.

ISSF Junior World C'ship: India win team bronze in 25m rapid fire pistol

- **India shooters** have won a **bronze medal in men's 25m rapid fire pistol team event** at the ISSF Junior World Championship Pistol
- **Anish, Anhad Jawanda and Shivam Shukla** got up a **combined score of 1711 to claim third place**.
- India's overall tally received **two gold one silver and one bronze medal**.
- It was Anish's second medal of the competition after having won the 25m standard pistol gold on the opening day of the competition.
- Arjun Babuta a 17 year old boy also made it to the individual final of the men's 10m air rifle event.
- Yashaswini Singh Deswal had won India its second gold of the competition by winning the 10m air pistol individual women event.

Indian men's & women's throwball teams create history in the World Games

- The **women's team** defeated arch-rivals **Pakistan** 15-13, 15-12 to clinch the title.
- The **men** posted a 15-13, 15-12 **win over Bangladesh** in their final match to finish at the top of the podium.
- This was the **first time that the Indian teams had participated in these Games**.
- The World Games, organized by the International Sports Council (Canada), saw participation from 11 countries, competing in 42 different categories.

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