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'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' Campaign launched



- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology launched the 'Main Bhi Digital 3.0' - A special Campaign for Digital Onboarding and Training for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme across 223 cities in the country.
- **Participating agency:** The BharatPe, Mswipe, Paytm, PhonePe, Aacware are participating in this drive to issue UPI IDs, QR code and provide digital training.
- Digital Payment Aggregators will handhold the street vendors to bring about enhanced adoption of digital transactions and behaviour change.
 - **Loans and Amounts:**
- So far, 45.5 lakh applications have been received. Out of these, 27.2 lakh loans have been sanctioned and 24.6 lakh loans have been disbursed.
- The amount disbursed so far is ₹2,444 Cr.
 - **About PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme:**
- It was launched on June 1, 2020 as a Central Sector Scheme.
- The scheme facilitates affordable working capital loans of up to ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy @7% on regular repayment.
- The street vendors also stand a chance to avail a loan of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively on timely repayment of the loan.
- **SIDBI** has been appointed as the implementation agency for scheme administration.

Source: PIB

First 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Australia



- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar of India and Minister for Defence Peter Dutton and Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne of Australia** held the first 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Australia in **New Delhi**.
- A number of issues were discussed during the meeting, including possibilities of further expanding bilateral strategic and economic cooperation, the common approach of both countries towards the Indo-Pacific region, and the growing importance of the Indian community in Australia as a human-bridge between both sides.

India-Australia Relations

- **Defence Relations:** Bilateral naval exercise (AUSINDEX), EX PITCH BLACK (Australia's multilateral air combat training exercise), Ex AUSTRALIA HIND (Bilateral Exercise with Army) and multilateral Malabar Exercise (Quad countries).

Note: India also holds '2+2' Dialogue with Japan and the USA.

Source: Indian Express

India's largest open-air fernery in Uttarakhand



- India's largest open-air fernery was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand's Ranikhet**.

About the Ranikhet fernery:

- The fernery has the largest collection of fern species, second to only **Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram**.
- However, it is the country's first open-air fernery in natural surroundings which is not under any poly-house/ shade house.
- The fernery spreads over 4 acres of land at an altitude of 1,800 metres.
- It has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department over a period of three years, under **Central Government's CAMPA scheme**.
- **About CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority):** The CAMPA by the Ministry of Environment and Forests was introduced in 2004 to accelerate activities for the preservation of natural forests, management of wildlife, infrastructure development in forests, and other allied works.
- The Ranikhet fernery has 120 different types of fern.

- The fernery has a mix of species from the western Himalayan region, the eastern Himalayan region, and the Western Ghats.
- It houses several rare species, including Tree Fern, a threatened species by the State Biodiversity Board of Uttarakhand.

Note: Recently, **India's first cryptogamic garden** was inaugurated in July 2021 in **Uttarakhand's Dehradun district**.

Source: newsonair

Prime Minister inaugurates Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Sardardham Bhavan at Ahmedabad in Gujarat**.
- He has also laid the foundation stone of **Sardardham Phase-II Kanya Chhatralay (Girls' Hostel)**.
- Sardardham Bhavan has been developed by Patidar Samaj.
- Sardardham has been working towards educational & social transformation, upliftment of weaker sections of society and providing employment opportunities to the youth.

Source: TOI

The book "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey" and program 'Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath'



- **Union Minister of Culture Gangapuram Kishan Reddy** launched the book "**Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey**" written by Padma Shri Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee and program '**Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath**' in New Delhi.

About 'Bujurgon ki Baat–Desh Ke Saath' Programme:

- The programme aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder persons who are 95 years and above and thus have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

About "Gita Govinda: Jaydeva's Divine Odyssey" Book:

- Gita Govinda was originally written by 12th century poet Jayadeya.
- It describes the relationship between Krishna and Radha.

Source: PIB

US Open Tennis Championships 2021



- The 2021 US Open was the 141st edition of the tournament and took place in New York City, New York, United States.
- It was the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year (2021).
- **List of winners:**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
Winner- Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Winner- Emma Raducanu (Britain)	Winner- Rajeev Ram (America), Joe Salisbury (Britain)	Winner- Samantha Stosur (Australia), Zhang Shuai (China)	Winner- Desirae Krawczyk (America), Joe Salisbury (Britain)
Runner-up- Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Runner-up- Leylah Fernandez (Canada)	Runner-up- Bruno Soares (Brazil), Jamie Murray (Britain)	Runner-up- Coco Gauff (America), Caty McNally (America)	Runner-up- Giuliana Olmos (Mexico), Marcelo Arevalo (El Salvador)

Source: The Hindu

Memorandum of Understanding for investment of Rs 35,000 crore in the energy sector



- The state is expected to invest Rs 35,500 crore in hydropower and wind power projects.
- JSW Company is going to make this investment. The MoU was signed in the assembly hall of Industry Minister Subhash Desai.
- A hydropower project with a capacity of about one and a half thousand megawatts will be started in Igatpuri taluka of Nashik district.
- The project will be on Bhivali Dam. About Rs 5,000 crore will be invested for this.
- This will provide direct and indirect employment to 5000 people.
- Kolhapur, Solapur, Osmanabad and Satara districts will have 5,000 MW wind power projects.
- The project will cover an area of 1,879 hectares. About Rs 30,000 crore will be invested in this.

Source: AIR News

The National Education Policy will be implemented in Maharashtra soon



- Recently, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced that recommendations and suggestions have been made by a working group studying national education policy under the chairmanship of Dr Raghunath Mashelkar.
- All possible measures will be taken as per the recommendations of the task force to ensure the overall development of the state in terms of education and to keep the state at the forefront in this area.

- Dr. Mashelkar informed about the various recommendations made by the Task Force in the context of National Education Policy, 2020. As per the recommendations, a proposal for immediate action will be submitted to the Cabinet soon.
- The job should be obtained after education. Digital education has become important in changing times. It is necessary to create the necessary infrastructure. Corona taught us a lot. Work from home, online learning started. If children are taught through animation or drawing, they understand immediately. Therefore, it is necessary to emphasize on such innovative concepts in the future. This was stated by the Chief Minister.

Source: Loksatta

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