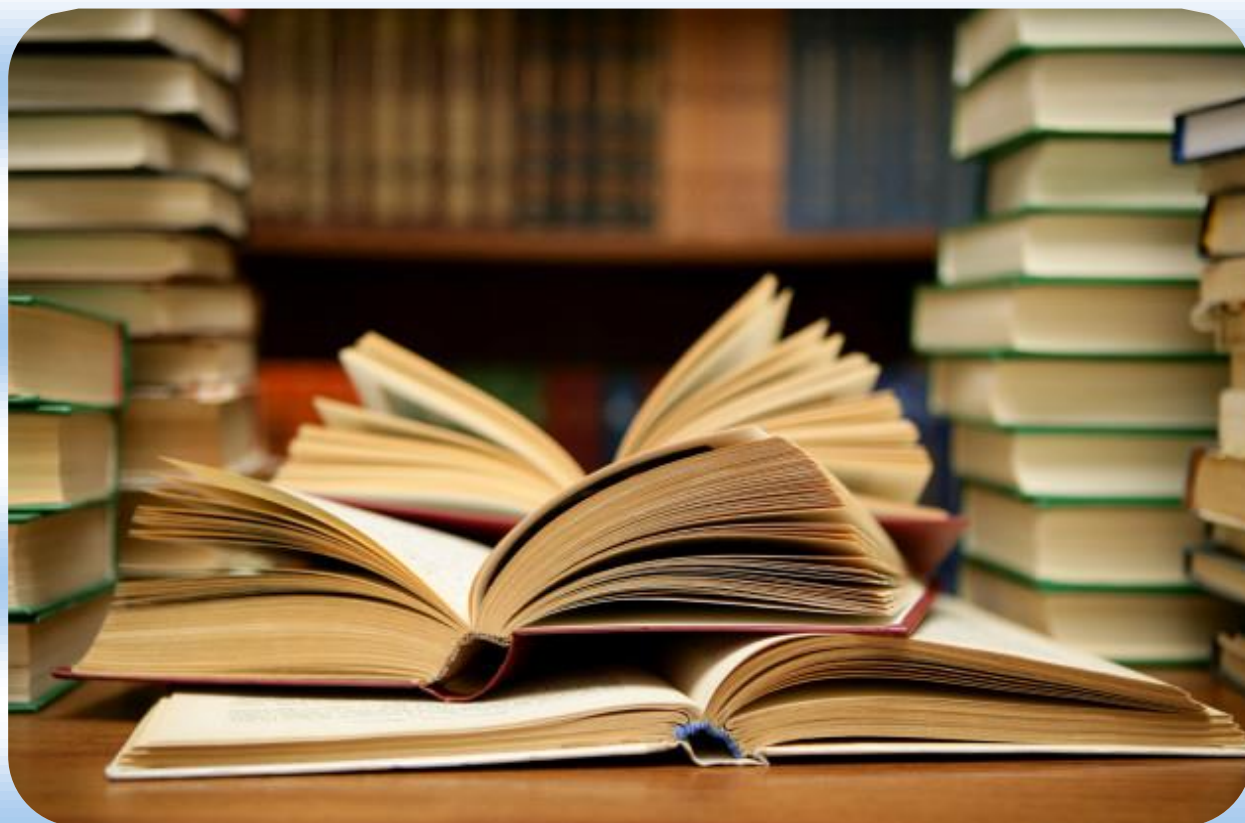


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



JULY-2021

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

AICTE Creating Database to Promote Higher Education in Regional Languages: PM

The All India Council of Technical Education is creating a database of resources to allow colleges to offer more programmes in regional languages and developed a tool to translate engineering content into 11 languages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. He was speaking at an event to mark the first anniversary of the National Education Policy, 2020, which placed a strong emphasis on education in the mother tongue.

Kerala Announces Rs 5000 cr to assist Small-scale Traders, Farmers

The Kerala government on Friday announced a financial package of over ₹5,000 crore to revive the state economy that is reeling due to the COVID- 19 pandemic. Finance Minister K N Balagopal announced a financial package of ₹5,650 crore in the state Assembly, to assist small-scale traders and farmers of the state. "This package is to provide assistance to small-scale traders and farmers of the state who have been adversely affected by the pandemic," Balagopal told the media here.

RBI cancels licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Margao

The RBI on Thursday cancelled the licence of The Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Margao, Goa, as the bank with its current financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full. The RBI further said that as per the data submitted by the bank, about 99 per cent of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

India to take over as President of UNSC for August

NEW DELHI : India is set to focus attention on three major areas—maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism, as it assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August on Sunday.



Cyrus Poonawalla to receive Lokmanya Tilak Award

Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, chairman of the city-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII), will be honoured with the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021. Deepak Tilak, president of the Lokmanya Tilak Trust, has made the announcement. "Poonawalla will be felicitated for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein he helped in saving many lives by manufacturing Covishield vaccine. Under his leadership, crores of doses of Covishield vaccine were made available to the world in record time. Poonawalla has been at the forefront of making different vaccines at affordable prices," Tilak said on Friday.

Vice Admiral SN Ghormade: New Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, a navigation and direction specialist, on Saturday assumed charge as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Navy. Admiral Ghormade has had extensive operational tenures onboard frontline warships of the Indian Navy that included commanding guided missile frigate INS Brahmaputra, submarine rescue vessel INS Nireekshak and minesweeper INS Alleppey.



US announces USD 25 million aid to support COVID-19 vaccination in India

New Delhi: The United States on Wednesday announced USD 25 million assistance to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts across India. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on a two-day visit to India, said that the funding will contribute to saving lives by strengthening vaccine supply chain logistics, addressing misinformation, vaccine hesitancy, and helping to train more health care workers. "US has contributed more than 200 million dollars worth of COVID19 assistance. I am pleased to announce that the United States government will send additional 25 million dollars.

Smriti Irani launches 24/7 Helpline of NCW for Women affected by violence

NEW Delhi, Jul 27 For the safety and security of women across the Nation and in line with the Union Government's efforts towards overall betterment of women, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani today inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline - 7827170170. The helpline aims to provide 24/7 online support to women affected by violence through referral by linking them with appropriate authorities such as police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological services etc, said a statement of PIB.

Vantika Agarwal wins National Women Online Chess Title

Delhi's Vantika Agarwal stunned a strong field to win the National women online chess title. In a field headed by R. Vaishali and featuring past National champions like Tania Sachdev, Bhakti Kulkarni, Padmini Rout and seasoned names like Mary Ann Gomes, Soumya Swaminathan and Esha Karavade, ninth seed Vantika scored 9.5 round from 11 rounds.



Basavaraj Bommai: 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka

Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai arrived at Raj Bhawan at around 10:30am on Wednesday for the oath-taking ceremony, accompanied by BS Yediyurappa. Earlier, he met central BJP observer and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Bengaluru.



Govt plans to set up National Farmers Database

The government is aiming to create a federated National Farmers Database using digitised land records that will help to offer proactive and personalised services to farmers, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed Parliament on Tuesday. The agriculture ministry has already commenced the work of creating 'Agristack' -- a digital ecosystem of agriculture -- in the country that should help the government in effective planning towards increasing the income of farmers in particular and improving the efficiency of the agriculture sector as a whole.

Lok Sabha passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2021

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 without discussion amid sloganeering by the Opposition members. As the House reassembled at 2.30 pm, BJD member Bhartruhari Mahtab, who was in the chair, announced that the bill will be taken up for consideration. Mahtab called the names of 20 Opposition members who had given notices for a statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the bill in the House. However, the Opposition members did not respond as they were in the well of the House.

Digital Payments grew 30.19% during the Financial Year ended March 2021: RBI

Digital payments have recorded a growth of 30.19 per cent during the year ended March 2021, reflecting adoption and deepening of cashless transactions in the country, RBI data showed. As per the newly constituted Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI), the index rose to 270.59 at the end of March 2021, up from 207.84 a year ago. "The RBI-DPI index has demonstrated significant growth in the index representing the rapid adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country in recent years," the RBI said.

Finance Ministry invites entries for new DFI's Name, Logo

The finance ministry on Wednesday invited entries from citizens for name, tagline and logo for the new Development Financial Institution (DFI) that is touted as a gamechanger for infrastructure financing in the country. Earlier, the ministry had carried out a similar exercise for choosing the name for the flagship financial inclusion programme of the government -- 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna' -- in 2014.

COVID BEEP-India's first Physiological Parameters Monitoring System

ESIC Medical College Hyderabad in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and Department of Atomic Energy has developed 'COVID-BEEP' (Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod), which is India's first indigenous, cost-effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.



Harappan city of Dholavira inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage list

New Delhi: Dholavira, a Harappan-era city in Gujarat, has been conferred the tag of UNESCO World Heritage Site, the organisation said on Tuesday. This is the Indian second site to be included in the world heritage list this month after the Ramappa Temple at Palampet in Telangana's Warangal.



Alphabet to launch a new Robotics Company- Intrinsic

Google-parent Alphabet on Friday said it will launch a new robotics company, Intrinsic which will focus on building software for industrial robots. The segment comes out of X, Alphabet's Moonshot factory that houses futuristic firms such as Waymo, Wing and Verily.



Govt. proposes to set up National Research Foundation (NRF)

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that the Government proposes to set up a National Research Foundation NRF to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country. NRF is being envisaged as an umbrella structure that will improve linkages between Research and Development, academia and industry. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Pradhan said, the total proposed outlay of NRF is 50 thousand crore rupees over a period of five years.

Chicken slaughter waste used as raw material for biodiesel production

WAYANAD (KERALA) : After waiting for more than seven years, John Abraham, a veterinary-doctor-turned-inventor, has finally received the patents for inventing biodiesel from slaughtered chicken waste that offers mileage of over 38 km a litre at around 40% of the current price of diesel and lowers pollution by half.



Kandla becomes first SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating

Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ), the oldest export zone in the country, has become the "first green industrial city" in India to receive a platinum rating under IGBC Green Cities Rating for existing cities in the industrial cities category.



31.6% Rise in E-waste Generation Last Year

India generated 10,14,961.2 tonnes of e-waste last year, a massive 31.6 per cent increase from the previous year, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday

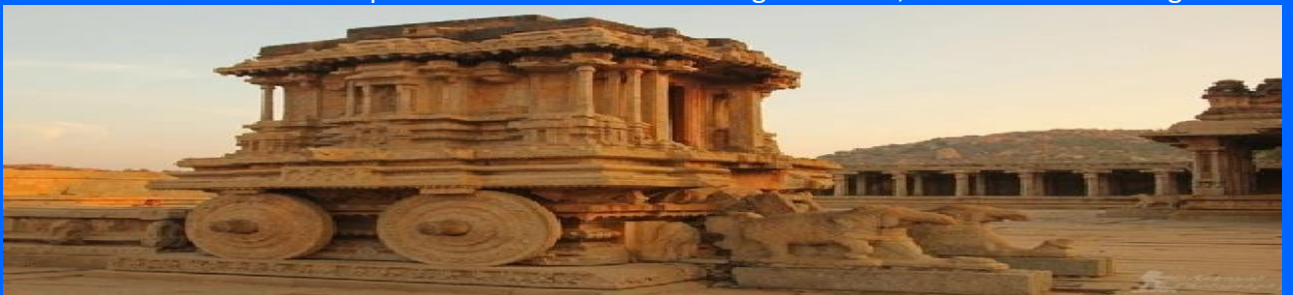


IIT Ropar develops first-of-its-kind Oxygen rationing device – AMLEX

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar have developed a first-of-its-kind device that can regulate the flow of medical oxygen from cylinder during inhalation and exhalation by a patient, thereby reducing wastage. "The device supplies a required volume of oxygen to a patient during inhalation and trips when the patient exhales, thereby saving the flow of oxygen at that time," the institute said in a statement on Tuesday. AMLEX is a system developed specifically for oxygen cylinders. It synchronises the flow of oxygen with inhalation and exhalation of a patient.

Indian Institute of Heritage to come up in Noida

The Culture Minister Kishan Reddy informed the Parliament on July 19, 2021, that the Government of India has decided to set up an Indian Institute of Heritage in Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar.



Govt. to sell stakes in LIC in two stages

The government may not initially sell a 10% stake in Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) through an initial public offering (IPO), choosing instead to sell 5-6%, followed by a similar second public offering, given the mammoth size of the state-run insurer, four people aware of the development said. Although the valuation exercise of LIC is yet to be concluded, its estimated value is likely to be around ₹12-15 trillion. A 10% stake sale would mean the size of the offering would be around ₹1.2 trillion to ₹1.5 trillion.

IIT-K launches innovation hub to find solutions for anti-drone technologies

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) on Friday launched the first technology innovation hub to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection system, block-chain and cyber physical system. As many as 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process. "The presence of cutting-edge technology in cyber security is accompanied by an increasing need to protect digital assets.

Sumit Nagal: Third Indian to win Tennis singles match at Olympic

Eventually, it took Sumit Nagal a second attempt to serve out the match. And when he did eventually beat Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-4, he became the first Indian since 1996 to win a singles match at the Olympics.



Russia to supply 21 MiG-29 fighter jets to India

Russia has handed over a commercial offer of 21 MiG-29 fighter jets to India, a spokesperson for Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation said. The procurement of the twin-jet fighter aircraft was approved by the Indian Defence Ministry last year and a request for the same was confirmed by the Russian Federation in February.



Tokyo 2020: Mirabai Chanu bags silver

All sections of people of Manipur joined hands with those in the rest of the country in congratulating Padma Shri Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, who won the first silver medal in the 49-kg category in the Tokyo Olympics.



RBI asks banks to stop Libor soon

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has encouraged banks and financial institutions to cease entering into new financial contracts that reference LIBOR as a benchmark as soon as practicable and in any case by December 31, 2021. The central bank also advised banks and financial institutions to encourage their customers to cease entering into new London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) referenced contracts. Instead of LIBOR, the central bank asked them to use any widely accepted alternative reference rates (ARR).

India's first 5-star Hotel atop Railway Track in Gandhinagar

Indian Railways will soon get its first 5-star hotel atop a railway track in Gujarat's Gandhinagar Capital railway station which falls under the Western Railway zone of Indian Railways.



Adani Group takes over Mumbai Airport

Gujarat-based Adani group on Tuesday announced that its subsidiary Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. (AAHL) has taken over the management and control of Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) from the GVK Group following the MIAL Board Meeting. Earlier, it obtained all necessary approvals from the Government of India, the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) of Maharashtra, and the Government of Maharashtra.

Twitter shuts down 'Fleets' service

Twitter Inc said on Wednesday its Fleets feature will not longer be available after August 3, stating its failure to attract more users. The microblogging platform introduced the Instagram-like disappearing stories feature in November last year, aimed at people sharing thoughts publicly through tweets to be "intimidating". "We've been listening to this feedback and working to create new capabilities that address some of the anxieties that hold people back from talking on Twitter.

SEBI introduces 'Expected loss-based' rating scale

New Delhi: Credit rating agencies will now be required to provide expected loss-based ratings for projects and instruments associated with the infrastructure sector, with markets regulator Sebi putting in place a new framework. The watchdog has introduced the expected loss-based rating that is divided into a scale of seven levels, spanning from lowest to highest expected loss. The new scale will be used by the credit rating agencies for ratings of projects or instruments associated.

India: 5th largest Forex reserve holder in the world

As India becomes the 5th largest foreign exchange reserves holder in the world, with forex reserves topping \$500 billion for the first time ever for the week ended 5 June 2020, the Indian rupee may head north from here with the current capital outflows turning into inflows.



12-year-old Abhimanyu Mishra becomes Youngest Grandmaster

Abhimanyu Mishra on Wednesday became the youngest chess grandmaster in history. The 12-year-old player from New Jersey scored his third GM norm in Budapest, having already crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier.



Shopsy: Flipkart's New App for Online Business

Walmart-owned e-commerce firm Flipkart has launched Shopsy, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment. With the ability to influence their local network and fulfil their aspirations, users of Shopsy will be able to share catalogues of a wide selection of 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers. These range across fashion, beauty, mobiles, electronics and home, with potential customers via popular social media and messaging apps.

Maana Patel- First Indian Female Swimmer to qualify Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Maana Patel has become the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics through universality quota, confirmed Sports Authority of India(SAI) on Friday



INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

National Gallery of Australia to return 14 Art Works to India including Chola idols

The National Gallery of Australia(NGA) on Thursday announced it would return 14 works of art from its Asian art collection to India. The works of art being repatriated include 13 objects connected to art dealer Subhash Kapoor through Art of the Past and one acquired from art dealer William Wolff. The works include six bronze or stone sculptures, a brass processional standard, a painted scroll, and six photographs.

3 India-based Enterprises in UN Best Small Business Winners

Three India-based enterprises are among the winners of a \$100,000 global competition of 'Best Small Businesses' announced by the United Nations that are providing inspiring, diverse and impactful solutions in improving access to healthy and sustainable food. Fifty small and medium-sized enterprises around the world have been announced as the Best Small Businesses of the "Good Food for All" competition, held in conjunction with the UN Food Systems Summit.

Malaysia Registers World's First Affordable New Drug for Hepatitis c

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Malaysia has registered the world's first affordable – and effective – new drug for hepatitis C, offering the hope of accessible treatment to millions of people around the world at risk from a disease that has few early symptoms, is hard to diagnose and is often seen as a "silent killer".



Global Education Summit in London

World leaders pledged more than \$4bn (£2.9bn) to support schools through the Global Partnership for Education. Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai told the summit girls in particular faced an "education crisis". But charities warned the UK's aid cuts had harmed fundraising efforts. The Global Partnership for Education, which distributes funding in more than 90 poorer countries, wanted to raise \$5bn (£3.6bn) to create an extra 88 million school places and support the learning of 175 million children during the next five years.

China: Reforms for private education companies

China's private education firms are bracing for a "material" hit to their operations after Beijing announced new rules barring for-profit tutoring in core school subjects to ease financial pressures on families.



New sports in Tokyo Olympics

The Tokyo Games will see four new sports added to the competitive landscape, along with additional new disciplines in some existing sports. The Paris Games in 2024 will feature another new sport.



13-year-old skater Nishiya- Japan's youngest gold medallist

At 13 years old, skateboarder Momiji Nishiya of Japan just became one of the youngest gold medal winners ever at the Olympic Games. The girls standing by her side on the podium? Also teenagers.



Madrid's Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro Park added to World Heritage List

One of Europe's most famous streets, the tree-lined Paseo del Prado in the Spanish capital Madrid, has been added to the Unesco World Heritage list - along with the adjoining Retiro Park.



India's Priya Malik wins gold World Cadet Wrestling Championships in Hungary

A day after Mirabai Chanu won silver in 49kg weightlifting to open India's mark at the Tokyo Olympics, the news of teenage wrestler Priya Malik's triumph at the World Cadet Wrestling Championships in Budapest elated Indians.



China rolls out high speed 600km/hr Maglev train

China's self-developed and the world's fastest maglev transportation system with a speed of 600 kilometers per hour rolled off the assembly line on Tuesday in Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province, marking another crucial milestone in the country's.



Brisbane to host 2032 Olympic Games

The Australian city of Brisbane has been selected to host the 2032 summer Olympics, said the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday. "The International Olympic Committee has the honour to announce that the Games of the 35th Olympiad are awarded to Brisbane, Australia," IOC president Thomas Bach said. The decision was greeted by cheers from the Brisbane delegates at the IOC session, reported news agency AFP.

World's first 3D-printed steel bridge opened in Amsterdam

World's first 3D-printed steel bridge was opened to the public in Amsterdam earlier this month. It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts, and represents a major milestone for 3D-printing technology.



UK reports cases of 'Norovirus' infection

In the five weeks since the end of May, 154 cases of norovirus have been recorded in the country, according to Public Health England. The CDC has listed following symptoms of norovirus: diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. The United Kingdom, which has relaxed the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) restrictions, is now reporting an outbreak of norovirus. Public Health England (PHE) recently issued a warning after finding a jump in norovirus cases during a routine surveillance.

Bangladesh to launch 'Jogajog' as an alternative to Facebook

Bangladesh is going to create its own social media platform styled 'Jogajog', as an alternative to social media site Facebook, and 'Alapon', a platform to provide an alternative to WhatsApp. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak made the announcement on Saturday while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Entrepreneurship Masterclass Series 2 organized by Women e-Commerce.

Italy wins the Euro 2020 trophy

Italy lifted their second European Championship trophy after they defeated England 3-2 in penalty shoot-out in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley Stadium in London. The match had ended 1-1 after extra time.



Biden extends USA's Child Tax Credit programme

The Biden administration on Thursday began the biggest anti-poverty program undertaken by the federal government in more than half a century, delivering monthly payments to the overwhelming majority of American parents for the first time.



US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to form QUAD group

The US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity, the Biden administration has said. "The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing," the State Department said on Friday. Recognising the historic opportunity to open flourishing interregional trade routes, the parties intend to cooperate to expand trade, build transit links, and strengthen business-to-business ties, it said.

New PM of Nepal: Sher Bahadur Deuba wins vote of confidence

Nepal's new Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba sprang a surprise on Sunday by seeking a vote of confidence in the reinstated lower House of Representatives and comfortably won it, averting a general election in the Himalayan nation amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.



Joe Biden signs three Bills to change Trump-era rules

President Joe Biden signed three separate laws on Wednesday that dismantle part of the Donald Trump era, blocking payday lenders from avoiding caps on interest rates, restricting climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas drilling and ending rules on how the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission settles claims. "Each of these rules reflects a return to common sense and a commitment to the common good," Mr. Biden said before the signing, surrounded by congressional leaders who joined him as he turned each resolution into law.

Cyberattacks hits hundreds of US firms

A US IT company urged customers to shut down their servers Friday after cyberattackers smuggled ransomware onto its network platform. Kaseya said Friday evening that it had limited the attack to "a very small percentage of our customers" who use its signature VSA software, "currently estimated at fewer than 40 worldwide." Cybersecurity firm Huntress Labs had earlier said in a Reddit forum that it was working with partners targeted in the attack, and that some 200 businesses ".

Chinese astronauts complete First Spacewalk at New Space Station

Beijing: Chinese astronauts successfully performed the country's first tandem spacewalk on Sunday, working for seven hours on the outside of the new Tiangong station in orbit around Earth. Tiangong's construction is a major step in China's ambitious space programme, which has seen the nation land a rover on Mars and send probes to the Moon. Three astronauts blasted off last month to become the station's first crew, where they are to remain for three months in China's longest crewed mission to date.

AI used to reveal Actual Shape of the Universe

Japanese astronomers have developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) technique to remove noise in astronomical data due to random variations in galaxy shapes. After extensive training and testing on large mock data created by supercomputer simulations, they then applied this new tool to actual data from Japan's Subaru Telescope and found that the mass distribution derived from using this method is consistent with the currently accepted models of the Universe.

China bans tallest skyscrapers following safety concerns

There are only 10 towers in the world exceeding that height, and five of them are in mainland China. China is prohibiting construction of the tallest skyscrapers to ensure safety following mounting concerns over the quality of some projects.



World's tallest sandcastle built in Denmark

The world's tallest sandcastle has been completed in Denmark, towering more than 20 metres high and comprising nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand, according to its designers.



