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Economy

NSDC Signs An MoU With Singapore EGL To Boost Skill India Programme

- As PM Narendra Modi had earlier spoken during his talks with the Startup India programme beneficiaries, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India has signed an MoU with the Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL) to skill India's workforce.
- As per the MoU, both the organisations will work together to develop and implement skill development programmes across emerging technology areas like Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, reports ET.
- The co-operation and collaboration between the two will further be extended to the vocational training on new-age technologies and training of trainers and assessors.

PhonePe partners with Ola

- Flipkart-owned PhonePe today said it has partnered cab aggregator Ola that will allow riders to book rides using the former's payment platform.
- "With this partnership, our users can enjoy the ease of using their preferred ride-sharing app from within PhonePe while being assured of the reliability and integrity of their payments," PhonePe co-founder and CTO Rahul Chari said.
- He added that PhonePe has also added 'Auto-pay' feature that allows users to make payments seamlessly.
- Chari added that users can switch off 'Auto-pay' instructions anytime they want.

Industrial Production expanded by 4.9 percent in April

- The Industrial production expanded by 4.9 percent in April 2018 on improved performance by manufacturing and mining sectors.
- The industrial growth, based on Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 3.2 percent in April 2017.
- The IIP for March 2018 has been revised upwards to 4.6 percent from 4.4 percent estimated earlier.
- As per the data released by the Central Statistics Office, the manufacturing sector, which accounts for over 77 percent weight of the index, recorded a growth of 5.2 percent in April 2018.
- Similarly, the mining output grew by 5.1 percent, compared to 3 percent in 2017.

India, US agree to hold comprehensive talks to address trade & economic issues

- India and the US agreed to hold comprehensive talks to address trade and economic issues.
- The decision was taken during a series of meetings by the Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu with US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.
- India will send an official team to the US to work out the details and initiate a comprehensive negotiation on all issues concerning trade and economic relationship between the two countries.
- President Trump, in his press conference in Canada's Quebec City during the G7 summit, took a dig at India along with the world's other top economies and accused New Delhi of charging 100 percent tariff on some of the US' goods.

India

PM Inaugurates India's first Integrated Greenfield Smart City, Naya Raipur

- Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first integrated greenfield smart city project at Naya Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, today.
- Schneider Electric– the global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation, announced the implementation of the integrated Command and Control Centre (CCC) along with utility management system (Electrical and Water SCADA) and intelligent Building Management System (BMS) there.
- The integrated project has been executed by Schneider Electric along with consortium partner, IL&FS Technologies Limited. The contract was awarded to the consortium in 2017.
- Expressing his satisfaction on the execution of the project, Mr. Rajat Kumar, IAS, CEO, Naya Raipur Development Authority said, "It is a happy moment for us today as the Naya Raipur Smart City project takes off with the consortium and our partners.
- This is a unique project, one whose organic growth we shall pursue aggressively. The project shall be spread across verticals and integrate diversified segments.
- 5,60,000 individuals now inhabit and experience firsthand benefits of living in an integrated city.
- Entire city being covered with GIS mapping alongwith 128 CCTV cameras, 40 speed detection cameras and 42 number plate recognition cameras, Naya Raipur now becomes one of the safest cities in the country.
- Supported by Schneider Electric, the Integrated Command Control System of Naya Raipur will deliver a world class experience of urban living in the city.

PM Modi inaugurates Air Odisha flight route

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a regional airline- Air Odisha flight route - Jagdalpur-Raipur-Visakhapatnam under Centre's UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme on Thursday.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the flight route from Chhattisgarh's Bhilai via a live video conference.

- Passengers travelling from Raipur to Jagdalpur (288 km by road) will be benefitted from this regional airline as they can cover it in a mere 40 minutes at a cost of Rs.1, 670. Previously, it took 15 hours by train and six to seven hours by road to cover the distance.
- On April 15, Air Odisha launched a flight between Ahmedabad to Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar to Surat at an affordable cost of Rs 1420 and Rs 1699 respectively.
- The UDAN scheme is a regional connectivity scheme launched by the Central Government to make flying safe, secure and inexpensive.

20 States sign MoU for implementing Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)

- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding with the State Health Ministers of 20 States marking their commitment towards the launch of the Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM).
- Shri J. P. Nadda emphasized that the success of the scheme hinges upon the active participation of the States. States need to own the scheme while Centre will design the policy framework with all possible flexibility and support. Exchanging of Memorandum of Understanding is an important step in formalizing the partnership between Centre and States, he added.
- Shri J P Nadda further stated that AB-NHPM will protect around 50 crore people (from about 10 crore families). It will be cashless and paperless access to services upto Rs. 5 lakhs per year will be available for the beneficiary families at the point of service in both public and private empanelled hospitals across India, Shri Nadda added. He further said that the beneficiaries under the scheme can avail services anywhere in India and it is expected to bring a visible relief to the target families by mitigating the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.
- The Union Health Minister further stated that health is at the centre-stage and the Government is looking at it holistically.

NITI Aayog to launch Composite Water Management Index

- NITI Aayog on June 13, 2018 announced to launch the Composite Water Management Index with an aim to achieve the objective of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.
- The Composite Water Management Index will be a useful tool to assess and improve the performance in efficient management of water resources.
- This index is an attempt to inspire States and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilisation of water and recycling, with a sense of urgency.
- The index can be utilised to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.
- The index will provide useful information for the States and also for the concerned Central Ministries, thus, enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.

Arunachal Govt Inks MoU with Smart Village Movement

- Arunachal Pradesh Government on Wednesday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Smart Village Movement (SVM) to facilitate relevant technology innovations, R&D, open innovation, technology interventions and curriculum development in select villages of the state.
- The MoU was signed by Director-cum-Member Secretary of the State Council for IT & e-Governance, Neelam Yapin Tana on behalf of the state government and Shreya Evani, Project Director, Smart Village Movement, in presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and Chief Secretary Satya Gopal.
- Person behind the Smart Village Movement, Prof Solomon Darwin, Executive Director, Garwood Center for Corporate Innovations, University of California, Berkeley, also present during the MoU signing, will be the advisor of the Smart Village Core Team.
- University of California, Berkeley trained Core Team will focus on large-enterprise innovations, paying particular attention to implementation issues and development of new business models to capture the value of innovative products and services. The Project will focus on solving 'Pain-Points' (or challenges) in rural segment by developing platforms driven by open innovation approaches.

Solar Charkha Mission to be launched soon in 50 clusters

- The Solar Charkha Mission of the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be launched by President Ram Nath Kovind on June 27, 2018 in New Delhi.
- The Mission has been approved by the Government of India and will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to the artisans. It will cover 50 clusters and every cluster will employ 400 to 2000 artisans.
- The information was shared by Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (I/C), MSME, at a press conference in New Delhi on June 13 while releasing a booklet on the 4 years' achievement of his Ministry.
- The Minister further informed that 15 new state-of-the-art technology centers are being set up all over the country including North-East, of which 10 centers will become operational by March 2019.
- Each of the centres will be built at a cost of around Rs 150 crore. The 10 centers, which will become operational soon, are located in Durg (Chhattisgarh), Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Rohtak (Haryana), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Sitarganj (Uttarakhand), Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Bhopal (M.P.), Kanpur (UP) and Puducherry.
- The Minister further informed that under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), budgetary allocation for FY 2018-19 has been increased by 75 per cent to Rs 1,800 crore.

J P Nadda inaugurates 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

- J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the 10th meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) on June 13, 2018.

- Nadda said that India as a Global leader is committed to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) transmission and disease burden so that future generations are free from Lymphatic Filariasis.
- The Minister also released the Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) 2018 for India.
- Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) or commonly known as Elephantiasis is one of the oldest and most debilitating neglected disease, which is currently endemic in 73 countries of the world, including India.
- LF disease is caused mainly by Wuchereria Bancrofti and spread by Culex mosquito. This mosquito grows in dirty accumulated water.
- The disease affects the poorest population in society, particularly those living in areas with poor water, sanitation and hygiene.
- LF does not kill the affected people, but may cause permanent disfigurement, reduced productivity and social stigma.

CRIS develops 'utsonmobile' app to enable cashless ticketing

- The Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) has developed a mobile-based application 'utsonmobile' to enable cashless ticketing.
- The initiative is another step towards digitalisation and achieving a cashless economy.
- The mobile app will enable booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets and checking and loading of R-wallet balance.
- It will also help maintain user profile management and booking history.
- Paperless Ticket: With the help of the app, passengers would be able to travel without a hardcopy of the ticket, as they could use the 'show ticket' option in the app to show their ticket to the checking staff.

Sports

Shikhar Dhawan is first Indian to score century before lunch

- Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan on Thursday became the first Indian opener to have scored a century before lunch on the first day of the one-off test against Afghanistan in Bengaluru.
- The first batsman to do so was Australia's V.T. Trumper against England in 1902. The other four batsmen are Australia's C.G. Macartney, Don Bradman, David Warner and Pakistan's Majid Khan. Out of six batsmen, four are from Australia, one from Pakistan and one from India.
- Dhawan bludgeoned the rookie Afghan bowlers into submission with a power-packed unbeaten 104 (91 balls) while Murali Vijay (41 no off 72 balls) held one end up with the home team setting the foundation for what promises to be a mammoth first innings total.

New Zealand's Amelia Kerr hits 232 to smash women's ODI record

- New Zealand's Amelia Kerr hit a world record 232 not out in the third one-day international against Ireland and then took five wickets to complete a remarkable day for the 17-year-old.

- Kerr batted through the innings and surpassed the 229 not out set by Australia's Belinda Clark against Denmark in 1997 with a four-four-six sequence from the final three deliveries as New Zealand posted 440 for three.
- She hit 31 boundaries and two sixes in her 145-ball knock, then after a 10-minute nap on the physio's table between innings, took 5-17 as Ireland were bowled out for 135 to give the White Ferns a 305-run win and 3-0 series victory.
- Kerr and Leigh Kasperek, who scored 113, combined for the second largest partnership of all time in women's cricket of 295 runs for the second wicket.
- Kerr, however, said she had no clue when she was batting that the records were tumbling.

Boxing: India bag 1-Gold, 2-Silver medals at Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in Russia

- Indian boxers bagged one Gold and two Silver medals at the Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in the Russian city of Kaspysk on June 12, 2018.
- Saweety Boora won the coveted yellow metal in the Women's 75 kg category after beating local favourite Anna Anfinogenova in the Final.
- In the Men's section, Brijesh Yadav in the 81 kg division and Virender Kumar in 91 kgs lost their Final bouts to settle for Silver medals.
- Earlier, India had claimed four Bronze medals in the Tournament.

Football: United States, Mexico and Canada win right to host 2026 World Cup

- The United States, Mexico and Canada won the right to host the 2026 World Cup after beating Morocco in a vote by FIFA member nations in Moscow.
- The North American bid received 134 of the 203 votes, while Morocco polled 65 in the ballot at a FIFA Congress held in Moscow.
- Football's World Cup event will return to the North American continent for the first time since 1994 when the United States hosted the tournament.

Days

World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) observed on June 14

- World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) was observed on June 14, 2018.
- The theme for Blood Donation Day in 2018 is 'Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life.
- World Blood Donor Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).