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1. New Zealand's ruling Labor Party elected Chris Hipkins as the country's 41st prime minister (Jan. 22, 2023)

New Zealand's ruling Labor Party on 22 January elected **Chris Hipkins** as its leader and the country's **41st prime minister**, replacing **Ms Jacinda Ardern**.

An overview of the news

- Hipkins was the only candidate for the position and was confirmed by 64 MPs in what is known as the **Labor caucus**.
- Known as "**Chippy**", Hipkins played a key role in the response to COVID-19.
- He was first elected to Parliament in **2008 for the Labor Party**.
- He was appointed **Minister of Health in July 2020** before becoming the Minister of COVID Response.
- Before Hipkins can officially become prime minister, Ardern must submit her resignation to **King Charles III's** representative in New Zealand, Governor General **Cindy Kiro**.
- Kiro Hipkins will then be appointed to the role and sworn in.
- The Labour party has also selected Carmel Sepuloni as the deputy prime minister.

About New Zealand

- Prime Minister: **Chris Hipkins**
- Capital: **Wellington**
- Currency : **New Zealand dollar**

2. Indian Embassy in Kathmandu organises 5 km marathon 'Run for Life' with theme of 'lifestyle for Environment' (Jan. 21, 2023)

With the theme of '**lifestyle for Environment**', 5 km marathon '**Run for Life**' was organised by the **Indian Embassy in Kathmandu** on 21 January.

An overview of the news

- Hundreds of college going students, human trafficking survivors, sportspersons, doctors and children participated in the marathon to promote running as a healthy lifestyle.
- On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav celebrations of Independence in Nepal, Indian Ambassador **Naveen Srivastava** emphasised on adopting a healthy lifestyle.

- The Run for Life Marathon celebrates the diplomatic relations between India and Nepal as well as **75 years of India's independence**.
- The marathon started from **Pashupatinath temple complex** and covered 5 km back to Pashupatinath in a duration of one hour.
- The Marathon winner was awarded a gold medal after completion of the marathon.
- The Embassy of India in Kathmandu also organised a music concert '**Sangeet Sukoon**'.
- The event was attended by Prime Minister of Nepal **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, and former Prime Minister **KP Sharma Oli**.

3. Indian Embassy in Kathmandu organises 5 km marathon 'Run for Life' with theme of 'lifestyle for Environment' (Jan. 21, 2023)

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4. State DGPs and IGPs annual Conference (Jan. 21, 2023)

The three-day conference of heads of **all state police forces and paramilitary organisations** began in **New Delhi** on January 20.

An overview of the news

- **PM Modi**, Home Minister **Amit Shah**, National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** addressed the conference.
- Cyber security, war on drugs, and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir were among the top agenda items of the conference.
- Apart from this, border management, cross-border threats and maritime security were also discussed in the annual meeting.
- Other issues discussed included threat from Khalistani extremists, threat to economy, cryptocurrency, Maoist violence and Northeast insurgency.
- **Around 350 top police officers** of the country in the rank of Director General (DG) and Inspector General (IG) attended the conference.

About the conference

- **Till 2013**, the annual meet was held in the national capital, in 2014, when the Modi government came to power, it was decided to hold the event outside Delhi.
- In 2014, the conference was held at Guwahati, Rann of Kutch in 2015, National Police Academy, Hyderabad in 2016, BSF Academy, Tekanpur in 2017 and Pune in 2019.
- Due to the Covid epidemic, in 2020 it was held virtually while in 2021 the conference was held in Lucknow.

5. G20's First Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) Meeting to be held in Bengaluru (Jan. 21, 2023)

The **first G-20 Environment meeting** under the [G-20 India Presidency](#) will be held at the **Taj West End in Bengaluru** during February 9 -11.

An overview of the news

- It has scheduled four meetings of the **Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG)**, which will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- India will chair the G-20 for one year till **30 November 2023**.
- The forum will bring together G-20 member states, guest countries and international organisations invited by India.
- Through the **Sherpa Track, 13 working groups and 2 initiatives** will meet under the chairmanship of India to discuss priorities and provide recommendations.

Agenda of the meeting

- Promotion of Blue Economy along with Coastal Sustainability

- Restoration of Degraded Lands and Ecosystems' and 'Enhancement of Biodiversity
- Strengthening of Circular Economy

6. UNESCO dedicates International Day of Education 2023 to Afghan girls, women (Jan. 21, 2023)

UNESCO has decided to dedicate the **International Day of Education** to be celebrated on **January 24, 2023, to Afghan girls and women.**

An overview of the news

- UNESCO Director-General **Audrey Azoulay** said that no country in the world should prevent women and girls from getting education and it is a universal human right that should be respected.
- The international community has a responsibility to ensure that the rights of Afghan girls and women are restored without delay.
- UNESCO and other international organisations should take concrete steps to address the issue of women and girls in **Afghanistan under Taliban rule.**
- According to UNESCO, currently around **80 percent of Afghan girls** and young women of school-age are out of school under Taliban rule, as they are denied access to secondary schools and universities.
- Since **15 August 2021**, Afghanistan has barred girls from attending secondary school, restricted the freedom of movement of women and girls, and excluded women from most areas of the workforce.

About UNESCO

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a specialised agency of the **United Nations (UN).**
- It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.
- It is also a member of the United **Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)**, a coalition of UN agencies and organisations aimed at fulfilling the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- Director General: **Audrey Azoulay**
- Founded: **16 November 1945 in London, United Kingdom**
- The organisation has **193 members** and **11 Associate members.**

7. India surpasses China to become most populous country in the world (Jan. 21, 2023)

According to projections by the **World Population Review (WPR)**, India has **surpassed China** as the **world's most populous nation**.

An overview of the news

- As per WPR, India's population was **141.7 crore as of the end of 2022**.
- According to official announcements, India's population is a **little over 5 million**, compared to **141.2 million** declared by China on 17 January.
- As per WPR estimates, India's population has increased to **142.3 crore** as of January 18.
- India, with **50 percent of its population below the age of 30**, is poised to be the fastest growing major economy in the world.
- According to WPR, although India's population growth has slowed down, it will **still increase till at least 2050**.
- India, the **third largest economy in Asia**, is currently self-sufficient in **food production**.
- India ranks **second in terms of production** of rice, wheat and sugar.
- Apart from being a major importer of edible oils, India is also the **largest consumer of sugar**.
- India is the **third largest market for the purchase of crude oil**, the **second largest consumer of steel and gold**.
- In addition, India is the **third largest domestic aviation market** in the world.

8. IIT incubated firm develops indigenous Mobile Operating System (Jan. 21, 2023)

An **IIT Madras incubated firm** has developed an indigenous mobile operating system '**Bharos**' that can benefit India's 100 crore mobile phone users.

About Mobile Operating System 'Bharos'

- The software, named 'Bharos', can be installed on commercial off-the-shelf handsets.
- It was developed by **JandK Operations Pvt Ltd (JandKops)**, a company set up by the IIT Madras Innovative Technologies Foundation.

- It provides a secure environment for the users and is a significant contribution towards **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'**.
- It provides access to trusted apps from organisation-specific **Private App Store Services (PASS)**.
- A PASS provides access to a curated list of apps that have been thoroughly tested and have met certain security and privacy standards of organisations.
- Its users can be rest assured that the apps they are installing are safe to use.
- It comes under **No Default Apps (NDA)**. That means users can't be forced to use apps they don't know about or can't trust.
- Bharos provides **'Native Over The Air'** (NOTA) updates that can help keep devices secure.
- NOTA updates are automatically downloaded and installed on the device without the user needing to manually initiate the process.

9. Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh constituted a seven-member committee to probe the allegations of sexual harassment (Jan. 21, 2023)

A seven-member committee has been constituted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to probe allegations of sexual harassment leveled by prominent wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

An overview of the news

- The Indian Olympic Association took the decision at its executive council meeting, which was attended by IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Choubey, besides sportspersons like Abhinav Bindra and Yogeshwar.
- **The seven-member committee** constituted by the IOA includes veteran women boxer **MC Mary Kom**, wrestler **Yogeshwar Dutt**, archer **Dola Banerjee** and Indian Weightlifting Federation president **Sahdev Yadav**, besides two **lawyers Talish Ray and Shlok Chandra** and former shuttler **Alaknanda Ashok**.

What is the matter ?

- 30 wrestlers of India along with Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik made many serious allegations against the President of the Wrestling Association, Brij Bhushan Singh.
- Wrestlers have made many serious allegations against Brijbhushan like running the wrestling association in an arbitrary manner and not sending coaches with wrestlers in many competitions and threatening to protest.
- Vinesh Phogat has accused Brij Bhushan of exploiting girls.

- Wrestlers staged a sit-in at Delhi's Jantar Mantar for several days demanding formation of
- a committee to investigate the WFI president.

Wrestlers demand

- Urges IOA to immediately set up a committee to look into complaints of sexual harassment
- Demand to dissolve WFI.
- Wrestlers demand sacking of WFI president
- A new committee should be constituted in consultation with the wrestlers to look after the functioning of WFI.

10. IPA, RIS sign agreement to set up Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (Jan. 21, 2023)

Recently an agreement was signed between the **Indian Ports Association (IPA) and the Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries** to set up a center for **maritime economy and connectivity**.

An overview of the news

- The agreement was signed in the presence of the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- The proposed Transshipment Port at **Galathea Bay in Greater Nicobar** in Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be beneficial for BIMSTEC nations.
- Thus the Prime Minister's **Gati Shakti initiative** will go beyond the shores of India where ports of neighbouring countries can also benefit.

Indian Ports Association (IPA)

- It was formed in 1966 under the Societies Registration Act.
- It functions under the supervisory control of the Ministry of Shipping.
- Its main task is to develop all the major ports.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

- Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi based autonomous policy research institute.
- It specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology.

- It is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building
- among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.