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1. Indian Higher Education Meet 2023 inaugurated in Dhaka (March 19, 2023)

Indian Higher Education Meet 2023 inaugurated in Dhaka

High Commissioner **Pranay Verma** and Minister of Education of Bangladesh **Dr Dipu Moni** on 18 March jointly **inaugurated the Indian Higher Education Meet 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

An overview of the news

- It is being organized under the aegis of the **Study in India program in Dhaka.**
- Top ranking higher educational institutions from different parts of India participated in the event.
- A large number of Indian students are pursuing higher education in each other's country.
- The Indian High Commissioner invited Bangladeshi students to take advantage of **India's globally prestigious higher education system** and build new bridges of friendship and understanding between the youth of the two countries.
- Bangladesh Education Minister Dr. Deepu Moni recognized the important role of education in promoting better understanding between India and Bangladesh and thanked Study in India for taking the initiative to organize the event in Dhaka.

Study in India programme

- It is a **flagship project launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in 2018.**
- Its main goal is **to increase the number of international students in the country** and improve the global reputation and ranking of Indian educational institutions.
- The programme provides **meritorious foreign students fee waiver and scholarship.**
- The program is designed to encourage and invite the global student community to pursue their higher education in India.
- Since its inception, the Study in India program has attracted students from over **150 countries, including Bangladesh.**

2. International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine (March 19, 2023)

International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine

The **International Criminal Court** on 17 March issued an **arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin** on charges of **war crimes**.

An overview of the news

- The move **mandates 123 member states** to arrest Putin and transfer him to The Hague for trial if he steps onto their territory.
- It was immediately **rejected by Moscow** while Ukraine on the other hand welcomed the decision.

Why did the International Criminal Court issue the warrants?

- The International Criminal Court says **Putin committed war crimes in Ukraine**.
- He is responsible for the **crime of kidnapping and deportation of Ukrainian children**.
- According to the court, these crimes were allegedly committed from 24 February 2022 on Ukrainian-occupied territory.
- The court also issued a warrant for **Maria Lvova-Belova**, Russia's commissioner for children's rights.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- It was **set up in July 2002** under the **Rome treaty of 1998**.
- It is the **only permanent court to prosecute persons for crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes and crimes of aggression**.
- At present **123 countries are its members**. The **United States, China, and Israel** are not its members.
- The court's jurisdiction extends to offences that occurred after **July 1, 2002**, that were committed either in a state that has ratified the agreement or by a national of such a state or the case which was referred to it by the United Nations Security Council.
- The Headquarters of ICC: **The Hague, Netherlands**
- ICC is different from the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**.
- ICJ is a **United Nations court** which hears disputes involving the **member states of the United Nations**.

3. Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav elected Nepal's third Vice President (March 18, 2023)

Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav elected Nepal's third Vice President

Ram Sahai Prasad Yadav has been elected as the **third Vice President of Nepal** and is the **leader of the Janata Samajwadi Party**.

An Overview of the News

- In the voting, Yadav defeated **Astalakshmi Shakya of CPN (UML) and Mamta Jha of Janmat Party**.
- Yadav received support from the ruling coalition, including the **Nepali Congress, CPN (Maoist Centre), and CPN (Unified Socialist)**.
- A total of 311 federal MPs and 518 provincial assembly members participated in the vote.
- The polling station for the election was located in the Federal Parliament Building at **New Baneshwar in Kathmandu**.
- According to the Constitution of Nepal, the Vice President can perform the duties of the President during the absence of the President.
- The **term of the Vice President is five years** from the date of his election.
- Yadav was a former **Minister of Forest and Environment and a member of Nepal's first federal parliament**.

About Nepal

- The kingdom of Nepal was established by the **Shah dynasty**.
- It is a landlocked country in **South Asia**.

President - **Ram Chandra Paudel**

Prime Minister - **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**

Capital - **Kathmandu**

Currency - Nepalese Rupee

4. India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline to be jointly inaugurated by PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina (March 17, 2023)

Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** will inaugurate the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** through video conference on March 18, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline is a proposed **130 km long pipeline for high-speed diesel transport from Siliguri in India to Parbatipur in Bangladesh**.
- Maitri Pipeline is the **first cross-border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh** with an estimated cost of Rs 377 crore.

- The pipeline has a capacity to transport **1 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of high-speed diesel (HSD)**, and will be constructed by **India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) at an estimated cost of USD 1.6 billion.**
- Initially, the pipeline will supply high-speed diesel to seven districts in northern Bangladesh.
- The operationalization of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline will provide a **sustainable, reliable, cost-effective and environment-friendly mode of HSD transportation from India to Bangladesh.**
- The pipeline will enhance cooperation in energy security between India and Bangladesh.
- This is part of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Bangladesh in April 2017** to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector.
- The pipeline will help Bangladesh meet its growing energy demand and reduce its dependence on imported fuel, while providing an opportunity for India to expand its energy exports to neighbouring countries.

About Bangladesh

- Prime Minister - **Sheikh Hasina**
- Currency - **Bangladeshi Taka**
- Capital - **Dhaka**

5. The US Senate appointed of Eric Garcetti as the United States Ambassador to India (March 17, 2023)

Eric Garcetti has been confirmed by the **US Senate as the new ambassador to New Delhi**, chosen by **President Joe Biden** for the role.

An Overview of the News

- Garcetti was supported by a majority of Senators, with **52 in favour and 42 against.**
- **Seven Republican Senators** joined the Democrats in backing **Garcetti for the role.**
- Eric Garcetti served as the **mayor of Los Angeles, California** in the past..
- He is the first LA mayor in more than 50 years to be nominated for a diplomatic position.

About the US Senate

- The **US Senate is one of the two chambers of the US Congress.**
- It has **100 senators**, each state is represented by two senators, who serve for six-year terms.

- The Senate has significant powers, including the ability to approve presidential nominations and treaties, and to serve as a court for impeachment proceedings.
- The **Vice President of America is the leader of the Senate**, but votes only in case of a tie.

6. India and Luxembourg release joint Commemorative Postage Stamp (March 16, 2023)

India and Luxembourg celebrating **75 years of friendship** on March 15, 2023. To mark the occasion, both the countries launched a **joint Commemorative Postage Stamp**.

An Overview of the News

- The Postage Stamp symbolises the **long standing and strong ties between India and Luxembourg**.
- Both the countries have been cooperating in the steel sector for the **last 20 years**.
- The **Paul Worth company of Luxembourg** has been working in India for the last two decades under this collaboration.
- In **November 2015**, Luxembourg hosted the **12th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.
- The partnership between India and Luxembourg in various fields reflects their commitment to strengthen their friendship and explore future opportunities for cooperation.

About Luxembourg

- Luxembourg is a small nation located in **Europe and shares borders with Belgium, France, and Germany**.
- **In 1994, Luxembourg City** was recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- From 2013 to 2014, Luxembourg served on the **United Nations Security Council for the first time**.
- Prime Minister - **Xavier Bettel**
- Currency - **Euro**
- Official languages - **Luxembourgish, French, German**

7. US recognizes McMahon Line as international border (March 16, 2023)

The United States has recognized the **McMahon Line** as the **international boundary between Arunachal Pradesh and China** in a recently passed **bipartisan resolution**, calling it an **"integral part of India"**.

An overview of the news

- The resolution rejected Beijing's claim that the northeastern state Arunachal Pradesh falls under Chinese territory.
- In addition to recognizing the McMahon Line, the resolution also condemned **Chinese provocations in the region**, including the use of military force by China to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control.
- The resolution also condemned the construction of villages in disputed areas, the publication of maps of cities in Arunachal Pradesh, and the expansion of Beijing's territorial claims on Bhutan.
- The resolution, titled '**Reaffirmation of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemnation of China's provocative activities in South Asia**', came after a major clash between the Indian and Chinese forces in **Arunachal's Tawang** in December last year.

What is the McMahon Line?

- **India and China** share a **3,500 km long border which is disputed**.
- The line that delineates the **boundary between the two countries is called the McMahon Line**.
- The border of India and China can be divided into three parts. **Western Zone, Central Zone and Eastern Zone**.
- The line separating India and China is the McMahon Line although **China considers the McMahon Line illegal**.
- The McMahon Line was drawn during the **Simla Convention of 1914**, officially described as a convention between Great Britain, China and Tibet.

8. Denmark becomes the first country in the world to import CO2 and store it under the sea (March 15, 2023)

Denmark has launched a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres below the North Sea,

Denmark has **launched a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres below the North Sea**, making it the **first country in the world to bury CO2 imported** from another country.

News Overview

- **CO2 burial project**, where carbon is injected into the site of an old oil field to prevent further warming of the atmosphere.
- The project is called "**Greensand**" and is being led by **British chemical Giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dia**.
- The project aims to store **eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030**.

- The **North Sea was chosen for the project** because it already has pipelines and potential storage sites due to decades of oil and gas production.
- According to the **European Environment Agency (EEA)**, EU member states released **3.7 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2020 alone.**

About Denmark

- Capital - **Copenhagen**
- Prime Minister - **Mette Frederiksen**
- Official name - **Kingdom of Denmark**
- Official language - **Danish**
- Currency - **Krone**
- Form of Government - **constitutional monarchy**

9. India world's largest arms importer: SIPRI report 2023 (March 15, 2023)

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) 2023 report, India will become the world's leading arms importer in 2022.

According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) 2023 report, India will become the world's leading arms importer in 2022.**

News Overview

- According to this report, between the years 2013-17 and 2018-22, **India's arms imports have decreased by 11 percent.**
- According to the report's findings, over the past five years, the **US had the world's largest military expenditure**, accounting for **40%** of the global share, followed by **Russia (16%), and France (11%).**

About SIPRI

- The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** is a global non-profit research institute.
- SIPRI focuses on **resolving conflicts, controlling arms and promoting disarmament.**
- The institute provides data, analysis and advice regarding armed conflicts, military expenditure and the arms trade.
- Establishment - **6 May 1966**
- Founders - **Tage Erlander, Alva Myrdal**
- Chairman - **Stefan Lofven**

- Director - **Dan Smith**
- Headquarter - **Solna**

10. Tim Mayopoulos has been appointed CEO of Silicon Valley Bank by the FDIC (March 15, 2023)

Tim Mayopoulos, the **former CEO of Fannie Mae**, has been selected by the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** as the **CEO of Silicon Valley Bank**, a subsidiary of the defunct SVB Financial Group.

News Overview

- Prior to joining StartupBlend, Mayopoulos was CEO of mortgage financier Fannie Mae for more than six years.

About Silicon Valley Bank

- Establishment - **1983**
- Founder - **Roger V Smith**
- President - **Gregory W. Baker**
- Headquarters - **Santa Clara, California (United States)**

About the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

- Formed - **1933**
- Jurisdiction - **United States federal government**
- Founder - **Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- Headquarters - **Washington, D.C. (United States)**