

Daily Current Affairs

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India & US

- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with the **Small Business Administration (SBA)** of the Government of the United States of America to promote Cooperation on Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs).



- The **MoU was signed between** Secretary, Ministry of MSME S. C. L Das and Administrator, SBA, Government of the United States of America, Isabel Casillas Guzman in New Delhi.
- MSME Ministry in a statement said that the MoU provides a framework for both sides to discuss issues **concerning MSMEs and explore** possibilities of cooperation.
- It envisages the exchange of expertise between the two sides on issues related to improving **MSME participation in the global marketplace**.
- It also provides for the joint **conduct of programmes for women entrepreneurs** to empower them and facilitate trade partnerships between women-owned small businesses of the two countries.

NHA & MUHS

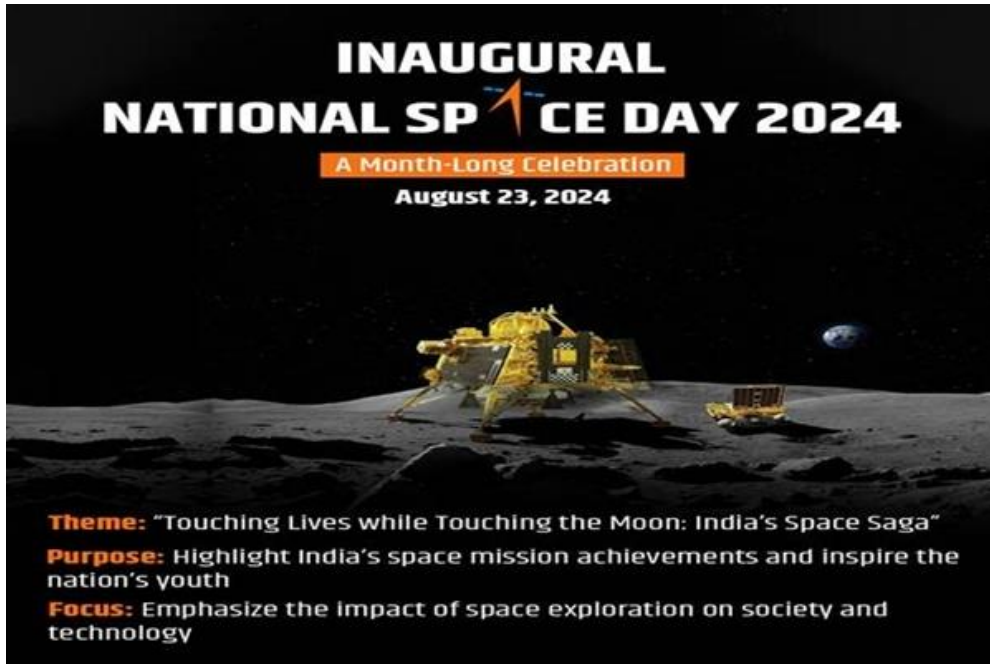
- **National Health Authority (NHA)** and Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in New Delhi.
- As per the **MoU, MUHS will offer its Digital Health Foundation Course** to NHA and co-develop additional Digital Health programs to support the roll-out of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.



- **The Digital Health Foundation Course** provides a comprehensive understanding of Digital Health fundamentals to doctors and healthcare providers. On the occasion, Health Minister J.P. Nadda said that the partnership between NHA and MUHS marks a significant milestone in integrating digital health education into the medical curriculum.
- MoU laid the foundation for a more **connected and effective healthcare** ecosystem. He also said this partnership will not only enhance the skills of medical students and professionals but also drive the broader implementation of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**, ultimately benefiting millions of people with better access to quality care.

First National Space Day

- India became the **fourth country to land on the moon** and the first to reach its southern polar region on **August 23 last year**. To honour this landmark achievement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced **August 23 as “National Space Day.”**



- India is celebrating its maiden National Space Day on August 23 with the theme **“Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India’s Space Saga.”**
- Preceding Space Day, a myriad of events will unfold, highlighting India’s remarkable achievements in space, profound benefits to society, and boundless opportunities for people from all walks of life to engage with the Indian space program.
- These celebrations will culminate in the main event in New Delhi on August 22-23. A distinguished scientist of ISRO and Director of the U R Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, M Sankaran, has spoken exclusively to Akashvani News on the relevance of National Space Day.

Haj Application 2025

- Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju, along with Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian, launched **Haj Application-2025 and the Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal** in New Delhi.
- Mr Rijju said that **Saudi Arabia has allotted** a quota of over **1.75 lakh Haj pilgrims** to India for Haj-2025.
- He highlighted that, for the first time, applications have been invited on the **Haj Suvidha App** in addition to the website of the Haj Committee of India.



- Mr Rijju said one of the biggest reforms carried out in the Haj administration is allowing **Muslim women aged 45 years** or above to perform Haj without a **Mehram** (male companion) under the **Ladies without Mehram (LWM)** category. He added that 4,558 ladies have performed Haj under the LWM category in 2024, which is an all-time high number.



- The Minister said that the Government will strive to ensure further qualitative improvements in the Haj pilgrimage experience for Indian pilgrims.
- The process of **Haj preparation for Haj-2025** has been initiated early to avail the early mover advantage and secure the best possible arrangements in terms of accommodation, transport, and logistics for Indian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

- **Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal**, Mr Rijiju requested eligible Parsi couples to avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme.
- Jiyo Parsi Scheme Portal **aims to provide financial assistance** to the Parsi community through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.



Global Mining Initiative

- **Ministry of Coal** has unveiled an ambitious plan to boost coal production through **global mining operators**. Ministry said that the primary goal of engaging **Mining Developers cum Operators (MDOs)** is to significantly **increase coal production** by streamlining operations, enhancing productivity, and reducing mining costs.



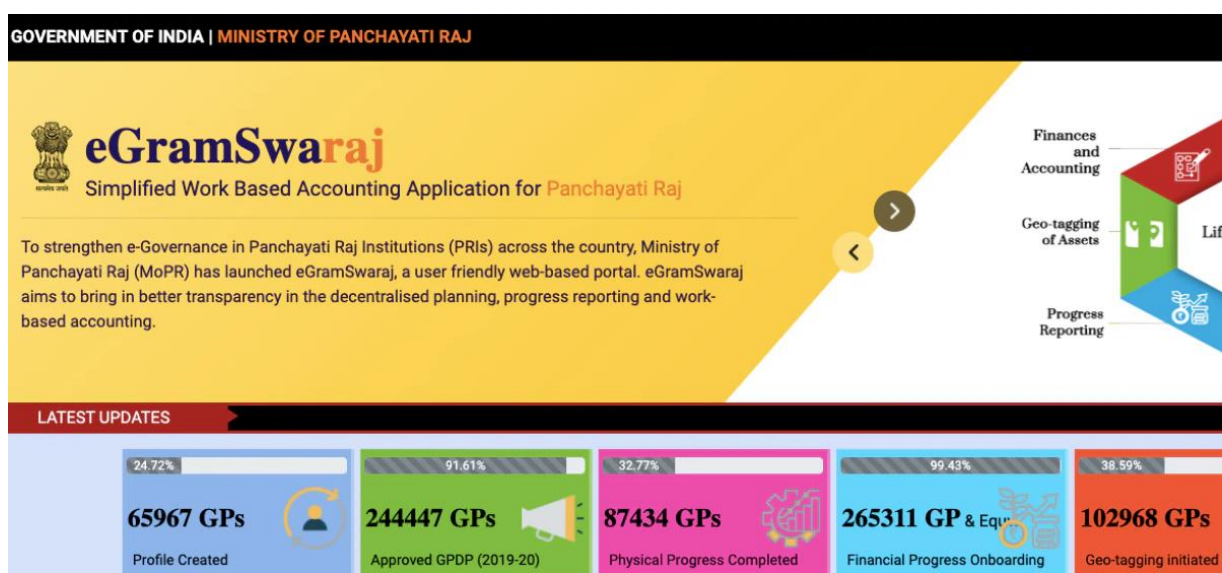
- These MDOs are tasked with **excavating, extracting, and delivering** coal to Coal India Limited (CIL).
- These operators were selected through **open global tenders**.
- They will oversee the entire mining process, from excavation and extraction to the delivery of coal, in line with the agreement.
- The Ministry said, their **involvement is anticipated to inject advanced technology** and unparalleled operational efficiency into the system, driving remarkable improvements in production capabilities.
- In addition to boosting production, the **MDOs will manage crucial aspects** such as rehabilitation and resettlement issues, land acquisitions, and environmental clearances.
- They will also coordinate with **State and Central Pollution Control Boards** to guarantee rigorous adherence to environmental standards.

400 Panchayati Raj Representatives At Red Fort

- Central Government has invited **four hundred elected representatives**, including **women representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions**, as special guests for the **78th Independence Day celebrations** at the Red Fort in Delhi.
- Meanwhile, the Panchayati Raj Ministry is organizing a **National Workshop on Women's Leadership in Panchayats** in New Delhi.



- The workshop will explore challenges and opportunities for women leaders in Panchayats, showcase success stories, and discuss strategies for enhancing women's participation in local governance.
- **All invited Panchayati Raj representatives** will participate in this workshop. Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Minister of State for Panchayati Raj Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel will felicitate the invitees.
- During the ceremony, a **multilingual eGramSwaraj platform** will be launched in collaboration with Bhashini. This initiative will make the portal accessible in all twenty-two scheduled Indian languages.



Ancient Maharashtra Rock Art

- Maharashtra government has recently declared the **geoglyphs and petroglyphs** in Ratnagiri as protected monuments under the **Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960**.
- These ancient artworks, dating back to the Mesolithic era, depict various animals and footprints.



- Ratnagiri hosts over **1,500 artworks across 70 sites**, with some included on UNESCO's tentative World Heritage list.
- **Petroglyphs:** Found in Deud, Ratnagiri, these artifacts are approximately 20,000-10,000 years old. They feature images of a rhino, deer, monkey, donkey, and footprints. The total protected area is 210 square meters.



- **Geoglyphs:** Located along the 900 km Konkan coast in Maharashtra and Goa, Ratnagiri alone houses more than 1,500 geoglyphs spread across 70 sites. Seven of these are on the **UNESCO tentative World Heritage list**.
- **Geoglyphs and petroglyphs** are distinct ancient art forms involving images or designs created on rock surfaces or the earth's surface. The large concentration of these artworks on laterite plateaus in Konkan is unique and significant.
- **According to UNESCO**, these rock art collections are remarkable open-air ensembles of prehistoric human expression, showcasing diverse life forms such as marine, riverine, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and avians that have vanished from the region centuries ago.



Para Shuttler Pramod Bhagat Suspended

- Para shuttler **Pramod Bhagat** has been suspended by the **Badminton World Federation** for a period of 18 months for breaching the anti-doping regulations.
- Now, Pramod will miss the **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games**. The Federation announced that Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medal winner Pramod Bhagat has been suspended on account of **where about failure**.



- According to the Federation statement, the **Court of Arbitration of Sport, CAS's Anti-Doping Division found** Bhagat committing three whereabouts failures within 12 months.
- **An SL3 Badminton player**, Bhagat appealed this decision to the CAS Appeals Division, which was dismissed in July this year.
- **The 35-year-old Bhagat won a gold medal** at the Tokyo Paralympics in men's singles SL3 category, beating Daniel Bethell of Great Britain in the final.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Commissioned The Construction Of The Red Fort

- A. Aurangzeb
- B. Jahangir
- C. Shah Jahan
- D. Akbar

ANSWER: C

2. Which Architect Is Credited With The Design Of The Red Fort

- A. Ustad Ahmad Lahori
- B. Mirza Ghiyas Beg
- C. Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana
- D. Saadiq Khan

ANSWER: A

3. What Year Was Red Fort Designated A UNESCO World Heritage Site

- A. 1987
- B. 2000
- C. 2007
- D. 2015

ANSWER: C

4. Who Plundered The Red Fort In 1739

- A. Ahmad Shah Durrani
- B. Nadir Shah
- C. Babur
- D. Sher Shah Suri

ANSWER: B

5. What Was Original Name Of The Red Fort As The Residence Of The Imperial Family

- A. Qila-i-Mubarak
- B. Diwan-i-Khas
- C. Rang Mahal
- D. Moti Masjid

ANSWER: A

6. Which Architectural Style Is The Red Fort Known For

- A. Gothic
- B. Indo-Islamic
- C. Romanesque
- D. Baroque

ANSWER: B

7. What Is The Height Range Of The Red Fort's Walls

- A. 10-25 meters
- B. 18-33 meters
- C. 20-45 meters
- D. 15-30 meters

ANSWER: B

8. In Which Year Was The Construction Of The Red Fort Completed

- A. 1639
- B. 1648
- C. 1654
- D. 1666

ANSWER: B

9. Which Institution Developed E - Shoes That Generate Electricity From Walking

- A. IIT Indore
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Bombay

ANSWER: A

10. Which Country Hosted 4th Foreign Office Consultations With India

- A. Zimbabwe
- B. Botswana
- C. Zambia
- D. Malawi

ANSWER: C

11. In Which State Bill For Scheduled Tribes Reservation In Assembly Introduced

- A. Karnataka
- B. Goa
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

12. Which Indian Public Sector Company Has Partnered With Cylus To Bolster Cybersecurity For Indian Railways

- A. IRCTC
- B. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation
- C. RailTel
- D. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

ANSWER: C

13. Which Company Will Demonstrate India's First Methanol-fired Gas Turbine At NTPC's Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Plan

- A. BHEL
- B. NTPC
- C. L&T
- D. Siemens

ANSWER: A

14. Who Appointed As A Member Of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

- A. Rajesh Kumar
- B. Meena Sharma
- C. Harish Dudani
- D. Anil Kapoor

ANSWER: C

15. Which Country Has Launched The "AI Bharat 5G/6G Sandbox" Hackathon In Collaboration With ITU

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. United States
- D. India

ANSWER: A

16. Which Institution Approved A \$200 Million Loan To Support Solid Waste Management In India

- A. World Bank
- B. Asian Development Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund
- D. United Nations

ANSWER: B

17. What Does Goa's 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' Scheme Support

- A. Wind turbine installations
- B. Solar rooftop installations
- C. Hydroelectric power projects
- D. Biomass energy production

ANSWER: B

18. When Is World Lung Cancer Day Observed Annually

- A. August 1
- B. July 31
- C. September 1
- D. October 1

ANSWER: A

19. Who Is The Primary Beneficiary Of The New Electronic Human Resource Management System

- A. Private sector employees
- B. College students
- C. Government employees
- D. Teachers

ANSWER: C

20. The System Of Budget Was Introduced In India During The Viceroyalty Of

- A. Dalhousie
- B. Elgin
- C. Canning
- D. Ripon

ANSWER: C