

CURRENT AFFAIRS



CAC – 31st July 2017

STATE

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar expanded the Cabinet, inducting 27 new ministers

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar expanded the Cabinet, inducting 27 new ministers which included 14 JD(U), 12 BJP and 1 LJ legislator.

CM Nitish Kumar - Home and Personnel, and Department of Monitoring portfolios.

Deputy CM Sushil Modi - Finance, Commerce, Forestry, and IT Department.

Krishna Nandan Verma - Education Ministry.

Shravan Kumar - Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs.

Pro Tip:

State – Bihar

Capital – Patna

CM – Nitish Kumar

Deputy CM – Sushil Modi

Acting Governor – Kesari Nath Tripathi

INTERNATIONAL

7th edition of SAARC Artists Camp & Exhibition of Paintings begins in Kathmandu, Nepal

The 7th edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings has begun at Kathmandu. Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, Jitendra Narayan Devhas inaugurated the event. These events provide platform to artists for exchanging ideas with fellow artists and helping in creating special bonding among them and 40 artists from SAARC member countries except Afghanistan taking part in the 4 day camp.

Pro Tip:

SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

Member Countries of SAARC – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

HQ – Kathmandu, Nepal

Secretary General of SAARC – Amjad Hussain B. Sail

Country – Nepal

Capital – Kathmandu

Currency – Nepalese Rupee

India has featured among 60 nations on Digital Evolution Index 2017

India has featured among 60 nations on Digital Evolution Index 2017, exhibiting a high potential in terms of digital payments. On the Digital Evolution Index 2017, India has been categorised under the “break out” segment which refers to countries that have relatively lower absolute levels of digital advancement, yet remain poised for growth and are attractive to investors by virtue of their potential. The report outlined that India has been experiencing rapid strides of progress with an evolving payments landscape, catalysed by the government’s demonetisation decision.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Yoshiaki Ishizawa, GethsieShanmugam among the six winners of this year’s Ramon Magsaysay Awards

Yoshiaki Ishizawa, a Japanese historian who helped Cambodians preserve the Angkor temples, and GethsieShanmugam, a Sri Lankan teacher who counseled war widows and orphans to overcome their nightmares, are among the six winners of this year’s Ramon Magsaysay Awards. The other recipients named are AbdonNababan, an Indonesian, a Singaporean businessman Tony Tay, a Philippine theater group and Lilia de Lima, a Filipino.

Pro Tip:

The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award named after former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.

It is regarded as Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize and was first awarded in the year 1958.

Country – Philippines

Capital – Manila

Currency – Philippine Peso

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Breakthrough Starshot successfully launch world’s smallest spacecraft “Sprites”

The smallest spacecraft ever launched are successfully travelling in low Earth orbit and communicating with systems on Earth, scientists have announced. Known as ‘Sprites’, the miniature satellites are just 3.5cm x 3.5cm and carry radios, sensors and computers, with each device powered by sunlight and weighing just four grams. While nanosatellites known as CubeSats have previously been sent into space, such systems have a mass thousands of times that of the Sprites, weighing more than 1kg.

Pro Tip:

Breakthrough Initiatives is a program founded in 2015 and funded by Yuri Milner.

Yuri Borisovich (Bentsionovich) Milner – Russian entrepreneur, venture capitalist and physicist. Milner is Russia’s most influential tech investor.

China produces gas from methane hydrate, also known as ‘flammable ice’ under South China Sea (SCS)

According to the Land and Resources Ministry China has successfully produced natural gas from methane hydrate, also known as “flammable ice”, in an experimental project in the South China Sea (SCS). Under the experiment, a drilling platform had produced a total of 309,000 cubic meters of natural gas from gas hydrate in 60 days. China has achieved theoretical, technological, engineering and equipment innovations and has made a historical breakthrough. The methane hydrate is highly flammable and energy-intensive fuel as one cubic meter of the compound can releases about 164 cubic meters of natural gas.

Pro Tip:

Country – China

Capital – Beijing

Currency – Renminbi– Yuan

President – Xi Jinping

SPORT

20-year-old Caeleb Dressel becomes first ever Swimmer to win three gold medals in one night at worlds Championship

The 20-year-old Caeleb Dressel established himself as America’s newest star of the pool recently, becoming the first swimmer to win three gold medals on a single night at either the worlds or the Olympics. Caeleb Dressel accomplished this feat at 2017 FINA World Aqatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Not even Phelps managed such an audacious feat. Dressel raced three times over the course of about two hours — and won every time.

Pro Tip:

FINA World Aqatics Championships 2017, Budapest, Hungary

Country – Hungary

Capital – Budapest

Currency – Hungarian Forint

CaelebDressel – American Swimmer

Michel Phelps – He is the world’s best swimmer from USA

Shiva Thapa and Manoj Kumarwon gold in Czech Republic tournament

Indian boxers have bagged a total of 8 medals at the 48th Grand Prix at Usti Nad Labem in Czech Republic. In the tournament out of the eight, five were gold medals. The three other medals are two silver and one bronze. The five gold medals for India were bagged by world championships bronze-medallist Shiva Thapa(60kg), former Commonwealth Games gold-

medallist Manoj Kumar (69kg), Amit Phangal, Gaurav Bidhuri (52kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg). The two boxers who finished with silver medals were Kavinder Bisht in the 52kg category and Manish Panwar in the 81kg category. Sumit Sangwan has awarded bronze medal at 91 kg.

Pro Tip:

Country – Czech Republic

Capital – Prague

Currency – Czech koruna

Britain's Adam Peaty broke the 50m breaststroke world record for the second time

Britain's Adam Peaty broke the 50m breaststroke world record for the second time in a day as he reached the World Aquatics Championships final in Budapest, Hungary. In medal tally US topped with 39 medals (17 Gold, 12 Silver and 10 Bronze).

Pro Tip:

World Aquatics Championships 2017 – Budapest, Hungary

Adam Peaty – British Swimmer

Kylie Masse won women's 100m backstroke gold at the world aquatics championships

Kylie Masse of Canada won women's 100m backstroke gold in a new world-record time at the world aquatics championships. Masse locked 58.10 seconds, breaking Gemma Spofforth's previous mark of 58.12 seconds from the 2009 championships.