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1. S. Jaishankar to represent India at SCO Summit in Astana I

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will represent India at the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, next week. The summit, to be held on July 3 and 4, will mainly focus on the regional security situation and ways to boost connectivity and trade. Kazakhstan, which currently holds the SCO chair, is hosting the summit.



2. International Day of the Tropics 2024 I

International Day of the Tropics is celebrated annually on June 29 to recognize the incredible diversity and importance of the world's tropical regions. The day is dedicated to raising global awareness of the unique challenges and opportunities of tropical regions and highlighting their vital role in ecosystems and human society. The tropics are a geographic region of the Earth located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.



3. English statistician Frank Duckworth passes away I

Frank Duckworth, the renowned English statistician who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method for rain-affected conditions in cricket, passed away on June 21 at the age of 84. The DLS method, introduced in 1997, is widely used in international cricket and was formally adopted by the ICC in 2001. Duckworth was born in 1939 in Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. He attended King Edward VII School, Lytham and then earned a BSc (Hons) in physics and a PhD in metallurgy from the University of Liverpool.



4. International Day of Parliamentarism 2024 I

The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on 30 June, with the aim of celebrating the role of parliaments in democratic governance and underlining their importance in promoting peace and understanding among nations. The main theme for 2024 is "Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges to Peace and Accord", which emphasizes how parliamentarians can contribute to international cooperation and conflict resolution.



5. Sanjana Thakur's short story 'Aishwarya Rai' wins Commonwealth Prize

Sanjana Thakur, a 26-year-old writer from Mumbai, won the GBP 5,000 Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2024 held in London on June 27, beating 7,359 competitors from across the world. Sanjana's story, titled 'Aishwarya Rai', is inspired by Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai's name and presents the traditional adoption story in a new way. Sanjana's story 'Aishwarya Rai' focuses on the life of a young woman named Avni, who chooses to live the life of a simple stay-at-home mother.



6. Microbiotics launches India's first hyper-personalised probiotic on World Microbiome Day

Bengaluru-based gut health startup Microbiotics has launched a new initiative in India offering personalised probiotics. The initiative aims to generate customised probiotics and prebiotics blends based on individual gut profiles, suitable for personalised health benefits. Microbiotics has also introduced GutChat, a free chatbot for gut health enthusiasts. The chatbot helps address gut health queries and provides tailored advice.



7. Bioplastic park to be set up in Lakhimpur Kheri district

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the setting up of a bioplastic park in Lakhimpur Kheri district with the main objective of providing a sustainable solution for environmental protection along with boosting the local economy. The park will be set up in Kumbhi village of Lakhimpur Kheri district and will have an area of 1,000 hectares. The total investment figure in this project is around Rs 2,000 crore.



8. Shefali Verma is the fastest female cricketer to score a double century in Tests

In a historic moment for women's Test cricket, India's aggressive opener Shefali Verma made headlines by scoring the fastest double century against South Africa, surpassing Australia's Annabel Sutherland. The 20-year-old Shefali achieved this feat in just 194 balls with brilliant batting. Verma's innings included 23 fours and eight sixes, ending the innings with a total of 205 before she was dismissed.



1. India's largest leopard safari recently opened to the public in which biological park?

- A - Gir National Park B - Kaziranga National Park
C - Ranthambore National Park D - **Bannerghatta Biological Park**

On June 26, Karnataka Environment Minister Ishwar Khandre inaugurated South India's first and India's third largest tiger safari at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Spread over 20 hectares, the safari area has been specially demarcated and fenced as per the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority. It aims to showcase eight tigers in their natural habitat in an open forest area.



2. Who was awarded the 12th Vishva Hindi Samman for outstanding contribution to Hindi literature?

- A - Audrey Azoulay B - Sanjana Thakur
C - **Dr. Usha Thakur** D - Vikram Misri

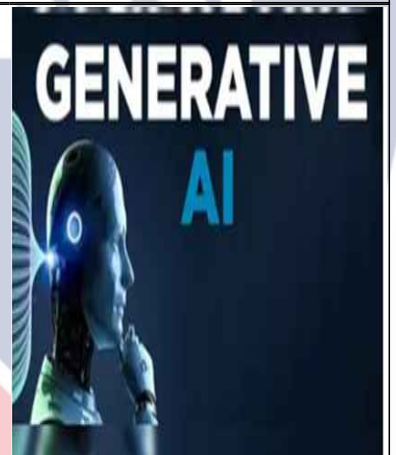
Dr. Usha Thakur was awarded the 12th Vishva Hindi Samman at an event organized by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal. The ceremony recognized her significant contribution to Indian and Nepali literature, where about 40 of her literary works were also translated into Hindi and Nepali. This award is given by the Government of India and its main objective is to promote Hindi language and literature on the global stage.



3. Where did BlinkX launch its General AI Lab to increase operational efficiency through AI projects?

- A - New Delhi B - **Mumbai** Strategists
C - Bangalore D - Chennai

BlinkX, the digital stockbroking arm of JM Financial, has launched an innovative initiative – BlinkX Gen AI Lab, a first in the Indian stockbroking industry. The lab is a transformational move in the industry, focusing on personalised trading strategies, advanced risk management tools, customised portfolio management and faster decision-making capabilities for clients.



4. In which place Seventeen was inaugurated as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Youth?

- A - New York B - Geneva
C - **Paris** D - Kathmandu

At a significant event at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, K-pop boy band Seventeen assumed their role as UNESCO's inaugural Goodwill Ambassador for Youth. The ceremony was attended by a global audience exclusively via livestream, where Seventeen delivered a keynote address and emphasized the importance of unity and shared dreams among youth.



5. Who won the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her work "Aishwarya Rai"?

- A - Audrey Azoulay
C - Vikram Misri

- B - Jennifer Nansubuga
D - Sanjana Thakur

Mumbai-based writer Sanjana Thakur has won the GBP 5,000 Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2024 held in London for her outstanding writing. Her story 'Aishwarya Rai' beat 7,359 competitors to win the award. In this story, Sanjana has sensitively exposed the life of a young woman, Avni, who is seeking to break out of her ordinary biography. The Commonwealth Short Story Prize is a world-class competition run by the Commonwealth Foundation.



6. Who has been elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha?

- A - K. Suresh
C - Jagan Mohan Reddy

- B - Om Birla
D - JP Nadda

Om Birla has been re-elected as the Lok Sabha Speaker, after which the Lok Sabha Speaker was elected. He was made the candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The opposition INDIA Block had nominated 8-time MP K Suresh from Kerala. The Speaker was selected in the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the name of Om Birla and it was approved by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.



7. Why was Turkey originally downgraded to the FATF's "grey list" in 2021?

- A - Lack of economic reforms
C - Political instability

- B - Concerns about money laundering and terrorist financing
D - Poor trade relations

International crime watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has removed Turkey from the "grey list" of countries that were placed on the list in 2021 due to concerns about money laundering and terrorist financing. FATF issued a statement of the decision, clarifying that Turkey has improved anti-money laundering systems and taken strong action against terrorist financing.

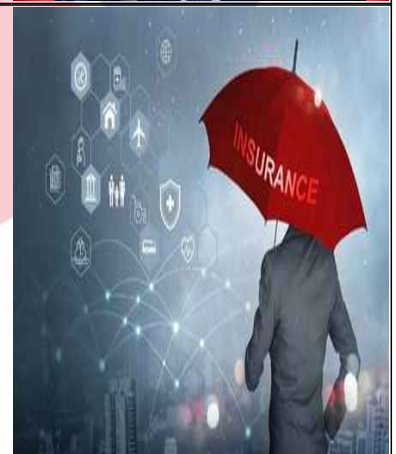


8. National Insurance Awareness Day is celebrated every year on _____?

- A - 28 June
C - 21 July

- B - 20 May
D - 10 August

National Insurance Awareness Day is celebrated every year on 28 June with the main objective of raising awareness about the benefits of investing in insurance policies or plans. These policies provide financial coverage in unfortunate events such as accidents, injuries or business losses, ensuring that people who pay their premiums regularly are protected. Health, home and life insurance are among the most sought-after plans.





One Liner

1. India's largest leopard safari recently opened to the public in which biological park. - **Bannerghatta Biological Park**
2. Who was awarded the 12th Vishva Hindi Samman for outstanding contribution to Hindi literature. - **Dr. Usha Thakur**
3. Where did BlinkX launch its General AI Lab to enhance operational efficiency through AI projects. - **Mumbai**
4. Where was Seventeen inaugurated as UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for Youth. - **Paris**
5. Who won the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her work "Aishwarya Rai". - **Sanjana Thakur**
6. Who has been elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha. - **Om Birla**
7. Why was Turkey originally downgraded to FATF's "grey list" in 2021. - **Concerns about money laundering and terrorist financing**
8. National Insurance Awareness Day, observed every year on _____. - **June 28**
9. What is the name of the free gut health-focused chatbot launched by Microbiotx. - **Gutchat**
10. How many medals did India win in BRICS Games 2024 - **29**

