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CURRENT AFFAIRS



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CURRENT AFFAIRS 23rd October 2021

National News

1. Poland recognizes India's Serum Institute-manufactured Covishield vaccine



Poland has recognized #Covishield as a vaccine equivalent to those recognized by the European Union, exempting from quarantine after entering the territory of the Republic of Poland.

- Poland has joined the growing group of nations to recognize the India's Serum Institute-manufactured Covishield vaccine.
- In a tweet, the Polish embassy in India said, Poland now recognizes Covishield as a vaccine equivalent to those recognized by the EU.
- This means that fully vaccinated individuals who took the Covishield vaccine are exempt from quarantine after entering the territory of Poland.

2. Chhattisgarh CM Launches Generic Medical Store Scheme



Bhupesh Baghel @bhupeshbaghel · 18h

श्री धन्वंतरी जेनेरिक मेडिकल स्टोर की एक तस्वीर-

जहां 50 से 71 प्रतिशत कम कीमत पर उपलब्ध होंगी जेनेरिक दवाईयां।



- Raipur, Oct 20 Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday launched a generic medical store scheme to provide medicines at affordable rates and said his government has been making consistent efforts to make healthcare services accessible to the poorest of poor in the state.
- Under the 'Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store' scheme, medicines will be made available at affordable rates to consumers.
- As many as 84 generic medicine shops were opened across the state on the inaugural day of the scheme.
- the Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store scheme has been launched where people will get a discount between 50.09 per cent and 71 per cent on the MRP of medicines

3. DRDO conducts successful flight test of high-speed expendable aerial target drone, Abhyas



- **ABHYAS - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested today by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur .**
- **Abhyas is designed and developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.**
- **The current flight test is carried out as a part of developmental flight trials.**
- **The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems. Defence minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight trial of Abhyas.**

4. Earth Guardian Award for Parambikulam Foundation



- The Parambikulam Tiger Conservation Foundation (PaTCoF), a non-profit organisation under the forest department that strives to facilitate conservation of tiger and biodiversity in Parambikulam tiger reserve, has bagged the Earth Guardian Award instituted by the NatWest Group.
- The eight winners of the award were felicitated by UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora secretary general Ivonne Higuero through a virtual ceremony on Wednesday.
- “The awards instituted by NatWest Group India are part of an initiative that recognises efforts of individuals and institutions working to subvert climate change by conserving and preserving the biodiversity of the country, said NatWest Group India head Punit Sood.

Business and Appointments

5. Reliance Brands signs an agreement to acquire 40% stake in MM Styles.



- **MANISH MALHOTRA and Reliance Brands Limited (RBL) have announced a strategic partnership aimed at accelerating the 16-year-old couture house's growth plans in India and across the globe.**
- **RBL has signed an agreement to invest in founder and creative director, Manish Malhotra's eponymous brand for a 40% minority stake.**
- **Launched in 2005, the MANISH MALHOTRA luxury-retail footprint extends across 4 flagship stores in Mumbai, New Delhi, and Hyderabad, 2 SIS, besides an elaborate virtual store and over 12 million social followers across various channels.**

6. SAI appoints Arjuna Awardee Commodore PK Garg as new CEO of Target Olympic Podium Scheme



- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) appointed Commodore PK Garg as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) at the Mission Olympic Cell.
- Commodore Garg, who was the High-Performance Director with Sports Authority of India till June 2021, is also an Arjuna Awardee recipient (1990) in Sailing and has also won the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee in 1993-94.
- He joined the Indian Navy in 1984 and was in charge of many important and prestigious assignments over 34 years of service.
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the apex national sports body of India, established in 1982 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of Government of India for the development of sport in India.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports- Anurag Thakur

Defence News

7. Konkan Shakti exercise: India-U.K. to launch phase of high-level exchanges



- The first-ever tri-services joint exercise between India and the UK began on October 21 and will go on for a week.
- Named Konkan Shakti 2021, it “aims to derive mutual benefits from each other’s experiences and also showcase the continuing cooperation between the two countries,” the Navy said.
- The maritime component of the exercise will be conducted off India’s west coast in two phases.
- Harbour phase will be held in Mumbai from October 21 to October 23, moving to the sea phase which concludes on October 27.

International News

8. Volcano Mount Aso erupted in Japan, blasting ash several miles into sky



- In Japan, the volcano Mount Aso suddenly erupted yesterday blasting ash several miles into the sky.
- The Japan Meteorological Agency has raised the warning level for Mount Aso to three on a scale of five.
- It has also cautioned people to avoid approaching the mountain warning against the threat of lava flows and falling rocks.
- Mount Aso is a popular tourist destination on Japan's Kyushu island.

9. FATF retains Pakistan on its grey list; Turkey also added to list



- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained Pakistan on its Grey List.
- FATF President Marcus Pleyer announced the decision was after a three-day-long plenary session of the global terror financing watchdog in Paris yesterday.
- He said, Pakistan government failed to comply with four of action points out of 34-point action plan given by FATF.
- Three other countries - Turkey, Mali and Jordan have been added to the FATF Grey List.
- Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing.
- Pakistan's inclusion in the grey list has severely hampered Islamabad's prospects of obtaining financial assistance from world bodies such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and Asia Development Bank.
- Most recently, Islamabad's endeavour to obtain a 1 billion dollar loan from the IMF also failed.

10. Trump to launch new social media platform TRUTH Social



- Former US President Donald Trump has announced plans to launch a new social media network, called TRUTH Social.
- He said the platform would "stand up to the tyranny of big tech", accusing them of silencing opposing voices in the US.
- Mr Trump was banned from Twitter and suspended from Facebook after his supporters stormed the US Capitol.
- Social media firms were under pressure throughout Mr Trump's presidency to ban him, with his posts criticised as insulting, inflammatory or peddling outright falsehoods.

11. South Korea launches its first homegrown space rocket



- South Korea has launched its first homegrown rocket, stepping up the country's ambitions in space. The Korean Satellite Launch Vehicle II, known as Nuri, took off from Goheung, about 500km south of Seoul.
- President Moon Jae-in said the vehicle completed its full flight sequence but failed in its goal of putting a dummy satellite in orbit. Such launches are essential for a space programme but could potentially also have military applications
- Nuri cost South Korea an estimated 2 trillion won \$1.6 billion to develop. Weighing 200 tonnes and measuring 47.2 metres long, it is fitted with six liquid-fuelled engines.

12. International Snow Leopard Day: 23 October



- It was on October 23, 2013, when political leaders from 12 countries came together to endorse the 'Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of snow leopards.
- Every year, October 23 is observed as International Snow Leopard Day since 2014.
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the Bishkek Declaration and to celebrate this endangered cat and raise awareness for its conservation and protection.

By Sameer Singhal