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Kerala to set up India's First International Women's Trade Centre



On 25th August 2020, Biju Prabhakar, IAS, Secretary, Department of Social Justice, Women & Child Development announced that **Kerala** will set up **India's First** International Women Trade Centre(IWTC) in accord with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations(UN) at Angamaly,

Kochi, Kerala.

This announcement was made during the webinar on “Scaling up Opportunities for MSME women Entrepreneurs in Kerala” organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI) Kerala State Council.

IWTC:

Aim:

To accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing them a safe place to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.

Features:

- i.**The IWTC will serve as a facilitator to launch the own ventures of the women entrepreneurs.
- ii.**This will enable women entrepreneurs to participate in the international trade and gain economic benefits.
- iii.**This will increase the competitiveness among women entrepreneurship to utilize market opportunities.

India, Singapore commit to further enhance security partnership at 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue



On 28th August, 2020 India and Singapore carried out a review of their defence ties at the virtual meet of the **14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD)**. The DPD was co-chaired by India's Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee.

Key Points:

- i. Both the countries decided to boost their defence and security partnership with focus to boost bilateral maritime security cooperation.
- ii. During the DPD, the Implementing Arrangement on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** was signed between the two countries.

Kiren Rijiju attends Sports Ministers Meeting of BRICS Nations; India to host BRICS Games 2021 with Khelo India Games

On 26th August, 2020 Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju attended the meeting between the Sports Ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) nations.



During the meeting, the Ministers assessed the impact of COVID-19 on sports and discussed ways to bring back normalcy in the industry.

India to host BRICS Games 2021 with Khelo India Games

i. After the meeting, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that India may host the **BRICS Games in 2021** and may align it with the Khelo India Games in India. Haryana will host the fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG).

- ii. India is set to get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.
- iii. During the BRICS Games 2021, member countries will be invited to showcase their traditional **indigenous games** during the inaugural or closing ceremony of the games.

About BRICS:

Establishment– 2009

Members– 5

Theme for 2020– “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal Virtually Attended the 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers’ Meeting (EAS-EMM)

8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers’ Meeting (EAS-EMM) was held virtually which was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States.

- The Meeting was chaired by **Tran Tuan Anh**, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam. From Indian side it was attended by **Piyush Goyal**, Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- During the meet discussions were held to accelerate economic growth, maintain supply chains and market stability, and strengthen the economic resilience of the EAS region post COVID-19.

Key Points:



-The Ministers welcomed regional initiatives to mitigate the impact of the pandemic including the establishment of the **ASEAN COVID-19 Response Fund**, as well as the work towards the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies and the Standard Operating Procedures for Public

Health Emergencies Response.

-Notably, there is increasing trade and strong investment performance among the EAS economies, with the combined nominal GDP (gross domestic Product) reaching US\$ 51.6 trillion in 2019, an increase by 4.1 per cent from previous year.

-ASEAN merchandise trade with non-ASEAN EAS participating countries amounted to US\$ 1.3 trillion in 2019, accounting for 48.1% of ASEAN’s total trade while Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached to US\$ 61.2 billion, representing 38.1% of ASEAN’s total FDI inflows.

Noor Inayat Khan, Britain's World War II Spy Became the 1st Indian-origin woman to honoured with a Memorial Blue Plaque



i.Noor Inayat Khan(Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan or Nora Baker), Britain's World War II spy, who served in the Special Operations Executive(SOE) became the **1st Indian-origin woman** to be honoured with a memorial **Blue Plaque** at her former family home in London, United Kingdom(UK).



ii.She is **1st muslim war heroine** of Britain and **1st female wireless operator** sent from the UK into Nazi-occupied France to aid the French Resistance during World War II.

About English Heritage:

HeadQuarters– Swindon, England

Chief Executive – Kate Mavor

China Launches Most Advanced Warship Type-054 class for Pakistan Navy

On 23rd August, 2020 China launched the first of the four advanced naval



warships, Type-054 class frigates for the Pakistan Navy. The Type-054 class frigate is manufactured by China **Shipbuilding Trading Company Ltd (CSTC)** and was launched in the **Chinese state-owned Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard, Shanghai.**

i.The Warship is fitted with the latest surface, subsurface, anti-air weapons, combat management system and sensors and will be one of the technologically-advanced surface

platforms of the Pakistan Navy Fleet.

ii.In 2017, Pakistan signed a contract with CSTC for the delivery of two Type-054 A/P frigates in 2017.

iii.054A/P frigates is the successor to the F-22P frigate, and the F-22P frigate which is an export model developed by China on the basis of the 053H3 frigate.

iv.The acquisition of the warship is expected to double the combat power of Pakistan's Navy surface fleet.

v.It is the largest combat ship that China has ever sold to a foreign navy and is an important milestone for China's military export sector.

About Type 054A Class frigate:

- i. The multi-role frigate has a fully loaded displacement of 4,000 metric tons and is equipped with advanced radars and missiles.
- ii. The Type 054A is recognized as the backbone of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) fleet.

About Pakistan:

Prime Minister – Imran Khan

Capital – Islamabad

Currency – Pakistani Rupee

About China:

President – Xi Jinping

Capital – Beijing

Currency – Renminbi

Bryan Brothers, Successful Doubles Pair in Tennis Announced Retirement

On 28th August 2020, The Bryan Brothers, 42-year-old identical twins Robert Charles “Bob” Bryan and Michael Carl “Mike” Bryan, the most successful **American** doubles tennis players announced their retirement from the professional circuit with immediate effect.

Highlights:

- i. Bryan Brothers made their grand slam debut in the 1995 US open.
- ii. The Bryan brothers finished their career with a 1108 – 359 team win-loss record.
- iii. They secured the No.1 ranking in the ATP doubles ranking on 8th September 2003.
- iv. They secured and held the top position of Men's doubles pair for a total of 438 weeks and 10 seasons (2003, 2005-2007, 2009-2014) as the No.1 team.



Achievements:

They won around 119 trophies which includes 16 Grand Slams, 39 ATP Masters 1000s, four Nitto ATP Finals, 438 weeks at No. 1, the **2012 Olympic gold medal** and 2007 Davis Cup triumph.