

NATIONAL AFFAIRS**MADHYA PRADESH****Madhya Pradesh to produce its own seeds soon**

- In Madhya Pradesh, along with distribution and marketing of certified and high quality seeds to farmers, the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Seed Federation will produce seeds too. The brand name of seeds will be ‘Sah-Beej’. A plan has been made to produce seeds from the next Rabi season.

ASSAM**Skill development training programme starts in Bongaigaon for jail inmates**

- In Assam, a three month skill development training programme has been started in Bongaigaon district for the jail inmates. The programme aims at providing opportunities for the prison inmates to engage themselves in fruitful pursuits during the term of their sentence. Besides the main objective, the course is expected to enhance the employability potential of the prisoners after their release

INTERNATIONAL**India hands over pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar for displaced returnees**

- India handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar in Maung Daw for use of displaced returnees. External Affairs Ministry said in a release that India had taken up the project under its Rakhine State Development Programme under which 25 million dollars are allocated for a period of five years.

US State Dept approves potential 2.2 billion arms sale to Taiwan

- The US State Department has approved the potential sale of 2.2 billion US dollars worth of arms to Taiwan. The Pentagon said the arms included Abrams tanks and Stinger missiles. Meanwhile, China urged Washington to immediately cancel the potential weapons sale. Beijing views Taiwan as part of its territory.

Newly appointed Force Commander of UN mission in South Sudan encourages peacekeepers

- Newly appointed Force Commander of the UN mission in South Sudan, Lieutenant General Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar assumed charge in Juba recently. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had announced the appointment of Tinaikar in May. After assuming the charge, the Force Commander encouraged peacekeepers to achieve their mandate and overcome difficulties with patience and perseverance.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**Second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue**

- The Second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) shall be held on 10 July in New Delhi. The Second meeting of the IRSED shall be focussing on six core areas of cooperation, namely, Development of Transport Infrastructure and Technologies; Development of Agriculture and Agro-Processing sector; Small and Medium Business support; Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies; Cooperation in Trade, Banking, Finance, and Industry; and Tourism & Connectivity.

India – Asean Troika Trade Ministers’ Meeting

- India – ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers’ meeting was held in New Delhi for informal consultation on the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Addressing the meeting Piyush Goyal said that India looks at RCEP as a logical extension of its Act East Policy and it holds enormous potential for economic growth and stability for the entire region.

4th Director General Level Talks held between NCB, India and CCDAC, Myanmar

- The 4th Director General Level Talks between Narcotics Control Bureau, India and Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. (CCDAC), Myanmar on drug trafficking and related matters were held in New Delhi. The two- day bilateral meeting from 9th to 10th July , 2019 is being organized to take coordinated and concerted actions against drug trafficking between the two countries.

DEFENCE**Two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for IAF arrive in Gujarat**

- American aerospace major Boeing has announced the arrival of two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for the Indian Air Force at the Mundra port in Gujarat. The Indian Air Force has ordered 15 Chinooks and the first four helicopters arrived in February. The IAF had placed the order in 2015 along with 22 Apache attack helicopters. Boeing India said, the advanced multi-mission helicopter will provide the armed forces unmatched strategic airlift capability.

SPORTS**Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship**

- Former world champion Mirabai Chanu won the gold on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship in Samoa. The Indian contingent won 13 medals that included eight gold, three silver and two bronze medals in senior, junior and youth categories.

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