

**IMPORTANT DAYS****23 August - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**

- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 August 1998) and Goree in Senegal (23 August 1999).

**NATIONAL AFFAIRS****‘San-Sadhan’ Hackathon**

- The government calls for applications for its latest initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission, called the ‘San-Sadhan’ Hackathon, an initiative to ease lives of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.
- The initiative is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard.

**"Fit India Movement"**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch "Fit India Movement". This nation-wide campaign aims to encourage people to inculcate physical activity and sports in their everyday lives. A 28 member committee headed by Sports Minister, Kiren Rijiju has been formed to advise the government on the movement.

**UTTAR PRADESH****“Renovated Modern Alimco Prosthetic & Orthotic Center” at Kanpur**

- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the ‘Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC) and Residential complex building of ALIMCO Headquarters at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

**ASSAM****National Green Tribunal seeks eco-sensitive zone tag for Assam wetland Deepor Beel**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Assam government to declare the area around Deepor Beel a major wetland on the western edge of Guwahati an eco-sensitive zone. Deepor Beel is an ‘Important Bird Area’ and a Ramsar Site, with a reserve forest nearby. Eco-sensitive zone entails declaring up to 10 km around a protected area a buffer zone and restricting industrial and other human activities.

**INTERNATIONAL****Bavar-373 missile defense system of Iran**

- Iran displayed a domestically-built long-range, mobile surface-to-air missile system Bavar-373. Iran developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes barring it from importing many weapons.
- This long-range air defense system can detect targets or planes at more than 300 km (190 miles), lock it at about 250 km, and destroy it at 200 km.

**India, U.S. to hold 2+2 dialogue**

- Amid increased India-Pakistan tension, the United States will host an intersessional meeting of the US-India 2+2 Dialogue in California to discuss ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities. The intersessional meeting is aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership.

**Nepal bans single use plastics on Everest region**

- Nepal will make the Everest region a plastic-free zone by 2020 by banning single-use plastics, a move that will curb excessive pollution on the highest point of the Earth's surface. The new rule will come into effect from January 1, 2020.

**SPACE SCIENCE****Russia sends its first humanoid robot Fedor into space**

- Russia launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station. Named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia.

**MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS****MoU between AWHO and Tata Realty**

- A historic milestone was reached with the signing of an MoU between Indian Army's Army Welfare Housing Organization (AWHO) and Tata Realty & Housing on 22 Aug 2019. The MoU enables the personnel of Indian Army to immediately take over dwelling units in 13 'Ready to Move in' projects of Tata Realty pan India spread over 10 cities including Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune among others at a discount ranging from 11% to 27%.

**APPOINTMENTS****Vikram Rathour to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach**

- Former opener Vikram Rathour will replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach while Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches. The 50-year-old Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs in 1996.

**SPORTS****WADA suspends India's National Dope Testing Laboratory**

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has suspended the accreditation of India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) for six months in what could be a massive blow to anti-doping movement in the country with less than a year left for Tokyo Olympics.

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