

February 7th news:

National:

Railways Ministry signs MoU with Ministry of Ayush

Railways Ministry on 6th February signed an MoU with Ministry of Ayush in New Delhi to augment Ayush services in Railway hospitals. According to the Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha, the traditional knowledge of AYUSH systems can be harnessed to help a vast majority of railway staff who are required to put in stressful field duties on site.

Ayush Systems of Medicine offer safe, effective and complete holistic treatment in many diseases. The proposed collaboration will play a pivotal role in offering healthcare needs to the people serving the railway sector. Presently Railways is running 126 Homeopathic Clinics and 40 Ayurvedic Clinics

Bilateral:

India contributes \$1 million to UN Development Partnership Fund

India contributed additional \$1 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund, earmarked for South-South cooperation. The contribution aims to intensify its partnerships with other developing countries in the south. India has pledged a multi-year contribution of \$100 million to the fund establishment in June 2017. The fund was set up on 9 June 2017 on occasion of the World Oceans Day as a partnership between India and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

India, EU to step up cooperation to counter terrorism

India and the European Union have vowed to step up cooperation to counter terrorism as both sides seek to exchange information on terrorists organisations and their safe havens. Ambassador of the European Union to India Tomasz Kozlowski highlighted that cooperation in combating terrorism that was agreed upon during the last India-EU Summit that was held in October.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation to take decisive and concerted actions against globally proscribed terrorists and terror entities, including Hafeez Saeed, Zaki-urRehman Lakhvi, Dawood Ibrahim, Lashkar-e-Tayibba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizb-ulMujahideen, Haqqani Network, Al Qaeda, ISIS (Da'esh) and their affiliates.

Economy:

Launch of Startupindia Ranking Framework

Three new tools for States and Union Territories for ranking of startups in the country was launched by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry at a function on 6th February in New Delhi.

The tools are: the State and Union Territory Startup Ranking Framework, the Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Startups in India and the Startup India Kit. These will act as catalysts to help the Startup India initiative to drive Indias economic growth.

India is home to about 20,000 startups, with about 1,400 beginning operations every year. They are not only driving economic growth but also leading to technological innovations and employment generation in every state.

Entrepreneurs are introducing new solutions everyday and also improving existing processes. To encourage and help startups the Govt of India has taken the lead in creating policies and a framework. 18 States and UTs have a startup focussed environment with ease of doing business for startups.

The key objective of the Startup States and UTs Ranking Framework is to encourage States and UTs to take proactive steps towards strengthening the Startup ecosystems at the local level.

The Ranking Framework will measure the impact of each step initiated at the local level for building a strong Startup ecosystem. The Ranking Framework will also enable continuous learning through the dissemination of good practices

Science and Technology:

India successfully test-fires nuclear capable Agni-1 missile

India on 6th February successfully test-fired its short-range nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-1 with a strike range of over 700 km from a test range off the Odisha coast. The indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile was launched as a part of a periodic training activity by the Strategic Forces Command of the Army to consolidate operational readiness.

The missile was launched from a mobile launcher at of the Integrated Test Range at the Dr Abdul Kalam Island. Describing the trial a complete success, they said that all the mission objectives were met during the test.

The missile, which has already been inducted into the armed forces, has proved its performance in terms of range, accuracy and lethality. Weighing around 12 tonnes, the 15-metre-long Agni-I can carry payloads up to 1,000 kg and is capable of hitting a target beyond 700 km. The missile is also capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Japan Launches Smallest Rocket Ever To Carry Tiny Satellite Into Orbit

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the world's smallest rocket with the ability to put a tiny satellite into orbit. The rocket lifted off from the Uchinoura Space Center. It carried a microsatellite TRICOM-1R, a three-unit CubeSat weighing about 3 kilograms. This satellite launch was a re-flight of the TRICOM-1 mission, which was lost in SS-520's failure in 2017.

The launch was aimed at testing the ability of JAXA to launch low-cost rockets that can put microsatellites into space at affordable rates.

Sports:

Shubhankar Sharma Becomes Best Indian Golfer In The World

Shubhankar Sharma emerged as the best Indian golfer in the world, grabbing the 72nd position in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR). He has won the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Sharma has enjoyed a golden run over the past few months on the international stage, clinching his first European Tour win at the Joburg Open.