

August 3rd, 4th, 5th news

International:

N. Korea flouted UN sanctions: report

North Korea has pressed ahead with its nuclear and missile programmes and continues to evade UN sanctions through increased illegal ship-to-ship transfers of oil products at sea, according to a UN report

In a 62-page report sent to the Security Council, the UN panel of experts also listed violations of a ban on North Korean exports of coal, iron, seafood and other products that generate millions of dollars in revenue for Kim Jong-un's regime.

Pyongyang "has not stopped its nuclear and missile programs and continued to defy Security Council resolutions through a massive increase in illicit ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum products, as well as through transfers of coal at sea during 2018," said the report, seen by AFP.

The transfer of petroleum products to North Korean tankers at sea remains "a primary method of sanctions evasion", involving 40 vessels and 130 associated companies, it added.

The violations have rendered the latest batch of sanctions "ineffective" by flouting the cap on oil, fuel and coal imposed in a raft of UN resolutions adopted last year, it added.

At a historic June summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, Mr. Kim signed up to a vague commitment of "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in the hope of getting UN and U.S. sanctions relief.

Mr. Trump, however, has repeatedly warned Pyongyang that the sanctions must remain in place and could even be tightened as long as there is no progress on ending its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

North Korea also "attempted to supply small arms and light weapons and other military equipment via foreign intermediaries" to Libya, Yemen and Sudan, said the report.

It named Syrian arms trafficker Hussein Al-Ali, who offered "a range of conventional arms, and in some cases ballistic missiles to armed groups in Yemen and Libya" that were produced in North Korea.

North Korea continued to receive revenue from exports of banned commodities, for instance deliveries of iron and steel to China, India and other countries that generated nearly \$14 million from October to March. North Korean diplomats play a key role in sanctions evasion by setting up multiple bank accounts, the report added.

National:

India Elected President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

AIBD India has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for two years. India beat Iran when voting was held at the 44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Director General of All India Radio F. Sheheryar was re-elected as chair of the executive board while Sri Lanka was elected as vice-chair. Broadcasters from 26 countries in the region are full members of the organization.

Bilateral:

PHDCCI and CNI sign MoU to set up Indo-Nepal Centre

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish India-Nepal Centre. It will further strengthen economic engagement between the two countries.

The MoU aims to promote Indian investment in Nepal, work with Indian ventures in Nepal to resolve problems being faced by them, promote industrialization in Nepal and provide training to Nepali entrepreneurs.

The MoU was signed by Anil Khaitan, President of PHDCCI and Hari Bhakta Sharma, President of CNI in Kathmandu on Wednesday. Finance Minister of Nepal, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri were also present on the occasion.

Economy:

NITI Aayog Launches Global Mobility Hackathon 'Move Hack'

NITI Aayog has launched *Move Hack*, a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India. Envisaged to be one of the largest hackathons globally, Move Hack is focused on 10 themes and structured over three legs: online, followed by Singapore leg, and the finals in New Delhi. The winners will be announced during the Move Summit 2018, which is also organized by NITI Aayog in September 2018 in New Delhi. Awards for the hackathon include recognizing top 10 winners, with total prize of more than Rs. 2 crores.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana achieves 5 crore mark

The number of LPG connections given out under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has reached the 5 crore mark. The 5 crore milestone has been achieved in a little over 2 years (a total of 28 months); the scheme was launched on May 1st, 2016. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through its oil marketing companies, i.e., IOC, BPCL and HPCL, through their network of distributors across the country. The project's target has been revised to 8 crores, with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 12,800 crore.

Telangana inks MoU with Tech Mahindra for India's first Blockchain District

The government of Telangana has signed MoUs with Tech Mahindra, Nucleus Vision and Eleven01 Foundation to launch India's first Blockchain District, which will serve as a global talent hub. The district is expected to provide a complete ecosystem for the growth of blockchain technology. A more detailed business plan is expected to be announced in three months.

Science and Technology:

Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD Successfully Flight Tested

Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defense (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms was launched against multiple simulated targets of 1500 km class ballistic missile. All the mission objectives were successfully met. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, witnessed the flight test along with other senior officials.