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INTERNATIONAL

1) Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo

Bhutan has honoured PM Modi with its highest civilian award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo. Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has announced PM Modi's name for Bhutan's highest honour. The honour comes as an appreciation for India's friendly approach to Bhutan under PM Modi's governance.

NATIONAL

1) Digital Payments Utsav for 500 villages in India

WhatsApp has announced the Digital Payments Utsav for 500 villages in India. WhatsApp's Digital Payments Utsav is a pilot program that promotes digital payments to empower individuals and businesses and is meant as a project to further the cause of financial inclusion. The aim is to empower villagers with access to digital payments via the 'payments on WhatsApp'.

2) Minimum age of marriage for women

The proposal to raise the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 was cleared by the Union Cabinet. Presently, the minimum age of marriage for men is 21 but for women, it is 18. The government will now look to introduce amendments to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, and the Hindu Marriage Act to bring the plan into action.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) TVS Motor and BMW Motorrad tie up to make electric vehicles

India's TVS Motor Company will develop electric vehicles with BMW's motorcycle brand in India, joining a host of Indian automakers that have sought to expand their clean mobility offering. The tie-up comes at a time when new-age start-ups like Ola Electric & Ather are ramping up investment in electric scooters.

2) Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has set up an Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies. ALeRTS is a 7-member committee headed by Madhabi Puri Buch.

3) Adda247 has acquired UPSC-focused ed-tech platform StudyIQ

Edtech platform firm Adda247 has acquired UPSC-focused ed-tech platform StudyIQ Education for \$20 million (150 crores) in a cash and stock deal.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Knighthood at Windsor Castle

Lewis Hamilton has picked up a new title only days after losing one on the track. The seven-time Formula One champion received a knighthood at Windsor Castle, London. Hamilton gets the honorary title of "Sir" after being knighted by the Prince of Wales for services to motorsports. Hamilton is the first to be awarded while still competing in the sport.

2) Simone Biles

Simone Biles was named Time magazine's 2021 Athlete of the Year. The world's most decorated gymnast, a four-time Olympic medalist, was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) M.M. Naravane

Army Chief General M.M. Naravane has assumed the charge as the chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee that comprises the three service chiefs. The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat.

2) Arvind Kumar

Arvind Kumar has joined as Director General of Software Technology Parks of India. Software Technology Parks of India is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Government of India.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work'

Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled 'Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work' authored by Rahul Rawail. The book launch event was held at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, coinciding with Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1) Parker Solar Probe

NASA's Parker Solar Probe has entered the Sun's upper atmosphere for, first time in history. In 2018, launched the Parker Solar Probe aims to unravel the mysteries of the Sun by travelling closer to it. After three years of launching, Parker has finally arrived in the solar atmosphere.

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SPORTS

1) Khelo India Women's Hockey League

Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur formally inaugurated the first-ever national-level Khelo India Women's Hockey League at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The winner of the Khelo India Women's Hockey League will get a cash prize of 30 lakhs.