

## **Urvashi Rautela entitled as the World's Most Beautiful Woman by T C Candler**



Uttarakhand's mesmerizing beauty Urvashi Rautela who earlier was crowned as Miss Universe has now been given the title of 'World's Most Beautiful Woman' by T C Candler.

- A group of critics around the world finalizes a list of World's 100 Most beautiful faces. Headed by T C Candler this is one of the

most anticipated lists of winners in the fashion industry.

- The most beautiful women from over 40 countries such as Germany, South Korea, South Africa are ranked to prepare the list of 100 most beautiful faces.
- This was the 27th list of 100 most beautiful faces by T C Candler in which Urvashi Rautela was victorious amongst all the nominees.
- This list is not based simply on external appearances and rather encompasses all aspects of the modern definition of beauty.
- Urvashi Rautela was the most searched celebrity on Google.
- Earlier the timeless beauty Aishwarya Rai Bachchan had earned this title to her name.

## **Arun Jaitley given additional charge of Defence**



Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has been given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry.

- This follows the resignation of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar to take charge as Goa Chief Minister.

- Earlier, top sources in the government said that it could be quite possible that there are changes in the Cabinet, and that at least one Chief

Minister of a BJP ruled State may be moved to Delhi.

- A senior general secretary from the central team of the BJP may be sent as a replacement Chief Minister there, the sources added.
- Parrikar submitted his resignation after BJP staked claim to form an alliance government in Goa.

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- He will be sworn in as the chief minister of Goa tomorrow heading the BJP-led ministry which has the support of regional outfits and Independents.
- This is the second time that Jaitley is holding the additional portfolio of Defence Ministry during the present NDA government.
- He was in charge of the ministry earlier from May 26 to November 9 in 2014.

## **Manohar Parrikar sworn in as Goa Chief Minister**



Bharatiya Janata Party leader Manohar Parrikar, who on Monday morning resigned as Defence Minister, was sworn in as Chief Minister of Goa at Raj Bhavan .

- Mr. Parrikar, along with members of his Cabinet, was sworn in by Governor Mridula Sinha.

- Mr. Parrikar had been asked to prove his majority by convening a session of the Assembly within 15 days of taking oath.
- BJP sources reiterated here that a majority of the Cabinet berths are expected to be offered to the coalition partners.
- After winning 13 seats in the February 4 election, in a fast-paced political development on Sunday, the BJP cobbled together a coalition of 21 legislators in the 40-member House.
- This includes three MLAs each from regional parties, namely, the MGP and Goa Forward Party and two Independent.

## **India successfully test-fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**



India on Saturday successfully tested an extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile whose reach has been increased from 290 km to 400 km, from a

test range along the Odisha coast.

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**DEFENCE**

- The cruise missile was test fired from a mobile launcher from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore at about 11.30 am, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) officials said.
- The missile is capable of carrying a warhead of 300 kg.
- Increasing the missile's range became possible after India's induction into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) last June.
- The configuration of the existing missile has been tweaked to enhance its range.
- Another version of the missile with a strike range of 800 km is under development.
- India is currently carrying out tests of the air-launched BrahMos missile from specially-modified Sukhoi-30 fighter jets. The missile's land and naval variants – 500kg heavier than the air version – are already in service.
- Two Su-30 jets have been modified by the Nasik division of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to carry the 2.5-tonne missile that flies at nearly three times the speed of sound.
- working on a hypersonic missile, BrahMos-II (K), capable of taking out hardened targets such as underground bunkers and weapon storage facilities at seven times the speed of sound (Mach 7) or 8,575 kmph.

### 3 Haryana districts to have Post Office Passport Sewa Kendra



Three districts of Haryana will have 'Post Office Passport Sewa Kendra' (POPSK) under the first phase of the new initiative by the External Affairs Ministry.

- Hisar, Karnal and Faridabad will now be covered under the

programme in which head post offices are utilised by the Centre to deliver passport related services.

- An official spokesman of Haryana Government said that External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has written to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in this regard.
- The Minister has also informed that after completion of the first phase, her Ministry intends to initiate the second phase of the

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scheme and efforts would be made to include more districts of Haryana, if suggested by the state government.

- He said the Chief Minister has thanked Swaraj for including three districts of Haryana in the first phase of the scheme, adding that the opening of POPSK would immensely benefit the people.

## **India announces new licensing policy to boost oil output**



India on Tuesday announced an open acreage licensing policy for oil and gas exploration, allowing bidders to carve out areas where they want to drill as the energy-hungry country looks at greater foreign investment to boost output.

- The world's third-largest oil consumer will conduct auction of oil and gas blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) twice a year, with the first round being held in July this year, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said here at the influential CERAWEEK conference.
- OALP auction will be held under the overhauled exploration licensing policy allows pricing and marketing freedom to operators and shifts to a revenue sharing model.
- The July auction will be India's first major exploration licensing round since 2010, although it had recently awarded 31 small discovered fields mainly to state-owned and local firms under the liberalised Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP).
- Showcasing HELP, which was approved by the Union Cabinet on March 10 last year, to global investors, Pradhan said the new policy is part of the strategy to make India a business and investor friendly destination and cut import dependence by 10 per cent by 2022.

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