

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Minister for Tourism Shri G. Kishan Reddy chairs the BRICS Tourism Ministers' meeting**

Minister for Tourism Shri G. Kishan Reddy chaired the BRICS Tourism Ministers' meeting on 13 July, 2021, as part of India's BRICS chairship. The Ministers of all the member countries viz. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participated in the meeting.

India organized the BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting as an effective means to promote tourism cooperation among BRICS countries. The meeting reviewed the intra BRICS Tourism cooperation. The significant aspect of the meeting was the adoption of the Ministers' Communique, an outcome document on cooperation and promotion of tourism between the BRICS countries. The Ministers' Communique recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely endangered public health and has presented immense challenges to the implementation of sustainable development goals.

**NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch**

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC, has received the go-ahead from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to set up 4750 MW renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. This will be India's largest solar park to be built by the largest power producer of the country.

**Launch of BHIM-UPI QR-based payments in Bhutan, will become the first country to adopt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards for its QR deployment**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the launch of BHIM-UPI QR-based payments in Bhutan will further strengthen the cooperation between the two neighbouring nations.

The service was formally launched by the Finance Minister at a virtual ceremony in the presence of Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda and Joint Secretary Madnesh Kumar Mishra. Finance Minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Namgay Tshering, Governor of Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) of Bhutan, Dasho Penjore, Ambassador of Bhutan to India General V Namgyel, Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Ruchira Kamboj were also present.

The launch is expected to benefit more than 2,00,000 tourists from India who travel to Bhutan each year.

With this launch, Bhutan will become the first country to adopt Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards for its QR deployment. Bhutan will also become the only country to issue and accept RuPay cards as well as accept BHIM-UPI.

### **Sher Bahadur Deuba sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for 5th time**

Sher Bahadur Deuba took oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal, a day after the country's Supreme Court overturned the dissolution of the House of Representatives and said that Deuba must be appointed PM.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office to Deuba at a ceremony held at her office on Tuesday evening. Deuba, 75, president of the Nepali Congress, was sworn in as Prime Minister for the fifth time.

### **Former cricketer Yashpal Sharma, member of Indian team that won 1983 World Cup, dies at 66**

Former Indian cricket Yashpal Sharma has died due to a heart attack on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Sharma was 66 years old when he took his last breath. Sharma was a member of India's World Cup-winning team in 1983, which was led by Kapil Dev. The right-hander was an explosive middle-order batsman.

Sharma had scored 11 runs off 32 balls in the World Cup final against the potent West Indies team. Yashpal, who was born in Ludhiana, featured in 37 Test matches for India and scored 1606 runs at an average of 33.45. Furthermore, the right-hander played 42 ODI matches for the national team and scored 883 runs in the ODI format.