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Monday, 09 December 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Monday, 09 December 2024

India to Chair UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the first time

- **India's Achievement:** India has been selected to Chair the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for the first time.
- **Key Appointment:** Shambhu Kumaran, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, has officially assumed the Chairmanship.
- **About CND:** The CND is the principal policy-making body of the UN on drug-related issues, monitoring global trends, supporting balanced policies, and overseeing international drug conventions.
- **Significance:** This milestone highlights India's growing global leadership and its commitment to multilateralism.
- **Role as Chair:** India aims to represent the interests of the Global South and promote dialogue on drug policy issues.
- **Highlights:**
 - **Organization:** Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
 - **Chairmanship:** 68th Session, India
 - **Representative:** Shambhu Kumaran
 - **Significance:** First time for India, promoting Global South's interests.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chair of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)?
Shambhu Kumaran



कार्मिक और प्रशिक्षण विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
PERSONNEL & TRAINING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



मेरी सरकार





MISSION KARMAYOGI: RULES-BASED TO ROLES-BASED

**National Programme for Civil Services
Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**

-  Shift from 'Rules-based' to a 'Roles-based' human resource management
-  Emphasise role of "On-Site learning" in complementing "Off-Site learning"
-  Linking training and development of competencies of civil servants
-  Transforming training institutions into Centres of Excellence

MISSION KARMAYOGI directly invest and co-create a common system

Monday, 09 December 2024

Puducherry signs MoU with Karmayogi Bharat and Capacity Building Commission to onboard its govt employees onto iGOT Karmayogi platform

- Puducherry signed an MoU with Karmayogi Bharat and the Capacity Building Commission to onboard its government employees onto the iGOT Karmayogi platform.
- Significance: Puducherry is the 14th state/UT to join this platform aimed at capacity building and skill development for government employees.
- Remark: Lt. Governor K. Kailashnathan emphasized the platform as a tool for transformation and lifelong learning.
- Puducherry:
- Geography and Composition:
- Puducherry is a Union Territory of India.
- It comprises four districts: Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam, located in three different states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh).
- Historical Background:
- Former French colony until 1954.
- Officially merged with India on November 1, 1954.
- Retains French cultural influences and architecture.
- Governance:
- Has a Lieutenant Governor (current: K. Kailashnathan).
- Unique among Union Territories, Puducherry has its own legislative assembly and Council of Ministers.

Q. Which Union Territory became the 14th to onboard its government employees onto the iGOT Karmayogi platform? **Puducherry.**



Monday, 09 December 2024

Canada launches Arctic Foreign Policy

- Canada has launched its Arctic Foreign Policy, a diplomatic strategy focused on engagement and addressing challenges in the Arctic region.
- Pillars of Policy:
 - Asserting Canada's sovereignty.
 - Advancing interests through pragmatic diplomacy.
 - Leadership on Arctic governance and multilateral challenges.
 - Adopting an inclusive approach to Arctic diplomacy.
- Core Priority: Strengthening cooperation across the North American Arctic, involving Alaska (USA), northern Canada, and Greenland (Denmark).
- Significance of Canadian Arctic: Covers 40% of Canada's territory and over 70% of its coastline, home to Indigenous Peoples with ancestral ties to the land.
- Canada :
- Capital: Ottawa
- Governor General: Mary Simon
- Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau
- Currency: Canadian dollar

Q. Which country recently launched its Arctic Foreign Policy with a focus on sovereignty, governance, and inclusive diplomacy? **Canada.**



Monday, 09 December 2024

Lionel Messi bags MLS MVP Award

- Lionel Messi won the 2024 MLS MVP Award, named after Landon Donovan, despite missing 15 of Inter Miami's 34 matches due to injuries and national team commitments.
- Performance Highlights: Messi contributed to a league-high 36 goals (20 goals, 16 assists) with the highest per-90-minute rate in MLS history.
- Voting Results: Messi secured 38.4% of votes, edging out Columbus Crew's Cucho Hernández (33.7%). Other top contenders included Evander (9.2%), Christian Benteke (7.1%), and Luis Suárez (2.2%).
- Team Achievements: Messi led Inter Miami to the Supporters' Shield and the best regular season record in MLS history but fell short in the MLS Cup playoffs.
- Additional Honors: Messi captained Argentina to a Copa America title in 2024.
- Legacy: Messi, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, continues to elevate the profile of MLS and is contracted with Inter Miami until 2025, with hopes of extending his stay through 2026.
- Impact: MLS Commissioner Don Garber acknowledged Messi's transformative influence on the league, highlighting his global appeal and the franchise's growth.

Q. Who won the 2024 MLS MVP Award, contributing to a league-high 36 goals for Inter Miami? **Lionel Messi.**

Mongol nomad migration and its associated practices

Mongolia

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Monday, 09 December 2024

UNESCO adds Mongolia's Mongol nomad migration, associated practices to intangible cultural heritage

- Mongolia's Mongol nomad migration and associated practices have been added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- This decision was made during the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asuncion, Paraguay (December 2-7, 2024).
- Cultural Significance: Mongolian nomadic culture is based on the interdependence between pastures, livestock, and herders, with families migrating to allow pastures to rejuvenate.
- Migration Process: The head of the household determines the date for migration, and the entire family prepares, including cleaning the area and readying the animals.
- Unique Tradition: The wife leads the migration dressed in her finest attire as a gesture of gratitude to Mother Nature.
- UNESCO:
 - Full Name: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
 - Founded: November 16, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II to promote peace and security through international cooperation in education, science, and culture.
 - Headquarters: Paris, France.
 - Current Director-General: Audrey Azoulay
 - Member Countries: 193 Member States and 11 Associate Members.
- Primary Objectives:
 - Promote global peace and security through education, culture, and science.
 - Foster international cooperation to preserve cultural heritage and promote sustainable development.
- Mongolia:
 - Capital: Ulaanbaatar
 - President: Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh
 - Prime Minister: Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene
 - Currency: Tögrög

Q. Which cultural practice of Mongolia was added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 19th session in Asuncion, Paraguay? **Mongol nomad migration and associated practices.**



Monday, 09 December 2024

RBI raises collateral-free agriculture loan limit to Rs 2 lakh per borrower

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the collateral-free agriculture loan limit to ₹2 lakh per borrower.
- Previously, the limit was ₹1.6 lakh per borrower.
- Historical Changes:
 - In 2010, the collateral-free loan limit was set at ₹1 lakh.
 - It was increased to ₹1.6 lakh in 2019.
- Reason for Revision: The enhancement accounts for inflation and the rise in agricultural input costs since the last revision.
- Benefits: The revised limit aims to expand access to formal credit for small and marginal farmers.
- Policy Announcement: The decision was highlighted in the RBI's monetary policy statement on developmental and regulatory policies.
- What is collateral-free agriculture loan?
 - A collateral-free agriculture loan is a loan provided to farmers without requiring any asset or security as collateral.
 - It is designed to support agricultural needs like buying seeds, fertilizers, or equipment, primarily benefiting small and marginal farmers.
- Current RBI Policy
 - Repo Rate: 6.5% (unchanged since February 2023).
 - Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%.
 - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: 6.25%.
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate: 6.75%.
 - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): Reduced to 4% (-50 bps).
 - Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): 18%.

Q. What is the new collateral-free agriculture loan limit set by the RBI? **₹2 lakh per borrower.**

Why did the RBI revise the collateral-free loan limit? **To account for inflation and rising agricultural input costs.**



Monday, 09 December 2024

Navy's new frigate 'INS Tushil' to be commissioned during Rajnath Singh's Russia visit

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Russia from December 8 to 10, 2024.
- Bilateral Defence Talks: Singh will meet Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov to discuss expanding cooperation in co-production of military hardware.
- IRIGC-M&MTC Meeting: Both leaders will co-chair the 21st India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) on December 10 in Moscow.
- Agenda of the Meeting:
 - Comprehensive review of military-to-military relations and industrial collaboration in defence.
 - Focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation in defence technology transfer and joint production.
- Commissioning of INS Tushil:
 - He will attend the commissioning ceremony of the INS Tushil, a stealth guided missile frigate, on December 9 in Kaliningrad.
 - The warship is one of the most advanced globally and will strengthen the Indian Navy's capabilities in the Indian Ocean, particularly amid increasing Chinese presence.
 - INS Tushil, a multi-role stealth guided missile frigate, will be commissioned on December 9, 2024, at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad.
 - This is the first of four frigates under a \$2.5 billion India-Russia deal signed in 2016.
 - The agreement includes two frigates built in Russia and two in India at Goa Shipyard Limited with Russian technical assistance.
 - INS Tushil is part of the Admiral Grigorovich-class and features advanced capabilities for air defense, anti-submarine warfare, and surface combat.
 - It will bolster the Indian Navy's ability to respond to regional threats, particularly in the Indo-Pacific

Q. What is the main agenda of Rajnath Singh's visit to Russia? **To discuss expanding cooperation in military hardware co-production and attend the IRIGC-M&MTC meeting.**
 What class does INS Tushil belong to? **The Admiral Grigorovich-class of stealth frigates.**
 How many frigates are part of the India-Russia 2016 deal? **Four frigates, two built in Russia and two in India at Goa Shipyard Limited.**



Monday, 09 December 2024

Algeria, South Africa sign declaration for strategic partnership

- Algeria and South Africa signed five cooperation agreements and a declaration for a strategic partnership to deepen bilateral relations.
- Key Areas of Cooperation:
 - Agricultural Research: Promote innovation in farming through joint research.
 - Space Technology: Collaborate between space agencies to advance technological exchange.
 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Foster economic growth through partnerships in entrepreneurship and innovation.
 - Economic Cooperation: Strengthen trade and investment between the two countries.
 - Legal and Judicial Collaboration: Enhance cooperation in legal and judicial matters to strengthen bilateral legal frameworks.
 - UN and AU Reforms: The countries agreed to intensify efforts to push for reforms in the UN Security Council, advocating for Africa to gain two permanent seats.
 - Ramaphosa's Statement: President Ramaphosa expressed South Africa's aspiration to further strengthen ties with Algeria, building on their historical relationship.
 - Trade and African Cooperation: Emphasized boosting trade and promoting African cooperation through the establishment of a free trade zone.
- Algeria
 - Capital: Algiers
 - Currency: Algerian Dinar
 - President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune
 - Prime minister: Nadir Larbaoui
- South Africa
 - Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein
 - President: Cyril Ramaphosa

Q. What is the shared goal of Algeria and South Africa in the UN and AU? **To push for reforms in the UN Security Council, advocating for Africa to gain two permanent seats.**

What does the partnership between Algeria and South Africa aim to enhance for Africa? **To boost trade and promote African cooperation through the establishment of a free trade zone.**



Monday, 09 December 2024

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2024 for ex-Chile Prez Michelle Bachelet

- 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize: Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, has been awarded the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development.
- Announcement Details: The award announcement was made by an international jury chaired by Shivshankar Menon, former National Security Advisor and Foreign Secretary of India.
- Bachelet's Career and Contributions:
 - Global Advocate for Human Rights: Celebrated for her commitment to peace, equality, and human rights.
 - Key Positions Held:
 - Founding Director of UN Women.
 - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
 - Chile's first female President (served two terms).
 - Champion of Gender Equality: Consistently advocated for gender equality and the rights of marginalized communities.
 - Presidency:
 - Elected: President of Chile in 2006 and re-elected in 2014.
 - Reforms Introduced: Education and tax reforms during her presidency.
 - Bilateral Ties with India: Signed a free trade agreement between India and Chile.
 - Global Leadership:
 - Director of UN Women (2010-2013): Led global efforts for gender equality.
 - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2018-2022): Addressed human rights issues, including in Palestine and other conflict zones.
 - Advocate for LGBTQ Rights: Vocal about promoting LGBTQ rights, democracy, and progressive values.
 - Legacy: Despite criticism, Bachelet has remained a tireless advocate for peace, justice, and human rights.
- About Indira Gandhi Peace Prize
 - The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize is a prestigious international award established in 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust to honor individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to world peace, disarmament, and development. The award is named after Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, who is remembered for her leadership and efforts in promoting peace and socio-economic development.

Q. Who was awarded the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development?
Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile

Who chaired the jury that announced the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize winner? **Shivshankar Menon**



Monday, 09 December 2024

Indian motorsports giant Indu Chandhok passes away

- Indu Chandhok, a key figure in Indian motorsports, passed away at the age of 93.
- Contributions to Indian Motorsports:
 - Founder of Madras Motor Sports Club: Became a founding member in 1953.
 - Founder of FMSCI: Helped establish the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India in 1971 and served as its president in 1978-79.
 - Madras International Circuit: Played an integral role in the development of the Madras International Circuit at Irungattkottai, near Chennai.
- Legacy in Motorsports:
 - Known as the "Godfather of Motor Sports in India" for his six-decade involvement as both a competitor and organiser.
- Other Contributions:
 - Punjab Association Trust: Served as the chairman.
 - DAV School, Camp Tonakela, and Madras Round Table: Actively involved with these organisations, including founding the Madras Round Table.
 - Masonic Lodge & Motor Parts Dealers Association: Served as president of the Indian Motor Parts Dealers Association and was active in the Masonic Lodge.
 - 41 Clubs of India: Was involved with this association of ex-Round Tablers and became its international president.
- Family Legacy:
 - Son: Vicky Chandhok, former National Rally Champion and current vice president of MMSC.
 - Grandson: Karun Chandhok, India's second Formula One driver and a well-known F1 commentator and analyst.

Q. Which motorsport club did Indu Chandhok help found in 1953?
Madras Motor Sports Club in 1953.

What nickname was Indu Chandhok given for his contributions to motorsports? **Godfather of Motor Sports in India.**



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