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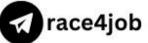


Tuesday, 17 December 2024













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Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passes away at 73

- Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passed away in the United States. He was 73.
- Ustaad Zakir Hussain was born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai.
- Legacy: Eldest son of renowned tabla player Ustaad Allah Rakha, Zakir Hussain was a global icon in Indian classical music.

Career Highlights: Awards:

- 5 Grammy Awards (including 3 at the 66th Grammy Awards in 2024).
- Padma Shri (1988), Padma Bhushan (2002), Padma Vibhushan (2023).
- National Heritage Fellowship (USA, 1999).
- SFJazz Lifetime Achievement Award (2017).
- Aga Khan Award for Music (2022).
- Q. Who was the legendary tabla maestro who passed away at the age of 73 and was the first Indian to win three Grammy Awards in one night? Zakir Hussain















Government Launches 'Jalvahak' Scheme to **Boost Inland Waterways and Cargo Movement**

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sonowal, unveiled Sarbananda the cargo promotion scheme 'Jalvahak' for boosting cargo movement on three national waterways.
- Objective: To incentivize long-haul cargo movement (over 300 km) on three national waterways - Ganga (NW-1), Brahmaputra (NW-2), and Barak (NW-16).

Key Highlights:

- Incentives: Direct benefits for cargo owners transporting goods via inland waterways.
- Operational Update: Three cargo ships with two dumb barges flagged off from GR Jetty, Kolkata, initiating a fixed schedule service from Haldia on NW-1 and NW-2.

Purpose:

- Promote inland water transport as an economical, eco-friendly, and efficient alternative.
- Reduce congestion on railways and roadways.
- Q. What is the name of the scheme launched to incentivize cargo movement on National Waterways 1, 2, and 16? **Jalvahak**















India and Moldova Strengthen Ties with Inauguration of Moldova Embassy in New Delhi

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Moldova's Deputy Prime Minister Mihail Popsoi jointly inaugurated the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi.

Significance:

- Marks a milestone in India-Moldova diplomatic relations, established in 1992.
- Strengthens bilateral ties and symbolizes India's growing global engagement.

Key Highlights:

- Operation Ganga: Jaishankar expressed gratitude to Moldova for its role in evacuating Indian students during the Ukraine crisis.
- Bilateral Cooperation: Both nations support each other on global platforms, addressing challenges like climate change and sustainable development.
- Indian Diaspora: Approximately 2,000 Indian students in Moldova act as cultural bridges between the two nations.
- Q. Which two leaders jointly inaugurated the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi, marking milestone in India-Moldova relations? External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova Mihail Popsoi.















VP Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurates Geoscience Museum in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

- Event: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Geoscience Museum at the Victoria Market Building, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- Objective: The museum aims to promote geoscience education, scientific temperament, and public engagement.
- Initiative: Established by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the museum is a hub for exploring Earth sciences and showcasing geological marvels.

Key Highlights: Galleries:

- Gallery I: Planet Earth: Its Uniqueness in Diversity
- Features volcanic rocks, Himalayan fossils, dinosaur eggs, and rare gemstones.
- Utilizes multimedia displays, interactive models, and geological specimens.
- Q. Where did Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurate the Geoscience Museum established by the Geological Survey of India? Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.















Mumbai wins Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024, beats Madhya Pradesh by wickets

- In Domestic Cricket, Mumbai has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024.
- In the final match, Mumbai registered a fivewicket victory over Madhya Pradesh at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
- Opting to bowl first, Mumbai restricted Madhya Pradesh to 174 for 8 in the stipulated 20 overs before chasing down the target in 17.5 overs.

Key Performers:

- Mumbai: Suryakumar Yadav (48 off 35 balls).
- Madhya Pradesh: Rajat Patidar (81 runs).
- Player of the Match: Suryansh Shedge (Mumbai).
- Man of the Series: Ajinkya Rahane (Mumbai). Estd: 2007
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- Q. Which team won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024 by defeating Madhya Pradesh by 5 wickets? Mumbai.















Britain Becomes First European Nation to Join CPTPP

Britain became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Significance:

- The membership links Britain to the world's fastest-growing region, the Indo-Pacific.
- Britain joins 11 other members: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Economic Impact:

- Estimated £2bn long-term benefits to the UK economy.
- Membership will result in 99% of UK goods exports to CPTPP countries eligible for zero tariffs (including cars, cheese, whisky).
- The deal is expected to boost UK GDP by 0.08% in the long term, compared to a 4% GDP loss due to Brexit.
- Q. Which European country became the first to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)? Britain















Mikheil Kavelashvili Elected as Georgia's President Amid Controversy

- Mikheil Kavelashvili, a former footballer and MP from the ruling Georgian Dream party, has been elected as Georgia's next president.
- Election Process:
- Kavelashvili was the only candidate, elected by a 300-member electoral college, including MPs and local government representatives.
- He received 224 out of 225 votes.
- This election was held under constitutional changes that ended direct presidential elections.
- Outgoing president, Salome Zourabichvili, a pro-Western figure, criticized the process, calling it a mockery of democracy.

Georgia:

- Capital: Tbilisi
- Currency: Georgian lari
- Q. Who was elected as the next president of Georgia amid controversy over the government's halt to the European Union accession process? Mikheil Kavelashvili.















Expansion of OSOP Scheme to Empower **Women Artisans**

The One Station One Product (OSOP) initiative, a government scheme aimed at promoting local crafts and products, has expanded to 1,854 railway stations across India. The scheme supports the sale of indigenous products at railway stations, creating a marketplace for local craftsmanship.

Central Railway's Contribution

Central Railway has 157 operational OSOP outlets, with the Bhusaval Division leading with 25 women-run stalls. These outlets are playing a significant role in empowering local women and contributing to the local economy.

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

- The OSOP scheme has been particularly impactful for women entrepreneurs. In Bhusaval, women are showcasing products like Paithani sarees, purses, and packed roasted goods. Similarly, women in Jalgaon and Akola are promoting bamboo crafts. These enterprises are largely led by women from lower-income groups.
- Q. Which government scheme, aimed at promoting local crafts and products, has expanded to railway stations, empowering women entrepreneurs supporting marginalized communities? **Station One Product (OSOP)**















Israel Launches First Wave Power Plant

Israel has inaugurated its first power plant that generates electricity from sea waves, located at Jaffa Port in Tel Aviv-Yafo. The facility, developed by Eco Wave Power in collaboration with EDF and the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, has an installed capacity of 100 kilowatts.

Technology and Operations

The power plant uses 10 buoys installed along the breakwater at Jaffa Port. These buoys move with wave motions, driving a hydraulic motor and generator onshore. The system can generate electricity from waves as low as 60 cm in height. The technology also includes a smart control system that lifts the buoys during storms to prevent damage.

Collaboration and Funding

- The project was developed by Eco Wave Power and built with the assistance of the French stateowned EDF, with funding from Israel's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure. All generated electricity is supplied to Israel's national grid, with the Israel Electric Corporation purchasing the produced.
- Q. Where has Israel launched its first power plant that generates electricity from sea waves, with a capacity of 100 kilowatts? Jaffa Port in Tel Aviv-Yafo















SVPI Airport Wins NECA 2024

Tuesday, 17 December 2024

SVPI Airport Wins 'NECA 2024' for Energy Efficiency

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA), managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), has won the Certificate of Merit at the National Énergy Conservation Awards 2024 (NECA 2024), becoming the only airport in India to receive this prestigious recognition.

Commitment to Energy Conservation

SVPIA has been recognized for its exceptional efforts in energy conservation. The NECA Awards, organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power, honor organizations that achieve outstanding energy efficiency.

Sustainability Initiatives at SVPIA

- Beyond energy conservation, SVPIA is dedicated to reducing its environmental impact through initiatives such as waste reduction, recycling, and the use of renewable energy sources. The airport's innovative technologies set a new benchmark for sustainability in the aviation industry.
- Q. Which airport won the Certificate of Merit at the National Energy Conservation Awards 2024 (NECA 2024) for its exceptional energy efficiency initiatives? Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) in Ahmedabad.



















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