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Thursday, 12 December 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Thursday, 12 December 2024

Ajay Seth gets additional charge of Revenue Secretary

- Ajay Seth has been given additional charge of Revenue Secretary by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, in addition to his role as Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.
- The post fell vacant due to Sanjay Malhotra's appointment as RBI Governor.
- Seth's tenure includes responsibilities like overseeing the Goods and Services Tax Council meeting (December 21, 2024), managing pre-Budget preparations for 2025-26, and reviewing the Income-Tax Act and customs duty structure.
- Seth is a 1987 batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer with over 33 years of experience, including 18 years in public finance and taxation.
- He was previously MD of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation and contributed to projects like India's first sovereign green bond issuance and the Infrastructure Finance Secretariat.
- He received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2013) for reforms in Karnataka's commercial tax administration.

Q. Who has been given additional charge of Revenue Secretary as of December 2024? **Ajay Seth**



Thursday, 12 December 2024

BCCI appoints Devajit Saikia as Board's Acting Secretary

- Devajit Saikia appointed as acting Secretary of BCCI, replacing Jay Shah, who became ICC Chairman on 1 December 2024.
- Saikia's appointment was made by BCCI President Roger Binny using clause 7(1)(d) of the BCCI constitution.
- He will serve as acting Secretary until September 2025, when elections will be conducted.

Cricket Career

- Saikia is a former wicket-keeper who played four first-class matches for Assam in the 1990-91 season.
- He scored a total of 53 runs, with a highest score of 24 and an average of 8.83.

Cricket Administration

- Began his administrative career in 2008 as Secretary of the Gauhati Town Club.
- Served as Vice President and later Secretary of the Assam Cricket Association (ACA).

Q. Who has been appointed as the acting Secretary of BCCI in December 2024? **Devajit Saikia**



Thursday, 12 December 2024

Mohamed al-Bashir appointed as caretaker Prime Minister of Syria

- Mohamed al-Bashir has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria's transitional government.
- He will serve in this position until 1st March next year.

Background

- His appointment follows the overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad by former rebels during a 12-day offensive.
- Al-Bashir previously led the rebel-led Salvation Government and governed a rebel-controlled area in the northwest of Syria.

Political Context

- Mohamed al-Bashir is relatively unknown in most of Syria, with his prominence limited to his role in rebel administration.

Syria:

- Capital: Damascus
- Currency: Syrian pound

Q. Who has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria's transitional government?

Mohamed al-Bashir



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Thursday, 12 December 2024

GSI gets Cabinet nod for signing pact with Italy's CNR-IRPI on landslide forecast & early warning

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) received Cabinet approval to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Italy's CNR-IRPI for collaboration in landslide forecasting and early warning systems.

National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC)

- GSI has established a National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) in Kolkata to develop and implement the Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) across India.
- Currently, live forecast reporting is provided in Kalimpong and Darjeeling districts of West Bengal and Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu, with testing underway in 13 additional districts.

Collaboration Benefits

- Italy's CNR-IRPI specializes in regional LEWS models with granular spatial and temporal resolutions, including nowcasting capabilities.

Q. Which Indian organization has received Cabinet approval to collaborate with Italy's CNR-IRPI on landslide forecasting? **Geological Survey of India**



Thursday, 12 December 2024

Singapore to be first country partner at 'Utkarsh Odisha -- Make In Odisha Conclave 2025'

- Singapore will be the first country partner for the 'Utkarsh Odisha -- Make In Odisha Conclave 2025, scheduled in Bhubaneswar.

Bilateral Relations

- In 2025, India and Singapore will celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations.
- The relationship has evolved into a strategic partnership covering areas such as trade, defence, technology, and cultural exchange.
- Singapore is one of the largest sources of FDI in India, with strong Indian company presence in IT, banking, and manufacturing in Singapore.

High-Level Visit

- The Singapore President will visit India in January 2025, with Odisha being the only state he will visit.
- CM Majhi invited the Singapore President to visit Odisha during his India tour.

Q. Which country will be the first partner at the 'Utkarsh Odisha -- Make In Odisha Conclave 2025'?

Singapore



Thursday, 12 December 2024

ADB approves 25.45 million USD grant to Solomon Islands

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$25.45 million grant to support the development of sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services in the Solomon Islands.

Project Details

- The funding is part of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project, which aligns with the Solomon Islands government's sector plan.

Objectives include:

- Increasing access to piped water supply and sanitation services.
- Enhancing hygiene awareness and promoting water conservation.
- Improving fecal sludge management.

Additional Financing

- The additional grant addresses cost overruns due to the increased cost of goods and works since March 2020.

Q. Which international organization approved a \$25.45 million grant for water supply and sanitation in the Solomon Islands? **Asian Development Bank**



Thursday, 12 December 2024

Iran takes over OPEC rotating presidency for 2025

- Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has been appointed as the Rotating President of the OPEC Conference for 2025 during a ministerial meeting.
- The meeting was chaired by Marcel Abeke, the Gabonese petroleum minister and OPEC conference president for 2024.
- OPEC Presidency and Member Contributions
- Iran assumes the presidency by alphabetical rotation as a founding member of OPEC.
- The ministerial meeting, held twice a year, addresses OPEC's internal matters and global energy market issues.

Significance of Appointment

- Iran's presidency comes amid calls for greater unity in addressing "sensitive and complicated" global energy market challenges.
- The appointment marks a comeback for Iran, which faced US sanctions that initially reduced its oil exports to historic lows in 2019.
- Iran's Oil Industry Resilience
- Despite sanctions, Iran reclaimed its position as the third-largest supplier in OPEC.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Rotating President of the OPEC Conference for 2025? **Mohsen Paknejad**



Thursday, 12 December 2024

PGA Tour Player of Year 2024: Scottie Scheffler beats Rory McIlroy, Xander Schauffele to win award

- Scottie Scheffler has been named the PGA Tour Player of the Year 2024, securing the title for the third consecutive year.

Historical Significance

- Scheffler becomes the first player to win the award three years in a row since Tiger Woods (2005-2007).
- Only Tiger Woods (11 times) and Rory McIlroy (3 times) have achieved this milestone alongside Scheffler.

Performance Highlights

- Scheffler, ranked world number one, won seven PGA Tour events in 2024, including:
 - The Masters.
 - Players Championship (defended).
 - FedExCup title.
 - Gold medal at the Paris Olympics.
- He achieved a PGA Tour-best 16 top-10 finishes in 19 starts without missing a cut.

Q. Who won the PGA Tour Player of the Year 2024 award? **Scottie Scheffler**



TIVOLT

Thursday, 12 December 2024

Tivolt Electric Vehicles sign MOU with TPREL

- Tivolt Electric Vehicles, part of the Murugappa Group and a subsidiary of TI Clean Mobility, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL). This collaboration aims to enhance the EV charging ecosystem for small electric commercial vehicles.

Key Features of the Partnership:

- Charging Infrastructure Expansion: TPREL will deploy EV chargers at Tivolt dealerships, customer locations, and high-traffic public spaces, leveraging its expertise in setting up over 1,00,000 home chargers, 6,500 public charging points, and 1,100 bus charging stations across 530 cities.
- Solar Integration: TPREL plans to integrate solar energy systems at Tivolt dealerships and customer locations to reduce carbon emissions and lower charging costs.
- Focus on Commercial EVs: Tivolt will leverage this partnership to support its Montra Electric brand, specializing in small and light commercial vehicles, emphasizing sustainability and reliability.

Q. Which electric vehicle company signed an MOU with Tata Power Renewable Energy to enhance EV charging infrastructure for commercial vehicles?

Tivolt Electric Vehicles



Thursday, 12 December 2024

India, Nicaragua sign agreements to implement Quick Impact Projects

- India and Nicaragua have signed an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) aimed at socio-economic development. Indian Ambassador Sumit Seth and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Valdrack Jaentschke signed the agreement in Managua.

Grant Assistance for Development:

- Under this MoU, India will provide grant assistance for projects focusing on physical infrastructure (e.g., roads and community centers) and social infrastructure (e.g., education, healthcare, and sanitation). The QIPs are designed to deliver immediate and visible benefits to the people of Nicaragua, highlighting India's commitment to supporting global development through impactful partnerships.

Bilateral Cooperation and History:

- India and Nicaragua established diplomatic relations in March 1983, maintaining warm and friendly ties. While the Indian Embassy in Panama is concurrently accredited to Nicaragua, Nicaragua's Embassy in Tokyo handles its accreditation to India.

Q. Which countries signed an MoU to implement Quick Impact Projects focusing on socio-economic development? **India and Nicaragua**



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