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Wednesday, 21 August 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Former Army Chief Gen S Padmanabhan passes away

- Former Indian Army Chief General Sundararajan Padmanabhan, affectionately known as “Paddy” in army circles, passed away due to old age at his residence in Chennai.
- He was 83 years old and had served as the Chief of Army Staff from September 30, 2000 to December 31, 20021.
- General Padmanabhan was an alumnus of the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun and the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla, Pune.
- During his illustrious career, he held several prestigious command, staff, and instructional postings, and participated in numerous operations.
- His leadership during Operation Parakram, which aimed to deploy troops along the western borders following a terror attack on Parliament, is particularly noteworthy.

What was Operation Parakram?

- Operation Parakram was a significant military mobilization by India in response to the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001.

Q. Former Indian Army Chief General Sundararajan Padmanabhan, fondly known as _____ in Army circles, died due to old age at his residence in Chennai. "**Paddy**"



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Muruganandam appointed as new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu

- Senior IAS officer N. Muruganandam has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, succeeding Shiv Das Meena.
- Muruganandam, who previously served as Secretary-I to the Chief Minister, assumed office on August 19, 2024.
- This makes him the 50th Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu.
- Before Shiv Das Meena, the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu was V. Irai Anbu.
- He served from May 7, 2021, until June 30, 2023.

What are the responsibilities of the Chief Secretary in Tamil Nadu?

- The Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu holds a pivotal role in the state's administration. Here are some of the key responsibilities:
- **Principal Advisor:** Acts as the principal advisor to the Chief Minister on all matters of state administration.
- **Head of Civil Services:** Serves as the ex-officio head of the state Civil Services Board, the State Secretariat, and the state cadre of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
- **Coordination:** Ensures coordination among various departments and oversees the implementation of government policies and programs.

Q. Senior IAS officer N. Muruganandam has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu in place of whom?

Shiv Das Meena



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal dies of heart attack

- Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal passed away due to a heart attack in Chennai.
- He was in Chennai to attend an event and was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital after complaining of uneasiness.

Here's an overview of Rakesh Pal's distinguished career and background:

- **Early Life and Education:** Rakesh Pal was born in 1965 in Uttar Pradesh. He attended the Indian Naval Academy, where he received his foundational training.
- **Joining the Indian Coast Guard:** He joined the Indian Coast Guard in January 1989, marking the beginning of a career that spanned over 34 years.
- **Specializations:** Pal specialized in gunnery and weapons systems, undergoing advanced training at the Indian Naval School Dronacharya in Kochi and completing an Electro-Optics Fire Control Solution course in the United Kingdom.
- **Command Roles:** Throughout his career, he commanded various Coast Guard ships, including ICGS Samarth, ICGS Vijit, ICGS Sucheta Kriplani, ICGS Ahalyabai, and ICGS C-03. He also led important Coast Guard bases in Gujarat—Okha and Vadinar.

Q. _____ Director General Rakesh Pal died of a heart attack in Chennai. **Indian Coast Guard**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

S. Korea, US launch key summertime military exercise

- South Korea and the United States have started their annual summertime military exercise, known as the Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS).
- This exercise, which runs from August 19 to 29, aims to bolster their joint defense readiness amid ongoing threats from North Korea.
- The UFS includes computer-simulated command post exercises, field training, and civil defense drills.
- This year, the exercise will feature 48 field training events, including amphibious landings and live-fire drills.
- The focus is on enhancing capabilities across multiple domains such as land, sea, air, cyber, and space.

What is the history of Ulchi Freedom Shield?

- The Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS), previously known as Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, is a long-standing joint military exercise between South Korea and the United States.

Q. South Korea and the US have begun their annual summer military exercise, known as _____. **Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS)**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Indonesia, Saudi Arabia to build 60 MW floating solar plant in West Java

- Indonesia and Saudi Arabia are collaborating to build a 60 MW floating solar power plant at the Saguling Reservoir in West Java.
- This project is a joint venture between Indonesia's state-owned electricity company PT PLN Indonesia Power and Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power.
- The initiative aims to bolster Indonesia's renewable energy sector, minimize the impact of climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The project is expected to start construction soon, with commercial operations targeted for June 2026.
- This floating solar plant is part of Indonesia's broader efforts to transition to renewable energy and achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.
- It's an exciting development for both countries, highlighting their commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

Q. Indonesia and which other country are collaborating to build a 60 MW floating solar power plant at Saguling Reservoir in West Java? **Saudi Arabia**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

AMD to acquire data centre AI infra provider ZT Systems for \$4.9 billion

- AMD has signed a definitive agreement to acquire ZT Systems, a leading provider of AI infrastructure for the world's largest hyperscale computing companies.
- The strategic transaction is valued at \$4.9 billion, which includes a contingent payment of up to \$400 million based on certain post-closing milestones.
- This acquisition will significantly strengthen AMD's data center AI systems and customer enablement capabilities, allowing them to deliver end-to-end data center AI infrastructure at scale with their ecosystem of partners.

AMD

- For more than 50 years AMD has driven innovation in high-performance computing, graphics and visualization technologies.
- AMD employees are focused on building leadership high-performance and adaptive products that push the boundaries of what is possible.
- Billions of people, leading Fortune 500 businesses and cutting-edge scientific research institutions around the world rely on AMD technology daily to improve how they live, work and play.

Q. AMD to acquire data center AI infra provider ZT Systems for \$ _____ billion. **\$4.9 billion**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan ink \$2.5 billion MoUs

- Afghanistan and Uzbekistan signed 35 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth 2.5 billion U.S. dollars.
- These agreements cover trade and investment across key sectors, aiming to boost bilateral ties and regional collaboration.
- The signing of the MoUs was overseen by Afghanistan's Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund and Uzbekistan's Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, as well as government officials and representatives of private sectors from both countries.
- Among them, 12 MoUs were investment agreements valued at 1.4 billion dollars, and 23 were trade agreements worth 1.1 billion dollars, said the statement.

Afghanistan:

- Capital: Kabul
- Official languages: Pashto, Dari
- Currency: Afghan Afghani
- Government: Theocracy

Q. Recently Afghanistan, Uzbekistan have signed an agreement worth how many billion dollars? **2.5 billion dollars**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Russian cargo spacecraft Progress MS-28 successfully docks with ISS

- The successful docking of the Progress MS-28 spacecraft with the International Space Station (ISS) is an important achievement for maintaining the station's operations and supply chain.
- The Progress spacecraft typically carries cargo such as food, equipment, and scientific experiments needed for the crew aboard the ISS.
- This docking helps ensure that the astronauts and cosmonauts have everything they need for their mission and daily activities.
- This successful rendezvous marks a crucial milestone in space logistics, ensuring the delivery of essential supplies, equipment, and scientific payloads to the crew aboard the ISS.
- Carrying 2,621 kg of supplies, the Progress MS-28 delivered a wide range of essential items. Among the cargo were 950 kg of refueling propellant, 420 liters of potable water, and 50 kg of compressed nitrogen.
- The spacecraft also transported about 1,201 kg of equipment and materials, including food for the crew, clothing, and supplies for scientific experiments.
- Progress MS-28 is packed with nearly three tonnes of food, scientific equipment, and other supplies for the astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Q. _____ cargo spacecraft Progress MS-28 successfully docked with the ISS. **Russian**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Sudan gov't to send delegation to Cairo for talks on Jeddah deal

- Sudan's government is set to send a delegation to Cairo for discussions on implementing the Jeddah agreement, which was signed in May 2023.
- This move comes as part of efforts to address the ongoing conflict in Sudan and improve the humanitarian situation.
- The talks will involve U.S. and Saudi officials, aiming to ensure the agreement's terms are upheld.

Jeddah deal:

- The Jeddah deal refers to a ceasefire agreement aimed at addressing the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has seen intense fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- Negotiations for the deal began in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and were facilitated by international mediators.
- The main goals of the Jeddah deal include:
 - **Immediate Ceasefire:** To halt the fighting between the conflicting parties to reduce civilian casualties and allow for humanitarian aid access.
 - **Humanitarian Access:** To ensure that aid reaches those in need, including food, medical supplies, and other essential services.
 - **Political Dialogue:** To create a framework for sustained negotiations aimed at resolving the underlying political and military disputes.

Q. Which country will send a delegation to Cairo to negotiate the Jeddah Agreement? **Sudan**



Wednesday, 21 August 2024

Abhay Mohan clinches maiden Formula 1600 National Championship

- The 16-year-old Bengaluru driver, Abhay Mohan, clinched his maiden National title winning the prestigious Formula 1600 National championship with ten consecutive wins as the fourth and final round of the MMSC Indian National Car Racing Championship concluded.
- The 2022 Junior National Karting champion, graduated to single seater racing just this year.
- He had an impressive unbeaten run of 10 consecutive races and conceded points only after clinching the championship that had 12 races.
- His driving skills and racing lines left others to fight among themselves for minor placings.
- Two Mumbai driver Zahan Commissariat and Raaj Bakhru finished second and third in the championship.
- Of the 12 races, he won 11 and garnered 293 out of 300 points. In the final race which was red-flagged and re-started from the pit lane, Abhay kept his cool and clinched the issue for a winning end to his maiden championship.

Q. Which player won the Formula 1600 National Championship for the first time? **Abhay Mohan**



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