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 **Friday, 05 July 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Friday, 05 July 2024

Dr B N Gangadhar Appointed As Chairperson Of National Medical Commission

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr. B.N. Gangadhar as the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission.
- Earlier, he was the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
- The Director of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Sanjay Behari has been appointed as the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
- Their appointments are for a period of four years, until they attain the age of 70 years.

National Medical Commission:

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is a statutory body in India that regulates medical education, medical professionals, institutes, and research.
- Established on 25 September 2020, it replaced the Medical Council of India.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Medical Commission? **Dr B N Gangadhar**



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Friday, 05 July 2024

NIC And Spices Board Of India Signed MoU

- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop Artificial intelligence (AI) tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim.
- The project, spearheaded by NIC's Centre of Excellence in AI in Kolkata, aims to analyze images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early.
- This initiative follows three months of discussions and marks a significant step in leveraging AI for agricultural advancements in Sikkim.

National Informatics Centre:

- Formation: 1976
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director General: Amit Agrawal
- Parent organisation: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Spices Board of India:

- Formation: 1987
- Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala, India
- Chairman: Shri. A G Thankappan

Q. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed an MoU to develop artificial intelligence (AI) tools for detecting and classifying diseases of large cardamom in which state? **Sikkim**



Friday, 05 July 2024

NITI Aayog Launches Sampoornata Abhiyan

- NITI Aayog is launching Sampoornata Abhiyan till 30th September to undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of six key indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across the country.
- It seeks to achieve saturation in each of the six identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- Sampoornata Abhiyan will focus on the six identified Key Performance Indicators KPIs across all Aspirational Blocks.
- These are percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester, percentage of persons screened for Diabetes against the targeted population in the Block, percentage of persons screened for Hypertension against the targeted population in the Block, percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly, percentage of Soil Health Cards generated against the soil sample collection target and percentage of Self Help Groups SHGs that have received a Revolving Fund against the total SHGs in the block.
- The six identified KPIs across Aspirational Districts under Sampoornata Abhiyan are percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester, percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS Programme regularly, percentage of children fully immunized, number of Soil Health Cards distributed, percentage of schools with functional electricity at the secondary level and percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within one month of the start of the academic session.

Q. Sampoornata Abhiyan is an initiative of which government agency?

NITI Aayog



SPEAKER OM BIRLA AMENDS NEW RULE FOR OATH-TAKING IN LS

Friday, 05 July 2024

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Amended Rules Related To Oath-Taking Of Newly-Elected Members

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has amended the rules related to oath-taking of newly-elected members in the Lower House, barring elected members from adding any remark to the oath, including sloganeering.
- According to the latest amendments, a fresh clause has been included to to the 'Directions by the Speaker'.
- The new clause was added to regulate certain matters related to the functioning of the Lower House, which are not specifically mentioned in the rules.
- The new clause states that a Member shall make and subscribe oath or affirmation, as the case may be, in accordance with the form set out for the purpose, in the Third Schedule to the Constitution of India and shall not use any word or expression or make any remark as a prefix or suffix to the form of oath or affirmation.
- The rule comes days after many Elected Members of the Lok Sabha took the oath and added remarks which were objected to by several members.

Q. Who is the incumbent Lok Sabha Speaker who has Amended Rules Related To Oath-Taking Of Newly-Elected Members? **Om Birla**



Friday, 05 July 2024

India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant Begins In Meghalaya

- The 16th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' between the armies of India and Mongolia commenced in Meghalaya's Umroi.
- The exercise, slated to be conducted until July 16, aims to bolster joint military capabilities for counter-urgency operations in semi-urban or mountainous areas.
- Represented by 45 personnel from a battalion of 'Sikkim Scouts' along with personnel from other arms and services, the Indian contingent joins hands with the Mongolian counterpart from the 150 Quick Reaction Force Battalion.
- The exercise will focus on operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain. Tactical drills during the exercise include Response to a Terrorist Action, Establishment of a Joint Command Post, Establishment of an Intelligence and Surveillance Centre, Securing of a Helipad/Landing Site, Small Team Insertion and Extraction, Special Heliborne Operations, Cordon & Search Operations, besides Employment of Drones and Counter Drone Systems, amongst others.

Q. Nomadic Elephant is a Joint Military Exercise between which two countries? **India and Mongolia**

WHAT WORRIES THE WORLD?

June 2024

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Friday, 05 July 2024

India emerges among top 3 most optimistic markets

- The June 2024 Report of the Ipsos What Worries the World global survey shows that India is placed among the top three most optimistic markets, while most global citizens were seen to be downbeat about the future.
- The top 3 most optimistic markets were Singapore (79%), Indonesia (70%) and India (69%) with majority of their citizens believing, their country is moving in the right direction (Indonesia has overtaken India from last wave in ranking).
- Notably, in comparison, only 38% of global citizens claimed to be believing that their country is headed in the right direction, with pessimism rife.
- Further the countries with lowest optimism levels about the future were, Peru (8%), South Africa (20%), South Korea (21%) and Türkiye (21%).
- The Ipsos survey also highlighted key social and political issues faced by citizens in various markets, including their outlook. In June 2024, urban Indians were most concerned about inflation (38 per cent), although this worry saw a 3 per cent reduction from previous levels.
- Other significant concerns included unemployment (35 per cent), which saw a notable 9 per cent decrease, education (26 per cent), which saw a 4 per cent increase, financial and political corruption (23 per cent) and crime and violence (22 per cent).

Q. As per June 2024 Report of the Ipsos What Worries the World global survey, which nation emerged as the most optimistic markets? **Singapore**

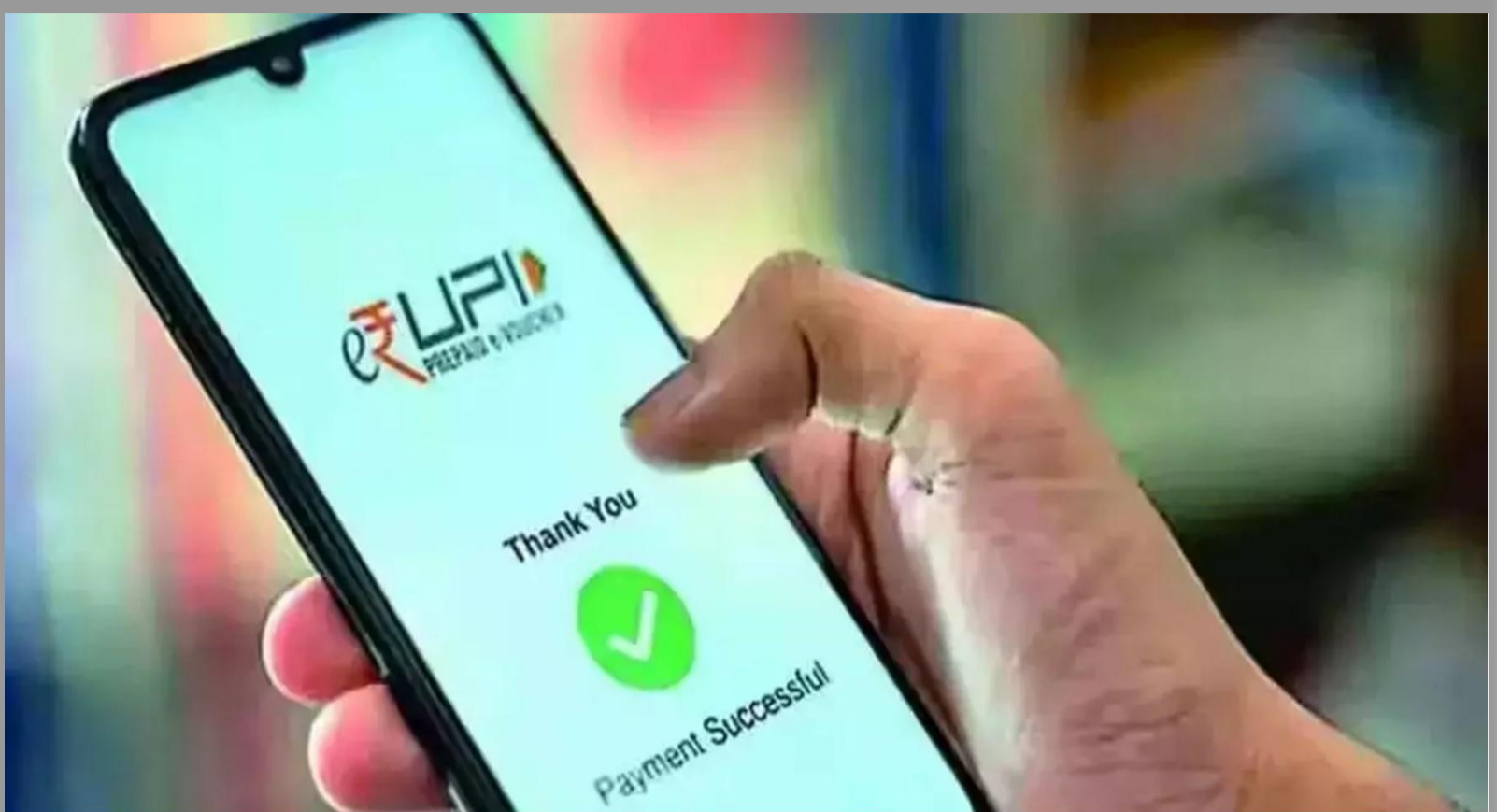


Friday, 05 July 2024

Canadian PM names first woman to hold armed forces' top job

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the appointment of Lt. Gen. Jennie Carignan as the first woman to lead the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).
- Carignan, who is currently chief of Professional Conduct and Culture and will be promoted to the rank of general, will replace the current chief of the Defence Staff, Gen. Wayne Eyre, who is retiring from the CAF.
- Carignan's military career spans over 35 years and includes commanding two Combat Engineer Regiments and the 2nd Canadian Division, where she led more than 10,000 soldiers.
- In 2008, Carignan became the first woman in the CAF history to command a combat arms unit.
- She deployed to Afghanistan the following year, and also served in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Syria.
- From 2019 to 2020, she led NATO Mission Iraq.
- She was promoted to her current rank in 2021 and has served for the past three years as chief of Professional Conduct and Culture, leading efforts to transform the military culture.

Q. Who is the first woman to lead the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)? **Lt. Gen. Jennie Carignan**



Friday, 05 July 2024

UPI payments will now be available in UAE

- NPCI International Payments Ltd in partnership with Network International (Network), a leading enabler of digital commerce across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, has enabled QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments through the latter's point-of-sale terminals in the UAE.
- This initiative ensures seamless and secure transactions for Indian tourists and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) across Network International's vast merchant network in the UAE.
- UPI acceptance will be rolled out progressively, covering a wide range of establishments from retail stores and dining outlets, as well as tourist and leisure attractions including Dubai Mall and Mall of the Emirates.
- By enabling UPI acceptance through its POS terminals, Network will provide a QR-based safe and secure method for facilitating cross-border payments.
- This will allow Indian tourists and NRIs with Indian bank accounts to use UPI for payments across Network's POS terminals in the UAE.

Q. Which country has recently enabled QR code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments through UPI's point-of-sale terminals? UAE

**RAJINDER KHANNA****TV RAVICHANDRAN****Friday, 05 July 2024**

TV Ravichandran Appointed As Deputy NSA, EX-R&AW Chief Rajinder Khanna As Additional NSA

- The government has recently strengthened the National Security Council (NSC) by making several high-profile appointments.
- Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Rajinder Khanna has been promoted to Additional National Security Adviser (NSA).
- T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor have also been appointed as Deputy NSAs.
- Rajinder Khanna is a 1978-batch IPS officer of the Odisha cadre.
- He served as the R&AW Chief from December 2014 to December 2016.
- Khanna was appointed deputy NSA in January 2018, where he headed the Technology and Intelligence (T&I) section.
- Known for his expertise on Pakistan and terrorism, Khanna also led the operations desk in R&AW.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Council (NSC)? **TV Ravichandran**



George Russell Triumphs in Dramatic Austrian Grand Prix 2024

Friday, 05 July 2024

P. Geetha honoured with Inaugural K. Saraswathi Amma Award

- In a significant recognition of feminist literature and studies, writer, critic, and feminist activist P. Geetha has been awarded the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award.
- This prestigious accolade, instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala, marks a pivotal moment in the acknowledgment of feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.
- P. Geetha's groundbreaking work "Aan Thachukal" (male creations), an analysis of M.T. Vasudevan Nair's scripts, earned her this distinguished award.
- The book exemplifies the critical examination of gender representations in literature, a theme that resonates deeply with the award's namesake, K. Saraswathi Amma.
- The K. Saraswathi Amma Award and its inaugural recipient, P. Geetha, represent more than just literary recognition.
- They symbolize the ongoing struggle and progress in feminist thought and gender equality.

Q. Who has been awarded the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award? **P. Geetha**



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