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Saturday, 14 December 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Saturday, 14 December 2024

President Droupadi Murmu awards Honorary General Rank to Nepali Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepali Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel on December 14, 2024.
- Tradition: The tradition of conferring honorary ranks between the Army Chiefs of India and Nepal dates back to 1950.
- Details: The investiture ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, recognizing General Sigdel's military achievements and contributions to fostering India-Nepal relations.
- Significance: General Sigdel's visit to India (December 11–14) aims to strengthen defence cooperation between the two nations.
- Context: Last month, Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Nepal Army' on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in Kathmandu.

Q. Who recently received the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' from President Droupadi Murmu? **Nepali Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel.**



Saturday, 14 December 2024

Defence ministry signs Rs 13,500 Cr deal with HAL for 12 Su-30 fighters

- The Defence Ministry signed a ₹13,500-crore deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 12 Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Purpose: The contract aims to replace aircraft lost in accidents and support India's self-reliance initiative, with 62.6% indigenous content.
- Manufacturing: The 12 aircraft will be produced at HAL's Nashik division, enhancing IAF's operational capabilities and defence preparedness.

Related Developments:

- A ₹7,000-crore deal for 100 K9 Vajra-T guns, made by Larsen & Toubro with South Korean technology, was also cleared.
- In September 2024, a ₹26,000-crore contract was signed with HAL for 240 AL-31FP aero-engines for the Su-30 fleet, to be manufactured at HAL's Koraput facility in Odisha.
- HAL is also set to upgrade the Su-30 fighters with Uttam AESA radar, electronic warfare suites, and new weapons under a ₹65,000-crore project.

Q. Which organization signed a ₹13,500-crore deal with the Defence Ministry for 12 Sukhoi-30 fighters in 2024? **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**



Saturday, 14 December 2024

WADA approves National Dope Testing Lab as Athlete Biological Passport management unit

- The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi, has been approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as an Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) to manage the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP).

Significance:

- This recognition marks a major milestone for India in its anti-doping efforts, making it one of the 17 APMUs approved by WADA globally.
- India's APMU will serve domestic and neighboring countries' anti-doping organizations.

Background:

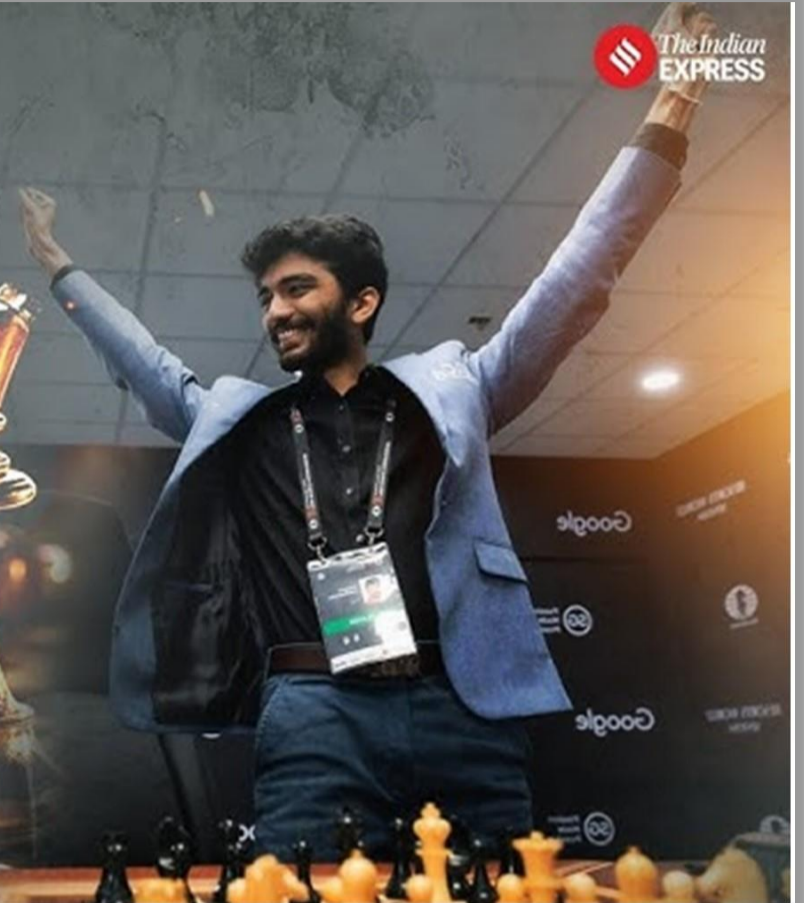
- The ABP is an advanced anti-doping tool that tracks biological markers (e.g., blood and steroid profiles) over time to detect potential doping.
- NDTL's WADA accreditation was restored in 2021 after suspension in 2019 due to non-compliance with International Standards for Laboratories (ISL).

Q. Which Indian laboratory was approved by WADA as an Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) management unit in December 2024? **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi.**

NEWS

 The Indian EXPRESS

GUKESH BECOMES YOUNGEST CHESS CHAMP!



Saturday, 14 December 2024

Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh becomes youngest World chess champion

- Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh became the youngest World Chess Champion on December 13, 2024, defeating China's Ding Liren in the FIDE World Chess Championship final held in Singapore.
- Key Achievement: At 18 years old, Gukesh surpassed Garry Kasparov's record, who won the title at 22. He is the second Indian to win the title after Viswanathan Anand.

Championship Details:

- Gukesh scored 7.5 points, while Ding scored 6.5 points in the 14-match series.
- Gukesh won three matches, Ding won two, and nine matches ended in a draw.
- The decisive moment came in the 55th move of the 14th game when Ding made a blunder.

Q. Who became the youngest World Chess Champion in 2024? **Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh.**



Saturday, 14 December 2024

Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Hockey India to provide live broadcast of upcoming Hockey India League

- Prasar Bharati signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India to provide live broadcast of the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL).
- Significance: The league, returning after a seven-year hiatus, will feature the inaugural season of the women's league alongside the men's competition.

Broadcast Details:

- Matches will be telecast live on Doordarshan and streamed via Prasar Bharati's new OTT platform, Waves.
- The men's matches will be held in Rourkela, and the women's four-team competition will be hosted in Ranchi.
- Start Date: The Hockey India League is scheduled to begin on December 28, 2024.

Q. Which organization signed an MoU with Hockey India to broadcast the upcoming Hockey India League in 2024? **Prasar Bharati.**



Saturday, 14 December 2024

Renowned Gujarati singer Purushottam Upadhyay dies at 90

- Renowned Gujarati singer and composer Purushottam Upadhyay passed away at the age of 90 on Wednesday at his residence in Mumbai.
- Legacy: Upadhyay was a celebrated figure in Gujarati music, known for his timeless songs and contributions to over 20 films and 30 plays. His work resonated with the Gujarati diaspora globally.
- Honours & Recognition: He received prestigious awards including the Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar and Padma Shri.
- Notable Songs: Some of his famous songs include He Ranglo Jamyo, Divaso Judaina Jay Che, Ae Jaashe Jarur Milan Sudhi, and Kahu Chu Jawanine.

Early Life & Career:

- Born on August 15, 1934, in Kheda, Gujarat, Upadhyay's passion for music began in his school years.
- After facing initial challenges in Mumbai, he began performing in theatre, which marked the start of his successful career.
- His breakthrough came when he performed a song originally sung by Noor Jehan in front of actor Ashraf Khan, which led to collaborations with prominent artists and a contract with All India Radio, Mumbai.

Q. Who was the renowned Gujarati singer and composer who passed away at the age of 90?

Purushottam Upadhyay



Saturday, 14 December 2024

Bihar CM Lays Foundation for India's First Child Cancer Hospital in Patna

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar laid the foundation stone for India's first child cancer hospital, Mahavir Child Cancer Hospital, in Phulwari Sharif town, Patna, on Thursday. This hospital is a significant initiative to provide free cancer treatment to children up to 18 years of age.

Project Led by Mahavir Cancer Institute

- The project is being spearheaded by Mahavir Cancer Institute, which already operates two cancer hospitals. The hospital will be built with state-of-the-art infrastructure and is expected to be completed in 18 months.

Hospital Features and Purpose

- The six-storey Mahavir Child Cancer Hospital will offer advanced cancer treatment for children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. It is designed to cater to the growing number of pediatric cancer cases, especially among underprivileged families.

Q. Where is India's first child cancer hospital, Mahavir Child Cancer Hospital, being built?

Phulwari Sharif town of Patna, Bihar.



Saturday, 14 December 2024

Catholicos Baselios Marthoma Mathews III honoured with Russia's esteemed Order of Friendship

- Catholicos Baselios Marthoma Mathews III Receives Russia's Order of Friendship
- Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan, was honoured with Russia's prestigious Order of Friendship by the Russian Embassy in India. The event took place in New Delhi on Thursday, recognising his outstanding contributions in strengthening the ties between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, as well as his humanitarian efforts.

Recognition by Russian Ambassador

- Denis Alipov, Russia's Ambassador to India, presented the award on behalf of the President of Russia. The honour recognised Mathews III's efforts in promoting dialogue between the two Churches and facilitating collaborations like the one between Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital of St. Alexis and St. George's Hospital in Kerala.

Q. Who was honoured with Russia's esteemed Order of Friendship for his contributions to fostering ties between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church? **Baselios Marthoma Mathews III.**



Saturday, 14 December 2024

India Unveils Taxonomy of Green Steel to Decarbonise Production

- The Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, H.D. Kumaraswamy, unveiled the Taxonomy of Green Steel at Vigyan Bhavan to drive decarbonisation in the steel sector and achieve net-zero emission intensity by 2070.
- **Defining Green Steel:** The taxonomy defines “Green Steel” based on the percentage reduction in CO₂ emissions, with a threshold of 2.2 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per tonne of finished steel. Steel plants producing lower emissions will be rated for their greenness.

Star Rating System: Steel is rated from one to five stars based on emission intensity:

- Five-star: Emission intensity < 1.6 t-CO₂e/tfs
- Four-star: Emission intensity between 1.6 and 2.0 t-CO₂e/tfs
- Three-star: Emission intensity between 2.0 and 2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs Steel with emissions above 2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs is not eligible for a green rating.
- **Review of Thresholds:** The green steel rating system will be reviewed every three years to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in meeting emission reduction goals.

Q. What is the target emission intensity for green steel as per India's new taxonomy? **2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs**



Saturday, 14 December 2024

ISRO's C20 Cryogenic Engine Passes Key Test for Gaganyaan Mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced the successful completion of a critical test of its C20 cryogenic engine, qualified for the Gaganyaan mission. The test, conducted at ISRO's Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu on November 29, aimed to evaluate restart enabling systems, crucial for future space missions.

Engine Specifications

- The indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine, developed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, is designed to power the upper stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle. It has been qualified to operate at a thrust level of 19 tonnes and has successfully powered six LVM3 missions. The engine is also qualified for the Gaganyaan mission, with a thrust level of 20 tonnes, and an upgraded 22-tonne thrust level for future stages.

Test Challenges and Solutions

- The test was particularly challenging due to the high area ratio nozzle and low exit pressure of approximately 50 mbar. This could lead to potential flow separation, causing vibrations and thermal problems.

Q. Which cryogenic engine developed by ISRO successfully passed a key test for the Gaganyaan mission? **CE20**




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