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Friday, 12 July 2024













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NEWS





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South Korea to start production of antiaircraft laser weapon

- South Korea will begin production of a laser weapon designed to strike down enemy drones for deployment this year, in a push to become the first country to operate such a weapon.
- month, the Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) signed a deal worth about 100 billion won (\$72 million) with South Korean defence company Hanwha Aerospace for its production amid efforts to acquire advanced weapons systems.
- The laser weapon is capable of defending against small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and multi-copters at close range by firing a laser-generated using fiber optics.
- It can fire a laser beam for about 10 to 20 seconds, raising a targeted area's temperature to over 700 C and disabling internal components, such as an engine or a battery.
- The weapon system can operate as long as electricity is supplied, and a single firing is estimated to cost only about 2,000 won, noting the laser is not visible and does not produce any sound.
- Note: If the system is deployed as planned late this year, South Korea will become the first known country in the world to have its military operate such a laser weapon
- Q. South Korea to start production of anti-aircraft laser weapon. In context to same the DAPA signed a deal worth about 100 billion won (\$72 million) with which South Korean defence company? Hanwha Aerospace















Belgian King Philippe appoints Bart De Wever to form government

- Belgium's King Philippe appointed Bart De Wever, president of the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), to form the federal government.
- De Wever, who was received at the Royal Palace submitted his final report as "preformateur" to the King.
- He has accepted the mission as "formateur" and will conduct negotiations with various political a new federal government, parties form to reporting back to the King on July 24.
- De Wever, while serving as preformateur, received the endorsement of four political parties ready to enter into coalition negotiations.
- In all, five political parties currently form the basis of a future federal government, pending the outcome of negotiations to be led by De Wever.
- Negotiations among the coalition parties will cover diverse issues, including socio-economic recovery, investment in healthcare, boosting the purchasing power of low-income earners and activation of jobseekers.
- Q. Belgium's King Philippe appointed whom as the president of the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), to form the federal government? Bart De Wever















Bangladesh becomes fifth member of Colombo **Security Conclave**

- India, Mauritius, Maldives and Sri Lanka welcomed Bangladesh as the fifth Member State of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) at the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting of the regional grouping which was hosted by Mauritius.
- Till now, Bangladesh, like Seychelles, was an Observer State in the CSC -- a grouping of the Indian Ocean countries in South Asia.
- The Member States agreed that the 7th NSA-level meeting of the CSC will be held in India, later this year.

What is Colombo Security Conclave?

- The Colombo Security Conclave was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- The roadmap of activities was later expanded, with Mauritius joining as the fourth member and Bangladesh & Seychelles participating as observer countries.
- The Conclave underlines regional cooperation and shared security objectives concerning all littoral nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Q. Which country became the 5th member of Colombo Security Conclave, which was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives? **Bangladesh**















Muslim Woman Entitled To Maintenance From **Husband After Divorce: Supreme Court**

- The Supreme Court said that a Muslim woman is entitled to maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- The bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih dismissed a petition in the case, in which the man filed a plea against the direction to pay interim maintenance to his divorced wife under Section 125 CrPC.
- The bench also ruled that if, during the pendency of the application, the woman gets divorced, then she can take recourse to the (Protection of Rights on Marriage) 2019 Act.
- The bench said that the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act 1986 would not prevail over the secular law.
- The bench stated that the remedy under the 2019 Act is in addition to the remedy under Section 125 CrPC. The top court clarified that the law for seeking maintenance would be valid for all women and not just married women.
- Q. As per the latest pronouncement of the Supreme Court, under which section of the Code of Criminal Procedure is a Muslim woman entitled to receive maintenance from her husband? Section 125















Norway Set To Donate Six F-16 Fighter Jets To Ukraine

- Norway Prime Minister, Jonas Gahr Store said that the country will start the process of donating six F-16 fighters to Ukraine this year, aiming to boost Kyiv's ability to defend itself against attacks from the air during its ongoing conflict against Russia.
- The Norwegian government had decided last year to donate the F-16s to Ukraine as part of a multinational collaboration, led by Denmark, the Netherlands and the USA.
- Store had announced the decision on Ukraine's Independence Day in Kyiv last year.
- F-16s fighter jet is equipped with a 20mm cannon and can carry bombs, rockets and missiles.

Norway:

- Capital: Oslo
- Prime Minister: Jonas Gahr Støre
- Currency: Norwegian krone
- Q. This year Norway began the process of donating fighter jets to Ukraine, aimed at boosting Kyiv's ability to defend itself from air strikes during its ongoing conflict with Russia. F-16













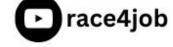


designates 11 New Biosphere **UNESCO** Reserves

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently made a significant announcement, approving the designation of 11 new Biosphere Reserves across 11 countries.
- This expansion brings the total number of sites in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to an impressive 759, spanning 136 countries worldwide.
- A Biosphere Reserve is an international designation granted by UNESCO for areas that represent significant natural and cultural landscapes. These reserves can encompass large terrestrial, coastal, or marine ecosystems, or a combination thereof. The fundamental goal of Biosphere Reserves is to achieve a delicate balance between economic and social development, the preservation of cultural values, and the conservation of nature.

The latest additions to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve list showcase a diverse range of ecosystems and cultural landscapes across the globe. These new sites include:

- Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
- Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve (Colombia)
- Q. Recently UNESCO designated 11 new Biosphere Reserves, this expansion has increased the total number of sites in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves to what number? **759**















Prakash Padukone to be Indian badminton contingent's mentor for Paris Olympics 2024

- Indian sporting legend Prakash Padukone will be part of country's Badminton contingent for the Paris the Olympics 2024.
- Pullela Gopichand, RMV Gurusaidutt, Agus Santosa, Vimal Kumar, and Mathias Boe will be the coaches travelling to Paris, while Prakash Padukone will go as a mentor. Zeinia Samar and Kiran Challagundla will be the two physiotherapists in the team.
- Padukone, the first Indian to win the All England Championship, was retired in 1991 even as badminton was introduced in the Olympics at the 1992 Barcelona Games.
- While Lakshya Sen is a product of the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), Sindhu had announced Padukone as her mentor ahead of the Paris Games after shifting her base to Bengaluru from Hyderabad. She is preparing for her third Olympics.
- While Gopichand is India's national chief coach, Gurusaidutt has been training HS Prannoy and Boe is the coach of men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and women's doubles combination of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto.

Q. Who will be the Indian badminton contingent's mentor for Paris Olympics 2024? Prakash Padukone















Raksha Rajya Mantri launches GRSE Accelerated **Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)**

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth launched "GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- It is an innovative scheme which seeks solution to the problems related to the shipyards and promotes technology development using the start-ups created and nurtured in the country.
- It encourages and enables MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions for further technological advancement.
- This initiative is in keeping with the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies of the Government of India.
- 'GAINS' is a unique national scheme to encourage and enable MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions that GRSE may incorporate for technological advancement.
- The aim is to leverage the vast eco-system of MSMEs and Start-Ups to address present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry, while achieving the objectives of Atmanirbharta.
- Q. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth launched GAINS 2024 scheme in Kolkata. In context to same what does for? GRSE Accelerated Innovation **GAINS** stands **Nurturing Scheme**















Friday, 12 July 2024

Lt Gen Shankar Narayan assumes appointment as Commandant of Army Hospital

- Lt Gen Shankar Narayan, assumed appointment as the Commandant of Army Hospital (R & R) the apex hospital of the Armed Forces Medical Services.
- An alumnus of the 1982 batch of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, the General Officer specialised in Pediatrics, did post-doctoral sub-specialisation in Neonatology from AIIMS, New Delhi and trained in Pediatric Liver Transplantation at the King's College Hospital, London.
- Lt Gen Narayan has vast experience in patient care, clinical services, postgraduate teaching as well as medical administration.
- Other focus areas include high quality training and cutting-edge research.

Indian Army

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Anniversaries: Army Day (15 January)
- Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Upendra Dwivedi
- Q. Who has been appointed as the Commandant of Army Hospital (R & R) the apex hospital of the Armed Forces Medical Services? Lt Gen Shankar Narayan













Australia's



biggest international air combat **Exercise Pitch Black starts**

- Exercise Pitch Black -- Australia's biggest international air combat training activity -- begins at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) bases in Darwin and Tindal.
- With approximately 140 aircraft and over 4000 personnel from 20 nations participating, this year's iteration of Exercise Pitch Black is the largest participation in its 43year history.
- Held every two years, the exercise focuses on large-force employment missions involving large numbers international aircraft.
- The last edition of the exercise held in 2022 saw the participation of an Indian Air Force contingent that included four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft.
- For the first time, aircraft and personnel from the Philippines, Spain, Italy, and Papua New Guinea and embedded personnel from Fiji and Brunei will participate in the exercise.
- In addition, aircraft from France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom, United States; and embedded personnel from Canada and New Zealand will also participate.
- Training with partner nations throughout Exercise Pitch Black demonstrates the commitment to the shared value of sustaining peace and stability across the region.
- Q. Name Australia's biggest international air combat training activity in which India's Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets will be seen in action? Exercise Pitch Black 24



















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