

International

Egypt hosts 11th D-8 Summit of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



About News:-

- ❖ Egypt is hosting the 11th Summit of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in Cairo underscoring Egypt's commitment to enhancing economic collaboration among member states.
- ❖ President El-Sisi is set to participate in the opening of the summit.
- ❖ The summit's theme, "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy," reflects a forward-thinking agenda fostering sustainable economic development.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Several heads of state and government participated in the summit, including Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.
- ❖ Their presence signifies the summit's importance and opens avenues for bilateral discussions on the sidelines, further strengthening Egypt's diplomatic and economic ties within the D-8 framework.

The D-8 aims to:

- ❖ Improving the conditions of developing countries in the global economy.
- ❖ Creating new opportunities in business relationships.
- ❖ Enhance the participation of developing countries in international decision-making.
- ❖ Achieving better living standards.

About D-8

- ❖ The D-8, established in 1997, comprises Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.
- ❖ Collectively, these nations represent a substantial market with a combined population exceeding one billion and a total GDP that accounts for almost 4 trillion dollars, 1.5 trillion dollars of exports, and 110 billion dollars of intra-trade.
- ❖ Headquarters: Istanbul, Turkiye

About Egypt:-

- ❖ Capital:- Cairo
- ❖ Currency :- Egyptian pound
- ❖ President :- Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- ❖ Prime Minister :- Mostafa Madbouly

National

PM Modi to visit Kuwait on December 21-22, marking the first Indian Prime Ministerial visit in 43 years

About News:-

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Kuwait on 21-22 December 2024, at the invitation of the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.
- ❖ This will be the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Kuwait in 43 years.
- ❖ The last Indian prime minister to visit Kuwait was Indira Gandhi in 1981.



Key Points:-

- ❖ During the visit, the Prime Minister will discuss the Kuwaiti leadership and interact with the Indian community.
- ❖ The visit will provide an opportunity further to strengthen the multifaceted ties between India and Kuwait.

- ❖ Both nations also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) at the level of foreign ministers.
- ❖ The Gulf nation is among India's top trading partners, with bilateral trade valued at USD 10.47 billion in the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ Kuwait is India's sixth largest crude supplier, meeting 3 per cent of the country's energy needs.
- ❖ Indian exports to Kuwait reached USD 2 billion for the first time, while investments by the Kuwait Investment Authority in India exceeded USD 10 billion.

About Kuwait:-

- ❖ Capital :- Kuwait City
- ❖ Currency :- Kuwaiti dinar
- ❖ Crown Prince :- Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah
- ❖ Prime Minister :- Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah

State

Mamata Banerjee has launched the "Banglar Bari" housing scheme

About News:-

Accusing the Centre of not sending funds for the 'Awaz Yojana' for the last three years to the state, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday launched 'Banglar Bari', a scheme funded entirely by her government.



Key Points:-

- ❖ the state government would provide funds to 2.8 million families in rural areas to build houses before 2026.
- ❖ Under the Banglar Bari scheme, each household would get ₹1.2 lakhs in two instalments of ₹60,000 each to build a pucca house in rural areas.

- ❖ There were protests in Purulia, West Burdwan, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas and Birbhum.

About West Bengal:-

- ❖ Capital:- kolkata
- ❖ Governor:- C. V. Ananda Bose
- ❖ CM :- Mamata Banerjee

Maharashtra

India and ADB Signed \$42 Million Loan For Coastal Protection in Maharashtra



About News:-

- ❖ On December 19, 2024, the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$42 million loan agreement aimed at providing coastal and riverbank protection in Maharashtra.
- ❖ This initiative seeks to enhance the resilience of local communities and ecosystems in the state.

Key Signatories to the Loan Agreement

- ❖ The loan agreement for the Maharashtra Sustainable Climate-Resilient Coastal Protection and Management Project was signed by:
- ❖ Ms Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, representing the Government of India.
- ❖ Ms Mio Oka, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, representing ADB.
- ❖ Ms Juhi Mukherjee emphasised that the ADB funding will assist in restoring and stabilizing Maharashtra's coastline, thereby protecting the livelihoods of the coastal communities.

Key Points:-

- ❖ ADB will assist in building the capacity of the Maharashtra Maritime Board in shore management planning.

- ❖ This includes the establishment of a coastal infrastructure management unit to better manage the state's coastal resources.
- ❖ The project will also focus on capacity building for stakeholders in areas such as gender equality, social inclusion, coastal management, and livelihood activities, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to coastal protection and resilience.

About Asian Development Bank :-

- ❖ Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- ❖ President: Masatsugu Asakawa

Appointment

SBI appoints Rama Mohan Rao Amara as MD

About News :-

- ❖ State Bank of India announced that Rama Mohan Rao Amara has been appointed as managing director (MD) of the bank for a period of three years with effect from 18 December 2024.
- ❖ Amara will take over the position vacated by CS Setty, the outgoing MD of SBI.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Rama Mohan Rao Amara held the position of deputy managing director & chief risk officer of SBI until his appointment as MD.
- ❖ Further, Kshitij Mohan, deputy managing director (SARG), has been given the additional charge of deputy MD & group chief risk officer, effective from 18 December 2024 as well.
- ❖ State Bank of India (SBI) is an Indian multinational, public sector banking, and financial services statutory body. As of 30 September 2024, the Government of India held a 57.51% stake in the bank.

- ❖ The largest PSU bank's standalone net profit rose 27.92% to Rs 18,331.44 crore on a 15.13% increase in total income to Rs 129,141.11 crore in Q2 FY25 over Q2 FY24.
- ❖ The scrip shed 0.88% to currently trade at Rs 831.70 on the BSE.

About SBI:-

- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai

Defence

Defence Ministry inks Rs 7628 crore deal with L&T for K9 Vajra-T guns



About News:-

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro Limited for procurement of 155 mm/52 calibre K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns for the Indian Army under the Buy (Indian) category at a total cost of Rs 7,628.70 crore.

Key Points:-

- ❖ the contract was signed by senior officials of the Ministry and representatives of L&T in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday.
- ❖ The procurement of K9 VAJRA-T will catalyse artillery modernisation and enhance the overall operational readiness of the Indian Army. This versatile artillery gun, with its cross-country mobility, will play a pivotal role in enhancing the firepower of the Indian Army, enabling deeper strike with precision and its lethal firepower will bolster the capability of artillery in all terrains.
- ❖ The gun being equipped with cutting-edge technology is capable of delivering long-range lethal fires with high accuracy & higher rate of fire and will be able to operate in sub-zero temperatures in high-altitude areas to its full potential.
- ❖ The project will generate employment of more than nine lakh man-days for four years

and encourage active participation of various Indian industries including MSMEs. The project will be a proud flag-bearer of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in consonance with the 'Make-in-India' initiative.

Award

Chennai-born Indian-American becomes Miss India USA 2024



About News:-

- ❖ Chennai-born Indian American Caitlin Sandra Neil was crowned Miss India USA 2024 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey.
- ❖ The 19-year-old is a second-year student at the University of California, Davis.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Caitlin was born in Chennai and has been living in the USA for the last 14 years.
- ❖ She wants to be a web designer and also pursue a modelling and acting career.
- ❖ Nirali Desia of Illinois and Manini Patel of New Jersey were declared first runner-up and second runner-up in the Miss India USA competition.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Sanskriti Sharma from Illinois was crowned Mrs India USA and Arshita Kathpalia from Washington won the Miss Teen India USA in the pageant organised by the India Festival Committee (IFC).

Sport

World Tennis League to kick off on December 19 in Abu Dhabi



About News:-

- ❖ The World Tennis League (WTL) Season 3 will kick off on December 19 in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ According to a release from World Tennis League, Abu Dhabi's Etihad Arena will host the tournament from December 19 to 22, 2024.

Key Points:-

- ❖ World Tennis League Season 3 will feature four teams - HonorFX Eagles, TSL Hawks, Game Changers Falcons, and Kites each comprising four players. In the previous edition, Team Eagles, led by Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev, Mirra Andreeva, and Sofia Kenin, were crowned champions.
- ❖ With new faces participating this year, the teams have been reshuffled to make the league more thrilling than ever.
- ❖ Game Changers Falcons: Elena Rybakina, Caroline Garcia, Andrey Rublev, Denis Shapovalov.
- ❖ TSL Hawks: Aryna Sabalenka, Mirra Andreeva, Sumit Nagal, Jordan Thompson.
- ❖ HonorFX Eagles: Iga Swiatek, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Alexander Shevchenko, Paula Badosa.
- ❖ Kites: Simona Halep, Jasmine Paolini, Nick Kyrgios, Casper Ruud.
- ❖ All the teams will compete in a single round-robin format, with each team playing one match against each other. The top two teams, with the highest number of games won, will advance to the summit clash, scheduled to take place on December 22.
- ❖ Each match will consist of four sets: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, and two doubles sets, which may include Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, or Mixed Doubles, as determined by the team that wins the coin toss.
- ❖ The season will kickstart with an exciting opener as Game Changers Falcons, featuring top guns like Rybakina and Rublev, take on TSL Hawks, led by the Women's World. No 1 Sabalenka and Indian tennis star Nagal.

- ❖ Meanwhile, Swiatek and Tsitsipas will lead the defending champions, HonorFX Eagles, against the Kites, featuring two-time Grand Slam champion Halep and crowd favourite Kyrgios.
- ❖ On the second day (December 20), the Kites will take on Game Changers Falcons, while TSL Hawks will square off against HonorFX Eagles in the evening match.
- ❖ On the penultimate day (December 21), TSL Hawks and Kites will play the opening match, followed by the last league stage match between Game Changers Falcons and HonorFX Eagles. The final of the World Tennis League Season 3 will be held on December 22.

Miscellaneous

India participates in the 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting

About News:-

Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, represented India at the 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) hosted by Thailand virtually on 19 December 2024.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Thailand's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Paisan Rupanichkij, chaired the 24th virtual session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials meeting. Nepal's Acting Foreign Secretary Amrit Rai represented Nepal at the meeting.
- ❖ "The Indian delegation reiterated India's steadfast commitment to BIMSTEC and its vision for a robust, vibrant, and prosperous region," it added.
- ❖ During the meeting which was held virtually, the senior officials reviewed the progress in BIMSTEC since their last meeting in March 2023.
- ❖ They deliberated on various priority areas of cooperation in the region including sustainable development, connectivity, security and people-to-people exchanges.

Main Points of meeting

- ❖ Took stock of our close cooperation in health, food security, trade, investment, economy and energy.
- ❖ Focused on improving physical, maritime and digital connectivity across the region.
- ❖ Explored opportunities for capacity building, skill development and improving people-to-people ties.
- ❖ The development of BIMSTEC Centres of Excellence is a collective resolve.
- ❖ Reaffirmed India's commitment to wider engagement with BIMSTEC in line with Neighbourhood First, Vision SAGAR and Act East Policy.

Important Day

World Meditation Day - 21 December



About News:-

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution declaring December 21 as World Meditation Day.
- ❖ India, including Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico and Andorra, was a member of the core group of countries that guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution titled 'World Meditation Day' in the 193-member UN General Assembly on Friday.

- ❖ The theme for 2024 is- "Inner Peace, Global Harmony".
- ❖ In Indian tradition, December 21, the Winter Solstice, is regarded as a period of auspiciousness for introspection and spiritual development. It honours India's ten-year leadership in spreading wellness practices worldwide and coincides with the International Day of Yoga, which is celebrated on June 21 (Summer Solstice).



MPSC
WALLAH

