

International

President Droupadi Murmu Concludes Three-Nation Visit to Africa



About News:-

- ❖ On October 17, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu made her formal visit to Malawi, one of three African countries. From October 13–19, 2024, President Droupadi traveled to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi for an official three-nation tour. She traveled to Mauritania (16 October), Algeria (13–15 October), and Malawi.
- ❖ President Murmu is also notable for being the first Indian leader to travel to Malawi, Mauritania, and Algeria.

President Murmu's Visit to Malawi Highlights

- ❖ From October 17–19, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu traveled to Malawi. The Vice President of Malawi, Michael Usi, welcomed her on October 17, 2024, at the Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe.
- ❖ She met with Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, the president of Malawi, and the two leaders talked about bilateral matters.
- ❖ To improve bilateral ties, the two nations signed four memorandums of understanding (MoU). These MOUs were in effect.
 - ❖ Arts & Culture,
 - ❖ Youth Matters,
 - ❖ Sports and
 - ❖ Pharmaceutical cooperation
- ❖ President Murmu also addressed the India-Malawi Business Meet in the Malawian capital of Lilongwe.
- ❖ She also laid a wreath at the Mausoleum of the first President of Malawi, Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda.

About Malawi:-

- ❖ Currency: Malawian kwacha
- ❖ Capital: Lilongwe
- ❖ President: Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera

National

Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurates the second edition of the Art Exhibition 'Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre' in New Delhi



About News:-

From October 17–20, 2024, a distinctive tribal art exhibition will occur in New Delhi. The show features the artwork of 49 indigenous painters who reside in the 10 Indian states' 22 National Tiger Reserves. The exhibition, which is being shown for the second time and is called Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Center, was opened in New Delhi on October 17, 2024, by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs.

The person who organized the art exhibition

- ❖ In partnership with the National Human Rights Commission, the Sankala Foundation, and the International Big Cat Alliance, the National Tiger Conservation Authority hosts the second "Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre" exhibition.

Participants in the Exhibition of Tribal Art

- ❖ To emphasize the vital role that tribal groups play in the conservation and preservation of the nation's ecology and forests, the Tribal art exhibition Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Center is being held.
- ❖ The 49 tribal painters from 22 tiger reserves across 10 states are showcasing more than 200 paintings and 100 other works of art.
- ❖ Ten of the 49 artists are from Madhya Pradesh's tiger reserves, while the remaining artists are from Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Mizoram.

- ❖ Tribal art forms created using sustainable materials, including Warli, Gond, Sohra, Pata Chitra, and Bhil, are on display in the exhibition.

State

Karnataka government to rename residential schools as Maharshi Valmiki Schools



About News:-

- ❖ Valmiki Jayanti 2024: All government residential schools in the state have been renamed Maharishi Valmiki Residential Schools by the Karnataka government, which is headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.
- ❖ Additionally, Maharishi Valmiki University will replace Raichur University.

Key Points:

- ❖ The Chief Minister's statement falls on Valmiki Jayanti, a national holiday commemorating the renowned poet's birth anniversary.
- ❖ October 17 is the day it is observed.
- ❖ Maharishi Valmiki, the esteemed sage who is credited with writing the Ramayana, one of the most important epics in Indian literature, is honored on Valmiki Jayanti.
- ❖ The epic teaches morality, ethics, and the ultimate triumph of virtue over evil.
- ❖ Valmiki is revered as the first poet in Sanskrit literature, or the "Adi Kavi."

About Karnataka:

- ❖ Capital: Bengaluru
- ❖ Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah
- ❖ Governor: Thawarchand Gehlot

Economic

RBI accepts nearly Rs 25,000 crore bids in g-sec buyback auction

About News:-

- ❖ In contrast to the declared sum of ₹25,000 crore, the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday received bids for government securities at the repurchase auction totaling ₹24,934.4

crore. Institutions offered a total of ₹33,201.4 crore.

- ❖ This is the central bank's second buyback operation of this kind this month. Since the RBI resumed holding repurchase auctions in May of this year, following a six-year break, this auction and the one last week were among the most successful.

Key Points:

RBI's October 2024 Second Buyback

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held a repurchase auction and received bids totaling Rs 24,934.4 crore, which was somewhat less than the Rs 25,000 crore that was announced.
- ❖ After a six-year break, buybacks resumed in May 2024, and this is the second successful buyback operation this month.

Considerable Involvement in the Market

- ❖ Market players placed bids totaling Rs 33,201.4 crore, demonstrating a high level of interest in the buyback.
- ❖ Softer bond yields, which have increased traders' profitability and increased their willingness to sell government bonds, are credited with this operation's success.

Trends in Bond Yields

- ❖ 10-Year Benchmark Bond Yields Are Getting Easy
- ❖ The yields on 10-year benchmark government bonds have decreased by 43 basis points since the beginning of 2024, from 7.19% in January to 6.76% as of Thursday.
- ❖ This decline in yields has made the buyback process more attractive to participants, as lower yields improve bond pricing and profits.
- ❖ Breakdown of Bond Maturities Accepted

Varied Maturities in the Auction

The RBI accepted bids for several bond maturities, including:

- ❖ Rs 6,409 crore for 7.72% securities maturing in 2025
- ❖ Rs 8,919.8 crore for 5.22% bonds maturing in 2025
- ❖ Rs 8,127.9 crore for 5.15% bonds maturing in 2025

- ❖ Rs 605 crore for 8.20% bonds maturing in 2025
 - ❖ Rs 872.6 crore for 7.59% bonds maturing in January 2026
 - ❖ Strategic Importance of Buyback Operations
- ### Reducing Debt and Improving Liquidity
- ❖ The government's plan to reduce long-term liabilities by retiring some of its outstanding debt early includes buyback activities.
 - ❖ Because banks own a significant portion of government securities, these measures help increase the banking system's liquidity.
 - ❖ According to the RBI's fund absorption, the banking system's liquidity as of October 16 was Rs 1.89 lakh crore.

A buy-back auction: what is it?

- ❖ When the item's owner or consignor bids on it and/or purchases it back at auction, this is known as a buyback
- ❖ The audience typically isn't aware of these. While some auctioneers permit buybacks, others do not.

About the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

- ❖ Established:- April 1, 1935 (Kolkata)
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Governor :- Shaktikanta Das

Appointment

Vijaya Rahatkar Appointed as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women

About News:-

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has appointed Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar as its chairperson. She will serve as NCW's ninth chairperson.



Key Points:

- ❖ Smt. Rahatkar has proven to be a capable leader in a range of social and political roles. She oversaw projects like "Sakshama," which provides support to survivors of acid attacks, "Prajwala," which connects self-help groups to central government programs, and "Suhita," which is a round-the-clock helpline service for women, while serving as

Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women from 2016 to 2021.

- ❖ She also worked on legal reforms that addressed concerns like anti-human trafficking units, anti-triple talaq cells, and POCSO. She started a journal called "Saad" that focused on women's issues and promoted digital literacy initiatives.
- ❖ From 2007 to 2010, Smt. Rahatkar oversaw major infrastructure and healthcare development initiatives while serving as Mayor of Chatrapati Sambhajinagar.
- ❖ Smt. Rahatkar graduated from the University of Pune with a bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in history. Among her writings are "Aurangabad: Leading to Wide Roads" and "Vidhikhit," which focuses on women's legal challenges. She has received acclaim for her efforts to empower women, including the Savitribai Phule Award from a national literary council and the National Law Award.
- ❖ Additionally, Dr. Archana Majumdar was named a member of the National Commission for Women.

Defence

Indian Coast Guard conducts successful 'Sagar Kavach' coastal security exercise

About News:-

- ❖ On October 16–17, 2024, the Indian Coast Guard successfully carried out its second annual coastal security exercise, known as "Sagar Kavach," along the shores of Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman & Diu.
- ❖ On July 11 and 12, 2024, the Indian Coast Guard conducted its first "Sagar Kavach" drill of the year along the Andhra Pradesh coast.

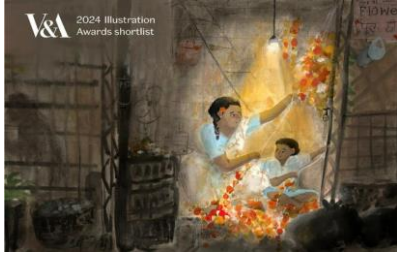
Sagar Kavach exercise, second edition, 2024

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard's North West Regional Headquarters in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, organized the second iteration of the "Sagar Kavach" coastal security drill.
- ❖ The drill involved participation from all of India's coastal security agencies, including the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), State Police, Indian Navy, Marine Police, Border Security Force (BSF), National Security

Guard (NSG), Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and port authorities. Both the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy conducted intensive aircraft surveillance of the coastal region.

Award

Karnal artist wins prestigious UK illustration award with 'Marigolds'



About News:-

The 25-year-old Aditi Anand, a graduate of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), has won the V&A Illustration Awards' coveted Emerging Illustrator category. The issue of child labor and lost childhoods is highlighted in her artwork, Marigolds, which is situated in India. ARU's good reputation in the illustration industry is further cemented by Aditi's achievement and the biennial V&A Illustration Awards.

Honor and Acknowledgment

- ❖ Aditi Anand's piece Marigolds took up the V&A Illustration Awards' Emerging Illustrator title.
- ❖ The artwork reflects on lost childhoods and tackles the issue of child labor in India.
- ❖ In addition to receiving a £3,000 award for winning, Aditi's artwork will be on exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London through September 2025.

The Journey of Aditi

- ❖ Aditi, who is from Karnal, India, first studied business and commerce before deciding to illustrate children's books.
- ❖ She then earned her MA in Children's Book Illustration from ARU after discovering her love for illustration while working for her campus magazine.
- ❖ She acknowledged that she was inspired to try new things and hone her visual storytelling abilities by the ARU Children's Book Illustration team.



The V&A Illustration Awards: An Overview

- ❖ Renowned illustrators and industry professionals serve as judges for the free, biennial V&A Illustration Awards, which honor excellence in illustration and modern practice.
- ❖ Founded in 1972, the V&A competition is characterized by its emphasis on the British illustration business, honoring both UK-based illustrators and artwork created by artists worldwide for the UK market.
- ❖ The Moira Gemmill Memorial Fund and The Linder Foundation kindly support the Awards.

Miscellaneous

Second National Lighthouse Festival begins in Puri

About News:-

On October 19 and 20, 2024, the nation's 75 historic lighthouses will celebrate the 2nd National Lighthouse Festival. On October 19, 2024, a Lighthouse Tourism Conclave 2024 was held in Puri, Odisha, to kick off the Festival.



Key Points:-

- ❖ From September 23 to 25, 2023, 75 historic lighthouses nationwide hosted the inaugural National Lighthouse Festival.
- ❖ On October 19, 2024, Shantanu Thakur, the Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, officially opened the Lighthouse Tourism Conclave 2024.
- ❖ In addition, Mrs. Pravati Parida, the deputy chief minister of Odisha, and Suresh Gopi, the minister of state for petroleum, natural gas, and tourism, attended the first session.

- ❖ The "National Lighthouse Festival" is organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

The National Lighthouse Festival's primary goals are to:

- ❖ To turn 75 of the nation's historic lighthouses into tourist destinations with contemporary features like amphitheatres, museums, kid-friendly parks, etc.
- ❖ Encourage the preservation and conservation of these antique lighthouses on the sea.
- ❖ Creating jobs locally and strengthening the local economy.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships reports that 75 iconic lighthouses in nine coastal states and one Union Territory have received investments totaling about Rs 65 crore.

About Lighthouse

- ❖ Lighthouses are permanent constructions that are erected on the seabed, rocks, or the beach. On top of the Lighthouse's construction is a beacon. Ships approaching hazardous regions of the sea are alerted by the beacon's focused light. Additionally, a lot of the lighthouses have fog horns, which emit high-pitched alerts to passing ships in hazardous sea regions when there is a lot of fog.
- ❖ Lighthouses are also utilized to securely guide ships into and out of harbors.

Sport

The 24th National Para-Swimming Championship kicks off in Goa

About News:-

At the Olympic Swimming Pool in Panaji, Goa, the 24th National Para Swimming Championship got underway on October 19 and will run through October 22.



Key Points:

- ❖ The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), the Goa Paralympic Association, and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with

Disabilities, Government of Goa, have collaborated to arrange the event.

- ❖ According to a press release, the National Para-Swimming Championship is expected to attract more than 700 competitors, including para swimmers, coaches, officials, and support personnel from more than 27 Indian states and union territories.
- ❖ Competing in a variety of events that honor the spirit of sportsmanship and the talents of people with disabilities, athletes will display their extraordinary talent and tenacity.
- ❖ This championship offers a platform for India's talented para swimmers to perform on a national stage, with their performances paving the way for potential future international participation, including upcoming major events like the World Para Swimming Championships, the release added.

New Zealand clinches Maiden Women's T20 World Cup Title

About News:-

In a stunning display, New Zealand won their first-ever Women's T20 World Cup title in Dubai on Sunday, defeating South Africa by 32 runs.

Key Points:

- ❖ The triumph completed a historic day for New Zealand cricket, as earlier in the day the men's team won their first Test match in India in 36 years.
- ❖ On a pitch that had favored low scores throughout the tournament, Sophie Devine's New Zealand squad performed admirably under duress, posting an excellent total of 158 for five despite being put into bat by South Africa, who were playing in their second consecutive final.



Important Day

National Police Commemoration Day - 21 October



About News:-

Observed on October 21, Police Commemoration Day is a national holiday in India honoring those who have sacrificed their lives while performing their duties. This somber day also offers a chance to thank the officers who are serving today and their families who support them every day.

History

- ❖ The origins of Police Commemoration Day can be found in the turbulent years of 1958 and 1959 when political and geographic tensions strained ties between China and India. Ten people were tragically killed and seven members of the Central Reserve Police Force (C.R.P.F.) and Intelligence Bureau were captured when China purportedly launched its first attack on India in the Aksai Chin region on October 21, 1959.
- ❖ The Chinese army ambushed the party during a search mission headed by D.C.I.O. Shri Karam Singh, resulting in casualties, captures, and injuries. Three weeks after the martyrs' remains were turned over to the country, the day was formally proclaimed "Commemoration Day" during the Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories in January 1960.

