

International

India to chair 68th session of UN's Commission on Narcotic Drugs



About News :-

For the first time, India has been selected for the esteemed position of chair of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), which is a major accomplishment. The chairmanship of this important forum was formally taken over by Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna. Addressing global drug-related concerns and encouraging international cooperation on drug control measures are the main objectives of the CND, a crucial UN policy-making organisation.

The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs' (CND) function

- ❖ The CND is in charge of keeping an eye on worldwide drug trends, advising member nations on drug policy, and supervising the application of international drug treaties. It is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and acts as a governing body of the Vienna-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Leadership and Duties of India

- ❖ India's new position as Chair strengthens its increasing influence in international fora. India's goal as Chair is to speak for the Global South and make sure that poor countries' opinions are heard when it comes to international drug policy debates. It is anticipated that the nation will encourage communication, advocate for fair strategies, and combine emerging economies' concerns with those of industrialised countries.

Priorities for the 68th Session

- ❖ The agenda for the 68th session will place a high priority on international cooperation to address urgent problems such substance misuse, illegal drug trafficking, and health-related effects. India will continue its dedication to fair, inclusive, and sustainable approaches in tackling these issues, improve access to regulated substances for scientific and medical uses, and fortify evidence-based solutions.

National

A Nationwide Campaign 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' will be launched on 19th December, 2024 during the 4th Good Governance Week 2024

About News :-

Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore the Nation-wide campaign for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery will be held in all Districts, States and Union Territories of India from 19th – 24th December, 2024. Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore is a decentralize version of Special Campaign 4.0 conducted in central Ministries/Departments and PSUs from 2nd to 31st October, 2024.



Key Points :-

- ❖ In this campaign, over 700 District Collectors will be participating and officials will be visiting Tehsils and Panchayat Samiti Headquarters. This is the third time, that the Government of India will be conducting a National Campaign at Tehsil Level to address Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery. Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore Abhiyaan will create a national movement for Good Governance that will inspire future generations.
- ❖ The Preparatory Phase of the Good Governance Week 2024 will start from

December 11-18, 2024. To launch the programme of the Good Governance Week 2024, a Portal, <https://darpgapps.nic.in/GGW24>, will be inaugurated on 11.12.2024. This will be a dedicated portal in which District Collectors will upload progress along with the Good Governance Practices and video clips during the Preparatory and Implementation phases.

- ❖ In the Implementation Phase, District Collectors will also share the following data on the dedicated portal that will be redressed in the period December 19-24, 2024.
- ❖ Applications Disposed under Service Delivery
- ❖ Grievances Redressed in State Grievance Portals
- ❖ Grievances Redressed in CPGRAMS
- ❖ Number of New Services added for Online Service Delivery
- ❖ Best Good Governance Practices
- ❖ Success Stories in Public Grievances
- ❖ A workshop on District Level Innovations will be conducted under the chairmanship of District Collector on December 23, 2024 in every District. The workshop will focus on innovations aimed at Digital Transformation of Institutions and Digital Empowerment of Citizens.

State

First cotton research centre to come up in Telangana's Adilabad



About News :-

- ❖ Two All India Coordinated Research Project (ACRIP) Centres on cotton in Telangana have been authorised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ❖ The two centres will be set up at Adilabad (sub-center) and Warangal (main centre).

Key Points :-

- ❖ The facilities were set up since, after its bifurcation, Telangana was no longer able to participate in national cotton research coordination centres. Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) has thus been unable to participate in the national cotton research system for the past ten years.
- ❖ When PJTSAU officials went to ICAR to ask for permission to conduct a research program under the all-India effort, two cotton research facilities were suggested.
- ❖ The staff and funding needed to support PJTSAU's cotton research will be provided by ICAR.
- ❖ In the next fiscal year, it is expected that the centres will begin performing full-fledged research.

About Telangana :

- ❖ Governor : Jishnu Dev Varma
- ❖ Chief Minister : Revanth Reddy (INC)
- ❖ Capital : Hyderabad

Economic

RBI keeps repo rate at 6.5% for 11th time in a row



About News :-

- ❖ For the eleventh time in a row since February 2023, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) chose to maintain the repo rate at 6.5%.
- ❖ The conclusion was reached by a vote of 4:2 during the meeting that took place from December 4-6, 2024.
- ❖ Focus on Inflation Control and Economic Growth: The RBI is committed to striking a balance between inflation control and economic growth, even in the face of calls for a rate drop. The governor
- ❖ Shaktikanta Das underlined how crucial long-term pricing stability is to steady growth.

Key Highlights :

- ❖ Other Important Rates: The rate for the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) is still 6.25%.
- ❖ The bank rate and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate stay at 6.75%.
- ❖ Neutral Position Maintained: With four members voting to maintain the stance, the RBI MPC chose to remain "neutral."
- ❖ The objective is to promote economic growth while bringing inflation into line with the 4% target.

Revised GDP Growth Forecast for FY25:

- ❖ FY25 GDP growth forecast was lowered to 6.6%, down from 7.2%.
- ❖ Q3 FY25 revised to 6.8% (from 7.4%).
- ❖ Q4 FY25 revised to 7.2% (from 7.4%).
- ❖ Q1 FY26 revised to 6.9% (from 7.3%).
- ❖ Q2 FY26 forecast remains at 7.3%.

Inflation Outlook:

- ❖ CPI-based inflation for FY25 revised to 4.8% from 4.5%.
- ❖ Q3 FY25 revised to 5.7% (from 4.8%).
- ❖ Q4 FY25 revised to 4.5% (from 4.2%).
- ❖ Q1 FY26 revised to 4.6% (from 4.3%).
- ❖ Q2 FY26 projection remains at 4%.
- ❖ Food Prices and Inflation: During the October–December quarter, it is anticipated that food prices would continue to drive headline inflation.
- ❖ It is anticipated that kharif output estimates and the Rabi season will reduce the pressures of food inflation, particularly for rice and tur dal.
- ❖ Core Inflation: In October, there was an increase in core inflation, despite it still being low.
- ❖ Weak GDP Growth in Q2 FY25: After growing by 8.1% in the same quarter last year, India's GDP growth in Q2 FY25 dropped to 5.4%, the lowest level in two years.
- ❖ The mining and manufacturing industries' poor performance was the main cause of the drop.

About RBI :

- ❖ Established : 1 April 1935
- ❖ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- ❖ Governor : Shaktikanta Das

Appointment

Shammi Silva takes over ACC presidency role from Jay Shah



About News :-

Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah, who recently became the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Key Points :-

- ❖ Shah had vacated the position after three terms as ACC President.
- ❖ It won't be Silva's maiden role with the ACC, having previously functioned as the chairman of the organisation's Finance & Marketing Committee.
- ❖ Silva expressed gratitude to outgoing President Jay Shah for milestones like record commercial rights for ACC Asia Cup 2024–31 and new pathway event structures.

Science & Technology

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute develops technology for captive breeding of high-value marine ornamental fishes



About News :-

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI), a division of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has created captive breeding techniques for the Azure damselfish and Ornate goby, two highly prized marine decorative fish species.

- ❖ The CMFRI Vizhinjam Regional Centre is where the technologies were created.
- ❖ A medium-sized seed production facility that produces 24,000 juveniles a year may bring in about ₹12 lakh, which would make it a desirable enterprise for company owners.

Key Highlights :

- ❖ Features of the species: The vivid blue and yellow azure damsel is a reef-associated fish that is endangered because of overexploitation.
- ❖ Fish have a market worth of ₹350 in India and \$15-25 elsewhere.
- ❖ Ornate Goby: a common fish in marine aquariums, distinguished by its eye-catching pectoral fins with white spots. Fish have a market worth of ₹250 in India and \$15-30 elsewhere.
- ❖ Sustainability and Conservation: By encouraging sustainable fish production, captive breeding technology will lessen the strain on wild populations and aid in the preservation of coral reef ecosystems.
- ❖ Commercial Potential: Aquarists and fish farmers can more easily implement the breeding technologies for these species since the developed seed production processes can be shared with prospective business owners.
- ❖ Application in Aquarium Industry: These species are valuable for the aquarium industry due to their beauty, behavior, and roles in tank maintenance (such as cleaning sand).

Award

SECI Wins 3rd PSU Transformation Award for "Innovative Product Development"



About News :-

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Ltd under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy bagged the 3rd PSU Transformation Award under the "Innovative Product Development" category for 'Firm and Dispatchable RE (FDRE) Supply to DISCOMs on a Demand Following Basis'.

Key Points :-

- ❖ The award was conferred in a felicitation ceremony held on 05th December 2024 at New Delhi.
- ❖ The award was received by Shri Sanjay Sharma, Director (Solar) along with Shri Jshit Ranjan Sikidar, Director (Finance) and Shri Sivakumar V Vepakomma, Director (Power System) in the presence of Shri Ajay Kumar Sinha, General Manager (Corporate Planning) and other officials of SECI.
- ❖ SECI has introduced the innovative power supply model of Firm and Dispatchable RE (FDRE) working with several DISCOMs and States to understand their energy demands and design models that cater to their renewable power requirement.

Miscellaneous

PM Modi inaugurates first 'Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav' in Delhi, interacts with artisans

Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav



About News :-

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the three-day 'Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav' at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.
- ❖ The event, being organized from December 6 to 8, celebrates Northeast India's vibrant culture. It aims to offer a dynamic stage for showcasing the region's textile sector, traditional craftsmanship, tourism potential, and unique Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products.

Key Points :-

- ❖ During the inauguration, PM Modi visited various pavilions and interacted with artisans and craftsmen displaying their products, highlighting the cultural richness and economic potential of the region.
- ❖ As per a release, this cultural festival, being celebrated for the first time, will highlight the vast cultural tapestry of Northeast India, bringing together an array of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural practices.
- ❖ To promote economic opportunities in areas such as traditional handicrafts, handlooms, agricultural products, and tourism, the Mahotsav will feature a variety of events.
- ❖ The festival has artisan exhibitions, 'Grameen haats', state-specific pavilions, and technical sessions on key areas crucial to the development of the Northeastern region.
- ❖ This festival will host key events during three days, including an investors roundtable and buyer-seller meets designed to be a unique opportunity to build and strengthen networks, partnerships, and joint initiatives to boost the economic growth of the region.
- ❖ Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav will have a design conclave and fashion shows displaying the rich handloom and handicraft traditions of Northeast India on the national stage.
- ❖ Highlighting the region's rich cultural heritage, the festival will also showcase vibrant musical performances and indigenous cuisines of Northeast India.

UNGA declares December 21 as World Meditation Day



About News :-

- ❖ With backing from nations including Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico, and Andorra, as well as co-sponsored by India, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted a resolution designating December 21 as World

Meditation Day. This resolution highlights the importance of meditation in attaining inner peace, overall well-being, and managing contemporary issues like stress and anxiety.

- ❖ In Indian culture, December 21, the Winter Solstice, is regarded as a fortunate time 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).

India's Role and Leadership

- ❖ With the motto "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The world is one family), India demonstrated its dedication to the welfare of all people worldwide by playing a crucial role in steering the resolution. The declaration is in line with India's civilisational concept and its endeavours to encourage activities for mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual peace, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish underlined.

Meditation as a Global Wellness Tool

- ❖ The resolution emphasises the historical foundations and contemporary significance of meditation. Its advantages in lowering stress, enhancing mental and physical abilities, and promoting harmony between people and the natural world are confirmed by scientific research. This campaign seeks to encourage people all throughout the world to use meditation as a means of achieving holistic health and inner development.

A Global Movement for Wellness

- ❖ This announcement is a continuation of India's global wellness efforts, which began in 2014 when it took the lead in announcing the International Day of Yoga. Yoga has become a global movement over the past 10 years, and the new resolution aims to use meditation to have a similar effect, particularly in light of the escalating tensions and conflicts throughout the world.

Important Day

International Anti-Corruption Day - 9 December



About News :-

- ❖ International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on December 9th to raise awareness about corruption and its devastating effects on society, governance, and economic growth. This day serves as a global reminder of the urgent need to combat corruption at all levels and reinforces the commitment to implementing effective anti-corruption measures. Governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide unite to reaffirm their dedication to transparency, integrity, and accountability. Explore the history, significance, and impact of International Anti-Corruption Day, along with India's policies and global rankings related to corruption.
- ❖ The International Anti-Corruption Day 2024 Theme is Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity.

History :-

- ❖ The history of International Anti-Corruption Day dates back to 31st October 2003, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). This treaty, signed by 140 countries, entered into force on 14th December 2005.
- ❖ Recognizing the importance of promoting global awareness about the issue, the UN General Assembly designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day in 2003. Over the years, this day has become a platform for sharing best practices, implementing anti-corruption policies in India and globally and strengthening international cooperation.

