

Military Exercise

SURYA KIRAN



The Indian Army contingent comprising 334 personnel departed for Nepal to participate in 18th edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN. The exercise will be conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from 31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025.

Key point

- ❖ The Indian Army contingent is being led by a Battalion from the 11th Gorkha Rifles.
- ❖ The Nepal Army contingent will be represented by Srijung Battalion.
- ❖ The aim of Exercise SURYA KIRAN is to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter terrorism operations in mountains, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under United Nations Charter.
- ❖ The exercise will focus on enhancing operational preparedness, aviation aspects, medical training, and environment conservation.
- ❖ Through these activities, the troops will enhance their operational capabilities, refine their combat skills and strengthen their coordination to operate together in challenging situations.

Person in News

Jimmy Carter




Former US President Jimmy Carter passed away On 29 December at his home in Plains, Georgia, at the age of 100.

Key Point

- ❖ He was the oldest living President of all time and the third U.S. President to visit India.
- ❖ A Democrat, former President Carter served one term from

	<p>1977 to 1981.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ After his presidency, he carved out an extraordinary post-presidency life ❖ Recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to resolving global conflicts, fostering democracy, and promoting human rights.
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Place in News

<p>Pangong Tso</p> 	<p>The Indian Army recently unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Pangong Tso in Ladakh, near the India-China border.</p> <p>Key point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The statue was installed by the Fire and Fury Corps. ❖ The installation highlights India's focus on enhancing its military presence and infrastructure in the Ladakh region. ❖ Pangong Tso is an endorheic lake (landlocked) that is partly in India's Ladakh region and partly in Tibet. ❖ Its total area is over 600 sq km. ❖ Cultural Feature: The name of the lake reflects the mixed heritage of the lake: Pangong in Ladakhi means extensive concavity, the word Tso is Tibetan for lake. ❖ It is formed from Tethys geosyncline. ❖ Geographical Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Karakoram Mountain range, which crosses Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and India, with heights of over 6,000 metres including K2, the world's second highest peak, ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso. ❖ Its southern bank too has high broken mountains sloping towards Spangur Lake in the south. ❖ The lake's water, while crystal clear, is brackish, making it undrinkable. The lake freezes during the winter, allowing some vehicular movement on it as well.
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Sports

King Cup International Open



Ace Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen secured third place at the King Cup International Badminton Open 2024 after defeating French opponent Alex Lanier in Shenzhen, China.

Key Point

- ❖ The Indian badminton player advanced to the third-place match after losing to China's Hu Zhe'an, the reigning junior world champion and current world No 1, in the semi-finals.
- ❖ The King Cup International Badminton Open is a newly introduced tournament, initiated by two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan of China.
- ❖ Lakshya Sen, who reached the semi-finals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, was India's sole representative in this invitational tournament.

Miscellaneous

Youngest Female in the World to conquer the Seven Summits.



Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old from Navy Children School, Mumbai, became the youngest female to conquer the Seven Summits on December 24, 2024.

Key Point

- ❖ When she was 16, she made a record by becoming the youngest Indian to climb Mount Everest.
- ❖ From her childhood at the age of 7, she went trekking in the mountains of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar: India's highest civilian award for individuals under the age of 18, recognizing exceptional achievements in various fields. Kaamya received this honor in 2021 for her mountaineering accomplishments.

Seven Summits

Peak	Location	Height
Mount Everest	Greater Himalayas (Nepal-Tibet Border)	8,849 meters (29,032 ft)
Mount Kilimanjaro	Tanzania, Africa	5,895 meters (19,340 ft)
Mount Elbrus	Caucasus Mountains, Russia	5,642 meters (18,510 ft)
Mount Kosciuszko	New South Wales, Australia	2,228 meters (7,310 ft)
Mount Aconcagua	Andes Mountains, Argentina	6,959 meters (22,831 ft)
Vinson Massif	Sentinel Range, Ellsworth Mountains, Antarctica	4,892 meters (16,050 ft)
Mount Denali	Alaska, USA	6,190 meters (20,310 ft)

Short News

- ❖ DPIIT has joined hands with boAt, an Indian audio and wearables brand to talk and engage and support DPIIT-recognized startups in the segment, D2C and manufacturing segment.
- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah reached the 200 wickets in Test cricket, breaking the record of being the quickest India to reach this milestone during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in MCG Melbourne.
- ❖ The celebration of the Urs of the eminent Sufi saint – Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti has begun, and marks an important religious and cultural event is in its 813th year.

- ❖ The Government of India has named Dr. Sandip Shah as the Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).
- ❖ On December 25, in celebration of Good Governance Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel introduced the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform to improve communication and accessibility by addressing language barriers.
- ❖ Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced as the 'Special Partner' for the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2025.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Former President Jimmy Carter, who passed away on December 29, was the former president of which of the following countries?
- A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. United States
 - D. United Kingdom

Answer-C

2. Who among the following became the youngest female to conquer the Seven Summits on December 24, 2024?
- A. Poorna Malavath
 - B. Lucy Westlake
 - C. Kriti Jaiswal
 - D. Kaamya Karthikeyan

Answer- D

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