

International

India's participation in the International Travel Trade Exhibition at FITUR, Madrid from 22nd - 26th January 2025

About News:-

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, participated in one of the leading travel fairs - IFEMA being held in Madrid, Spain to position India as a potential leading destination in the source market of Spain and Latin America.
- ❖ The exhibition at FITUR considered a benchmark event in the tourism sector, was held from 22nd - 26th January 2025.
- ❖ FITUR is the global meeting point for tourism professionals and the leading fair for inbound and outbound markets in Ibero-America.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Incredible India pavilion at FITUR was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik, Ambassador of India to Spain, in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Tourism, State governments, and co-exhibitors on 22nd January 2025.
- ❖ The Indian delegation comprised more than 23 co-exhibitors, including the State Governments of Karnataka, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand showcased their unique tourism products and experiences under the Incredible India banner at FITUR.
- ❖ The international exhibition, provided a platform to the stakeholders to network and connect with potential clients and partners in the Spanish source market.
- ❖ The India Pavilion showcased India's rich cultural and natural heritage, including renowned museums, wildlife sanctuaries, spiritual destinations, and dance forms, all of which combine to make India a popular destination for travellers seeking unique and authentic experiences.



- ❖ The Pavilion also vividly highlighted the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh, one of the largest and most significant religious congregations in the world, while emphasizing the tourism potential of Prayagraj as a spiritual and cultural destination.
- ❖ Spain is also one of the 20 top tourist-generating markets for inbound tourist flow to India with approximately 70,000 Spanish tourists visiting the country in 2023, almost double the numbers who had visited India in 2022.
- ❖ The year 2026 will be marked as the Dual Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence on the occasion of the 70th year of diplomatic relations between India and Spain.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, also, to encourage the Indian diaspora to become Incredible India ambassadors, has launched the 'Chalo India Initiative'.
- ❖ The Indian diaspora members can register themselves on the Chalo India portal - www.chaloindia.gov.in to receive a unique referral code and send 5 non-Indian friends to travel to India to explore the grandeur and diverse experiences that India offers.

About Spain:-

- ❖ Capital:- Madrid
- ❖ Currency:- Euro
- ❖ Prime Minister:- Pedro Sánchez

Maharashtra

Maharashtra suspects first death from Guillain-Barre syndrome amid rising cases



About News:-

- ❖ One person is believed to have died in Maharashtra in an outbreak of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) – a neurological disease that causes numbness, weakness, and pain – and the number of cases is rising.
- ❖ A total of 101 cases of GBS have so far been reported in the state, most of them in and around Pune.
- ❖ The state's public health department said in a statement that one person had died in the city of Solapur and 16 patients were currently on ventilators.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Most symptoms occur within days or weeks of a viral or bacterial infection and typically last a few weeks, according to the World Health Organization.
- ❖ Most people recover fully from even the most severe cases of GBS, although some continue to experience weakness, the global health agency says.
- ❖ "Auto-immune diseases are not communicable, they cannot spread from one patient to another. But the causative infection usually spreads."

About Maharashtra:-

- ❖ Capital:- Mumbai
- ❖ Governor:- C. P. Radhakrishnan
- ❖ Chief minister :- Devendra Fadnavis

Economic

RBI plans Rs 1.1 lakh crore liquidity infusion in banking system



About News:-

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a plan on Monday to inject an additional Rs 1.1 lakh crore into the banking system through various measures, including open market purchase auctions of Government securities and a variable rate repo auction.
- ❖ Additionally, a \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap auction will be conducted to enhance liquidity.

This decision follows a review of current liquidity and financial conditions.

- ❖ The open market operations will involve the purchase of Government of India securities worth Rs 60,000 crore in three tranches of Rs 20,000 crore each. These tranches are scheduled for January 30, February 13, and February 20, 2025.
- ❖ A 56-day Variable Rate Repo auction for Rs 50,000 crore will take place on February 7, while the dollar-rupee swap auction of USD 5 billion for a tenor of six months will be held on January 31, according to the RBI statement.
- ❖ The new liquidity coverage norms were outlined in a draft circular issued on July 25. These norms require banks to set aside additional funds to manage risks, with implementation scheduled for April 1.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The guidelines include assigning additional run-off factors to retail deposits enabled with internet and mobile banking facilities and mandating banks to increase high-quality liquid assets to address sudden fund withdrawals.
- ❖ The RBI said banking has undergone rapid transformation in recent years. While increased usage of technology has facilitated the ability to make instantaneous bank transfers and withdrawals, it has also led to a concomitant increase in risks, requiring proactive management. It has reviewed the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) framework to increase the resilience of banks.

- ❖ LCR requires banks to maintain sufficient high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs), comprising mainly government securities, to manage a potential liquidity crunch due to any sudden withdrawal of funds. RBI has rejected the request of banks to include their existing cash reserve ratios to estimate HQLAs.
- ❖ Treasury officials estimate that banks will need to allocate over Rs 4 lakh crore to purchase government bonds instead of extending credit to meet the liquidity coverage requirements. Banks have approached the finance ministry, seeking a relaxation of the guidelines, which they believe could adversely impact credit growth in the economy.

About RBI:-

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India
- ❖ Established:- 1 April 1935
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Governor :- Sanjay Malhotra

Appointment

ISRO appoints M. Mohan as director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre in Thiruvananthapuram

About News:-

- ❖ Noted scientist and current Director (Projects) of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, M Mohan, has been appointed as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre by the ISRO Chairman.



About M. Mohan:-

- ❖ Previously, Mohan served as the Director of the Human Space Flight Centre from June 2023 to June 2024. Before that, he held key roles, including Associate Director of VSSC (R&D), Deputy Director of VSSC (MME), and Deputy Director of VSSC (ASOE).
- ❖ He also served as the Project Director of the GSLV program and was the Mission Director for two successful missions—GSLV-F08/GSAT-6A and GSLV-F11/GSAT-7A—both accomplished in 2018.

- ❖ A native of Alappuzha, Mohan has held several prominent positions, including Project Director of the Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), Deputy Director of the Materials and Manufacturing Entity at LPSC, and Project Director of the Space Capsule Recovery Project (SRE-2) at VSSC.
- ❖ Notably, he was the System Leader of the Moon Impact Probe (MIP) project under the Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008, which successfully placed the Indian National Flag on the Moon's surface, the release said.
- ❖ Mohan's achievements have been recognised with the ISRO Performance Excellence Award in 2016 and the ISRO Merit Award in 2010.
- ❖ He is a Fellow of the Aeronautical Society of India and a Life Member of multiple professional bodies, including the Society of Aerospace Manufacturing Engineers (SAME), where he currently serves as President, the High Energy Materials Society of India (HEMSI), and the Indian Society for Aerospace and Related Mechanisms (INSARM).

Defence

Indian Navy hosts Indonesian Navy delegation to strengthen Maritime ties

About News:-

- ❖ Indonesian Navy Chief Admiral Muhammad Ali on Monday held bilateral discussions with Chief of the Indian Navy Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, aiming to deepen maritime cooperation and strengthen ties between the two neighbours.
- ❖ Admiral Ali is on an official visit to India as part of a high-level delegation accompanying President Prabowo Subianto, who was the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Key areas of discussion between the naval leaders included advancing joint initiatives such as Exercise Samudra Shakti, strengthening operational collaboration, and addressing shared maritime challenges like piracy and illegal activities at sea.

- ❖ Admiral Ali's visit also included engagements at key Indian maritime establishments, including the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and the Weapons and Electronics Systems and Engineering Establishment (WESEE). These discussions focused on improving regional collaboration and maritime domain awareness.
- ❖ Additionally, Admiral Ali visited BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) to explore further bilateral cooperation in defense and strategic areas.
- ❖ Admiral Muhammad Ali's engagements with the Indian Navy and defense stakeholders underscore a shared commitment to fostering regional security and ensuring a peaceful maritime environment.

Award

Doordarshan Bags Award for voter awareness

About News:-

- ❖ Doordarshan is proud to announce that it has been honored with the prestigious award in the Electronic Media category for its 360-degree comprehensive campaign on Voter Awareness and Education.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Doordarshan has been recognised for its impactful coverage, including the "Chunav Ka Parv Desh Ka Garv" series during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, which highlighted the importance of informed and responsible voting.
- ❖ The campaign, conducted across the nation during the Parliamentary Elections 2024, showcased Doordarshan's commitment to fostering an informed and active citizenry.

It encompassed:

- ❖ **Innovative Programming:** Development and broadcast of 30 voter education short films.
- ❖ **Multilingual Outreach:** Extensive dissemination across DD National, DD India, and DD News Channels, ensuring messages reached every corner of the country.
- ❖ **Engaging Advertisements:** Engaging L-band advertisement, Mug Branding and Advertisements (45 sec/spots) aimed at motivating millions to participate in democracy.
- ❖ Through its creative and inclusive approach, Doordarshan successfully empowered voters throughout the country, especially first-time participants, to contribute to the democratic process.
- ❖ On receiving this honor, Doordarshan reaffirms its dedication to nation-building by continuing to be the trusted voice of the people.

Sport

Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year



About News:-

- ❖ Charismatic India opener Smriti Mandhana, was on Monday, named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for her phenomenal performance that saw the left-hander score tons of runs in 2024. The India vice-captain, who was the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and 2022, racked up 747 runs in 13 innings to set new career standards in ODIs.

Key Points:-

- ❖ She put several batting stalwarts, including the likes of South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt, England's Tammy Beaumont (554), and West Indies' Hayley Matthews, to shade.
- ❖ Her tally was the highest among the leading run-getters in Women's ODIs last year, way ahead of Wolvaardt (697), Beaumont (554) and Matthews (469).
- ❖ She scored four ODI centuries, a record in the women's game, and found the boundary more than a hundred times in the year, hitting 95 fours and six maximums.
- ❖ The 28-year-old cricketer's runs came at an average of 57.86 and an impressive strike rate of 95.15.
- ❖ Some of her best innings came against high-caliber opposition, including her back-to-back centuries which guided India to a 3-0 series win against South Africa in June.
- ❖ Mandhana also smashed a ton in the series decider against New Zealand in October. She went on to showcase her ability to dominate the best bowling in the world with another defiant century in Perth against Australia in a losing cause in December.
- ❖ Though Mandhana's superb 105 at the WACA in Perth came in a losing cause, it was her effort that pushed the defending world champions closer to the target.
- ❖ Despite India struggling to score runs and wickets falling at the other end, Mandhana remained steadfast on a drying wicket unleashing her array of strokes, hitting 14 fours and one six in her impressive century, which came off 109 balls.

Obituary

India's preeminent cardiac surgeon K.M. Cherian passes away

About News:-

- ❖ Renowned heart surgeon Dr. Kotturathu Mammen Cherian, who did the country's first successful coronary artery bypass surgery in 1975, the first heart transplant after the legalisation of brain death by the govt, the first heart-lung transplant and pediatric transplant in India, and a lot more, passed away late on Saturday. He was 82.



Key Points:-

- ❖ He took up a job at the Southern Railway Headquarters Hospital for less than Rs 500 a month. Here he performed India's first coronary artery bypass surgery on a 39-year-old employee of the Integral Coach Factory.
- ❖ The patient, Kaja Moideen, lived for another 28 years. A few months later in 1976, he operated on 44-year-old Daisy D'Costa, who celebrated her surgical anniversary with Dr Cherian in April 2024.
- ❖ In 2017, Dr Cherian and his team put an extra heart in the tummies of two dogs to see if it could help those with a weak heart survive, and in the process set off a medical and ethical debate. "We succeeded in the experiment but none of us was bold enough to try the experiment on a human being," said Dr Madhu Shankar.
- ❖ When Dr Cherian stopped doing surgeries in 2020, several doctors who trained under him did free surgeries in the Frontier Lifeline Hospital to mark the occasion. But Dr Cherian never really retired from work. He would visit the hospital, go on rounds, and offer consultations and expertise, doctors said.
- ❖ Earlier this week, during the launch of his autobiography, Just an Instrument, at the Kerala Literature Festival, he spoke about performing heart surgeries on 20 Iraqi children and how he played the diplomat in the release of four Indian drivers who were imprisoned in Iraq. Through his heart foundation, Dr Cherian helped several patients, both in India and abroad.

- ❖ He was honorary surgeon to the president of India from 1990 to 1993. He received numerous awards, including the Padma Shri and a Harvard Medical Excellence Award in 2005, through a panel organised by Harvard Medical School.

Important Day

Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai - 28 January

About Day:-

- ❖ The birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai is a momentous occasion to honour one of India's most prominent freedom fighters and social reformers. Lala Lajpat Rai, often referred to as the "Punjab Kesari" or "Lion of Punjab," played a key role in the Indian independence movement and left an unforgettable mark on the nation's history. Rai was also a passionate nationalist whose life and contributions remain a source of inspiration for generations.
- ❖ Born on January 28, 1865, in the village of Dhudike in Punjab, Lala Lajpat Rai dedicated his life to India's independence and social upliftment. The Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai 2025 will be celebrated with great reverence, reflecting on his contributions and ideals.

Celebrations on the Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai 2025

- ❖ The Lala Lajpat Rai Jayanti 2025 will witness a range of events, including seminars, cultural programs, and tributes at his statues and memorials. Schools and colleges organize essay writing and debate competitions to educate the younger generation about their life and values.
- ❖ In Punjab and Haryana, people gather at memorials, like the Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial in Jagraon, to pay tribute. The day also serves as an opportunity to reconsider his works, including his books like "*Dukhi Bharat*" and "*The Story of My Deportation*."

Lala Lajpat Rai's Legacy

- ❖ Lala Lajpat Rai's life and sacrifices remain inscribed in the records of Indian history. His vision for an independent India, rooted in education, social reform, and economic self-reliance, continues to inspire. As we observe the Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai 2025, the country is upholding the values he stood for and working towards building a just and equitable society.

