

International

Trump appoints Indian-American entrepreneur Sriram Krishnan as senior policy advisor on Artificial Intelligence



About News:-

- ❖ President-elect Donald J. Trump on Sunday (December 22, 2024) announced the appointment of Sriram Krishnan, Elon Musk's aide and former Microsoft employee who is now an entrepreneur, as the Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

About Sriram Krishnan:-

- ❖ Born in Chennai, India, to a middle-income Tamil family, six-foot-six Krishnan's passion for technology began in the late 1990s when he taught himself coding despite not having internet access. This determination led him to pursue a degree in Information Technology at SRM Engineering College, Anna University, graduating in 2005.
- ❖ Krishnan has had an illustrious career with leading tech giants, including Microsoft, Facebook, Twitter, and Snap. At Facebook, he built the Facebook Audience Network, a key competitor to Google's ad technologies, and at Twitter, he drove major product innovations, achieving significant user growth.
- ❖ In 2021, he joined Andreessen Horowitz (a16z) as a general partner, focusing on investments in emerging technologies like Web3 and AI.

- ❖ In 2022, Krishnan gained attention for working with Elon Musk on Twitter's transformation following Musk's acquisition of the platform. His insights into AI and social media trends have made him a thought leader, further enhancing his reputation.

National

PM Modi honoured with Kuwait's highest award, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Order



About News:-

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Kuwait's highest civilian honour, the prestigious Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer, on Sunday.
- ❖ The award for his efforts in strengthening India-Kuwait ties was presented by the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during a ceremony at Bayan Palace.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer, a knighthood distinction, is reserved for heads of state, foreign sovereigns, and royal family members as a mark of friendship.
- ❖ Notable figures such as former US Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, along with Prince Charles, have previously received this prestigious accolade.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi's recognition in Kuwait comes as part of his two-day visit to the Gulf nation to bolster India's diplomatic relations.
- ❖ This honour is the 20th international award received by PM Modi, reflecting his growing global stature and influence in fostering international partnerships.
- ❖ In November, Guyana and Dominica recognised his leadership with their highest awards for his contributions during the

Covid-19 pandemic and for strengthening bilateral relations.

- ❖ Nigeria also conferred the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger on him, making him the second foreign dignitary to receive the distinction.

Appointment

Oil India appoints Abhijit Majumder as CFO



About News:-

Oil India announced that its board has approved the appointment of Abhijit Majumder, director (finance) as chief financial officer (CFO) of the company with effect from 18 December 2024.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Abhijit Majumder will be replacing Rupam Barua, ED (F&A) for the position of CFO of the company.
- ❖ Majumder is a member of the Institute of Cost & Management Accountants of India, holder of a Bachelor's degree in Economics and law, a postgraduate diploma in Forex Management, ICAI, and an alumni of IICA Valuation Certificate Program.
- ❖ He is a senior finance professional with over 32 years of experience. His expertise encompasses financial management, corporate governance & compliance, risk management, project management, corporate business development, etc.
- ❖ Oil India is a state-owned Maharatna under the administrative control of India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. As of 30 September 2024, the Government of India held a 56.66% stake in the company.

Defence

MDL delivers stealth frigate INS Nilgiri & warship INS Surat to Indian Navy



About News:-

- ❖ In a historic milestone for the country's Aatmanirbharta, journey, two warships, a destroyer (Surat) and a frigate (Nilgiri) were delivered to the Indian Navy on 20 Dec 24.
- ❖ The ships have been designed and constructed indigenously by the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy and M/s MDL, respectively.
- ❖ This is in keeping with the thrust, given by the Government of India and the Indian Navy, on nation-building through self-reliance. The simultaneous induction of two state-of-the-art men of war will significantly enhance the operational capabilities and combat readiness of the Indian Navy.

About Nilgiri & Surat warships :-

- ❖ Nilgiri is the First of Class (FoC) ship of Project 17A, exemplifying cutting-edge advanced technology and standing comparable to the finest ships of its class worldwide.
- ❖ Designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau, New Delhi, Nilgiri incorporates innovative design features for enhanced survivability, sea-keeping, stealth, and maneuverability.
- ❖ The ship's stealth characteristics are achieved through hull shaping and the use of radar-transparent deck fittings, making it highly challenging to detect.
- ❖ Equipped with a comprehensive array of state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, Nilgiri is capable of countering enemy submarines, surface warships, anti-ship missiles, and fighter aircraft.
- ❖ It is armed with advanced guns for close-in defense and effective naval gunfire.
- ❖ The ship is designed to operate independently without support vessels and

also serves as the flagship of a naval task force.

- ❖ On the other hand, Surat, the fourth ship of Project 15B, is a highly capable platform designed to execute a broad range of maritime warfare tasks and missions.
- ❖ It is armed with supersonic Surface-to-Surface 'BrahMos' missiles and 'Barak-8' Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles.
- ❖ For undersea warfare, the destroyer features indigenously developed anti-submarine weapons and sensors, including the Hull-Mounted Sonar Humsa NG, Heavyweight Torpedo Tube Launchers, and ASW Rocket Launchers.
- ❖ Furthermore, Surat is more versatile than its predecessors in the destroyer and frigate classes, offering comprehensive capabilities against enemy submarines, surface warships, anti-ship missiles, and fighter aircraft.
- ❖ The ship is designed to operate independently without support vessels and serves as the flagship of a naval task force.
- ❖ Delivered to the Indian Navy ahead of schedule, Surat is one of the most combat-ready platforms to date, demonstrating MDL's commitment to achieving global benchmarks.
- ❖ With an Indigenous content of 72 percent, the P15B Class Destroyers represent a major step forward compared to their predecessors, P15A (59 percent) and P15 (42 percent).

Award

Lifetime Achievement Award Posthumously Bestowed Upon Dr. Vishakha Tripathi Ji for Her Outstanding Service to Humanity



About News:-

- ❖ Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat (JKP) announces that the Asia Pacific Vascular Society (APVS), the largest body of cardiovascular specialists in Southeast Asia, has posthumously honored Dr. Vishakha Tripathi Ji with the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to humanity.
- ❖ The award was presented by Professor Dr. NN Khanna, President of APVS, who lauded Dr. Tripathi Ji's lifelong dedication to compassion, philanthropy, and selfless service.
- ❖ Padma Bhushan Dr Prof M Khallilulah who is the father figure of Interventional Cardiology in India was the Chief Guest.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Dr. Tripathi Ji led Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat (JKP), a philanthropic organization that has profoundly impacted millions of lives through its multi-faceted initiatives:
- ❖ Healthcare for All: Under her leadership, three hospitals--Jagadguru Kripalu
- ❖ Chikitsalayas in Pratapgarh, Barsana, and Vrindavan--provide completely free medical care to nearly 500,000 people annually, totaling almost 6 million beneficiaries in the past 20 years.
- ❖ Educational Empowerment: Through the Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat Education Institute, Dr. Tripathi Ji championed the education of over 60,000 girls, equipping them to pursue careers as teachers, police officers, and other professionals, empowering women to lead better lives.
- ❖ Humanitarian Aid: She spearheaded numerous charitable initiatives, including
- ❖ distributing essential supplies to between 55,000 to 100,000 underprivileged individuals annually--amounting to over 1 million beneficiaries.
- ❖ Sanitation and Dignity: Dr. Tripathi Ji's efforts led to the construction of hundreds of toilets in Pratapgarh, ensuring dignity and safety for women.

About Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat:-

- ❖ Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat was founded by Jagadguru Shri Kripalu Ji Maharaj for the welfare of society.
- ❖ It was established in 1972 (as Sadhana Bhawan Trust) and now continues to run under the leadership of the three appointed Presidents, Sushri Dr. Vishakha Tripathi Ji, Sushri Dr. Shyama Tripathi Ji, and Sushri Dr. Krishna Tripathi Ji.
- ❖ Jagadguru Kripalu Parishat is a non-profit, charitable, educational, and spiritual organization, dedicated to increasing spiritual awareness and helping those in need in society as a whole.

Sport

India to host ISSF Junior World Cup for the first time in 2025

About News:-

India will host its ninth major shooting championship in ten years after the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) granted the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) the rights to hold the Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in 2025.

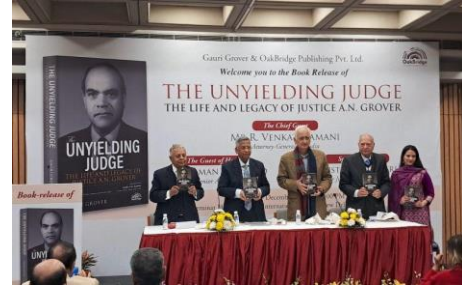
Key Points:-

- ❖ The NRAI has received the official letter of confirmation from the ISSF.
- ❖ Last year, India hosted two significant ISSF events: the senior World Cup in Bhopal in 2023 and the ISSF World Cup Final.
- ❖ Previously, India has organised continental tournaments and six ISSF events, comprising two World Cup Finals and four senior ISSF World Cups.
- ❖ The NRAI secretary general, K Sultan Singh, echoed the thoughts of the federation's president.



Book

Book Launch: The Unyielding Judge: Life & Legacy of Justice A N Grover



About News:-

- ❖ Gauri Grover's book 'The Unyielding Judge: The Life and Legacy of Justice' was released by Venkataramani.
- ❖ Justice Grover was a part of the 13-judge constitutional bench which heard the 1973 Kesavananda Bharti case.
- ❖ The bench, in a landmark verdict, upheld the basic structure doctrine or non-abrogation of the Constitution's basic structure by the Parliament.
- ❖ Justice (retd) S K Katriar and senior advocate and former cabinet minister Salman Khurshid also spoke at the event.

Miscellaneous

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar



About News:-

- ❖ Union minister for road transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated a 1km stretch of Asia's first highway with a bio-bitumen blended surface.
- ❖ The trial patch begins near the 'Kamptee 22 milestone on the Jabalpur-Nagpur route.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The project will help cut pollution from stubble burning as the source of bio-bitumen comes from easily available crop stubble, which farmers can sell instead of torching the residue.
- ❖ India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This stretch has been developed using lignin-based bio-bitumen technology by Praj Industries, in collaboration with CSIR - Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and Oriental.
- ❖ The use of lignin as a sustainable binder marks a significant breakthrough in flexible pavement technology, addressing the challenge of bitumen scarcity and reducing India's dependency on imports, which currently constitute 50 percent of the total supply.
- ❖ This innovation contributes to global sustainability goals by generating revenue for bio-refineries, mitigating stubble burning, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 70 percent compared to fossil-based bitumen.
- ❖ Leveraging India's abundant lignocellulosic biomass, this development aligns with the nation's vision for sustainable industrial growth.

Important Day

National Consumer Rights Day - 24 December 2024



About News:-

- ❖ The National Consumer Rights Day 2024 celebration is chaired by Shri Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi on December 24, 2024.
- ❖ The day is dedicated to raising awareness about consumer rights, highlighting the importance of protecting consumers, and promoting fair trade practices.
- ❖ The date marks the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, of 1986, a landmark legislation that established consumer rights in India. The day serves as a reminder of the rights and responsibilities of consumers and aims to empower them against unfair trade practices.
- ❖ The theme for National Consumer Rights Day 2024 is "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice."

History:-

- ❖ The history of National Consumer Rights Day is linked to the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, of 1986, which was later replaced by the Consumer Protection Act, of 2019. This law was a landmark moment in India's consumer rights movement, as it provided consumers with a legal framework to address their grievances and obtain compensation.
- ❖ The United Nations also celebrates World Consumer Rights Day on March 15 every year. This inspired India to establish a separate observance dedicated to the rights of Indian consumers. The day has since become a powerful symbol of the government's commitment to consumer welfare and awareness.

