

International

Hezbollah Announces Naim Qassem as New Chief

About News :-

Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem will take over as chairman of Hezbollah, a militant group located in Lebanon, on October 29, 2024. This announcement comes just over a month after Hassan Nasrallah, the group's previous leader, was killed in Israeli bombings.



About Naim Qassem

- ❖ Since 1991, Qassem has been the deputy leader of Hezbollah. His political engagement started with the 1974 founding of the Shiite Amal Movement in Lebanon, according to Reuters. One of the movements that preceded Hezbollah was this one.
- ❖ Qassem left Amal after the Islamic Revolution in 1979, which resulted in the establishment of a theocratic government in Iran.
- ❖ In the 1980s, he eventually participated in the discussions that resulted in the creation of Hezbollah.
- ❖ The group formed against the backdrop of years of ethnic wars and civil turmoil among Lebanon's many groups. Furthermore, after Israel was established in 1948, a large number of Palestinians left their homes and arrived in neighboring Lebanon.
- ❖ Tensions within the nation increased as a result. The Zionist state started attacking Palestinians when some of them tried to attack Israel, which had an impact on the Shias and other communities in South Lebanon.
- ❖ Hezbollah became an anti-Israel, anti-West force in the area with Iran's ongoing assistance. It also participated in Lebanon's official political system and subsequently ran for office.
- ❖ As the cross-border fighting with Israel raged over the past year, Qassem "has long

been one of Hezbollah's leading spokesmen, conducting interviews with foreign media," the Reuters story continued.

- ❖ His book, Hizbullah: The Story from Within, was published in 2008 and details the organization's history and objectives.

What is the significance of Qassem's appointment now?

- ❖ Hezbollah has grown into one of the Middle East's most powerful and extensively equipped non-state groups over time.
- ❖ Shortly after the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, the group started carrying out small-scale cross-border attacks against the country. It claimed that these acts aided the greater Palestinian cause.
- ❖ On September 27, Nasrallah was killed during a period of severe fire exchanges between Israel and Hezbollah that resulted in the evacuation of residents in North Israel and the deaths of thousands in South Lebanon.
- ❖ Israel blamed Hezbollah for the July attack on Israeli children in the Golan Heights, which set off these events. The act was not the group's responsibility.
- ❖ Qassem has delivered three broadcast speeches since Nasrallah's murder. A week after Nasrallah, Israeli strikes also murdered Hashem Safieddine, a senior Hezbollah figure and the group's most likely successor.
- ❖ Consequently, Qassem was promoted at a time when the organization was experiencing a leadership void.

National

India & Saudi Arabia to strengthen strategic partnership across economic, cultural and technological domains



About News :-

- ❖ The purpose of Union Minister Piyush Goyal's trip to Saudi Arabia (October 29–30, 2024) is to promote trade, investment, and economic cooperation while strengthening India–Saudi Arabia strategic ties.
- ❖ He will also represent India at the 8th Future Investment Initiative (FII), a gathering of innovators, investors, and world leaders in Riyadh.

Key Points :-

Engagement with Culture and the Community:

- ❖ To celebrate Indian culture with the locals, Shri Goyal will open the Diwali Utsav at the Lulu Hypermarket in Riyadh.
- ❖ He will meet with leaders and professionals from the Indian diaspora and launch the One District, One Product (ODOP) Wall at the Indian Embassy, which will promote Indian workmanship worldwide.

Strategic and Economic Focus at FII:

- ❖ Goyal's involvement at FII will highlight India's economic expansion, sustainable growth, and prospects in fields like artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, and renewable energy.
- ❖ In order to increase investor trust and establish India as a top investment destination in line with the Make in India campaign, he will interact with international investors.

Bilateral Meetings and Economic Committee:

- ❖ The Minister will have bilateral talks on topics like trade facilitation, digital transformation, and energy transition with important Saudi ministers.
- ❖ He will co-chair the India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council's Economy and Investment Committee's second ministerial meeting, which will concentrate on infrastructure, technology, energy, food security, and agriculture.

State

Rajasthan village marches towards zero-waste through green technology interventions



About News :-

Aandhi, a tiny village in the district of Jaipur, and about 43 Km from Rajasthan's capital city of Jaipur is transforming itself to a zero-waste model with the help of green technology interventions.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Food waste, agro waste, waste water, hospital waste coming from various village sources including institutions like schools, agricultural fields, community health centres could now be converted to resources with the help of a package of technology interventions that have been recently installed in the village.
- ❖ The package of technology interventions consisting of Organic Waste Bio-Methanation Plant, Vermifiltration Technology, Constructed Wetlands, resource recovery centre, stands as a unique and socially relevant initiative, creating a zero-waste model through the integration of innovative technologies.
- ❖ Recently, the demonstration plants were inaugurated at three identified locations—a government school, a community health centre, and the constructed wetland at the main pond. It was graced by Dr. Anita Gupta, Head of the Climate, Energy, and Sustainable Technology (CEST) Division, along with Dr. G.V Raghunath Reddy, the Programme Officer.
- ❖ The Organic Waste Bio-Methanation Plant at Government School (100 Kg Capacity) converts organic waste, such as food scraps and agricultural residues, into biogas through anaerobic digestion. Equipped with a 5 KW solar energy system. It provides clean energy for cooking and electricity generation, reducing reliance on traditional fuels and promoting renewable energy, cleaner air, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic

Cashfree Payments Secures National Payments Corporation of India Certification for UPI Switch Service



About News :-

- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India has certified Cashfree Payments for their UPI Switch service.
- ❖ As a result, Cashfree will be able to provide its merchants a greater transaction success rate and easily link with any bank's core banking software.

Key Points :-

- ❖ With this certification, Cashfree is able to settle almost 12,000 transactions per second.
- ❖ As the sponsor bank, Cashfree developed this switch in collaboration with NSDL Payments Bank.
- ❖ Cashfree anticipates a 5% boost in transaction success rates as a result of this connection, which will facilitate quicker merchant onboarding and provide access to future UPI capabilities.
- ❖ More than 6 lakh businesses rely on Cashfree Payments, a payment aggregator that handles transactions totaling \$80 billion yearly, for digital payment solutions.
- ❖ In December 2023, the Reserve Bank of India granted Cashfree a Payment Aggregator (PA) license, enabling it to function as a regulated player in the payments industry.

Appointment

FSIB selects Ashok Chandra for MD of Punjab National Bank



About News :-

- ❖ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Ashok Chandra as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB).
- ❖ Currently serving as Executive Director at Canara Bank since November 2022, Chandra's banking career began in September 1991 with Corporation Bank.
- ❖ He holds a Master's degree in Economics and is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.
- ❖ He will succeed Atul Kumar Goel, whose tenure ends on December 31, 2024.

Key Points :-

- ❖ The FSIB issued a notification on August 1, 2024, inviting applications for the MD & CEO position at PNB, with a submission deadline of August 29.
- ❖ After interviewing 16 candidates on October 26 and 28, FSIB based its recommendation on Chandra's performance, experience, and other parameters.
- ❖ Chandra has held various significant positions, including leading the recovery and stressed assets management vertical at Union Bank of India after becoming General Manager in 2018.
- ❖ His extensive experience spans diverse banking demographics, from rural to urban settings, enhancing his suitability for the role.

Science & Technology

China launches new crew to its space station to expand exploration



About News :-

China successfully launched a new spacecraft on a six-month trip with three astronauts, including the nation's first female space engineer. An important milestone in China's developing space exploration endeavors will be reached when this crew works on optimizing operations at the low-orbit space station.

Key Points :-

Launch Details

- ❖ Vehicle: A Long March-2F carrier rocket carrying a crewed Shenzhou-19 spacecraft.
- ❖ Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, northwest China, is the location.
- ❖ Launch Outcome: About ten minutes after launch, Shenzhou-19 broke away from the rocket and entered its assigned orbit. CMSA declared the launch a success after confirming that every crew member is doing well.

Highlights of the Mission

- ❖ The crew will work on China's low-orbit space station for six months.
- ❖ Within 6.5 hours of launch, the Shenzhou-19 will quickly and automatically rendezvous and dock with the Tianhe core module of the space station.
- ❖ After docking, it will combine three modules and three spacecraft to build a complicated structure.

Award

Republic of Fiji honours Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with its highest Civilian Award



About News :-

- ❖ The Art of Living Foundation's founder and well-known spiritual teacher Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has received Fiji's highest civilian accolade, the "Grand Commander of the Order of Fiji."

- ❖ His outstanding services to advancing humanitarian causes, peace, and cultural exchanges between Fiji and India are acknowledged by the prize.
- ❖ In recognition of the extensive humanitarian work he has done worldwide through his "The Art of Living Foundation," Fiji has become the sixth nation to bestow upon him the highest civilian honor.

About Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

- ❖ He founded the Art of Living Foundation and is a well-known humanitarian and spiritual leader.
- ❖ He stresses the value of compassion, inner serenity, and self-awareness.
- ❖ He encourages people to practice Sudarshan Kriya, a rhythmic breathing method that lowers stress and enhances emotional health.
- ❖ He has facilitated communication and peacebuilding initiatives in crisis areas, especially in nations like Colombia, Iraq, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ He has started programs for rehabilitation and disaster assistance with an emphasis on helping underserved populations.

Sport

India finish as runner's up at Asian ArmWrestling Cup



About News :-

- ❖ At the Asian ArmWrestling Cup 2024, which was hosted at the Aurika Skycity Hotel in Mumbai, India finished second in the overall team rankings.
- ❖ Kazakhstan, the top arm wrestling nation in the world, took the second place in the medal count, surpassing the host nation.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Nine countries competed in six weight divisions for the Asian ArmWrestling Cup: para, masters, sub-junior, junior, youth, and seniors.
- ❖ Notable Indian victors included Yogesh Chaudhary from Haryana, who won gold in both the 80kg+ Left and Right categories in the Women's Seniors division, and Denic Lalruattluanga from Mizoram, who won gold in the Men's Seniors 80kg Right division.
- ❖ Yogesh Chaudhary faced fierce Kazakh rival Arailym Kulzhemiyeva, and his road to victory was equally difficult. Chaudhary won gold for India after winning both hands.
- ❖ India won 223 medals in all, including 60 bronze, 100 silver, and 63 gold.

Obituary

Justice KS Puttaswamy petitioner in right to privacy case passes away at 98

About News :-

Over seven years after the Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling, declared privacy to be a fundamental right, Justice KS Puttaswamy, a key petitioner in the 'right to privacy' matter and a former judge at the Karnataka high court, passed away at the age of 98.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Justice Puttaswamy, who was born in February 1926 in Karnataka's Kolar, enrolled as an advocate in 1952 and became a judge in the state's high court in 1977. He served there till his retirement in 1986, following which he was appointed as the first vice chairperson of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Bengaluru.
- ❖ He also helmed the Backward Classes Commission of Andhra Pradesh.



The 'right to privacy' case

- ❖ In 2012, Justice Puttaswamy moved Supreme Court against the Aadhaar scheme of the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. However, in 2015, the Supreme Court, as a part of his petition against

Aadhaar, decided to consider the larger issue of whether citizens have a fundamental right to privacy under the Constitution of India.

- ❖ By this time, the BJP-led NDA was governing the country (UPA was voted out in 2014) and the government's stand was that privacy was not a fundamental right.
- ❖ Finally, on August 24, 2017, a nine-judge Constitution bench led by then Chief Justice JS Khehar, upheld the Aadhaar scheme. However, it unanimously recognised privacy as a fundamental right.

Important Day

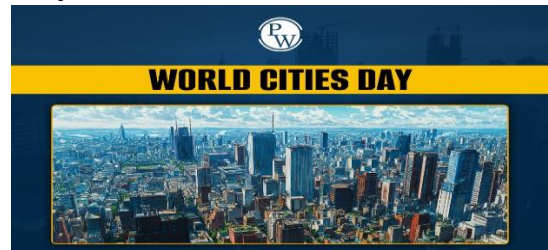
World Cities Day - 31 October

About News :-

World Cities Day 2024 will be observed on October 31. This day raises awareness about the effects of urbanization. The United Nations promotes sustainable development through this global observance. The focus is on making cities inclusive, safe, and resilient. Urbanization is happening rapidly, particularly in countries like India. Sustainable urban growth is essential to handle these changes effectively.

theme for World Cities Day 2024 will revolve around "Youth leading climate and local action for cities."

History



- ❖ World Cities Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 through its resolution 68/239. It was first observed on October 31, 2014, as part of the broader UN-Habitat agenda to promote sustainable urbanization.
- ❖ The idea for World Cities Day originated from the Shanghai Declaration, which was made during the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China. The declaration emphasized the importance of sustainable urban development to address the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

Key Points to Remember:

- ❖ Urban October, launched by UN-Habitat in 2014, highlights global urban challenges and supports the New Urban Agenda.
- ❖ The New Urban Agenda is a framework adopted during the HABITAT III Conference in 2016.
- ❖ The agenda aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- ❖ This framework guides global urban development efforts for the next two decades, focusing on better city planning and management to reduce inequalities.

