

International

India & Moldova sign declaration of intent on Migration and Mobility Partnership



About News:-

- ❖ The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova, Mihail Popsoi, was on an official visit to India on 15-16 December 2024.
- ❖ On December 15, in New Delhi, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Mihai Popsoi signed a declaration of intent on Migration and Mobility. This agreement aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries.
- ❖ Delivering remarks during the event, Jaishankar noted that the embassy's inauguration is a statement of a deeper relationship with Moldova and reflects the two nations' shared commitment since establishing diplomatic ties in 1992.

Agreements Signed between India and Moldova

- ❖ Statement of Purpose for a Partnership on Migration and Mobility.
- ❖ Moldova signed a Framework Agreement to join the International Solar Alliance.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in diplomatic training between the Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, and the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs of India.

About the Republic of Moldova

- ❖ Capital: Chisinau
- ❖ Currency: Moldovan leu
- ❖ Prime Minister: Dorin Recean

National

India Promotes AYUSH Systems Globally with New Chairs in Five Countries



About News:-

- ❖ India has started AYUSH academic chairs in Bangladesh, Australia, Mauritius, Latvia, and Malaysia to advance academic exchange, research, and public awareness of AYUSH, contributing to its recognition and acceptance in foreign countries.
- ❖ Minister of State for AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav informed parliament on Tuesday that this initiative is a part of India's broader efforts to globally promote AYUSH systems of medicine.

Key Points:-

In addition, the Ministry of Ayush has taken the following steps towards the international promotion, development and recognition for AYUSH systems of medicine:

- ❖ Signed 24 Country-to-Country MoUs for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy with foreign nations.
- ❖ Signed 15 MoUs with International Institutes for setting up AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign nations.
- ❖ Regularly signs Institute level MoUs with foreign institutes for undertaking Collaborative Research / Academic collaboration.
- ❖ Supported the establishment of 42 AYUSH Information Cells in 38 foreign nations.
- ❖ Offers scholarships to foreign nationals for studying AYUSH courses in recognized AYUSH institutions in India under the International AYUSH Fellowship/Scholarship Program.

Economic

India's exports grow 7.61% to USD 536.25 billion in Nov, services outstrip goods



About News:-

- ❖ India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) for November 2024 are estimated at USD 67.79 billion, registering a positive growth of 9.59 percent vis-à-vis November 2023.
- ❖ Total imports (merchandise and services combined) for November 2024 are estimated at USD 87.63 billion, registering a positive growth of 27.47 percent vis-à-vis November 2023, according to a release by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on Monday.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The latest data for the services sector was released by RBI for October 2024.
- ❖ The data for November 2024 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release. Data for April-November 2023 and April-June 2024 has been revised on a pro-rata basis using quarterly balance of payments data.
- ❖ India's total exports from April-November 2024 are estimated at USD 536.25 billion registering a positive growth of 7.61 percent. Total imports during April-November 2024 are estimated at USD 619.20 billion registering a growth of 9.55 percent.
- ❖ Marking a major shift in India's trade, services exports are projected to overtake goods shipments in November. After months of sustained increase, last month's services exports have been provisionally estimated at \$35.7 billion, compared with \$32.1 billion of merchandise or goods exports.

Science & Technology

India sets up its first diabetes biobank in Chennai



About News:-

- ❖ India has established its first biobank for diabetes in Chennai. It is a collaboration of the government's medical panel, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF).
- ❖ This biobank, located at MDRF, aims to collect, store, and distribute biological samples to support advanced scientific research on diabetes in India.

Key Features of Biobanks:-

- ❖ Help identify disease biomarkers, such as single-nucleotide polymorphisms linked to specific diseases.
- ❖ Provide critical resources for developing personalized treatments and understanding disease mechanisms.
- ❖ Promote collaborative research by enabling data-sharing across multiple studies.

Why Is the Biobank Important?

- ❖ Addressing a Growing Health Concern:
- ❖ India has over 10 crore diabetes cases and 13.6 crore prediabetes cases, among the highest globally.
- ❖ Enabling Better Understanding:
- ❖ The biobank stores biological samples from across India, helping scientists study the genetic, lifestyle, and environmental factors contributing to diabetes.
- ❖ Findings can lead to improved treatments, preventive measures, and targeted therapies.
- ❖ Large Collection of Samples:
- ❖ Houses over 1.5 lakh biological samples collected from diverse regions and communities across India.

- ❖ Based on Comprehensive Studies:
- ❖ ICMR-INDIAB Study: The largest study on diabetes in India, covering urban and rural populations.
- ❖ ICMR-YDR Study: A national registry focused on young-onset diabetes.

Defence

Vietnam Coast Guard Ship Visits Kochi for Cooperation Exercise



About News:-

- ❖ The Vietnam Coast Guard Ship CSB 8005 is set to arrive in Kochi on December 16 as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to India, the Indian Coast Guard announced in a press release.
- ❖ According to the release, the four-day visit aims to enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two forces.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The visit not only aims to strengthen ties between the Vietnam Coast Guard and the Indian Coast Guard but also highlights India's technological advancements in shipbuilding, supporting the concepts of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India'.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that institutionalises cooperative engagements between the two maritime agencies. The visit of the VCG Ship aligns with the provisions of the MoU and underscores the ICG's commitment to enhancing international cooperation with friendly foreign nations
- ❖ The visit of the VCG Ship is significant in reinforcing bilateral relations with key maritime partners, which is crucial for ensuring the safety, security, and environmental sustainability of the region's seas while addressing contemporary maritime challenges.

- ❖ "ICG's increased focus on maritime safety will contribute significantly to strengthening India's global leadership role in line with the Prime Minister of India's vision of 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR),"

Award

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw was awarded ISQ's Jamsetji Tata Award



About News:-

Biocon Group chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been awarded the Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) for her contributions to the biosciences sector in India.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The award, presented at the ISQ Annual Conference 2024, recognises Shaw's "exceptional leadership in establishing Biocon as a global biopharmaceutical enterprise and her commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare solutions".
- ❖ She has previously been awarded two of India's highest civilian honours Padma Shri (1989) and Padma Bhushan (2005). She has been recognised with the Order of Australia and appointed to the French Legion of Honour.
- ❖ The Jamsetji Tata Award, established in 2004, has previously been presented to notable industry leaders including Nandan Nilekani of Infosys and TV Narendran of Tata Steel.

Sport

Riya Shirish Thatte Wins Gold in 25m Pistol Event



About News:-

Aurangabad teenager Riya Shirish Thatte stunned a star-studded field to win the women's 25m pistol event at the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) in New Delhi on Monday.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Riya got the better of Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar 7-2 in a shoot-off for gold after both had tied at 31 hits in the 8-series of five-shot decider.
- ❖ Olympian and former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat was third with 25 hits.
- ❖ Simranpreet rounded off a great year by winning the junior women's title on the day to add to her senior silver, this time winning the gold via shoot-off 5-2 over Haryana's Payal, after both had tied on 34 hits a piece. Riya won bronze in this category with 30 hits.

Obituary

Singer & musician Pandit Sanjay Marathe passes away



About News:-

The renowned harmonium player and classical singer Pandit Sanjay Ram Marathe died of a massive heart attack on December 15, 2024, at the age of 68.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Pandit Sanjay Marathe was the eldest son of the legendary musician Pandit Ram Marathe.
- ❖ He leaves behind a legacy deeply rooted in Indian classical music and theatre. Known

for his expertise in harmonium and melodious singing, he actively participated in various programmes this year, marking his father's birth centenary.

- ❖ In collaboration with his younger brother Mukund Marathe, Pandit Sanjay Marathe revived and staged the famous Marathi musical play 'Sangeet Mandarmala' as part of the centenary commemoration of their father.
- ❖ The production received widespread acclaim for its innovative experiments while preserving the essence of traditional Marathi musical theatre.

Important Day

Goa Liberation Day - 19 December 2024

About News:-

- ❖ Goa Liberation Day is celebrated every year to mark the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule and its eventual integration into India. This day celebrates freedom and reminds us of the struggles and sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought for Goa's independence.
- ❖ On this Goa Liberation Day 2024, the state will celebrate the 63rd anniversary of freedom from the Portuguese rule. Keep reading to learn more about the history of Goa Liberation Day.



History:-

- ❖ Goa was under Portuguese colonial rule for over 450 years, from 1510 to 1961. Efforts for liberation began in the early 20th century, with prominent leaders like Tristão de Bragança Cunha advocating for Goa's freedom. The movement for Goa's liberation gained momentum after India gained independence in 1947.

- ❖ Despite being part of the Indian subcontinent, Goa remained under Portuguese control. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, initiated diplomatic efforts to negotiate with Portugal for the decolonization of Goa. However, these efforts were largely ineffective as Portugal was determined to hold on to its colonies.
- ❖ The turning point came in December 1961, when India launched a military operation to liberate Goa. The operation, known as Operation Vijay, was a significant step in India's efforts to integrate Goa into the Indian Union. It was a success and led to the surrender of Portuguese forces, ultimately ending their colonial presence in the region.



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