

13th August 2024

Paris Olympic closing Ceremony

The 33rd Summer Olympics ended on August 11, 2024 in Paris of France. The flame was finally extinguished by the International Olympic Committee President, Thomas Bach, super swimmer from France, Leon Marchand and other athletes.



Key Points

- ❖ During the ceremony the Olympic flag was passed to Los Angeles USA hosts of Summer Olympics in 2028.
- ❖ The Olympics are held every four years since the first Olympics in Athens in 1896.
- ❖ Since Los Angeles claimed for the third time the organization of the Olympic Games after having organized the event in 1932 and 1984.
- ❖ Paris also had its third Olympics, which had previously taken place in the year 1900 and 1924.
- ❖ During the closing ceremony, Manu Bhaker and PR Sreejesh were chosen to be flag bearers for the Indian team. During the opening ceremony the Indian contingent was led by Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu and ace table tennis player Sharath Kamal.

- ❖ While the opening ceremony occurred in the evening on the outdoor stage on the River Seine, the closing ceremony was staged in the largest stadium of Paris – Stade de France.

India's Medal Tally in Paris Olympics

India at Paris Olympics 2024		
Winner	Medal	Game
Manu Bhaker	Bronze	10m Air Pistol Women
Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh	Bronze	10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
Swapnil Kusale	Bronze	Men's 50m Rifle Three Positions
Hockey Team	Bronze	Hockey
Neeraj Chopra	Silver	Javelin Throw
Aman Sehrawat	Bronze	Wrestling

President Murmu Receives Timor Leste's Highest Civilian Award

President José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award, upon President Droupadi Murmu.



Key Points

- ❖ The award is in recognition of her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and women empowerment.
- ❖ President Murmu arrived in Dili on the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste, as the two nations seek to enhance their bilateral ties further.
- ❖ During the visit, apart from the bilateral meeting with President Jose Ramos-Horta, there will also be a meeting with Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao.

About Timor-Leste

Capital - Dili

Currency - US dollar

President - José Ramos-Horta

TV Somanathan to replace Rajiv Gauba as cabinet secretary

Union government on Saturday announced T.V. Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary-designate by appointing him as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat, who will take over India's top bureaucratic position from August 30 when incumbent Rajiv Gauba's extended tenure ends.

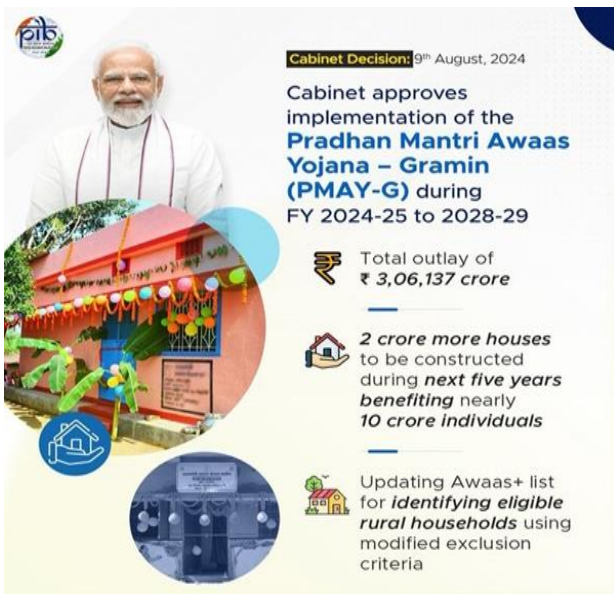


Key Point

- ❖ Somanathan, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is currently serving as finance secretary of India.
- ❖ Somanathan became the expenditure secretary in the finance ministry in 2019 and was designated the finance secretary in 2021.
- ❖ A PhD in economics, the finance secretary has published more than 80 papers and articles on economics. He has also authored two books.
- ❖ Somanathan has also served as joint secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and worked as director at the World Bank, Washington, D.C., on deputation.
- ❖ Senior IAS officer Tuhin Kanta Pandey could be the next finance secretary with this development. Typically, the senior-most bureaucrat in the finance ministry becomes the finance secretary.
- ❖ A 1987-batch civil servant from the Odisha cadre, Pandey is credited with concluding the long-pending sale of the national carrier Air India and was also instrumental in the public debut of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

Union Cabinet Approves PMAY-U 2.0 Scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 scheme. The Cabinet also gave its nod to the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) during Financial Year 2024-25 to 2028-29.



Key points

- ❖ Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, financial assistance will be provided to one crore urban poor and middle-class families.
- ❖ The assistance will be provided through States, Union Territories and Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) to construct, purchase or rent a house at an affordable cost in urban areas in five years. Government assistance of 2.30 lakh crore rupees will be provided under the Scheme.

- ❖ The Minister said, under the scheme in urban areas, there is a provision for working women hostel and an interest subsidy of four percent will be given up to 25 lakh rupees for Home loans in Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) categories.
- ❖ The government also approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- ❖ The Cabinet also approved the modified Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana for providing financial support to Advanced Biofuel Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock

Schemes

1. **PMAY-U refers to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**
 - **Nodal Agency:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - It was launched on 25th June 2015.
 - It is a major initiative by the Union government to provide all-weather pucca houses to eligible beneficiaries in urban areas.

- **Achievements:** 1.18 crore houses have been sanctioned under PMAY-U, with over 85.5 lakh houses already constructed and delivered.
- **Eligibility Criteria**
- **Target Segments:** Families belonging to EWS, LIG, and Middle Income Group segments with no 'pucca' house anywhere in the country are eligible.

2. Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana

- It was notified in March 2019.
- **Aims:** To provide financial support to integrated bio-ethanol projects for setting up second-generation (2G) ethanol projects by using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstocks.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Country's First Prime Minister Janaman Colony in Shivpuri

Madhya Pradesh is at the forefront in building permanent houses, especially for backward tribal families in the Pradhan Mantri Adivasi Janaman Mahabhiyan in the country. State Panchayat and Rural

Development Minister Prahlad Patel inspected the country's first PM Janaman Colony built-in Shivpuri Janpad Panchayat.



Key point

- ❖ The first PM Janaman Awas in the country was given to Bhagchandra Adivasi of Kalothra Panchayat of Shivpuri Block.
- ❖ The maximum number of 4 thousand 443 houses have been built in Shivpuri in the state

About PM JANMAN Yojana

- ❖ **Launch:** The PM Janman Yojana was launched on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (15th November 2023) in Jharkhand to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- ❖ **Objective:** To focus on the development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) who have been left out by the schemes of various Ministries/Departments.

Short News

- ❖ Rajya Sabha Dy chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh attends the launch ceremony of '75 Great Revolutionaries of India' by Rajysabha MP Bhim Singh.
- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released 109 high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at India Agricultural Research Institute.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, and his Maldivian counterpart, Moosa Zameer has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building of one thousand Maldives civil services officers during the period 2024-2029.
- ❖ Bulgaria's Karlos Nasar made quite a bit of noise at the Paris Olympic Games 2024 with a world record-breaking performance to take home the 89 kg weightlifting title at the French capital on , August 9 with a total of 404 kg.
- ❖ The theme for World Elephant Day 2024 is "Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance, which is celebrated on 12 August.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan feted with lifetime achievement award at Locarno Film Festival 2024
- ❖ Rwanda's President Paul Kagame was sworn in for his fourth term after securing over 99 per cent of the vote.

Important Daily Current Affair Questions

Q1. Who is set to be appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary of India?

- (a) P.k Mishra
- (b) TV Somnathan
- (c) Rajiv Gaba
- (d) Rajiv Kumar

Answer -B

Q2. Which of the following has awarded by the Order of Timor-Leste?

- (a) Droupadi Murmu
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) S.j Shankar
- (d) Rajnath Singh

Answer -A

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