

International

The first-ever meeting of defense ministers of G7 countries was held in Naples

About News:-

- ❖ On October 19, 2024, the defense ministers of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations convened for the first time in their history in Naples, Italy. Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto held the conference. For 2024, Italy will be the G-7's rotating president.
- ❖ The Israeli declaration that it had killed Yahya Sinwar, the leader of the Palestinian militant organization Hamas, took place against the backdrop of the G7 defense ministers' conference. The Israelis have blamed Yayha Sinwar for being the mastermind behind the October 7, 2023, strikes on Israel, which resulted in 1,200 fatalities and about 240 hostages abducted by Hamas. Israel has since launched attacks on Hamas's base in Gaza.

Who was present at the inaugural meeting of the G-7 Defense Ministers?

- ❖ The defense ministers of the United States, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan were present at the G-7 summit, along with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin of the United States. The Italian defense minister hosted it. Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov and members from the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) attended the conference.
- ❖ Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and the United States are the advanced industrialized Western nations that make up the G-7.
- ❖ **The G7 demands an immediate end to the conflict in Gaza.**
- ❖ The G-7 defense ministers demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages currently being held by Hamas in a joint statement released following the conference.

- ❖ It backed Ukraine's admission to NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance based in the West. The timeline for Ukraine's NATO membership was left out, though, as it is likely to incite Russia, which has been at war with Ukraine for more than two years.
- ❖ Josep Borrell, the chief diplomat (foreign minister) for the European Union, stated during the meeting that the UN Security Council must increase the effectiveness of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, also known as UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon).

National

First-ever coal gallery inaugurated at National Science Centre in New Delhi

About News:-

The first-ever coal gallery was opened at the National Science Centre in New Delhi by Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey and Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The "Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths" display traces the history of coal from its genesis to its crucial role in contemporary energy production. The exhibit informs visitors on mining technologies, coal extraction, environmental practices, and upcoming advancements in sustainable energy through interactive displays.



Key Points:

- ❖ **Dynamic Diorama & Virtual Mine Descent:** Visitors can discover mining operations through interactive and virtual experiences at this exhibition, which includes a diorama of open-cast mining and a simulated coal mine experience.

- ❖ Dragline Simulator & Exploration Techniques: Coal India Limited's reclamation operations are displayed in a digital tableau, and visitors can drive mining equipment using a dragline simulator.
- ❖ A Tribute to the Raniganj Mining Rescue: A reconstruction pays tribute to the miners' valor in the historic Raniganj rescue effort.
- ❖ The exhibition highlights environmental responsibility and technological breakthroughs while dispelling myths about coal mining. It inspires innovation in energy production while narrating the historical significance of coal in India's development.

State

Madhya Pradesh: 'Pink Alarms' Installed at Datia District Hospital and Medical College for Women's Safety

About News:-

Madhya Pradesh has put "pink alarms" at the government-run district hospital and medical college in Datia, a groundbreaking step to improve women's safety in healthcare settings. The horrific rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata raised serious concerns about the safety of female employees in public hospitals, which this project attempts to solve.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The installation of "pink alarms" is a component of a larger initiative to address the pressing problem of women's safety in Indian public hospitals.
- ❖ The necessity for better safety protocols in healthcare facilities has been highlighted by recent events involving violence against female healthcare workers.
- ❖ District Collector Sandeep Makin came up with the idea for the "pink alarms."
- ❖ This installation is the first of its sort in a Madhya Pradesh government hospital.

- ❖ The hospital's Maternity Ward, Trauma Center, and New OPD Block all include staff duty rooms with alarms positioned thoughtfully on all three floors.
- ❖ The alarm alerts security staff by sounding a siren when it is triggered.
- ❖ Within five minutes of the alarm going off, security should be able to get to the person in distress.

Economic

India's exports of software services up 2.8% in FY24



About News:-

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey indicates that India's overall software services exports, including those provided by overseas affiliates of Indian businesses, climbed from \$200.6 billion in the previous fiscal year to \$205.2 billion in 2023–2024.

Important Points to Remember:

- ❖ Except for sales through abroad commercial presence, software services exports increased 2.8% to \$190.7 billion in 2023–2024.
- ❖ Principal Export Destinations: With 54% of all software exports, the US was the top export destination.
- ❖ 31% came from Europe, with the UK being a major travel destination.
- ❖ Respondents: 2,266 businesses, or 89% of all software exports, answered the RBI survey, which was distributed to 7,226 software export companies.
- ❖ Service Types: More than two-thirds of India's software services exports were computer services.
- ❖ The majority of ITES exports were still BPO services.
- ❖ Private vs. Public firms: When it came to software services exports, private limited firms outperformed public limited companies.

- ❖ Invoicing Currency: With a 72% share, the US dollar was the most common invoicing currency. The euro, rupee, and pound sterling were next in line.
- ❖ Delivery Methods: In 2023–2024, 83.5% of software services were delivered via cross-border supply.
- ❖ From 7.5% in 2022–2023, the percentage of overseas commercial presence mode decreased to 7%.
- ❖ Offsite Services: In 2023–2024, offsite services accounted for 90% of all software services exported, up from 80% ten years prior.

Appointment

Senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt assumes charge as new coal secretary

About News:-

- ❖ Vikram Dev Dutt on Monday assumed the charge as the coal secretary.
- ❖ Dutt succeeds V L Kantha Rao who currently serves as the mines secretary.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Dutt, a 1993-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre, earlier served as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the coal ministry said in a statement.
- ❖ Before Rao, Amrit Lal Meena served as the coal secretary.
- ❖ Meena was repatriated to his home cadre Bihar, where he was appointed as the chief secretary
- ❖ Meena is a 1989-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service.



Defence

Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps conducts 'Swavlamban Shakti' exercise



About News:-

- ❖ The main goal of "Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI," which is presently being conducted in the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi by the Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command, is to improve combat capabilities by integrating specialized and cutting-edge technologies. According to a defense announcement, the drill started on October 17, 2024, and is scheduled to last until October 22.
- ❖ The army's striking corps, the XXI Corps, also known as the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, has its headquarters in Bhopal.

Key Points:

- ❖ Goal
- ❖ To incorporate the Army's operational tactics with New Technology Equipment (NTEs).
- ❖ Prioritize important technologies for future development and make sure you're prepared for changing conflict situations.
- ❖ In front of Lt Gen Prit Pal Singh, the Sudarshan Chakra Corps' general officer commanding, it was launched.
- ❖ About 1,800 employees are taking part in the drill.
- ❖ Consists of 50 specialized vehicles, 210 armored vehicles, and other aircraft assets.

Technological Showcase

- ❖ Over 50 NTEs from more than 40 industry partners, including DRDO labs and emerging defense startups, are being showcased. Cutting-edge technologies evaluated include,
- ❖ Swarm Drones
- ❖ Kamikaze Drones
- ❖ Logistic Swarm Drones

- ❖ Handheld Drone Jammers
- ❖ Software Defined Radio-based Mobile Adhoc Network Systems
- ❖ Robotic Mules
- ❖ All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) / Light Armored Multipurpose Vehicles (LAMVs)
- ❖ Guided Precision Aerial Delivery Systems (GPADS)
- ❖ LASER-based Communication Systems
- ❖ Directed Energy Weapons
- ❖ Indigenously developed long-endurance UAVs

Working together with the industry

- ❖ In terms of strengthening cooperation between the Indian Army and the defense sector, the exercise marks a major milestone.
- ❖ Strives to increase domestic defense production capacity, especially in the areas of drone and anti-drone technologies.
- ❖ Gives MSMEs and young entrepreneurs a stage on which to demonstrate and validate their skills.

Miscellaneous

MoS Margherita attends the Indonesian President's swearing-in ceremony

About News:-

On October 20, 2024, in Jakarta, Indonesia, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita represented the Indian government at the swearing-in ceremony for Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. Alongside President Subianto, Gibran Rakabuming, the vice president of Indonesia, was also sworn in.



Key Points:

- ❖ On October 19–20, 2024, Patitra Margherita traveled to Indonesia for two days.
- ❖ In 2024, India and Indonesia will commemorate 75 years since their diplomatic ties were established.
- ❖ Joko Widodo was replaced as Indonesia's eighth president by Prabowo Subianto. The

president of Indonesia serves a five-year term, and a person may only hold the office twice.

- ❖ The Indonesian presidential election on February 14, 2024, saw Prabowo Subianto win the presidency. In the previous Joko Widodo government, he served as the minister of defense.
- ❖ Rakabuming Gibran Raka is Joko Widodo's son who was inaugurated in as Indonesia's vice president. The Indonesian vice president serves a five-year tenure.

About Indonesia

- ❖ Capital:- Jakarta
- ❖ Currency:- Rupiah
- ❖ President :- Prabowo Subianto

Sport

Deepika bags her fifth silver at the Archery World Cup Final

About News:-

- ❖ Indian veteran archer Deepika Kumari secured a silver medal in the women's recurve category at the ongoing Archery World Cup final on Sunday.
- ❖ The 30-year-old archer who also competed in the Paris Olympics, was defeated by China's Li Jiaman 0-6 in the final, as per Olympics.com. Jiaman was also part of the archery team that secured the silver medal at Paris 2024.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The Archery World Cup final featured eight archers in men's and women's categories across both recurve and compound archery.
- ❖ In the quarterfinals, where the competition started, Deepika defeated Jiaman's teammate from Paris 2024, Yang Xiaolei 6-0 in straight sets.
- ❖ Deepika, the four-time Olympian, followed this win with a close-fought triumph over Mexico's Alejandra Valencia, who was part of

Mexico's mixed team bronze medalist from the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

- ❖ This is Deepika's sixth medal in the Archery WC finals and her first since embracing motherhood in 2022. The Indian finished runners-up on five occasions, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2024. She secured a bronze medal in 2018.
- ❖ At the Paris 2024 Olympics, Deepika took part in two events, the women's individual and women's team competitions with Bhajan Kaur and Ankita Bhakat. In both events, she could only qualify for the quarterfinals, continuing her and India's medal-less run in the competition.

Obituary

Sanskrit scholar Vasant Anant Gadgil passes away at 94 in Pune

About News:-

The founder of Sharda Gyan Peetham and a renowned Sanskrit scholar, Vasant Anant Gadgil, died in Pune at the age of 94. His teaching at Tilak Maharashtra University and his foreign work in the US and Africa were just two of his many contributions to the spread of Sanskrit. He was an important figure at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute and was actively involved in studying ancient Sanskrit manuscripts, including the Vedas and Upanishads.



Contributions and Legacy

- ❖ Gadgil's contributions to Sanskrit went beyond scholarly pursuits. In commemorating sages and intellectuals over 80 for their contributions to a variety of professions, he played a key role in the celebration of Rishi Panchami. In addition, he started the Sharada Gaurav Granthamala series, which includes the Sanskrit biography of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, Bhimyanam, and started a monthly Sanskrit

journal called Sharda. The Indian government and several organizations recognized Gadgil for his lifetime commitment to Sanskrit.

Honors and Recognition

- ❖ In 2012, Gadgil received the renowned Mahakavi Kalidas Sanskrit-Vrati National Award for his study and development work in the language, as well as congratulations from then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. With his wife, son Shrivardhan Gadgil, daughter-in-law, and grandchild, his legacy lives on in his family.

Important Day

International Stuttering Awareness Day – 22 October

About Day:-

International Stuttering Awareness Day: October 22 is designated as International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) or International Stammering Awareness Day, dedicated to raising awareness about the speech disorder characterized by disruptions in fluency known as stuttering or stammering. Stuttering manifests through involuntary word repetition and temporary challenges in producing sounds or words, among other symptoms.

The theme is “The Power of Listening”.



History:-

- ❖ Over seven crore individuals worldwide grapple with the challenges of stuttering. The International Stuttering Association (ISA) took a proactive stance on this issue by initiating International Stuttering Awareness Day. In 1995, during a conference in Linköping, Sweden, the ISA crafted a wish list advocating for the establishment of such a day.

- ❖ The call gained momentum in 1997 at the International Fluency Association (IFA) conference when Michael Sugarman, co-founder of the National Stuttering Project, championed the cause for a global day dedicated to stuttering awareness. In 1998, Sugarman's vision came to fruition as the European League of Stuttering Associations, International Fluency Association, and ISA jointly declared October 22 as Stuttering Awareness Day.

