

28th August 2024

Nasscom Appoints Sindhu Gangadharan as New Chairperson



The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), has appointed SAP Labs India managing director Sindhu Gangadharan as its chairperson. She takes over from Rajesh Nambiar who has been appointed Nasscom president-designate.

Key Points

- ❖ Gangadharan is the first woman to lead SAP Labs India and holds an additional global role as the head of customer innovation services, SAP.
- ❖ In 2023, she was also appointed as the chair for Nasscom GCC Council. She serves on the boards of Siemens India and Titan Company and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce.

About NASSCOM

- ❖ **Founders:** Nandan Nilekani, Dewang Mehta
- ❖ **Founded:** 1 March 1988

- ❖ **President:** Debjani Ghosh
- ❖ **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

India clinches silver medal at Asian Surfing Championships 2024



Indian national team secured a silver medal at the prestigious Maruhaba Cup, a team event at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The competition, held in Thulusdhoo, Maldives.
- ❖ The Indian team, comprising Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, and Sanjay Selvamani
- ❖ The final results of the Maruhaba Cup were as follows:
 - Japan: Gold Medal (Score: 58.40)
 - India: Silver Medal (Score: 24.13)
 - Taipei: Bronze Medal (Score: 23.93)
 - China: Fourth Place (Score: 22.10)

- ❖ Both the Indian men's and women's surfing teams are now set to compete in the Asian Games 2026, scheduled to take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ India secured its first-ever quota in surfing for the Asian Games.

Asian Surfing Championship

- ❖ The first Asian Surfing Championship was held in China in 2019. Following its success, the Asian Games Organising Committee decided to include Surfing in the 2026 Asian Games.
- ❖ The second Asian Surfing Championship was held at Thulusdhoo, Maldives, in 2023.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) & Flipkart signed MoU to Upskill Employable Youth Across India



The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Flipkart's Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) to upskill thousands of employable youth across India.

Key Points

- ❖ The MoU was exchanged during an event which celebrates the 5-year journey of Flipkart Samarth, a program that empowers artisans, weavers, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Women and Rural entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0, this collaboration aims to upskill thousands of youth in India improving their employability in the supply chain and e-commerce sectors.
- ❖ The candidates receive 45 days of hands-on industry exposure at Flipkart's facilities after seven days of classroom training.
- ❖ Flipkart also launched the 'Samarth storefront' Indian Roots on its app.

Tanager-1 satellite of NASA to track methane emissions



NASA, in collaboration with several organizations, has recently launched Tanager-1, a satellite designed to monitor methane and carbon dioxide emissions from space.

Key Points

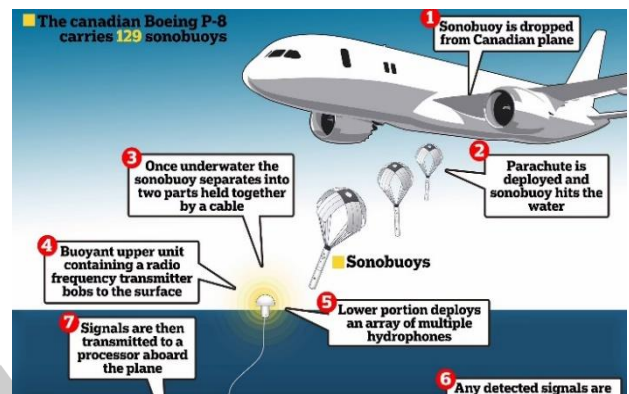
- ❖ This launch, which took place aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, highlights the growing focus on tracking greenhouse gases to combat climate change.
- ❖ Tanager-1 uses advanced spectrometer technology to track emissions. It measures light wavelengths to identify specific gases by their infrared signatures.
- ❖ The satellite can monitor 130,000 square kilometres of emissions daily. Emission data will be publicly available to aid global reduction efforts.

Why do researchers want to track methane emissions?

- ❖ Methane is an invisible but strong greenhouse gas, and the second largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide, responsible for 30 per cent of global heating since the Industrial Revolution.
- ❖ According to the United Nations Environment Programme, over a period of 20 years, methane is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide.
- ❖ The gas also contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone — a colourless and highly irritating gas that forms just above the Earth's surface.

- ❖ According to a 2022 report, exposure to ground-level ozone could be contributing to one million premature deaths every year.
- ❖ Therefore, it is crucial to cut methane emissions.

US approves sale of Anti-Submarine Warfare Sonobuoys to India



The US recently approved a USD 52.8 million government-to-government deal for the sale of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Sonobuoys that will be integrated with the Indian Navy's Romeo helicopters.

Key Points

- ❖ Sonobuoys are small, expendable devices used in underwater acoustics and sonar systems to detect and analyze sound in the ocean, particularly for tracking submarines and other underwater objects.
- ❖ It is a core technology for anti-submarine warfare.
 - It helps to track potentially hostile submarines operating in the open ocean and in coastal areas.

- Information from these systems can help enable precision attacks with air-launched torpedoes.
- ❖ They were first used during the Second World War to detect German U-boats.
- ❖ Sonobuoys are deployed by dropping them into the ocean from aircraft or launching them from ships or submarines.

There are three types of sonobuoys:

- ❖ **Passive Sonobuoys** quietly listen for and record sounds without emitting any signals. It uses a hydrophone to listen for sound energy from a target.
- ❖ **Active Sonobuoys** emit a sound pulse and analyze the return signals (echoes) to detect and locate targets. It uses a transducer to send an acoustic signal.
- ❖ **Special Purpose Sonobuoys** provide information about the environment, such as water temperature, ambient noise level, etc.

News Shorts

- ❖ A memorial will be constructed to honour BJP and Bharatiya Jana Sangh stalwart late Kushabhau Thakre in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Tanvi Patri has become the third Indian to secure the Asian U-15 Junior Badminton Championships women's singles title.
- ❖ RailTel Corporation of India Ltd: The PSU awarded the ISO 14001:2015 certification.
- ❖ Maharashtra is the first state to approve the central government's Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
- ❖ Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) won two CSR Times Awards for excellence in healthcare and skill development.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to launch the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), a new technology designed to provide "frictionless credit" by facilitating a seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including land records, from multiple data providers to lenders.
- ❖ Himachal Govt. approves Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of Nasscom?

- (a) Rekha Menon
- (b) Sindhu Gangadharan
- (c) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- (d) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Answer- B

2. Which medal did the Indian national team secure at the Maruhaba Cup, a team event at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024?

- (a) Gold
- (b) Silver
- (c) Bronze
- (d) None

Answer- B

