

21st June 2024

President appoints Bhartruhari Mahtab as pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Bhartruhari Mahtab, a member of the Lok Sabha, as the pro-tem Speaker under Article 95(1) of the Constitution. The appointment comes as part of the parliamentary procedures and Mahtab temporarily assume the responsibilities associated with the position of the Speaker.



Key Points

- ❖ Initially a member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Mahtab joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on 28 March 2024, following his resignation from the BJD.
- ❖ He has been elected to the Lok Sabha multiple times from the Cuttack constituency in Odisha, serving since 1998 and being re-elected in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019.
- ❖ Mahtab is highly regarded for his legislative contributions, having received the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in 2017 and the Sansad Ratna Award for outstanding performance in debates for four consecutive years from 2017 to 2020.

Key Responsibilities of the Speaker pro-tem

- ❖ **Presiding over initial sessions:** The Speaker pro-tem oversees the first meeting of the newly elected house until a permanent Speaker is elected.
- ❖ **Administering oath of office:** They administer the oath of office to newly elected members of Parliament.
- ❖ **Conducting speaker and deputy speaker elections:** The Speaker pro-tem facilitates the election process for the Speaker and deputy Speaker.
- ❖ **Maintaining order and decorum:** Ensures smooth proceedings and upholds decorum in the house during the initial session.
- ❖ **Floor test:** The Speaker pro-tem administers the floor test to ensure the majority support for the government.
- ❖ **Additional duties:** Depending on the specific rules and procedures of the legislative body, the Speaker pro-tem may have additional responsibilities.

SIPRI Report 2024

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)'s yearly evaluation of weapons, disarmament, and international security, India's nuclear arsenal has increased from 164 warheads in January 2023 to 172 in January 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ India now possesses more nuclear weapons than Pakistan, which has not increased the number of warheads (170 in 2023 and 2024), according to the 55th SIPRI Yearbook (2024).
- ❖ According to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) research, global spending on nuclear weapons is expected to rise by 13%, reaching a record USD 91.4 billion in 2023. This is USD 10.7 billion more than the global spending for 2022.
- ❖ The global spending of USD 91.4 billion equals USD 2,898 every second.
- ❖ The USA accounted for 80% of the increased investment in nuclear weapons, with a spending of USD 51.5 billion.

About Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):

- ❖ **Director**– Dan Smith
- ❖ **Headquarters**– Solna, Stockholm, Sweden
- ❖ **Established**– 1966

International Yoga Day 2024

The celebration of 'Yoga Mahotsav 2024' widely known as International Yoga Day 2024 will take place on Friday, June 21, marking the 10th anniversary of this globally recognized event. The International Day of Yoga aims to

promote yoga for health, spiritual growth, and global peace and the main event will be held under the leadership of PM Modi at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.



Key Points

- ❖ The theme of International Yoga Day 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society," which prioritizes the physical and mental well-being of the community.
- ❖ On 11th December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga. The declaration came at the behest of the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during his address to UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014
- ❖ Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first International Day of Yoga on June 21st, 2015, on the theme 'Yoga for Harmony and Peace.' The event also registered two Guinness World Records, one for 35,985 people practicing in a single Yoga session at a single venue and the other for most nationalities participating in a Yoga event.

International Yoga Day Edition and Theme		
Edition	Year	Theme
1st Edition	2015	Yoga for Harmony and Peace
2nd Edition	2016	Yoga for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
3rd Edition	2017	Yoga for Health
4th Edition	2018	Yoga for Peace
5th Edition	2019	Yoga for Heart
6th Edition	2020	Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family
7th Edition	2021	Yoga for Wellness
8th Edition	2022	Yoga for Humanity
9th Edition	2023	Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (Yoga for the World as One Family)
10th Edition	2024	Yoga for Self and Society

Wärtsilä Launches World First Large-Scale 100% Hydrogen-Ready Engine Power Plant

Wärtsilä Oyj Abp, Finland based company has launched the world's first large-scale 100% hydrogen-ready engine power plant to enable the net-zero power systems.



Key Points

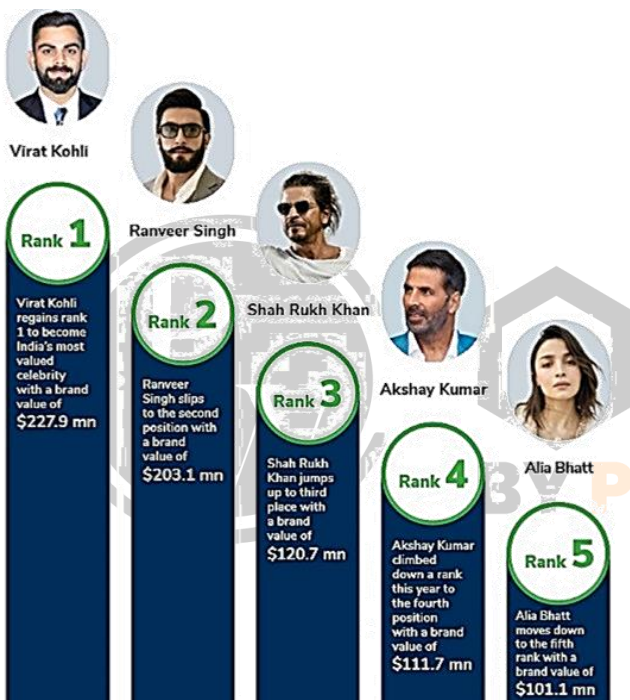
- ❖ It can run on natural gas, 25% hydrogen (H₂) by volume blends and has completed more than 1 million running hours, with over 1,000

MegaWatt (MW) installed capacity globally.

- ❖ The hydrogen-ready engine power plant concept has been certified by (Technischer Überwachungsverein – Technical Inspection Association) TÜV SÜD.
- ❖ The H₂-Readiness certification consists of three stages with three corresponding certificates. Wärtsilä has achieved the first stage with a Concept Certificate for the conceptual design of its engine power plant.

Virat Kohli Tops Kroll's 2023 Celebrity Brand Valuation Report with USD 228 Million

According to Kroll's star Brand Valuation Report 2023: Brands, Business, and Bollywood, former Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli has recaptured the top rank as India's most valuable star, with a brand value of USD 227.9 million, up USD 51 million (mn) from 2022.



Key Points

- ❖ Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, who headed the 2022 list, has slid to second place with a brand worth of USD 203.1 million.
- ❖ Shah Rukh Khan (3rd), Akshay Kumar (4th), and Alia Bhatt (5th) are among the top five.
- ❖ This is the ninth edition of Kroll's celebrity brand valuation assessment.
- ❖ Virat Kohli and Ranveer Singh's brand worth has topped USD 200 million for the first time.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. What is the theme of International Yoga Day 2024?
- (a) Yoga for Wellness
 - (b) Yoga for Humanity
 - (c) Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (Yoga for the World as One Family)
 - (d) Yoga for Self and Society

Answer- (d)

2. Who has been appointed as pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha?
- (a) Bhartruhari Mahtab
 - (b) Shirish chandra Murmu
 - (c) Gopal Bhargav
 - (d) Om Birla

Answer- (a)

