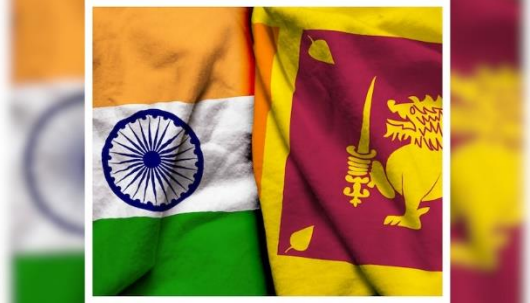


International

India hands over first payment to Sri Lanka for hybrid power projects



About News :-

- ❖ At a ceremony held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on August 29, 2024, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha gave the first payment for hybrid power projects on three Sri Lankan islands (Delft, Nainativu, and Analaitivu islands) to Dr. Sulakshana Jayawardena, Secretary of the Minister of Power and Energy, Government of Sri Lanka, and Ranjith Sepala, Chairman of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA).
- ❖ This most recent event comes after High Commissioner Jha traveled throughout Sri Lanka on diplomatic missions.
- ❖ The project is being carried out with grant help from the Indian government totaling USD 11 million.

Key Points:

- ❖ In 2022, the project's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, taking the place of a Chinese initiative that had been opposed by India.
- ❖ In March 2024, SLSEA and U Solar Clean Energy Solutions Private Limited signed the project implementation contract.
- ❖ The project is planned to be completed by early March 2025 and turned over by late April 2025. The initial work has already begun.
- ❖ In the islands of Delft, Nainativu, and Analaitivu, a hybrid renewable energy system will be installed as part of the projects. The islands are close to Tamil Nadu, India (TN).

- ❖ The three islands are not connected to the national grid, thus the initiatives are intended to meet their energy demands.

About Sri Lanka:

- ❖ Prime Minister (PM) :- Dinesh Gunawardena
- ❖ Capital :- Colombo (Executive & Judicial), Sri Jayawardhapura Kotte (Legislative)
- ❖ Currency :- Sri Lankan Rupee

National

Union Minister of Women and Child Development launches new She-Box Portal to make Workplaces safer for Women

About News :-

- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), led by Union Minister Annapurna Devi, has introduced the 'She Box online', a centralized platform for reporting and tracking complaints of sexual harassment of women at work.
- ❖ Additionally, Annapurna Devi has introduced the MoWCD's new website in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ❖ Anil Malik, the MoWCD secretary, and Savitri Thakur, the MoWCD's minister of state (MoS), were present at the function.



Concerning She-Box Portal:

- ❖ Information regarding Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) that have been established throughout India, encompassing both the public and private sectors, is centrally located on the She-Box Portal.
- ❖ Through the platform, women will be able to file complaints, follow up on their status, and make sure that ICs process them promptly.
- ❖ Additionally, it has a dedicated Nodal Officer to allow for real-time complaint monitoring, which expedites and guarantees the redressal process.

- ❖ This program is a big step in the direction of offering a safer and more efficient way to handle accusations of sexual harassment at work.
- ❖ Launching the SHE-Box portal is in line with India's larger goal of creating a "Viksit Bharat by 2047," which places a strong focus on development led by women.
- ❖ This website aims to improve the way the government interacts with audiences both domestically and internationally by developing a consistent visual identity for digital platforms.

Maharashtra

PM Narendra Modi to Lay Foundation Stone of ₹76,000 Crore Vadhvan Port in Maharashtra and Address Global Fintech Fest

About News :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Maharashtra on Friday, August 30, when he will lay the foundation stone for the Vadhvan Port project and give a speech at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024 in Mumbai. Modi will arrive in Palghar in the afternoon after beginning his day in Mumbai.



Speaking at the Mumbai Global Fintech Fest

- ❖ Beginning at approximately 11 a.m., the Prime Minister will arrive in Mumbai to speak at a special session of the Global Fintech Fest, which is being held in conjunction with the Fintech Convergence Council, the National Payments Corporation of India, and the Payments Council of India. More than 800 speakers, including academics, industry executives, regulators, and international officials, will participate in more than 350 sessions throughout this event. In addition to showcasing state-of-the-art developments in the fintech sector, GFF 2024 will introduce more than 20 thought leadership studies and white papers that provide comprehensive analyses of the sector.

Vadhvan Port Project's foundation stone was laid at Palghar

PM Modi is scheduled to visit Palghar at roughly 1:30 p.m. to lay the foundation stone for the much awaited ₹76,000 crore Vadhvan Port project. Vadhvan Port, in the Palghar district of Maharashtra, is close to Dahanu and has the potential to grow into one of the country's biggest deepwater ports. It is anticipated that this project will greatly improve India's marine connectivity, giving it direct access to international shipping lanes, cutting down on transit expenses and durations, and strengthening its standing as a hub for international trade.

Important Aspects of the Vadhvan Port Initiative

Modern port management systems, effective cargo handling facilities, deep berths, and other cutting-edge infrastructure will all be present in the Vadhvan Port. The project was designed with an eye on sustainable development, with the goal of minimizing its influence on the environment and upholding stringent ecological requirements. It is anticipated that the port will also significantly boost local business, generate employment opportunities, and aid in the region's economic development.

Launch of Fisheries Initiatives

PM Modi will also inaugurate and lay the groundwork for 218 fisheries projects valued at ₹1,560 crores, in addition to the Vadhvan Port project. The goal of these projects is to increase production and infrastructure in India's fishing industry. These consist of the creation of integrated aquaparks, fishing harbors, and the use of cutting-edge technology like Biofloc and the Recirculatory Aquaculture System. It is anticipated that these activities will generate more than five lakh job opportunities in the fishing industry.

Launch of the Vessel Communication and Support System Nationwide

Along with this, PM Modi will introduce the ₹360 crore National Rollout of the Vessel Communication and Support System. This homegrown technology, created by ISRO, would equip 1 lakh motorized and mechanized fishing vessels in 13 coastal states and union territories

with transponders. The technology will guarantee fishermen's safety, help with rescue efforts, and provide two-way communication while they are at sea.

PM Modi's Goals for the Development of Maharashtra

PM Modi expressed his excitement over the major initiatives being inaugurated in Maharashtra prior to his arrival. He underlined the strategic importance of the Vadhvan Port project in bolstering Maharashtra's port-led growth and contributing to the state's overall progress, as well as the value of the Global Fintech Fest in exhibiting India's advancements in the fintech sector.

Economic

India First Life becomes 1st Indian life insurer to start ops in GIFT City

About News :-

- ❖ The first life insurance company in India to open for business in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life).
- ❖ In order to offer life insurance products denominated in foreign currencies, IndiaFirst Life has opened an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Insurance Office (IIO) at GIFT City.
- ❖ Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India (UBI), and Carmel Point Investments India Private Limited (CPIIPL) are the current shareholders of IndiaFirst Life.



Key Points:

- ❖ With a Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) product named the "IndiaFirst Life Wealth Wise plan," created especially for global Indians, IndiaFirst Life hopes to reach a global clientele.

- ❖ This plan, denominated in US dollars, is intended for foreign investors seeking to build long-term wealth and leave a legacy.
- ❖ Through partner institutions and carefully chosen broker partners, the project hopes to assist customers worldwide.

About IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life):

- ❖ MD & CEO :- Rushabh Gandhi
- ❖ Headquarters :- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Established :- 2009

Appointment

Satish Vadugiri named interim chairmen for IOC & Rajneesh Narang for HPCL

About News :-

- ❖ The Additional Charge of Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) was given to Satish Kumar Vaduguri by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Government of India (GOI). The current Chairman, Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, who is scheduled to retire on August 31, 2024, will be replaced by him.
- ❖ The MoPNG also designated Rajneesh Narang as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in addition to his other duties. The current CMD Pushp Kumar Joshi, who is set to retire on August 31, 2024, will be replaced by him.
- ❖ The extra charge has been granted to both for a period of three months, beginning on September 1, 2024, and ending when a regular incumbent is appointed to the position or until further orders are received, whichever comes first.
- ❖ Under the MoPNG, IOCL and HPCL are Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation owns HPCL as a subsidiary (ONGC).



Concerning Satish Kumar Vaduguri:

- ❖ At the moment, Satish Kumar Vaduguri is the IOCL's Director (Marketing). Previously, he oversaw the marketing network in Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Chhattisgarh as Executive Director and State Head of the IOCL's Madhya Pradesh State Office (MPSO).
- ❖ In addition, he serves as the non-executive Chairman of IndianOil Petronas Private Limited (IPPL) and IndianOil (Mauritius) Limited (IOML), both of which are wholly owned subsidiaries of IOCL.
- ❖ A joint venture (JV) between the IOCL and Petroliam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS), a Malaysian company, is called IPPL.

Concerning Rajneesh Narang:

- ❖ Rajneesh Narang is the HPCL's Director (Finance) at the moment. In 2022, he took on the role of HPCL Director (Finance).
- ❖ He held the positions of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Executive Director (ED) of Corporate Finance (CF) at HPCL prior to this.
- ❖ Among his other important roles were ED, Finance (Marketing), and Executive Assistant (EA) to HPCL's CMD.
- ❖ In addition, he is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and serves on the boards of multiple joint ventures and subsidiaries of HPCL.

Science & Technology

ISRO successfully demonstrates satellite tech to study ocean and soil parameters

About News :-

- ❖ Using satellite-based sensors, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully shown a method to gather information on soil moisture, surface inundation, and ocean surface wind and wave observations. Satellite Navigation System for Global Navigation 475 kilometers (km) above the ground is the point of reflectometry (GNSS-R).
- ❖ The first space-borne precision receiver in India is called GNSS-R, and it was created by the ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC-ISRO).

- ❖ Using aircraft, satellites, or drones fitted with sensors to detect energy reflected off the Earth, GNSS-R is a new approach to remote sensing that aids in gathering data about things or locations from a distance.

History :-

- ❖ The third developmental mission of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3) carried the Earth Observation Satellite, or EOS-08, which was successfully launched by ISRO on August 16, 2024.
- ❖ On August 18, 2024, GNSS-R, which was installed on the EOS-08 satellite, started operating.

About GNSS-R:-

- ❖ Gathering ground-reflected GNSS signals and measuring their power and other signal properties is the primary purpose of GNSS-R.
- ❖ By processing these observations, scientific data about specific areas can be obtained.
- ❖ measured by the receiver, such as surface flooding, soil moisture, and wind and wave activity on the ocean's surface.
- ❖ Over oceans, it has a resolution of 15 km x 15 km, while on land, it is better than 1 km x 1 km.
- ❖ Delay-Doppler Maps (DDMs) are the main results of processing GNSS-R raw data. These maps are used to calculate parameters such as reflectivity and the Normalized Bistatic Radar Cross-Section (NBRCS).
- ❖ Additional uses for these NBRCS include the retrieval of various scientific parameters.
- ❖ According to ISRO, SAC-ISRO produces all of the science output utilizing proprietary algorithms.

Award

Department of Higher Education selects 16 teachers from HEIs and Polytechnics for National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024



About News :-

- ❖ For the National Awards to instructors (NAT) 2024, 16 instructors from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Polytechnics have been chosen by the Department of Higher Education (DoHE) of the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- ❖ On September 5, 2024, in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi, President Draupadi Murmu would bestow her congratulations upon the chosen educators on National Teachers' Day.
- ❖ A Rs 50,000 certificate and a silver medal will be given to the winners.

About Teachers' National Awards (NAT):

- ❖ Exemplary faculty members and instructors at polytechnics and higher education institutions are awarded NAT in two categories:
- ❖ The HEI teachers fall under category I, which has the following subcategories:

Subcategory I: Architecture and Engineering and Technology.

Subcategory II: Pure Sciences, which include the fields of mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, medicine, and pharmacy

Subcategory III : Arts and Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Commerce, Legal Studies, and Management make up

- ❖ Polytechnic Institution teachers are included in category II.
- ❖ A variety of criteria are taken into consideration while evaluating an educator's performance, such as outreach initiatives, funded research, creative and innovative research, faculty development initiatives, consultation teaching, and the efficiency of teaching-learning. The greatest weight is assigned to outreach and learning effectiveness initiatives among them.
- ❖ The Rashtriya Puraskar Portal served as the internet platform for the nominations for NAT, 2024.
- ❖ It was agreed by the MoE in 2023 to create two prize categories under the NAT banner for HEIs and Polytechnics, which were previously only open to teachers.

DETAILS OF NAT 2024 AWARDEES – DoHE

Sl. No	Name and Institution	State
1	Dr. Gandhimathi A Thiagarajar Polytechnic College, Junction Main Road, Salem- 636005, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu
2.	Prof. Parmar Ranjitkumar Khimjibhai Government Polytechnic Khadiya, Bilkha Road, Junagadh, Gujarat-362263	Gujarat
3.	Prof. Nidhi Jain Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016	Delhi
4.	Dr. Smiline Girija Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences [SIMATS], Saveetha University No 162: PH Road, Velappanchavady, Chennai 600077	Tamil Nadu
5.	Prof. Birinchi Kumar Sarma Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Prof. Srinivas Hotha Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune, Dr Homi Bhabha Road, Pune 411 008	Maharashtra

7.	Dr. S R Keshava Department of Economics, Bangalore University, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Kengeri, Bangalore – 560056	Karnataka
8.	Prof. Shilpagauri Prasad Ganpule Pune District Education Association's Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ganganagar, Sector No. 28, Nigdi Pradhikaran, Pune 411044	Maharashtra
9.	Dr. Chayapuram Jaya Sankar Babu Pondicherry University, R. Venkat Raman Nagar, Kalapet, Puducherry - 605 014	Puducherry
10.	Prof. Nilabh Tiwari Central Sanskrit University Bhopal Campus Bagsewaniya, Bhopal , MP Pin 462043	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Prof. Vinay Sharma Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee-247667 Haridwar, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand
12.	Dr. Nandavaram Mrudula Govt. Degree College for Women, Mayur Marg, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana 500016	Telangana
13.	Dr. Shimi S L Punjab Engineering College (Deemed to be University), Vidya Path, Sector 12, Chandigarh 160012	Chandigarh
14.	Prof. Kapil Ahuja Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Khandwa Road, Simrol, Indore, MP 453552	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Dr. Anitha Suseelan School of Architecture, Kengeri Campus, CHRIST Deemed to be University, Kengeri-Campus, Kanminike, Kumbalgodu, Mysore Road, Bangalore 560074	Karnataka
16.	Prof. Dr. Shahanaz Ayub Bundelkhand Institute of Engineering and Technology, Kanpur Road, Jhansi- 284128, UP	Uttar Pradesh

Sport

Preethi Pal wins India's first bronze medal from para-athletics at 2024 Paralympics in women's T35 100m event



About News :-

- ❖ At the Paralympic Games, Indian competitor Preethi Pal made history by taking home the country's first-ever medal in the 100-meter race. Pal won the bronze medal in the women's T35 100m competition with an amazing personal best timing of 14.21 seconds. This triumph, which is India's first track gold at the prestigious Paris Paralympics, is a landmark moment in the nation's Paralympic history.

The Rise of Preethi Pal to the Top

- ❖ Preethi Pal's path to this momentous occasion has been characterized by tenacity and resolve. She participates in the T35 classification, which is intended for athletes with impairments in their ability to coordinate, including those with hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, and cerebral palsy. Pal has continuously proven her athletic ability on the international front in spite of these obstacles.
- ❖ Her triumph at the Paralympics in Paris is the result of years of arduous work rather than a singular accomplishment. Pal qualified for the Paris Paralympic Games after winning a bronze medal at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe earlier in 2024. She demonstrated her ability to compete at the top level with this performance.

The Contest and the Race

- ❖ Pal faced tough competition from across the globe in the very demanding women's T35 100m final. There was tough competition at the event, especially from the Chinese competitors Xia Zhou and Qianqian Gou, who finished ahead of Pal. With a season-best record of 13.58 seconds, Zhou won the gold medal, and Gou took second place with a personal best time of 13.74 seconds.
- ❖ Pal's accomplishment, which earned her a bronze medal and a personal best time of 14.21 seconds, is evidence of her expertise and determination. Considering the level of competition she faced, her accomplishment is even more remarkable, making her one of the standout athletes at the 17th Paralympic Games.

An Important Medal for India

- ❖ India's expanding medal count in the world of international para-athletics is bolstered by Preethi Pal's bronze medal, which is her third overall at the Paris Paralympics. This gold is also noteworthy because it was the first time India has placed second in a track event at the Paralympics, demonstrating the advancements achieved by Indian para-athletes in recent years.

- ❖ Not only is Pal's accomplishment a personal triumph, but it also gives the country great pride. It represents the growing support and acknowledgement for para-athletics in India as well as the growing number of Indian athletes competing in international para-sporting competitions.

Overcoming Prior Obstacles

- ❖ Preethi Pal faced difficulties along the way to her Paralympic victory. She finished just off the podium at the Para Asian Games last year, just missing out on two medals. While many might have found these near misses demoralizing, Pal used them as inspiration to work even harder and succeed much more.
- ❖ Her mental fortitude and resilience are demonstrated by her capacity to overcome these obstacles and give an outstanding performance on the international arena. Pal's path serves as an inspirational example of how tenacity and commitment can get over even the most formidable challenges.

Book

Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari launches first comic book on Indian Air Force heroes

About News :-

The first comic book in the "Heroes of the Indian Air Force" series has been released by Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The IAF-published book attempts to use comics to illustrate the valiant stories of the IAF.



Key Points :-

- ❖ Under the direction of Anubhav Khanduri, General Manager of the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), the book was developed.
- ❖ The creatives and storyline were handled by the same-named agency, Rogue Communications Private Limited.

- ❖ The 32-page book tells the stories of two stories: "The Boyra Boys," which describes the epic air fight of the 1971 Indo-Pak War, and "Find Your Calling," which is about the life of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) (1944).
- ❖ The book seeks to uplift and educate young readers while encouraging a sense of responsibility and a desire to enlist in the IAF.

Important Day

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - 30 August

About Day :-

- ❖ Every year on August 30, the world observes the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, an effort to bring attention to the issue of forced or involuntary disappearances.
- ❖ The day also attempts to honor individuals who have been subjected to forced disappearances and give victims of such disappearances efficient access to the legal system.



History :-

- ❖ Establishing August 30 as the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances annually, the resolution A/RES/65/209 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 21, 2010.
- ❖ The adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) was welcomed by the UNGA through the same resolution.

- ❖ August 30, 2011, was designated as the inaugural International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

International Congress of Forced Absences:

- ❖ Taking place at the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) in Switzerland on January 15-16, 2025, will be the inaugural World Congress on Enforced Disappearances (WCED).
- ❖ States, victims, Human Rights Organizations (HROs), etc. will be gathered by the Congress to create specific action plans aimed at ending and preventing enforced disappearances.
- ❖ The UN CED, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), and the Convention Against Enforced Disappearances Initiative (CEDI) co-organize the WCED.

