

15TH January 2024

Defence

HIMKAVACH



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made significant progress in military clothing technology with the development of HIMKAVACH, a multi-layer clothing system.

Key point

- ❖ Successfully passing user trials, it is designed to perform in extreme cold weather conditions, specifically in the Himalayan region, where temperatures can range from $+20^{\circ}\text{C}$ to -60°C .
- ❖ HIMKAVACH aims to protect soldiers by maintaining body heat while ensuring comfort and mobility.
- ❖ The system is crucial for operations in harsh, cold environments, offering soldiers the necessary protection against the severe weather challenges they face in the region.

Sports

Kho Kho World Cup



The inaugural Kho Kho World Cup commenced on January 13, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

Key point

- ❖ Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho Kho Federation of India, officially inaugurated the event, which is organized by the federation with support from the Indian Olympic Association.
- ❖ Scheduled from January 13 to 19, the tournament includes men's teams from 20 countries and women's teams from 19 countries, grouped into four pools.

- ❖ Each team comprises 12 players, with 9 on the field per match. India's men's team is captained by Pratik Waikar, while Priyanka Ingle leads the women's team.
- ❖ The ancient Indian sport of Kho Kho is believed by experts to have origins in the Mahabharata.
- ❖ The first Kho Kho tournament was organized in 1914 in Pune by the Pune Deccan Gymkhana Club, which also established the game's rules.
- ❖ At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Kho Kho, Kabaddi, and Mallakhamb were presented as demonstration sports.
- ❖ Kho Kho was also a demonstration sport at the 1982 Delhi Asian Games.

Place in News

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant



The Russian government-owned company Rosatom has shipped the sixth and final unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, located in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, on a specialized ship.

Key point

- ❖ Ongoing construction of one or two more units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant was also slowed by logistics problems resulting from the war in Ukraine and Russia and related problems in freight.
- ❖ In 1988 an initial contract was signed between India and the Soviet Union for constructing a 6000 MW nuclear power plant at Kudankulam.
- ❖ It is the nuclear power plant that will generate six units each having an installed capacity of 1000 MW and thus when complete will form the single largest nuclear power plant in India.

- ❖ The agreement was updated in 1998 between India and Russia, allowing India to retain spent nuclear fuel within its territory.
- ❖ The project is being executed in three phases, with two reactors of 1000 MW constructed in each phase.
- ❖ The first two reactors of phase one are operational, and the generated electricity is distributed between Tamil Nadu and its neighboring states based on the central power distribution framework.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu receives 50% of the power generated, neighboring states share 35%, and 15% is allocated to the national grid.
- ❖ NPCIL is an Indian government company that is currently involved in construction, operation and maintenance of all the six units.

Conference/Summit

AI Action Summit 2025



**AI ACTION
SUMMIT**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in France, scheduled from February 10 to 11, 2025, at the Grand Palais in Paris.

Key point

- ❖ Announced by French President Emmanuel Macron during the 30th Conference of Ambassadors, the summit will promote global dialogue on AI.
- ❖ It aims to explore AI's societal impact, promote innovation, and position Europe as a global leader in AI.
- ❖ Nations like India, the US, and China will play pivotal roles in discussions, emphasizing collaborative efforts for responsible AI development.

Miscellaneous

Mission Mausam



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Mission Mausam to make the country a weather-ready and climate-smart nation on 14 January .

- ❖ The launch took place during the celebrations of the 150th Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ❖ Mission Mausam, to be chiefly implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is envisaged to be a multi-faceted and transformative initiative to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research, and services.
- ❖ It will help to better equip stakeholders, including citizens and last-mile users, in tackling extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change. The ambitious program will help broaden capacity and resilience across communities, sectors, and ecosystems in the long run.
- ❖ As part of the Mission Mausam, India will exponentially expound research and development, and capacity in atmospheric sciences, especially weather surveillance, modeling, forecasting, and management.
- ❖ Three institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences: the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting will primarily implement Mission Mausam.

Short News

- ❖ Odisha became the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), marking a significant milestone in the state's healthcare system.
- ❖ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has partnered with IIT Mandi and IIT Jammu to advance telecommunications technology by developing a Wideband Spectrum-Sensor ASIC-Chip.
- ❖ The Avaniyapuram Jallikattu, a key aspect of Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage, began on January 14, 2025, in Madurai during the Pongal festival.
- ❖ Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, will attend Donald Trump's swearing-in as the 47th U.S. President on January 20, 2025.
- ❖ On January 11, 2025, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the National River Traffic and Navigation System (NRT&NS) during the second Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) meeting in Kaziranga, Assam.
- ❖ India has installed a record 30 GW of renewable energy by 2024 upbeat of MNRE, 113% jump from 13.75 GW in 2023.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Where is the first Kho Kho World Cup being held?
 - A. Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi
 - B. Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi
 - C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, Gujarat
 - D. Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
2. Where is the AI Action Summit 2025 scheduled to take place?
 - A. New Delhi, India
 - B. Berlin, Germany
 - C. Paris, France
 - D. Beijing, China

Answer-C

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