

International

Saudi Arabia is set to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, Morocco, Portugal, and Spain to co-host the 2030 edition



About News:-

- ❖ FIFA confirmed that Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 World Cup while the 2030 World Cup, the 100th edition of the tournament, will be co-hosted by Morocco, Portugal, and Spain.
- ❖ Both bids were uncontested and approved during a virtual FIFA Congress on Wednesday. Along with this, the 2030 centenary matches of FIFA World Cup 2030, will be hosted jointly by Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Saudi Arabia will become the second nation from the Middle East to host the mega football event, 12 years after neighbours Qatar staged the 2022 edition, where Argentina lifted the prestigious trophy.
- ❖ It will be the first time Portugal, Paraguay, and Morocco will host FIFA World Cup matches as Uruguay already hosted the inaugural edition in 1930. Meanwhile, Argentina and Spain have also staged the tournament in the past.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's win will kick off a decade of scrutiny on labor laws and treatment of workers mostly from South Asia needed to help build and upgrade 15 stadiums, plus hotels and transport networks ahead of the 104-game tournament.
- ❖ One of the stadiums is planned to be 350 meters (yards) above the ground in Neom — a futuristic city that does not yet exist — and another named for the crown prince is designed to be atop a 200-meter cliff near Riyadh.

About Saudi Arabia:-

- ❖ Capital:- Riyadh
- ❖ Currency :- Saudi riyal
- ❖ Prime Minister:- Mohammed bin Salman

National

The 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo inaugurated today in Dehradun



About News:-

- ❖ The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated today (12 DEC 2024) in Dehradun, in the August presence of the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami; Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha and Dr Shekhar Mande, President, Vijnana Bharati.
- ❖ The central theme for the WAC2024 is, "Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective."

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Union Ayush Minister also mentioned that on the 9th Ayurveda day on 29.10.2024 at All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, a nationwide "Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan" was launched.
- ❖ The biennial event is organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation (WAF), an initiative of Vijnana Bharati. This year's edition of this landmark event is set to unite Ayurveda practitioners, researchers, and enthusiasts from around the globe. As stated by the organising officials, for the 4-day event, more than 5500 Indian delegates and over 350 delegates from 54 countries have registered to participate in the mega event. The event

will feature over 150 scientific sessions and 13 associate events besides plenary sessions.

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush is instrumental in organising the World Ayurveda Congress, underscoring India's commitment to promoting Ayurveda on the global stage. As a key facilitator, the Ministry contributes to advancing knowledge, research, and practices through international collaboration.
- ❖ The WAC is a platform for experts, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in meaningful discussions on Ayurveda's global relevance, scientific validation, and future growth. The Ministry's active involvement highlights Ayurveda's role in promoting holistic health and its potential to contribute to global wellness initiatives.
- ❖ As the 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo unfolds in Dehradun, it will not only celebrate Ayurveda's rich heritage but also chart the path for its future in the global healthcare ecosystem. By bringing together experts, innovators, and stakeholders from around the world, the event serves as a significant milestone in the ongoing global recognition of Ayurveda's transformative potential. With a focus on bridging traditional wisdom with modern technology, the WAC aims to ensure that Ayurveda continues to thrive as a sustainable and holistic healthcare system.

About Uttarakhand

- ❖ Capital:- Dehradun
- ❖ Governor :- Gurmit Singh
- ❖ Chief minister:- Pushkar Singh Dhami

State

Ladakh to host Khelo India Winter Games from Jan 23



About News:-

- ❖ The Khelo India Winter Games dates have been announced. The Union Territory of Ladakh will host the ice events from January 23 to 27, 2025 while the UT of Jammu & Kashmir will host the snow events from February 22 to 25, 2025.
- ❖ The Winter Games will flag off the Khelo India season with the Youth & Para Games scheduled in Bihar in April next year. The Khelo India University games are also on the cards.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Khelo India Winter Games started in 2020. Almost 1000 athletes, including 306 women, took part in the inaugural edition. The participation has increased over the years. More than 1350 athletes in 2021 and 1500-plus in 2022 highlighted the growing attraction of the Games in J&K.
- ❖ The 2024 iteration of KIWG saw the participation of 1200-plus participants including more than 700 athletes, 141 support staff, 113 technical officials, 250-plus volunteer and sports-specific volunteers, and a total of 136 medals at stake.
- ❖ This (2024) was also the first time the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India along with the Sports Authority of India managed the technical conduct of the Games in association with the National Sports Federations and Indian Olympic Association.
- ❖ This will be the second year running that UT Ladakh will host a portion of the Khelo India Winter Games. Before the 2024 edition, J&K used to host all the events. Leh successfully hosted ice events like skating and hockey in February 2024. Gulmarg, like always, hosted the snow events like skiing and snowboarding.

Appointment

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth gets additional charge of the Revenue Department



About News:-

- ❖ With Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra set to take charge as Reserve Bank of India Governor, the government has given the additional charge of the post to Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth.
- ❖ Sanjay Malhotra will take charge as the new RBI governor on Wednesday, as per an official notification from the Department of Personnel and Training.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Seth, a Karnataka cadre bureaucrat from the 1987 batch, assumed the role of economic affairs secretary on April 15, 2021. With a career spanning over 33 years, Seth has worked extensively in public finance and taxation for 18 years. He has also contributed nearly three years each to the social sector and urban transport and infrastructure.
- ❖ Throughout his career, Seth has held several important positions in the Union Government, Karnataka state government, and the Asian Development Bank. He was honoured with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in 2013, as part of the team that helped transform the commercial tax administration in Karnataka.

Defence

Nepali Army chief Sigdel conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army



About News:-

- ❖ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on Suprabal Janasewashree

General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepali Army, at a special Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (December 12, 2024) for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India.

Key Points:-

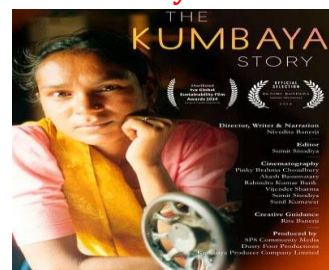
- ❖ There has been a tradition of conferring the title of Honorary General on the Army chiefs of Nepal and India since 1950.
- ❖ General Sigdel commenced a significant visit to India on Tuesday, marking a key step in further strengthening defence ties between the two nations.
- ❖ His visit, which spans from December 11-14, underscores the ongoing efforts to further strengthen and deepen the defence cooperation between Nepal and India.
- ❖ Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel had last month conferred the honorary rank of the General of Nepal Army on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at a special ceremony in Kathmandu.

About Nepal:-

- ❖ Capital:- Kathmandu
- ❖ Currency :- Nepalese rupee
- ❖ PM:- K. P. Sharma Oli

Award

Indian Cinema Shines at the Global Sustainability Film Awards



INDIAN
FILM HISTORY

13th Global
Sustainability
Film Awards 2024

About News:-

- ❖ Indian film "The Kumbaya Story" has bagged a trophy at the 13th Global Sustainability Film Awards held at the iconic BAFTA in London.
- ❖ Produced by the Kumbaya Producer Co. Ltd, the movie clinched the award in the Transforming Society Short Film category at the ceremony last night.

Key Points:-

- ❖ "The Kumbaya Story" narrates the inspiring journey of resilient women who have transformed their lives through the art of weaving, culminating in the establishment of the Kumbaya Producer Company.
- ❖ Also noteworthy is India's entry 'GOBUK-Harmony in the Highlands,' which was shortlisted in the Young Filmmakers category, spotlighting sustainable tourism.

Sport

History made as Gukesh becomes youngest-ever world champion after a last-ditch blunder from Ding Liren

About News:-

- ❖ India's Gukesh D has made history by becoming the youngest world champion in the history of chess.
- ❖ The Indian prodigy achieved this remarkable feat by defeating defending champion Ding Liren in the final game of the Chess World Championship.
- ❖ Gukesh now joins the ranks of legendary Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand as a world champion.
- ❖ At just 18 years old, Gukesh was overcome with emotion and tears of joy as he made history as the youngest chess world champion ever crowned.



Key Points:-

- ❖ In a thrilling 14th game of the championship, Gukesh, playing with the black pieces, outplayed China's Liren in a marathon match. The game seemed to be heading towards a tie, which would have led to a tiebreaker, but Gukesh managed to secure the victory with a score of 7.5-6.5 after 14 games.

- ❖ The match took a dramatic turn when the defending champion made a critical error on move 55 by moving his rook to f2. Ding Liren realized his mistake and was forced to resign, handing the title to Gukesh.

About Gukesh Dommaraju :-

- ❖ Gukesh Dommaraju, also known as Gukesh D, was born in Chennai on May 29, 2006. His father, Dr. Rajinikanth, is an ear, nose, and throat surgeon, while his mother, Dr. Padma, is a microbiologist.
- ❖ Coming from a Telugu family, Gukesh discovered his passion for chess at the age of seven, dedicating one hour, three days a week to practice. His talent quickly caught the attention of his chess instructors, leading him to participate in tournaments on weekends.
- ❖ Gukesh achieved his first notable success at the Under-9 section of the Asian School Chess Championships in 2015. This victory was followed by a win at the World Youth Chess Championships in 2018 in the Under 12 category.
- ❖ At just 12 years old, Gukesh made history by winning five gold medals at the 2018 Asian Youth Chess Championships in various formats. He also earned the title of International Master at the 34th Cappelle-la-Grande Open in March 2017, becoming the third-youngest Grandmaster of all time.
- ❖ In 2023, Gukesh made headlines by becoming the youngest player to reach a rating of 2750. Shortly after, he surpassed Viswanathan Anand as the top-ranked Indian chess player, ending Anand's 37-year reign at the top.
- ❖ The following year, in 2024, Gukesh continued his remarkable journey by becoming the youngest winner of the Candidates tournament, earning a spot in the World Championship against Ding Liren. He also played a crucial role in India's historic victory at the Chess Olympiad, alongside esteemed players such as Arjun Erigaisi, Pentala Harikrishna, R Praggnanandhaa, and Vidit Gujrathi.

Book

Dr. Dinesh Shahra Launches Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness at the Esteemed Library of Tibetan Works & Archives



About News:-

- ❖ Renowned philanthropist, author, and thought leader Dr. Dinesh Shahra launched his highly anticipated book, Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness, at the prestigious Library of Tibetan Works & Archives (LTWA) in Dharamshala.
- ❖ The event marked a significant moment in celebrating the teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the preservation of Tibetan culture.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness delves into the core of His Holiness's teachings on inner peace and universal values. Known for his acclaimed Sanatan Series and as the founder of the Dinesh Shahra Foundation, Dr. Shahra continues his mission to share timeless wisdom and promote sustainable and humanitarian causes for the greater good.
- ❖ This landmark book launch serves as a testament to Dr. Shahra's unwavering commitment to preserving cultural heritage and spreading messages of peace and happiness worldwide.

Obituary

Legendary Gujarati singer Purushottam Upadhyay passes away at 90



About News:-

- ❖ Famous Gujarati singer and composer Purushottam Upadhyay passed away at the age of 90 today (December 11) at his home in Mumbai.
- ❖ Upadhyay was honored with Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar and the Padma Shri, made a lasting impact on the world of music.

Key Points:-

- ❖ He won the hearts of audiences with timeless songs such as 'He Ranglo Jamyo', 'Divaso Judaina Jay Che', 'Ae Jaashe Jarur Milan Sudhi', and 'Kahu Chu Jawanine'. With compositions for over 20 films and 30 plays, Upadhyay's work reached beyond the Gujarat fraternity.
- ❖ Purushottam Upadhyay was born on August 15, 1934, in Kheda, Gujarat. His love for music was from a young age, and he won many awards in school. Later, he moved to Mumbai to pursue a music career.
- ❖ A key moment in his career was when he sang a song originally by Noor Jehan in front of actor Ashraf Khan, which led to collaborations with famous artists and a contract with All India Radio, Mumbai.
- ❖ The singer also managed music events at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

