

International

India & Kuwait sign MoU to establish Joint Commission for Cooperation



About News:-

- ❖ To improve bilateral relations, India and Kuwait have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a Joint Commission for Cooperation at the Foreign Minister level.
- ❖ During the visit of Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya on December 3 and 4, 2024, the two nations signed the Memorandum of Understanding.
- ❖ This was Abdullah Ali Al Yahya's first trip to India as Kuwait's foreign minister.
- ❖ In New Delhi, the foreign minister of Kuwait also had a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Recalling the close historical ties between the two nations, Prime Minister Modi stated that the one million Indian communities residing in Kuwait serve as a solid link between the two nations' peoples.

Kuwait-India Memorandum of Understanding

- ❖ On December 4, 2024, he met with Dr. S. Jaishankar, the Indian External Affairs Minister, in New Delhi, where they talked about both bilateral and global concerns.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two nations to create a Joint Commission for Cooperation at the level of foreign ministers. New Joint Working Groups in the areas of education, investment, trade, agriculture, technology, security, and culture will be formed under the new Memorandum of Understanding.

- ❖ The Joint Commission for Cooperation will serve as an umbrella organization that oversees and evaluates the two nations' relationship as well as the various Joint Working Groups that have been established between them, including those on health, consular issues, and hydrocarbons.

About Kuwait

- ❖ Capital: Kuwait City
- ❖ Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar
- ❖ Emir: Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah

National

Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) New Delhi, India

About News:-

The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is being held from December 4-6, 2024, in New Delhi, India. The conference is hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences, and will feature high-quality oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, and a training workshop focused on applying current satellite data for meteorological and climatological applications.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy, and Minister of State in the Department of Space, is scheduled to inaugurate the conference on December 4, 2024, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Other dignitaries attending the conference include:
- ❖ Dr.M.Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
- ❖ Sh.NileshM.Desai, Director, Space Application Centre(ISRO)
- ❖ Dr.AllenHuang, ChairAOMSUC

- ❖ The first AOMSUC was held in Beijing, China, in 2010. Since then, the conference has been hosted annually in various locations across Asia-Oceania. The AOMSUC has become a premier event for meteorologists, earth scientists, satellite operators, and students from across the region and the globe. The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users 'Conference promises to be a valuable event for all those interested in the use of satellites for weather, climate, and environmental applications.
- ❖ The AOMSUC will be preceded by a two-day international training workshop on the 2nd and 3rd of December at IMD, New Delhi. There will be 70 trainees from different countries, including India.
- ❖ The AOMSUC will be followed by an international coordination meeting of members of the Regional Association (RA)-II and RA-V countries at IMD, New Delhi, on the 7th of December 2024. All these events will help in international coordination and capacity building for the important application of satellite products in weather and climate forecasting and services.

State

International Gita Mahotsav 2024 Inaugurated in Kurukshetra, Haryana



About News:-

- ❖ On December 5, 2024, Bandaru Dattatreya, the governor of Haryana, officially opened the International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra, Haryana. Also in attendance were Arif Muhammad Khan, the governor of Kerala; Lt. General (Retd.) Gurmit Singh, the governor of Uttarakhand; Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini; and Ms. Tabia, the minister of information, youth, and culture for Zanzibar.

- ❖ From November 28 to December 15, 2024, Kurukshetra, Haryana, will host the 2024 International Gita Mahotsav.
- ❖ In Kurukshetra, on the first day of the renowned 18-day war in the Mahabharata, Lord Krishna gave Arjuna the sacred text known as the "Srimad Bhagwat Gita," which is commemorated by the International Gita Mahotsav.

State/Country that is the organizer and partner of the 2024 International Gita Mahotsav

- ❖ In partnership with the Haryana government, the Kurukshetra Development Board of Haryana Tourism organizes the yearly International Gita Mahotsav.
- ❖ Odisha is the state partner this year, and Tanzania, an African nation, is the international partner.

About the Gita Mahotsav's History

- ❖ In 1989, the Haryana government launched the Gita Mahotsav as a religious and cultural celebration for the entire state. It gained popularity over time and drew thousands of visitors from all over India.
- ❖ More than 20 lakh people attended the event in 2016, which was renamed the International Gita Mahotsav by the Haryana government.
- ❖ To popularise the event, a state is chosen as the partner state for the Mahotsav every year. In 2023, Uttarakhand was the partner state.

Maharashtra

Devendra Fadnavis takes oath as Maharashtra CM for third time; allies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar sworn in as deputies



About News:-

- ❖ On December 5, 2024, Devendra Gangadharrao Fadnavis of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in for the third time as Maharashtra's chief minister.

Governor C P Radhakrishnan gave Devendra Fadnavis the oath of office during a ceremony at Mumbai's Azad Maidan. He became the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra, succeeding Shiv Sena ally Eknath Shinde.

- ❖ In addition, 22 chief ministers from states run by the BJP and its allies, as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top ministers from his cabinet, attended the event.
- ❖ Previously, the 132-member BJP Legislative Party declared its intention to establish the state's administration and elected Devendra Fadnavis as its leader.
- ❖ The swearing-in of two deputy chief ministers
- ❖ Two deputy chief ministers, Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party and Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena, were also sworn in with Devendra Fadnavis.
- ❖ Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis served as deputy chief ministers in the preceding administration, with Eknath Shinde serving as chief minister.
- ❖ After Manohar Joshi of the Shiv Sena, Devendra Fadnavis is the second Brahmin to serve as Maharashtra's chief minister.

About Devendra Fadnavis

- ❖ Devendra Fadnavis was born in July 1970 in Nagpur in a Maharashtrian Chitpawan Brahmin family.
- ❖ At the age of 22, he became a corporator in Nagpur. At the age of 27 in 1997, he became the youngest mayor of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation and the second-youngest mayor in the country
- ❖ Arya Rajendra became the youngest mayor in India when she became the Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation, Kerala, at the age of 21 in 2000.
- ❖ Fadnavis was first elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 1999 and has been elected consecutively for 5 consecutive terms.
- ❖ At 44, Fadnavis became the second youngest Chief Minister of Maharashtra after Sharad

Pawar, who became the Chief Minister at 38 in 1988.

- ❖ Devendra Fadnavis became the Maharashtra Chief Minister for the first time on 31 October 2014 and remained till 2019.
- ❖ After the 2019 Legislative Assembly election, he was sworn in for the second time on 22 November 2019 but resigned on 26 November 2024.

Economic

Bank of India to Issue Additional Rs 5,000 Crore in Infrastructure Bonds



About News:

- ❖ The Bank of India (BoI) intends to issue infrastructure bonds in order to raise an extra Rs 5,000 crore.
- ❖ The bond's issue aligns with the existing trends of low interest rates.

Key Points:

- ❖ Previous Infrastructure Bond Issues: In November 2024, the Bank of India issued a 10-year infrastructure bond with a 7.41% interest rate, raising Rs 5,000 crore.
- ❖ The bank raised an additional Rs 5,000 crore earlier in July 2024 with a similar bond issue but at a little higher coupon rate of 7.54%.
- ❖ The BoI has raised a total of Rs 10,000 crore through two infrastructure bond tranches.
- ❖ Because infrastructure bonds are exempt from regulatory reserve requirements like the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), banks find them especially appealing.
- ❖ In FY25, commercial banks are anticipated to raise more than Rs 1 trillion through infrastructure bonds, which is almost twice as much as they raised in FY24.
- ❖ This year, a number of other public sector banks have also raised sizeable sums through infrastructure bonds, including the State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Canara Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, and Indian Bank.

- ❖ Similar to SBI's recruitment of MS Dhoni in 2023, Bank of India has strengthened its brand association by appointing cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar as its Global Brand Ambassador for a three-year term.

About BoI :

- ❖ Established: 7 September 1906
- ❖ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- ❖ MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak

Appointment

Justice Manmohan Appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court

About News:-

As on the day he takes office, Justice Manmohan, the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India.



Important Points:

- ❖ The appointment was made in accordance with Article 124(2) of the Indian Constitution, which gives the President the authority to name justices of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ After Justice Manmohan was promoted, Justice Vibhu Bakhru, the Delhi High Court's senior-most puisne judge, was named the court's Acting Chief Justice.
- ❖ With Justice Manmohan's appointment, the Supreme Court now has 33 judges, one less than its whole authorized strength.
- ❖ On November 28, 2024, the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Manmohan for a Supreme Court judgeship.
- ❖ Justice Hima Kohli and Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, retired, leaving two vacancies in the Supreme Court.

Concerning Justice Manmohan:

- ❖ Justice Manmohan was the seniormost judge in the Delhi High Court when he was promoted, and he currently ranks second overall among High Court judges in India.

- ❖ He became the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court on September 29, 2024, after being appointed as a judge on March 13, 2008.

Defence

U.S. approves \$1.17 billion deal for support systems for MH-60R helicopters



About News:

- ❖ Under its Foreign Military Sales program, the United States (US) has authorized a potential \$1.17 billion agreement to provide India MH-60R multi-role helicopter support equipment.
- ❖ The agreement strengthens India's defense capabilities, which are essential to its national security, especially in the areas of maritime and anti-submarine warfare.

Key Points:

- ❖ MH-60R Helicopters: In February 2020, India signed a \$2.2 billion contract with Lockheed Martin for 24 MH-60R helicopters.
- ❖ To date, India's armed forces have received nine helicopters.
- ❖ Equipment Requested: As part of this agreement, India has asked to buy 30 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS-JTRS).
- ❖ Capabilities Improvement: By enhancing India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the deal seeks to increase its capacity to fend against present and potential threats.
- ❖ lead Contractor: Lockheed Martin will serve as the deal's lead contractor; any offset arrangement will be negotiated further.
- ❖ Other Items in the Sale: A variety of equipment, including sophisticated data transmission systems, external fuel tanks, infrared systems, spare parts, communications equipment, training equipment, and support services, are included in the sale.

- ❖ **Implementation Requirements:** To provide technical support and oversight for the transaction, up to 20 representatives from the US government or 25 representatives from the contractor must travel to India.

Award

Philippines Nurse Maria Victoria Juan Awarded Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024



About News:

The Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024, a distinguished honor that honors outstanding contributions to the nursing profession globally, has been given to nurse Maria Victoria Juan. Maria was selected for this honor because of her exceptional efforts to change the healthcare system, especially in the Philippine Army Health Services and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Her career has been a tribute to perseverance and dedication.

Inspiration and Early Career

Maria's aunt, a trailblazer in military nursing, served as inspiration for her nursing career. Maria's destiny was influenced by her early experience receiving medical care in a military setting, which eventually led her to become a Colonel in the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Force. She currently works as a consultant with the Philippine Army Health Services, where her work has greatly improved the country's healthcare system, particularly in areas of war.

Spearheading Aeromedical Evacuation in the Philippines

- ❖ Leading the establishment of the Philippines' first aeromedical evacuation system is among Maria's most noteworthy accomplishments. By enabling the quick transfer of wounded soldiers to hospitals, this ground-breaking method has

significantly increased survival rates in conflict zones. The program played a key role in improving the nation's emergency response, especially in military environments where prompt medical attention is essential.

- ❖ In addition to saving numerous lives, Maria's groundbreaking work in aeromedical evacuation established new benchmarks for the provision of healthcare in difficult circumstances. As the Chief Nurse of the Philippine Army, a role requiring both leadership and specialized medical knowledge, she oversaw the system's development.

Sport

India lift fifth men's junior hockey Asia Cup title, beat Pakistan 5-3

About News:-

- ❖ In the final of the 11th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024, the Indian Men's Junior Hockey team defeated their bitter foe Pakistan 5-3 to capture the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup championship for an unprecedented fifth time. On December 4, 2024, the 11th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 final took place in Muscat, Oman.
- ❖ The Indian men's hockey team has had a successful season. The men's team from India won the Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in China for a record five times and took home a bronze medal at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.



Unbeaten India wins its 5th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup Title

- ❖ To win its fifth Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup Title, the undefeated Indian squad kept up its perfect record in the competition. Pakistan gained an early lead in the final in Muscat thanks to a goal by Shaid Hannan, the captain, three minutes into the match.

- ❖ In response, India scored four goals from Araiyeet Singh Hundal and one from Dilraj Singh.
- ❖ Despite two more goals from Sufyan Khan, the Pakistani team's attempt at a counterattack was unsuccessful, as India ultimately won the game 5-3.
- ❖ This was the seventh Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup championship for the Indian squad. The Indian team had won the title in 2023, 2015, 2008, and 2004 before to their victory in the 2024 tournament.
- ❖ The title win in Muscat was also a promising start to the career of the legendary former Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh as the Men's Hockey team coach.

Important Day

Mahaparinirvan Diwas – 6 December

About News:-

- ❖ Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed annually on December 6, marks the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (BR Ambedkar), the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The day is an occasion to honor his contributions to social justice, equality, and human rights. Mahaparinirvan, a term from Buddhist traditions, signifies the complete liberation of the soul from the cycle of life and death. Dr. Ambedkar's followers observe this day as a tribute to his relentless efforts to uplift marginalized communities and his role as a champion of social reform.



Mahaparinirvan Diwas Meaning

- ❖ The term "Mahaparinirvan" comes from Buddhist philosophy. It signifies the ultimate state of liberation and freedom from the cycle of birth and death (samsara). It represents the attainment of complete peace and enlightenment.

- ❖ Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed annually on December 6, marks the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution and a leader who championed social justice. The day symbolizes his transition to eternal rest while celebrating his enduring legacy in uplifting marginalized communities and advocating for equality and human rights. It is a day of reflection, respect, and renewal of the commitment to his vision of an inclusive and just society.

