

International

Nepal hosts first International Pashmina Festival



About News:-

- ❖ The first three-day International Pashmina Festival cum Exhibition organised by Nepal Pashmina Industries Association and the Confederation of Nepalese Industries has drawn the attention of consumers towards delicate, lightweight and warm natural fibre obtained from Chyangra or Pashmina goat.
- ❖ Nepal is one of the prominent producers of authentic Pashmina, often branded as "Chyangra Pashmina" to emphasise its high quality and originality.
- ❖ The exhibition, which will run until January 25 showcases Over 150 domestic stalls, with more than 40 stalls showcasing pure Nepali Pashmina.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The production involves traditional weaving methods passed down for generations. In Nepal, genuine Pashmina is often branded as Chyangra Pashmina with a government-certified label.
- ❖ The wool is combed by hand from the undercoat of Pashmina goats during their natural shedding season.
- ❖ The wool is cleaned of impurities and hand-spun into fine threads. Expert artisans use traditional handlooms to create the fabric.
- ❖ Natural dyes are used to colour the fabric, and intricate embroidery is often added for embellishment.

Pashmina products in India:-

- ❖ In India, Pashmina products are created in Ladakh, Jammu, and Kashmir while machine-woven is manufactured in Amritsar and has gained immense popularity worldwide for its softness, warmth, and intricate handwoven designs.
- ❖ The market for Pashmina products faces challenges due to fake and blended pashmina available at cheap rates.

About Nepal:-

- ❖ Capital:- Kathmandu
- ❖ Currency:- Nepalese rupee
- ❖ President:- Ram Chandra Poudel
- ❖ Prime Minister:- K. P. Sharma Oli

National

India hosts 2nd BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation Meeting

About News:-

- ❖ The National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India organized Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation on 21 January 2025 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The First BIMSTEC Experts Group Meeting on Cyber Security was also hosted by India in 2022 at New Delhi.



Key Points:-

- ❖ **The main objective of this BIMSTEC Expert Group meeting:-** is to formulate the Action Plan which will bolster coordination and collaboration amongst the BIMSTEC Member States for strengthening the Cyber Security in the use of ICTs.

- ❖ This Action Plan will cover the mechanisms for the exchange of cyber related information, cybercrime, protection of critical information infrastructures, cyber incident response and international developments related to cyber norms.
- ❖ This Action Plan has been proposed to be implemented within the time frame of 5 years.
- ❖ **Key discussions during the meeting:-** centered around establishing a BIMSTEC CERT-TO-CERT cooperation mechanism, fostering cybercrime cooperation among law enforcement agencies, and conducting capacity-building programs on cyber security. India highlighted its initiatives through the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), including its "Cyber Hygiene for school children" program.
- ❖ The participating nations agreed that implementing the Action Plan would significantly bolster cyber security cooperation within BIMSTEC.
- ❖ This collaborative approach aims to create a more secure and resilient cyber space for all member states.

About BIMSTEC:-

- ❖ Establishment:- 6 June 1997
- ❖ Secretariat:- Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ❖ Chairmanship:- Thailand (since March 2022)
- ❖ Secretary General:- India (since 2023)

Economic

NITI Aayog launches the "Fiscal Health Index 2025" in New Delhi



About News:-

- ❖ The Hon'ble Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, Dr. Arvind Panagariya, launched the inaugural issue of NITI Aayog's report titled "Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025" on 24th January 2025 in New Delhi, in the august presence of Shri Suman Bery, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Dr. Arvind Virmani, Hon. Member, NITI Aayog; Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog; Dr. Anoop Singh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog and other senior officials.
- ❖ The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the fiscal health of 18 major States, based on five key sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability, along with insights into state-specific challenges and areas for improvement.

About Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025:-

- ❖ It is the first report of its kind and released in January 2025 by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ **Aim:** To evolve an understanding of the fiscal health of states in India.
- ❖ **Coverage:** It covers eighteen major states that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's GDP, demography, total public expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.
- ❖ Covers the financial year 2022-23 and assesses states on their contribution to India's GDP, demography, public expenditure, revenues, and fiscal stability.
- ❖ Source used: The report uses data sourced from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to calculate the Fiscal Health Index.
- ❖ The FHI offers a systematic approach to assess the state's fiscal health, identify areas for improvement, and promote best practices across states
- ❖ **Evaluation Parameters:** The FHI is based on five key indicators:

- ❖ Expenditure Quality: Efficiency and focus on developmental spending.
- ❖ Revenue Mobilisation: Tax and non-tax revenue generation capacity.
- ❖ Fiscal Prudence: Ability to manage deficits.
- ❖ Debt Index: Debt levels relative to revenue.
- ❖ Debt Sustainability: Capacity to maintain debt levels without fiscal stress.

About NITI Aayog

- ❖ **Establishment:-** January 1, 2015.
- ❖ **Chairperson:** The Prime Minister.
- ❖ **Vice-Chairperson:** Appointed by the Prime Minister.

Appointment

Janet Petro Becomes NASA's First Female Administrator

About News:-

- ❖ Janet Petro has been appointed as the new administrator of the United States space agency, NASA, making history as the first woman to hold this position. On Monday, January 20, the day he assumed office, President Donald Trump appointed her as NASA's acting administrator.
- ❖ She became the 1st woman to lead NASA since its founding in 1958 and replaced the 14th NASA administrator, Bill Nelson.
- ❖ Currently, she also serves as the 11th Director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC, originally known as the NASA Launch Operations Center) in Florida, USA, and was the 1st woman to hold this position.



About Janet E. Petro:

- ❖ Janet E. Petro is an American Engineer and civil servant known for her impactful career in space exploration and aviation.

- ❖ In 2000, she joined NASA and served as the Deputy Director at the John F. Kennedy Space Center, USA, a position she held until 2019.
- ❖ In 2018, she was selected by the Florida Governor to be inducted into the 'Florida Women's Hall of Fame'.
- ❖ She also served a 12-month appointment as the Deputy Associate Administrator and Acting Director of NASA for the Office of Evaluation.
- ❖ On June 30, 2021, she was appointed as the 11th Director of the John F. Kennedy Space Center, USA by the 14th NASA administrator, Bill Nelson

About National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA):

- ❖ Established- 29 July 1958
- ❖ Headquarters- Washington, District of Columbia (DC), USA

Science & Technology

GalaxEye deploys GLX-SQ payload aboard ISRO's PSLV Orbital Experimental Module

About News:-

- ❖ GalaxEye, a pioneering spacetechnology startup focused on revolutionising satellite-based Earth observation, on Friday announced the successful deployment of its revolutionary GLX-SQ payload aboard Isro's PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) platform.
- ❖ This mission marks the world's 1st-ever integration of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and optical imagery in orbit.
- ❖ This first-of-its-kind integration of SAR and optical imagery addresses critical needs in sectors such as defence, agriculture, and disaster response.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The GLX-SQ payload is designed to generate, capture, and process SAR images in space, completing all image processing and compression within 10 minutes.
- ❖ By reducing 400 megabytes (MB) of raw data to under 1.5 MB, it ensures efficient data transmission and minimizes communication challenges.
- ❖ This fast-paced processing capability underscores the company's cutting-edge approach to real-time data acquisition and management in space.
- ❖ SAR can capture detailed images even through clouds and darkness, providing valuable insights where traditional optical imagery would fall short.
- ❖ This combination enhances Earth observation by offering more reliable and actionable data, in challenging conditions.
- ❖ The GLX-SQ payload was part of ISRO's POEM initiative, which repurposes the 4th stage of the PSLV rocket to carry and support experimental payloads.

About GalaxEye Space Solutions Private Limited:-

- ❖ Incorporated:- 21 May 2021
- ❖ Headquarters:- Chennai, TN
- ❖ CEO:- Suyash Singh

Defence

93 armed forces personnel to receive Gallantry awards



About News:-

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu approved gallantry awards for 93 personnel from the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces, including 11 posthumously, on the eve of the 76th Republic Day.

- ❖ She also approved 58 "Mentioned-in-Despatches" awards for Armed Forces personnel, including four posthumous recognitions.
- ❖ **the gallantry awards:-** include two Kirti Chakras (one posthumous), 14 Shaurya Chakras (three posthumous), one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 66 Sena Medals (seven posthumous), two Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and eight Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- ❖ **Among the recipients, 55 Indian Army personnel will be honoured for various operations:** 14 for Operation Rakshak (four posthumous), eight for Operation Snow Leopard, six for Operation Hifazat, two for Operation Sahayta, and one each for Operations Rhino, Meghdoot, Gurihajan, Mulkhyama, Reconnaissance, Zokhawthar, and Falcon. Four will receive awards for Operation CAS Evacuation. Additionally, three Air Force personnel will be awarded for Operation Sankalp, and 12 will be honored for miscellaneous operations.
- ❖ **President Murmu has also approved 305 defence decorations for Armed Forces personnel and others:** including 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Yudh Seva Medals, one Bar to Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 43 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 15 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), four Bars to Vishisht Seva Medals, and 132 Vishisht Seva Medals.

Award

Padma Awards 2025 announced



About News:-

- ❖ The Centre announced the Padma awards 2025 on the eve of Republic Day, conferring the highest civilian honours to 139 people, including seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri.

Full list of Padma Award winners:**Padma Vibhushan:-**

- ❖ Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy
- ❖ Justice (Retd.) Jagdish Singh Khehar
- ❖ Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia
- ❖ Lakshminarayana Subramaniam
- ❖ MT Vasudevan Nair (Posthumous)
- ❖ Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous)
- ❖ Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)

Padma Bhushan

- ❖ A Surya Prakash
- ❖ Anant Nag
- ❖ Bibek Debroy (Posthumous)
- ❖ Jatin Goswami
- ❖ Jose Chacko Periappuram
- ❖ Kailash Nath Dikshit
- ❖ Manohar Joshi (Posthumous)
- ❖ Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti
- ❖ Nandamuri Balakrishna
- ❖ PR Sreejesh
- ❖ Pankaj Patel
- ❖ Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous)
- ❖ Rambahadur Rai
- ❖ Sadhvi Ritambhara
- ❖ S Ajith Kumar
- ❖ Shekhar Kapur
- ❖ Shobana Chandrakumar
- ❖ Sushil Kumar Modi (Posthumous)
- ❖ Vinod Dham

Padma Shri

- ❖ Advaita Charan Gadanayak
- ❖ Achyut Ramchandra Palav
- ❖ Ajay V Bhatt
- ❖ Anil Kumar Boro
- ❖ Arijit Singh
- ❖ Arundhati Bhattacharya
- ❖ Arunoday Saha
- ❖ Arvind Sharma

- ❖ Ashok Kumar Mahapatra
- ❖ Ashok Laxman Saraf
- ❖ Ashutosh Sharma
- ❖ Ashwini Bhide Deshpande
- ❖ Baijnath Maharaj
- ❖ Barry Godfray John
- ❖ Begam Batool
- ❖ Bharat Gupt
- ❖ Bheru Singh Chouhan
- ❖ Bhim Singh Bhavesh
- ❖ Bhimawa Doddabalappa Shiilekyathara
- ❖ Budhendra Kumar Jain
- ❖ C S Vaidyanathan
- ❖ Chaitram Deochand Pawar
- ❖ Chandrakant Sheth (Posthumous)
- ❖ Chandrakant Sompura
- ❖ Chetan E Chitnis
- ❖ David R Syiemlieh
- ❖ Durga Charan Ranbir
- ❖ Farooq Ahmad Mir
- ❖ Ganeshwar Shastri David
- ❖ Gita Upadhyay
- ❖ Gokul Chandra Das
- ❖ Guruvayur Dorai
- ❖ Harchandan Singh Bhatt
- ❖ Hariman Sharma
- ❖ Harjinder Singh Srinagar Wale
- ❖ Harvinder Singh
- ❖ Hassan Raghu
- ❖ Hemant Kumar
- ❖ Hriday Narayan Dixit
- ❖ Hugh and Colleen Gantzer (Posthumous)
- ❖ Inivalappil Mani Vijayan
- ❖ Jagadish Joshila
- ❖ Jaspinder Narula
- ❖ Jonas Masetti
- ❖ Joynacharan Bathari
- ❖ Jumde Yomgam Gamlin
- ❖ K. Damodaran
- ❖ K L Krishna
- ❖ K Omanakutty Amma
- ❖ Kishore Kunal (Posthumous)
- ❖ L Hangthing
- ❖ Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaier
- ❖ Lalit Kumar Mangotra
- ❖ Lama Lobzang (Posthumous)

- ❖ Libia Lobo Sardesai
- ❖ M D Srinivas
- ❖ Madugula Nagaphani Sarma
- ❖ Mahabir Nayak
- ❖ Mamata Shankar
- ❖ Manda Krishna Madiga
- ❖ Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli
- ❖ Miriyala Apparao (Posthumous)
- ❖ Nagendra Nath Roy
- ❖ Narayan (Bhulai Bhai) (Posthumous)
- ❖ Naren Gurung
- ❖ Neerja Bhatla
- ❖ Nirmala Devi
- ❖ Nitin Nohria
- ❖ Onkar Singh Pahwa
- ❖ P Datchanamoorthy
- ❖ Pandi Ram Mandavi
- ❖ Parmar Lavjibhai Nagjibhai
- ❖ Pawan Goenka
- ❖ Prashanth Prakash
- ❖ Pratibha Satpathy
- ❖ Purisai Kannappa Sambandan
- ❖ R Ashwin
- ❖ R G Chandramogan
- ❖ Radha Bahin Bhatt
- ❖ Radhakrishnan Devasenapathy
- ❖ Ramdarash Mishra
- ❖ Ranendra Bhanu Majumdar
- ❖ Ratan Kumar Parimoo
- ❖ Reba Kanta Mahanta
- ❖ Renthlei Lalrawna
- ❖ Ricky Gyan Kej
- ❖ Sajjan Bhajanka
- ❖ Sally Holkar
- ❖ Sant Ram Deswal
- ❖ Satyapal Singh
- ❖ Seeni Viswanathan
- ❖ Sethuraman Panchanathan
- ❖ Sheikha Shaikha Ali Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
- ❖ Sheen Kaaf Nizam (Shiv Kishan Bissa)
- ❖ Shyam Bihari Agrawal
- ❖ Soniya Nityanand
- ❖ Stephen Knapp
- ❖ Subhash Khetulal Sharma
- ❖ Suresh Harilal Soni

- ❖ Surinder Kumar Vasal
- ❖ Swami Pradiptananda (Kartik Maharaj)
- ❖ Syed AINU Hasan
- ❖ Tejendra Narayan Majumdar
- ❖ Thiyam Suryamukhi Devi
- ❖ Tushar Durgeshbhai Shukla
- ❖ Vadiraj Raghavendracharya Panchamukhi
- ❖ Vasudeo Kamath
- ❖ Velu Assaan
- ❖ Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar
- ❖ Vijay Nityanand Surishwar Ji Maharaj
- ❖ Vijayalakshmi Deshamane
- ❖ Vilas Dangre
- ❖ Vinayak Lohani

About Padma Awards:-

- ❖ Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- ❖ The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- ❖ 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;
- ❖ 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and
- ❖ 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

Sport

Tennis-Sparkling Keys stuns Sabalenka to win maiden Grand Slam title



About News:-

- ❖ American Madison Keys produced an inspired display to dethrone top seed Aryna Sabalenka at the Australian Open and capture her maiden Grand Slam title with a battling 6-3 2-6 7-5 victory in the final on Saturday.
- ❖ The 29-year-old became the fourth-oldest first-time Grand Slam champion
- ❖ in the professional era after Flavia Pennetta, Ann Jones and Francesca Schiavone, and her win ended Sabalenka's bid for a third straight Melbourne Park crown.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Sabalenka made a couple of double faults to drop serve in the opening game and looked off colour in the early exchanges as the free-hitting Keys heaped pressure on the top seed with a dipping crosscourt winner en route to a double break.
- ❖ The American 19th seed rode her luck after a net cord winner and went up 5-1 in 20 minutes before conceding a break with a wayward backhand before Sabalenka gifted her set point with a fourth double fault.
- ❖ Keys, who was hitting much harder than her opponent on both flanks, fired her 11th winner with a backhand down the line to clinch the opening set but Sabalenka began to mix up her game in the next set and sliced her way through to level the match.
- ❖ Both players relied on their powerful serves and shot-making to remain level until 5-5 in the decider but there was one final momentum shift as Keys produced some blistering winners to claim the next two games and the biggest triumph of her career.

Miscellaneous

Technology Dialogue 2025, Bengaluru (January 24-25, 2025)

About News:-

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs announced on Thursday that it will host the inaugural edition of the 'Technology Dialogue' from January 24 to January 25 in Bengaluru.



- ❖ The dialogue will take place in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- ❖ **Theme:-** "Exploring New Frontiers in Technology Diplomacy."

Key Points:-

- ❖ Notably, this is the first Track 1.5 Dialogue of its kind, focusing on technology policy and partnerships.
- ❖ The MEA noted that over the course of the Dialogue, senior policymakers, industry leaders, scientists, and scholars will deliberate on key issues relating to the technology domain, including India's international technology engagements, leveraging strategic partnerships on critical and emerging technologies, with a focus on developments in Quantum Advancements, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductors, Space, and Bioeconomy.
- ❖ the Dialogue will build on the growing trend seen in global leadership-level summits such as the G20, GPAI, and ICET, which highlight the increasing importance of technology on the agendas of major international forums and bilateral engagements.

Important Day

International Customs Day – 26 January



About Day:-

- ❖ Annually held on January 26, International Customs Day (ICD) is observed globally to celebrate the role of customs officials in security, trade compliance, and major anti-smuggling achievements.
- ❖ Customs agencies are tasked with a multitude of responsibilities, including the inspection and clearance of goods, collection of tariffs, prevention of smuggling, and enforcement of trade laws.
- ❖ **The theme for International Customs Day 2025 is "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security and Prosperity".**

History:-

- ❖ The WCO was initially called Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), it was established to improve cooperation among customs administrations worldwide. Its main goal is to make customs procedures more efficient and effective, which helps promote international trade and security.
- ❖ Since 1983, International Customs Day is observed annually to raise awareness about the important contributions of customs authorities. The day provides an opportunity for customs organizations across the world to reflect on their achievements, share best practices, and set new goals for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of customs procedures. Over the years, International Customs Day has evolved into a platform for encouraging international collaboration and enhancing the security of global trade.

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