

International

India surpasses China to become Russia's top oil buyer in July



About News:-

Based on a comparison of import data, India surpassed China as the world's largest importer of Russian oil in July as Chinese refiners reduced their purchases due to decreased fuel production profit margins.

India's total imports are:-

According to data on Indian shipments from trade and industry sources, Russian oil accounted for 44% of India's total imports last month, reaching a record 2.07 million barrels per day (bpd), 4.2% more than in June and 12% more than a year ago. According to Chinese customs data, China's 1.76 million barrels per day of oil imports from Russia through pipelines and ships in July exceeded China's.

The need for Russian oil in India:-

Following the imposition of sanctions by Western nations on Moscow and the suspension of their energy purchases in reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Indian refiners have been gorged on discounted Russian oil. According to an Indian refining source, "India's requirement for Russian oil is going to go up as long as there are no further tightening of sanctions."

India and Russia's trade:-

Since Russia started its war against Ukraine in February 2022, commerce between India and Russia has expanded, primarily as a result of imports of oil and fertilizer, which have helped to keep a lid on world prices and contain inflation.

India's increasing consumption:-

The movement of Russian ESPO Blend crude from traditional Chinese clients to South Asia is shifting due to India's increasing imports. The data indicates that the usage of larger Suezmax vessels caused ESPO imports to India to increase to 188,000 bpd in July.

China's demand has declined:-

Due to their proximity, refiners in northeastern China are usually the largest purchasers of ESPO; but, due to the low gasoline demand, their demand has decreased.

India's OPEC-member imports:

- ❖ Last month, Iraq remained India's second-largest oil supplier, after the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ According to data, India's purchases of oil from the Middle East increased by 4% in July, increasing the region's share of the country's overall mix to 40% from 38% in June.

National

Health Ministry to set up a national task force for the security of healthcare professionals

About News:-

- ❖ The Indian government's Ministry of Health and Family Affairs has released an office order establishing the composition of the 14-member National Task Force for Medical Professional Safety, which was established by the Supreme Court on August 20, 2024.
- ❖ National Task Force will be chaired by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, according to an office order issued by the government on August 21, 2024.
- ❖ A postgraduate trainee physician at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College is accused of being murdered and sexually assaulted on August 9, 2024, while she was on duty. The Supreme Court suo motto began considering the issue after doctors across the country staged massive demonstrations.
- ❖ The National Task Force was established to recommend safety measures for medical practitioners in the nation by the three-member bench led by Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud.
- ❖ The National Task Force's whole cost will be covered by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Participants in the National Task Force:-

- ❖ The nine distinguished physicians recommended by the Supreme Court are part of the task force's 14 members.
- ❖ The Home Secretary and Health Secretary are members of the task group led by the Cabinet Secretary of the Government of India. It also consists of the president of the National Board of Examinations and the chairperson of the National Medical Commission.
- ❖ Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, Director of General Medical Services (Navy), and Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences are among the distinguished medical professionals on the task team. Dr. M. Srinivas is the chairman and managing director of the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals in Hyderabad. Dr. Dageshwar Reddy is the dean of Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals in Mumbai. Dr. Pallavi Saple is the director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru. Dr. Pratima Murthy is the executive director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Jodhpur. Dr. Goverdhan Dutt Puri is the chairperson of the Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi. Professor Anita Saxena is the chairperson of neurology at Paras Health Gurugram. Padma Srivastava, Doc.

The National Task Force's role is to:

- ❖ The national task force is expected to recommend the following, per the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Action taken to stop violence against medical workers in general (including interns, residents, senior residents, physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel),
- ❖ safe and respectable working environments for medical personnel,
- ❖ anything else about the practice of medicine.

Sending in the Report:

- ❖ Within three weeks of submitting its suggested action plan, the National Task Force is required to produce an interim report; the final report is due in two months.
- ❖ J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare

State

Singapore-based Sembcorp to invest ₹36,238 crore for state-of-the-art green ammonia plant in Thoothukudi



About News:-

Sembcorp Industries, a Singaporean company, plans to invest Rs 36,238 crore to build a green hydrogen/green ammonia production facility in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (TN). The first state in India to start producing huge amounts of green hydrogen molecules for sale will be TN.

Concerning the Facility:-

- ❖ TN Chief Minister (CM) M.K. Stalin (Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin) set the unit's foundation stone on August 21, 2024, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, during the Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave 2024.
- ❖ Initially, 200,000 metric tons of green ammonia would be produced annually at the 160-acre complex for export to Japan.
- ❖ Sembcorp and to develop this facility signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) earlier during the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024.

The 2024 Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave:-

- ❖ With a total investment of Rs 51,157 crore, the CM laid the foundation for 28 industrial projects and inaugurated 19 more, comprising an investment of Rs 17,616 crore, making 47 projects in all.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government, in collaboration with TATA Technologies, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO), and others, plans to invest Rs 400 crore to create the Tamil Nadu Engineering and Innovations Centre (TN ENGINE) in Coimbatore.

Economic

LIC Housing launches home loan scheme for armed forces at 8.4% rate

About News:-

- ❖ 'Griha Rakshak' is a unique house loan program designed exclusively for the Indian armed services, offered by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL).
- ❖ Both active-duty and retired soldiers are eligible for reduced interest rates and benefits.



Concerning the Griha Rakshak Plan:-

- ❖ The Griha Rakshak initiative allows eligible candidates with a Credit Information Bureau India Limited (CIBIL) score of 750 or higher to qualify for home loans. Up to Rs 2 crore in loans are available at an affordable 8.4% annual interest rate.
- ❖ In addition, the LIC HFL has waived the processing fees for this loan as part of the limited-time offer.
- ❖ This limited-time deal will expire on September 30, 2024.
- ❖ All current and former members of the Indian Army (IA), Indian Navy (IN), Indian Air Force (IAF), Indian Coast Guard (ICG), and paramilitary forces are eligible for this offer.

About LIC Housing Finance Limited(LIC HFL):

- ❖ Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) - T. Adhikari
- ❖ Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Incorporated - 1989

Appointment

Rajesh Nambiar appointed Nasscom president-designate, succeeds Ghosh



About News:-

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has named Rajesh Nambiar as its president-designate. Debjani Ghosh, whose term expires in November 2024, is being replaced. Nambiar has resigned as Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India as a result of this appointment. With a wealth of industry expertise that includes executive positions at TCS, IBM, Ciena, and Cognizant, he is well-positioned to lead India's tech sector into its next stage of expansion.

Nambiar's Perspective:-

As the sector prepares to shift to AI-first businesses, Nambiar shared his excitement about leading NASSCOM and emphasized the value of people, growth, and investment in R&D and intellectual property creation.

What Debjani Ghosh Has Contributed:

Ghosh emphasized how crucial NASSCOM was in forming India's leadership in the global tech sector and expressed optimism about Nambiar's potential to take the organization even higher.

Challenges facing the search committee and industry:

The appointment came about as a consequence of a search committee headed by WNS Group CEO Keshav R. Murugesh, who looked for someone who could hasten India's digital transformation. Nambiar assumes leadership at a pivotal juncture in the IT services sector, as it confronts obstacles from a swiftly changing technological terrain and a decelerating global expenditure on tech services.

Award

Ram Charan was awarded 'Ambassador of Indian Arts and Culture' at Melbourne's Indian Film Festival

About News:-

The renowned title of "Ambassador of Indian Arts and Culture" was bestowed upon Indian actor Konidela Ram Charan Tej, who primarily works in Telugu cinema, at the 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM 2024), which took place at the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda, Melbourne, Australia.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The Victorian Government of Australia supported and produced IFFM 2024, which took place from August 15–25, 2024.
- ❖ During the IFFM 2024, Ram Charan not only served as the Guest of Honour but also raised the Indian national flag in Melbourne's famous Federation Square.
- ❖ IFFM was founded in 2010 to showcase the vast diversity and inventiveness of Indian cinema. The festival screens everything from Bollywood productions to films in regional languages.

Sport

CEAT Cricket Rating Awards celebrates the 26th edition of honouring cricketing excellence across the Globe

About News:-

- ❖ On August 21, 2024, in a Mumbai ceremony, Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma received the 26th CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award.
- ❖ One of cricket's most esteemed accolades is the CEAT Cricket accolades. It honors cricket players' extraordinary achievements across the globe.
- ❖ The RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres is the sponsor of the CEAT Cricket Awards, which were first held in 1995–96. The players' 2023–24 cricketing session performance is considered for the 26th CEAT Award.



Award for Men's International Cricket Player of the Year:

- ❖ Rohit Sharma, the captain of the Indian cricket team, received recognition for his outstanding 2023–24 season performance. India advanced to the 13th ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup final under his guidance, although they were defeated by Australia.
- ❖ Around 1800 international runs were scored by Rohit throughout this time, with 597 of those runs coming at the 13th ODI World Cup.

- ❖ Rohit Sharma was the second-highest run scorer in the World Cup, behind fellow Indian Virat Kohli.

The year's best ODI batsman is Virat Kohli:

- ❖ Best ODI Batter of the Year went to Virat Kohli, who had an outstanding season in One Day Internationals (ODI).
- ❖ Kohli scored 1377 runs in the 2023–24 season, including six hundreds and eight fifties. With 765 runs at an average of 95.62 during the 2023 ODI World Cup, Kohli was the top scorer.
- ❖ Kohli tied Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most hundreds in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) during the World Cup. Virat Kohli has broken Tendulkar's record with 50 ODI hundreds.

Rahul Dravid's Lifetime Achievement Award:

- ❖ The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to the former captain of India's cricket team as well as the team's coach.
- ❖ The Indian squad that defeated South Africa in the final of the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Barbados was coached by Rahul Dravid, popularly known as the Wall.

Complete List of the Winners of the 2023-24 CEAT Cricket Award

- ❖ Lifetime Achievement Award: Rahul Dravid
- ❖ International Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma

Performance in Test Match (Men's)

- ❖ Test Batter of the Year: Yashashvi Jaiswal
- ❖ Test Bowler of the Year: Ravichandran Ashwin

Performance in ODI (Men's)

- ❖ The batter of the Year: Virat Kohli
- ❖ Bowler of the Year: Mohammad Shami

Performance in T20 (Men's)

- ❖ Batter of the Year: Phil Salt (England)
- ❖ Bowler of the Year: Tim Southee (New Zealand)

Performance in Domestic Cricket (Men)

- ❖ Cricketer of the Year: Sai Kishore. Left-arm spinner from Tamil Nadu.

Best Indian Women cricketer

- ❖ Batter of the Year: Smriti Mandhana
- ❖ Bowler of the Year: Deepti Sharma

Memento

- ❖ Most matches as a captain in Women's T20I history: Harmanpreet Kaur
- ❖ Outstanding Leadership in TATA IPL: Shreyas Iyer
- ❖ Fastest Double Century in Women's Test Match: Shafali Verma

Other Award

- ❖ Excellence in Sports Administration: BCCI Secretary Jay Shah

MOU

Sri Lanka and India Collaborate on LNG Infrastructure Development for Power Generation

About News:-

- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the governments of Sri Lanka and India's Petronet LNG Limited, a state-run company, to build essential infrastructure for the storage, regasification, and supply of LNG to power plants in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ At a ceremony attended by India's Deputy High Commissioner, Satyanjal Pandey, and Sri Lanka's Minister of Power and Energy, Kanchana Wijesekera, this historic deal was formalized.



Important Elements of the Memorandum of Understanding:

Overview of the Partnership:

- ❖ The parties to the arrangement are Petronet LNG Limited of India and LTL Holdings Limited of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The goal is to build the infrastructure required for the Sobadhanavi Combined Cycle Power Plant, which is situated north of Colombo in Kerawalapitiya.

Development of Infrastructure:

The implementation of storage facilities and a regasification unit at Kerawalapitiya, along with

the provision of LNG to several power plants, such as the Yugadhanavi and Sobadhanavi power plants, are all covered by the MoU.

Transformation of Clean Energy:

- ❖ By 2026, Minister Wijesekera emphasized, it is anticipated that this project will lower the cost of energy generated through thermal power generation.
- ❖ It will also promote the development of a domestic LNG market, stabilize the grid for the integration of renewable energy, and aid in the nation's transition to clean energy.

LNG Provision and Execution:

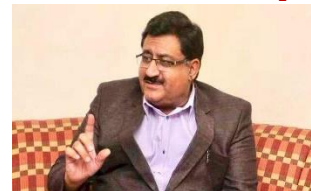
- ❖ An eighteen-month initiative to ease the supply of LNG via ISO containers from Petronet LNG's Kochi Terminal in India to the Port of Colombo and Kerawalapitiya is outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- ❖ This will enable Sri Lankan LNG power stations with a maximum capacity of 1,000 MW.

Power Plant in Sobadhanavi:

- ❖ For Sri Lanka, the 350 MW LNG-based Combined Cycle Power Plant in Sobadhanavi is a historic undertaking. When it is put into service, it will be the nation's biggest Independent Power Producer (IPP) and the first LNG-powered power plant.
- ❖ This project is a big step toward using greener energy sources instead of traditional thermal power.

Obituary

Former CSIR chief Girish Sahni passes away



About News:-

On August 19, 2024, at the age of 68, Dr. Girish Sahni, the former director-general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), departed from this life. The Hindu was informed by sources that a heart attack was the reason for death. At 5:40 p.m. on the same day, CSIR posted on X (previously Twitter) to express its condolences.

The scientific journey and its accomplishments:
Early Career and Ascent to Leadership Positions

When Dr. Sahni joined the Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) in Chandigarh in 1991, his involvement with the CSIR commenced. Due to his commitment and experience, he was appointed director of IMTECH in 2005. He remained in this capacity until 2015 when he was promoted to director-general of CSIR.

Novel Approaches to Treating Blood Clots

- ❖ Dr. Sahni gained notoriety for his studies on blood clots and the creation of medications known as "clot busters." Among his noteworthy accomplishments are:
- ❖ creation of clot-specific streptokinase, which in 2006 was licensed for \$5 million to Nostrum Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey.
- ❖ leading groups that produced the first homegrown clot-buster medication in India, called "STPase," which is distributed by Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- ❖ creation of recombinant streptokinase, which is sold under the brand names LupiFlo and Klotbuster.

CSIR Director-General Tenure: Difficulties and Disputations

The Debate Around BGR-34

- ❖ A product known as BGR-34, created by two Lucknow-based CSIR laboratories, was questioned in 2016. Prime Minister Narendra Modi commended the substance for its purported anti-diabetic qualities, but because it had not been subjected to scientific testing, leading scientists questioned CSIR's ethical responsibilities.

Reforms and Financial Difficulties Throughout his career, Dr. Sahni faced serious financial problems:

- ❖ The Union government gave CSIR instructions in 2015 to begin covering half of its costs in two to three years.
- ❖ With only ₹202 crore available for new research projects out of a ₹4,063 crore budget allocation, the CSIR announced a financial emergency by 2017.
- ❖ Dr. Sahni took the following actions to boost income:

- ❖ assembling a "technology basket" that the industry can license
- ❖ requiring stakeholders to pay a portion of the expenses associated with new initiatives
- ❖ establishing a goal to generate ₹1,000 crore in income annually by 2017
- ❖ Despite these obstacles, the financial position improved by 2018, with ₹475 crore in average yearly sales between 2014 and 2018.

Honors and Legacy

- ❖ The scientific contributions made by Dr. Sahni were well acknowledged:
- ❖ Being a member of the three main scientific academies in India
- ❖ winning candidate for the 2002 National Biotechnology Product Development Award
- ❖ CSIR Technology Shield recipient (2001–2002)

Recipient of the 2014 Vigyan Rattan Award

- ❖ Despite financial limitations, he oversaw organizational transformation and scientific innovation throughout his tenure as CSIR director-general, which ended in August 2018.
- ❖ With Dr. Girish Sahni's death, an era in Indian scientific research—particularly in the areas of drug development and biotechnology—has come to an end. His contributions to the treatment of blood clots and his leadership at CSIR during difficult times will be regarded as important turning points in India's scientific history.

Important Day

Nation to celebrate first 'National Space Day 2024' on August 23



About News:-

- ❖ On August 23, 2024, the nation will observe its inaugural National Space Day to honor its outstanding prowess and accomplishments in space. Beginning on November 21, 1963, with the launch of a sounding rocket from Thumba, Kerala, the Indian space program

has advanced to the point where it can now send rockets to explore other planets like Mars (Mangalyaan Mission) and the Sun (Aditya mission), as well as land rovers on moons. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the flag bearer of the Indian Space Programme, is regarded as one of the top space agencies globally.

The initial National Space Day (2024) theme is:

- ❖ The theme of the inaugural National Space Day in 2024 is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga."

The history of National Space Day:

- ❖ In observance of the landing of the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander on the moon's south pole, the Indian government declared August 23 to be National Space Day.
- ❖ India was the first nation to set foot on the moon's south pole and the fourth nation to land a rover there, following the Soviet Union, China, and the United States of America.
- ❖ On August 23, 2023, at 18:04 Indian time, the Vikram lander touched down on the moon's surface at 69.37 degrees South latitude and 32.35 degrees East longitude.

Mission Chandrayaan-3:-

- ❖ On July 14, 2023, ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission using a GSLV—Mark III (LVM-3) heavy-lift rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Pragyan, a rover, and Vikram, a lander, were aboard the spacecraft.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan -3 mission lacked an orbiter to circle the moon, in contrast to the Chandrayaan -2 mission.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was anticipated to cost Rs 615 crore.
- ❖ With a payload of little over 1,700 kg, the 2-meter-tall Vikram transported the 26-kg lunar rover Pragyan to the moon's surface.
- ❖ The lunar rover Among the several investigations Pragyaan carried out was a spectrometer study of the mineral makeup of the lunar surface.
- ❖ After being placed on the lunar surface, the Pragyan rover spent the following ten Earth

days traveling around 103 meters to investigate the surrounding area. One Lunar Day is equivalent to fourteen Earth Days.

