

International

UN human rights team to visit Bangladesh to investigate human rights violations

About News :-

The UN human rights team is scheduled to visit Dhaka the next week to address investigations into human rights breaches during the recent upheaval in Bangladesh with the interim administration of that country.



Key Points :-

- ❖ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk discussed with Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus a wide range of support that the UN Human Rights Office could provide to the interim government and the transition, including on accountability issues, according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq.
- ❖ In light of the recent violence and turmoil, the delegation visiting Bangladesh will talk about areas of support and the procedures for looking into possible human rights abuses with the interim administration, according to Haq. In a statement released in Geneva, Turk stated that a thorough, unbiased, and open investigation into all cases of abuses and violations of human rights would be an essential first step.

Problems facing Bangladesh:-

Following Sheikh Hasina's departure as prime minister last week, there have been attacks throughout Bangladesh on Hindus and their temples, according to a report from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva.

About the UNCHR, or United Nations Commission on Human Rights:-

- ❖ From 1946 until its replacement by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2006, the United Nations body on Human Rights (UNCHR) served as a functional body inside the larger framework of the United Nations.

- ❖ The UN General Assembly decisively decided on March 15, 2006, to establish the UN Human Rights Council in place of UNCHR.

National

Govt launches geospatial decision support system for agriculture



About News :-

- ❖ At a conference on "Space-Driven Solutions for Agricultural Transformation in India" held by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi, on August 16, 2024, Minister of State (MOS) Bhagirath Choudhary of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) launched the Krishi-Decision Support System (DSS), a digital geospatial platform.
- ❖ The occasion was a part of the Department of Space's August 2024 nationwide celebrations honoring the inauguration of National Space Day on August 23 and the triumph of the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Key Points :-

- ❖ The most recent developments in satellite remote sensing and geospatial technologies for precision farming, crop monitoring, disaster relief, and soil health were showcased during the conference.
- ❖ In order to hasten the implementation of space technology in agriculture, emphasis was placed on cooperation between the public and private sectors as well as academia.
- ❖ The occasion emphasized how crucial it is to develop user-friendly solutions and capacity-building initiatives to guarantee that space technology helps farmers right down to the local level.

Concerning Krishi-DSS:-

- ❖ This innovative geospatial technology, designed specifically for Indian agriculture, gives users access to information on soil health, groundwater levels, reservoir storage, satellite photos, and meteorological data.
- ❖ It has sophisticated modules for all-encompassing agriculture management, such as crop weather watch, drought monitoring, and crop mapping.
- ❖ The platform provides real-time data on crop status, soil moisture, and weather impacts, and it analyzes crop rotation practices to assist sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ Several data sources are integrated by Krishi-DSS to create solutions that are focused on farmers.

State

Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar to inaugurate the 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur

About News :-

On August 17, 2024, in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, the 17th Divya Kala Mela was officially opened by Dr. Virendra Kumar, the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment in the Government of India. Vishnu Deo Sai, the chief minister of Chhattisgarh, was also present on the event.



Key Points :-

- ❖ The Indian government launched the Divya Kala Mela in 2022 with the goal of giving disabled (Divyang) artists access to markets for their goods, so enabling them to become economically independent. It also seeks to develop their abilities.
- ❖ The Raipur Mela is the 17th in a series of Divya Kala Melas that have been held in different places throughout the nation since 2022.

- ❖ Speaking at the event, Dr. Virendra Kumar stated that if the state government grants land for the project, his ministry will establish a Divyangjan park in Raipur. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai, accepted the idea and declared that the state government will set aside five acres of land in Raipur for the purpose.

About the Divya Kala Mela on the 17th :-

- ❖ The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, is organizing the 17th Divya Kala Mela.
- ❖ The week-long Mela is scheduled for August 16, 2024, through August 23, 2024.
- ❖ Over 100 Divyang craftsmen, artists, and business owners from about 20 States and Union Territories will have a stage at the 17th Divya Kala Mela to showcase their goods to the public, including packaged meals, eco-friendly products, apparel, home decor, and lifestyle items.
- ❖ Job fairs and loan melas are also organized by Divya Kala Shakti to encourage the Divyangjan people's economic empowerment. This will make it easier for the Divyangjan to get lower-interest loans to grow their companies.

Economic

Punjab National Bank Introduces Braille Debit Card for Visually Impaired Customers

About News :-

- ❖ The PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card is a brand-new debit card that Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced especially for its visually impaired clientele.
- ❖ The RuPay network offers this contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) Debit Card.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Eligibility: This debit card can be obtained from any nearby PNB branch by visually challenged people who have current or savings accounts with the bank.

- ❖ Transaction Limits : .The total daily limitations for PoS and eCom are Rs 60,000, while the ATM limit (cash withdrawal) is Rs 25,000.
- ❖ Contactless Transactions: At NFC-capable POS Terminals, contactless transactions are available for individual transactions up to Rs. 5000/-without a PIN, with a daily cap of Rs. 5000.
- ❖ Raised dots are used to represent the alphabet's letters in the Braille system, which is a touch reading and writing method for the blind.

About PNB :-

- ❖ Established :- 19 May 1894
- ❖ Headquarters :- Delhi, India
- ❖ MD &CEO :- Atul Kumar Goel

Appointment

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved multiple high-level appointments across several ministries and departments

About News :-

A number of high-level administrative appointments in different major ministries and departments were also authorized by the ACC. Senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) personnel make up each appointment.



ACC

Appointments Committee of Cabinet

Newly Appointed Secretaries :-

- ❖ Cabinet Secretary - Rajiv Gauba. It is the highest administrative post in the central government.
- ❖ Home Secretary - Ajay Bhalla
- ❖ Foreign Secretary - Vikram Misri
- ❖ Officer on Special Duty in Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence- Rajesh Kumar Singh. He will be the Secretary of Defence after the retirement of current Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane on the 31st of October 2024. His tenure has been extended

up to 31st October 2026, beyond the age of superannuation.

- ❖ Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs- Deepti Gaur Mukherjee
- ❖ Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs- Katikithala Srinivas
- ❖ Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs- Chandra Sekhar Kumar
- ❖ Secretary, Department of Financial Service, Ministry of Finance - Nagaraju Maddirala.
- ❖ Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance - Manoj Govil
- ❖ Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training- Vivek Joshi
- ❖ Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce- Amardeep Singh Bhatia.
- ❖ Officer on Special Duty, Department of Health and Family Welfare—Punya Salila Srivastava. She will take over as the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare after the current secretary, Apurva Chandra, retires on 30 September.
- ❖ Officer on Special Duty to the President of India- Deepti Umashankar. She will take over as Secretary to the President upon the superannuation of Rajesh Verma on the 31st of August 2024.

Science & Technology

India shines at the 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad



About News :-

The Indian student team has bagged multiple prestigious medals at the 17th edition of the International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO) held in Beijing, China, from August 08-16, 2024. The four-membered Indian team comprising students from Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan have won three gold and bronze each and two silver medals across three competition categories (Theory and Practical, Earth System Project, and International Team Filed Investigation).

Key Points :-

- ❖ India has participated in the IESO since 2007 and hosted its 10th edition in Mysore. This year, the 17th IESO witnessed teams from 35 countries, of which 32 made it to the finals. Competitions were across four categories: Theory and Practical, Earth Science Project, International Team Field Investigation, and Data Mining.
- ❖ To encourage the participation of Indian students (of grades 9 to 12), the MoES supports the Indian National Earth Science Olympiad (INESO) held in various schools across India. The INESO is a national-level prelude to the IESO, Facilitated annually by the Geological Society of India in collaboration with MoES and select educational bodies in the country. The topics for assessment for students include geology, meteorology, oceanography, and environmental sciences. Top-performing participants from INESO get to represent India at the IESO, which also receives support from the MoES.
- ❖ The MoES supports the INESO and IESO as part of the REACHOUT scheme under the PRITHVI (PRITHvi Vigyan) scheme approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2024. The scheme's goal is to improve understanding of Earth system sciences through research and development activities and to provide reliable services to the country.

Defence

IAF & Indian Army carry out first precise para-drop of critical health care unit at high altitude

About News :-

- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Army have jointly carried out a first-of-its-kind precise para-drop operation of the Aarogya Maitri Health Cube at a high-altitude area close to 15,000 feet.
- ❖ These critical trauma care cubes have been indigenously developed under Project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).



- ❖ The operation was conducted in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of providing critical supplies to Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) affected areas.

Key Points :-

- ❖ The IAF utilised its advanced tactical transport aircraft C-130J Super Hercules to airlift and precisely para-drop the cube.
- ❖ The Indian Army's Para Brigade, known for its operational acumen and agility, played an instrumental role in the successful deployment of the trauma care cube, utilising their advanced precision drop equipment.
- ❖ This demonstration underscored the capability of such specialised military assets to effectively support HADR operations, even in the most remote and mountainous regions.

Sport

India name Bhagyashree Jadhav and Sumit Antil as flag bearers for Paralympics

About News :-

- ❖ Para-athletes Sumit Antil and Bhagyashree Jadhav, who both won gold medals in the Tokyo Paralympics, have been selected by the Paralympic Committee of India to represent their country at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, set for August 28, 2024.
 - ❖ The seventeenth Summer Paralympics for athletes with disabilities will happen in Paris, France, from August 28, 2024, to September 8, 2024.
 - ❖ The Summer and Winter Paralympic Games are coordinated by the International Paralympic Committee.
- The Paralympics are held soon after the Summer Olympics end, starting with the Beijing Summer Olympics in 2008. The 33rd Summer Olympics concluded in Paris on August 11, 2024.



Indian Flagbearer at the Ceremonial Start:-

- ❖ Similar to the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games feature two flag bearers—a male and a female—during the opening and closing ceremonies.

- ❖ The Paralympian Sumit Antil and Paralympian Bhagyashri Jadhav will carry the flags during the 2024 Paris Paralympic opening ceremony.
- ❖ At the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, 25-year-old World Champion Sumit Antill earned a gold medal in the men's F64 javelin throw event. In this category, Sumit also holds the world record.
- ❖ Bhagyashri Jadhav, 39, won a silver medal in the Asian Para Games women's shot put competition in the F34 division.
- ❖ Additionally, in May 2024, she earned a silver medal in the women's F34 shot put competition at the World Para Athletics Championships.

Indian Team for the Paralympic Games in Paris:-

- ❖ India participated in the 11th Summer Paralympics before the Paris Paralympics. Rome, the capital of Italy, hosted the first Summer Paralympic Games in 1960.
- ❖ A total of 84 competitors, including 32 women, make up the Indian contingent. This is the biggest Indian athlete delegation to compete in a Summer Paralympic Games.
- ❖ Twelve sports, including para-rowing, para-cycling, and blind judo, in which Indian competitors will be competing for the first time, will be held.
- ❖ The Paris Paralympics will feature 22 different sports.

Award

Singer Anuradha Paudwal on winning the Lata Mangeshkar Award 2024



About News :-

- ❖ The esteemed Lata Mangeshkar Award was recently given to prominent Indian playback vocalist Anuradha Paudwal. This award, which bears the name of the renowned vocalist Lata Mangeshkar, is granted to people who have significantly advanced the musical industry.

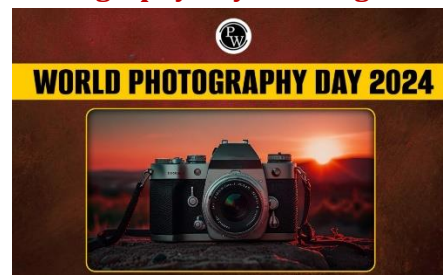
- ❖ The Lata Mangeshkar Award 2024 has been announced for seasoned vocalist Anuradha Paudwal in recognition of her continuous and priceless commitment to singing and music.

Key Points :-

- ❖ In addition, Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar announced the recipients of twelve State Cultural Awards, the Natwarya Prabhakar Panashikar Theater Lifetime Achievement Award, the Sangeetcharya Annasaheb Kirloskar Sangeet Theater Lifetime Achievement Award, the Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Classical Music Lifetime Achievement Award, the Gyanoba Tukaram Award, and the Tamasha Empress Withabai Narayangaonkar Lifetime Achievement Award. These awards are intended to honor dignitaries who have made contributions in a variety of professions.
- ❖ The State Cultural Award was given to veteran actress Rohini Hattangadi, who is well-known for her roles in theater, movies, and television. Aarti Anklekar-Tikekar has been named the recipient of the Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Classical Music Lifetime Award for 2024 in recognition of the musicians who have devoted their life to the genre and served it.
- ❖ Prakash Buddhisagar, a prominent figure in Marathi theater, has been nominated for the Natwarya Prabhakar Panashikar Rangbhumi Jeevan Gaurav Award - 2024.
- ❖ Kirloskar, Sangeetcharya Annasaheb Shubda Dadarkar is the recipient of the 2024 Sangeet Rangbhumi Lifetime Award. Due to his unique contribution to musical theater, he has received recognition.

Important Day

World Photography Day - 19 August



About Day :-

World Photography Day is celebrated every year on August 19th, a day dedicated to the art, craft, and science of photography. It's a day to recognize the impact photography has had on society, how it has shaped our memories, and its role in documenting history. Check the article for complete information on World Photography Day 2024, its theme, significance, and other important details.

The theme for World Photography Day 2024 is "AN ENTIRE DAY."

History :-

- ❖ World Photography Day, celebrated each year on August 19th, is a significant global event that honors the profound impact of photography on art, culture, and communication. It commemorates the 1839 invention of the Daguerreotype, a milestone that transformed visual representation and marked an important moment in history.
- ❖ Photography is a powerful tool for capturing moments, documenting history, and expressing emotions and stories that transcend cultures and generations. It bridges divides, promotes understanding, and preserves memories that shape our perception of the world. On World Photography Day, photographers and enthusiasts around the globe are encouraged to showcase their creativity, share their unique perspectives, and celebrate the universal language of images.

