

International

Union Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju visited Saudi Arabia from 11th to 14th January 2025



About News:-

- ❖ The Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, visited Saudi Arabia from January 11 to 14, 2025.
- ❖ The visit entailed important engagements about the preparations for the forthcoming Haj pilgrimage.

Key Points:-

- ❖ This included signing the Bilateral Agreement for Haj 2025; attending the inaugural session of the Hajj & Umrah Conference and Exhibition; and bilateral meetings with Saudi dignitaries. During the visit, the Union Minister also reviewed the arrangements for the Indian Haj pilgrims at Jeddah and Madinah.
- ❖ The Bilateral Agreement for Haj-2025 defining the broad contours of the Haj pilgrimage for Indian pilgrims was signed between the Minister and the Saudi Minister of Hajj & Umrah H.E. Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan AlRabiah on 13th January 2025 at Jeddah, as per which a quota of 1,75,025 has been earmarked for India.
- ❖ India and Saudi Arabia share a strategic partnership rooted in deep historical and civilizational linkages. The Haj pilgrimage is an important aspect of bilateral relations and strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

- ❖ The visit of the Minister to Saudi Arabia marks an important milestone in the growing relationship and reflects the commitment of both nations to further deepening our ties.

About Saudi Arabia:-

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

National

PM Modi to launch Mission Mausam on Jan 14 to make India more weather-ready

About News:-

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Mission Mausam on Tuesday as part of the 150th foundation day celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). This initiative aims to make India more 'weather-ready' and a 'climate-smart' nation, by enhancing its resilience to climate change and extreme weather events.

Key objectives of Mission Mausam include:

- ❖ Advanced weather surveillance: Deployment of cutting-edge technologies, including 50 Doppler weather radars (DWR), 60 radio sonde/radio wind (RS/RW) stations, and 10 wind profilers.



- ❖ Enhanced atmospheric observations: Higher resolution and improved temporal and spatial coverage of atmospheric data.
- ❖ Next-gen infra: Implementation of advanced radars, satellites, and high-performance computers.

- ❖ Improved weather and climate understanding: Development of earth system models and data-driven methods utilising artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).
- ❖ Weather management tech: Establishment of systems for effective weather management and last-mile dissemination of information.
- ❖ Capacity building: Strengthening the capabilities of meteorological services and community resilience.

Infra expansion under Mission Mausam

- ❖ The mission includes the establishment of additional infrastructure, such as 100 disdrometers, 25 radiometers, 10 Marine Automatic Weather Stations, and dedicated urban and ocean research testbeds.

About IMD:-

- ❖ India Meteorological Department
- ❖ Formed:- 15 January 1875
- ❖ Headquarters :- New Delhi
- ❖ Director General of Meteorology:- Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

State

Telangana inaugurates 3-day International Kite, Sweet Festival

About News:-

- ❖ The city is all set to host the 7th International Kite and Sweet Festival, organised by the tourism and culture department to coincide with Sankranti, at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad between Jan 13 and 15.
- ❖ Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Saturday unveiled the official festival poster.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Before the unveiling, he toured the sweet stalls, where women from various states showcased traditional home-made sweets, which he tasted and appreciated.
- ❖ The minister highlighted the significance of the festival, stating that it reflects Telangana's vibrant culture and traditions while enhancing Hyderabad's global brand image. He referred to Hyderabad as a 'Mini India', where people from all parts of the country and the world live in harmony.

- ❖ The festival would feature 47 international kite flyers from 16 countries and 60 domestic kite club members from 14 states, presenting kites in stunning and unique designs. Additionally, a variety of national, international, and Telangana's traditional sweets would be available at the stalls.
- ❖ An estimated 15 lakh visitors are expected to attend the three-day event. GHMC, police, and other departments are making arrangements to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all visitors.

About Telangana:-

- ❖ Capital:- Hyderabad
- ❖ Governor:- Jishnu Dev Varma
- ❖ Chief minister :- Revanth Reddy

Economic

WPI inflation increases to 2.37% in December due to a rise in food prices, manufacturing

About News:-

- ❖ The annual rate of inflation based on the all-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) stood at 2.37 per cent (provisional) in December 2024, marking an increase from the previous month's rate of 1.89 per cent.
- ❖ According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the positive inflation rate was primarily driven by rising prices in key segments such as food articles, manufactured food products, textiles, and non-food articles.



Key Points:-

- ❖ However, retail inflation data released on Monday showed that consumer price index (CPI) based inflation eased to a 4-month low of 5.22 per cent in December on easing food prices.
- ❖ The WPI for all commodities decreased marginally by 0.38 percent month-over-month (MoM) in December 2024, reflecting price corrections across certain segments.
- ❖ However, year-over-year (YoY) inflation showed notable upward trends due to underlying demand and cost pressures in specific sectors.

- ❖ In the Primary Articles category (with a weight of 22.62 per cent), the index declined by 2.07 per cent MoM, reaching 193.8 in December 2024. This decrease was driven by a 3.08 per cent drop in food articles and a 2.87 per cent decline in crude petroleum and natural gas prices.
- ❖ However, there were price increases in non-food articles (2.53 per cent) and minerals (0.48 per cent) during the same period.
- ❖ The Fuel and Power group (with a weight of 13.15 per cent) saw an increase of 1.90 per cent, bringing its index to 149.9.
- ❖ This rise was driven by an 8.81 per cent surge in electricity prices and a slight increase in coal prices. On the other hand, mineral oil prices declined marginally by 0.06 per cent.
- ❖ For Manufactured Products (with a weight of 64.23 per cent), the index remained stable at 143.0 in December 2024. Among the 22 subgroups of manufactured products, 11 saw price increases, including textiles, chemicals, and fabricated metal products.

Appointment

Lebanon's President names ICJ judge Nawaf Salam Prime Minister

About News:-

- ❖ President Joseph Aoun summoned jurist Nawaf Salam on Monday to designate him as Lebanon's prime minister after a majority of Lebanese lawmakers nominated him for the post.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Salam, 71, is an attorney and judge who served as Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations from 2007-17.
- ❖ He won support from 84 of Lebanon's 128 parliamentarians, among them leading Christian and Druze factions and prominent Sunni Muslim lawmakers, including Hezbollah allies.
- ❖ But Hezbollah and its ally the Shi'ite Amal Movement, which hold all the seats reserved for Shi'ite Muslims in parliament, named nobody. Hezbollah accused its opponents of seeking to exclude the group.



- ❖ Salam joined the International Court of Justice in 2018 and was named as its president on Feb. 6, 2024, for a three-year term, the first Lebanese judge to hold the position.
- ❖ He took over the presidency of the ICJ, which is based in The Hague, as it held its first hearing on a case filed by South Africa accusing Israel of genocide in the Gaza Strip, which Israel has dismissed as baseless.
- ❖ Salam is from a historically political family: his uncle Saeb Salam served as premier in Lebanon four times before the 1975-1990 civil war, and his older cousin Tammam Salam served as Lebanon's prime minister from 2014-2016.

About Lebanon:-

- ❖ Capital:- Beirut
- ❖ Currency :- Lebanese pound
- ❖ President :- Joseph Aoun

Defence

India successfully tests new version of Nag Mark 2 anti-tank guided missile

About News:-

- ❖ Field Evaluation Trials of indigenously-developed Nag Mk 2, the third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile, were successfully conducted recently at Pokhran Field Range in the presence of senior officers of the Indian Army.



- ❖ During the three field trials, the missile systems destroyed precisely all the targets - maximum and minimum range, thus validating its firing range.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Nag Missile Carrier version-2 was also field evaluated. With this, the entire weapon system is now ready for induction into the Indian Army.

- ❖ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, the Indian Army and industry for the successful field evaluation trials of the entire weapon system of Nag Mk 2.
- ❖ Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of all the stakeholders for making the missile ready for induction into the Indian Army.

FEATURES OF NAG MARK 2

- ❖ **Third-Generation Fire-and-Forget Technology:** Enables precision targeting with minimal operator intervention post-launch.
- ❖ **Versatile Performance:** Capable of neutralising modern armoured vehicles equipped with explosive reactive armour (ERA).
- ❖ **Platform Compatibility:** Successfully integrated with NAMICA, enhancing battlefield mobility and deployment flexibility.

About DRDO:-

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation
- ❖ Formed:- 1958
- ❖ Headquarters:- DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❖ Chairman :- Sameer V. Kamat

Award

Aparna Sen honoured with a lifetime achievement award, 'Manikbabur Megh' best film

About News:-

- ❖ Eminent director Aparna Sen was honoured with the 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award' at the annual award ceremony of the West Bengal Film Journalists Association (WBFJA) for her contributions to Indian cinema.
- ❖ Accepting the award here on Sunday, Sen expressed gratitude and praised contemporary Bengali filmmakers for carrying forward the legacy of Bengali cinema.



- ❖ The event saw 'Manik Babur Megh' win Best Bengali Film, with Chandan Sen receiving Best Actor (Male) for his role in the film.
- ❖ Srijit Mukherji and Debaloy Bhattacharya jointly won Best Director for 'Badami Haynar Kabale' and 'Padatik,' while Mukherji's 'Oti Uttam' earned Special Recognition for Technical Innovation.

Miscellaneous

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board

About News:-

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush today inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in New Delhi. Shri Goyal announced Shri Palle Ganga Reddy as its first Chairperson. The headquarters of the Board has been set up at Nizamabad.
- ❖ The Minister noted that the launch of the National Turmeric Board is on an auspicious day of celebrations across the country. He highlighted that representatives from various ministries will also be a part of the National Turmeric Board. Representatives from exporters and producer bodies will also be added to the Board.



Key Points:-

1. Formation & Focus:

- Aimed at the welfare of turmeric farmers across 20 states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and others.
- Special focus on boosting turmeric production in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

2. Functions of the Board:

- Promote research and development of turmeric products.
- Enhance value addition and marketing of turmeric internationally.
- Create awareness about turmeric's essential and medicinal properties.
- Ensure quality and safety standards for production and exports.
- Improve logistics and supply chains to explore new markets.

3. Production Stats (2023-24):

- Cultivated area: 3.05 lakh hectares.
- Production: 10.74 lakh tonnes (70% of global production).
- 30 varieties of turmeric grown in India.

4. Global Standing:

- India: Largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric.
- Exports: 1.62 lakh tonnes valued at \$226.5 million in 2023-24.
- Share: Over 62% of global turmeric trade.

5. Objective:

- Facilitate growth, coordination, and focus on tapping the vast potential of the turmeric sector for trade and wellness benefits.

Sport

India open Super 750 badminton tournament begins in New Delhi

About News:-

- India will field its largest-ever contingent in the 3rd edition of the India Open BWF World Tour Super 750, scheduled to take place from January 14-19, 2025.



- With top stars such as Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen and An Se Young, along with world number one Shi Yuqi leading the field, this edition promises a thrilling showcase of skill and precision.
- Marking its third year, the tournament has become a hub of excellence and fandom, bringing together the world's best players and passionate fans for a true badminton spectacle.

Important Day

Indian Army Day - 15 January



About News:-

- Indian Army Day, also known as the Army Day Parade, is celebrated annually on 15th January to honour the bravery, selflessness, and sacrifices of the Indian Army.
- The 77th Indian Army Day in 2025 will commemorate this historic occasion with grand celebrations, military parades, and ceremonies across the nation.

History of Indian Army Day:-

- ❖ Indian Army Day holds historical significance as it marks the day when Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on 15th January 1949, replacing British General Sir Francis Butcher. This day symbolizes India's assertion of military autonomy post-independence, transitioning command to Indian leadership.
- ❖ The Indian Army traces its roots back to the British East India Company's army, later becoming part of the British Indian Army. Post-independence, it became the Indian Army and has played a crucial role in defending the country and assisting in humanitarian crises.

Indian Army Parade Day 2025 Celebrations in Pune

- ❖ The 77th Indian Army Day 2025 will be celebrated in Pune, Maharashtra, marking a significant shift in tradition. For the first time, Pune will host the Army Day on January 15, marking two years of shift from the traditional venue of Delhi.
- ❖ Army Day 2023 and 2024 were celebrated in Bengaluru and Lucknow respectively, while Pune will be the third venue outside Delhi for Army Day.



MPSC
WALLAH

