

International

PM Modi to attend AI Summit in France on Feb 10-11 Paris

About News:-



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in France from February 10 to 11, a significant visit to the European nation, announced by French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday.

Key Points:-

- ❖ While addressing the 30th Conference of Ambassadors, President Macron said, "France will be hosting the AI Summit on February 10-11. A summit for action, as we call it. This summit will allow for an international conversation on AI. There will be Prime Minister Modi, who will move up to a major visit in our country as we want to forge a dialogue with all powers on AI."
- ❖ The French President emphasised the importance of AI as a global conversation, stating that it will include countries such as the US, China, and India, as well as, the countries from the Gulf, which have significant roles in developing and regulating AI technologies.
- ❖ Macron also highlighted that the summit will focus on innovation, talent, and positioning France and Europe at the centre of the global AI landscape.

About France:-

- ❖ Capital:- Paris
- ❖ Currency:- Euro
- ❖ President:- Emmanuel Macron
- ❖ Prime Minister:- François Bayrou

National

India Joins the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics



About News:-

- ❖ In a significant milestone, India has joined the prestigious UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. The UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD) was created to further investigate the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The inclusion in this expert committee comes at a pivotal time, as India recently assumed membership of the United Nations Statistical Council after a significant gap.
- ❖ India's inclusion in the Committee of Experts represents a significant leap forward for the country's statistical ecosystem.
- ❖ As part of the committee, India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing big data and data science for official statistical purposes.
- ❖ This milestone underscores India's growing stature in the global statistical community and highlights its commitment to leveraging data and technology for informed decision-making.
- ❖ India's active engagement in the Committee of Experts will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of the Data Innovation Lab and the exploration of alternate data sources such as satellite imagery and machine learning for policy making.

- ❖ The opportunity to contribute at this global forum positions India as major player in this area.
- ❖ Membership in the Committee of Experts is a strategic opportunity for India to align its domestic advancements in big data and data science with international goals, showcasing the country's capability to lead transformative initiatives in the data domain.
- ❖ Big data and advanced data science techniques have the potential to revolutionize the production and dissemination of official statistics.
- ❖ By integrating non-traditional data sources such as IoT, satellite imagery, and private sector data streams, India aims to modernize its statistical processes, enhance the accuracy of estimates, and enable the timely availability of critical data for policy formulation and governance.

This engagement will also complement India's ongoing efforts to:

- ❖ **Streamline Statistical Production:** Drive innovation in data collection, processing, and analysis to reduce the time lag in data availability.
- ❖ **Improve Decision-Making:** Provide policymakers with real-time insights for evidence-based decisions, addressing key socio-economic challenges.
- ❖ **Foster International Collaboration:** Share India's expertise while learning from global best practices to create robust, future-ready statistical frameworks.
- ❖ India's joining the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics is a step toward revolutionizing statistical production and dissemination, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and data-informed world.
- ❖ This recognition will strengthen India's ability to influence global statistical practices, reinforcing its commitment to data-driven progress and sustainable development.

State

Telangana govt proposes 1,000 MW power generation by encouraging SHGs to set up solar plants

About News:-

- ❖ Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday



instructed the district collectors to identify land for establishing solar power plants, with the involvement of women Self Help Groups (SHG), for 1,000 MW of power generation.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Given an agreement reached between the Energy Department and Rural Development Department to set up solar power plants, Vikramarka, along with Rural Development Minister Dansari Anasuya alias Seethakka and Forest Minister Konda Surekha, held a video conference with officials on Wednesday.
- ❖ He also advised the Collectors to take advantage of the agreement reached between the Energy and Rural Development departments under the new energy policy on November 19, 2024, and go ahead with their plans.

About Telangana:-

- ❖ Capital:- Hyderabad
- ❖ Governor:- Jishnu Dev Varma
- ❖ CM:- Revanth Reddy

Maharashtra

21st Third Eye Asian Film Festival Begins in Mumbai

About News:-

- ❖ The 21st edition of the Third Eye Asian Film Festival has started in Mumbai.
- ❖ This film festival will be organized from 10-16 January and screenings of movies will be conducted in Andheri, Sion, and Thane.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Chinese drama The Black Dog will be the first opening film of this festival.
- ❖ A total of 61 films have been selected for this festival.

- ❖ Films from countries including China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Tunisia, and Bhutan will be showcased.
- ❖ Renowned lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar will receive the Asian Cinema Culture Award during this festival.
- ❖ Journalist Rafique Baghdadi will receive the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award.



Economic

India's Industrial Growth reaches 5.2% in November 2024

About News:-

- ❖ India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth of 5.2% in November 2024, marking the highest growth rate in the past six months. This increase follows a growth rate of 3.5% in October 2024, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The November performance represents an improvement over the 2.5% growth recorded in the same month in 2023. The manufacturing sector, which constitutes the largest share of the IIP, recorded a growth of 5.8% during November, compared to 4.1% in October.
- ❖ Eighteen out of 23 industry groups within the manufacturing sector showed growth during November when compared to the same period last year. Among these, the manufacture of basic metals grew by 7.6%, electrical equipment production rose by 37.2%, and other non-metallic mineral products saw a 12% increase.

- ❖ The electricity sector recorded a growth rate of 1.9% in November, improving from 0.9% in October. Meanwhile, the mining sector achieved a growth rate of 4.4% during the same period.
- ❖ The production of capital goods, which include machinery and equipment used in industrial processes, increased by 9% in November. This reflects investment activity in the economy. Additionally, consumer durable production, including items such as electronic goods and appliances, rose by 13.1%, reflecting increased demand.
- ❖ For the April-November period of the 2024-25 financial year, the industrial growth rate stands at 4.1%. The data highlights an overall positive trend in industrial activity in the country during the current financial year.



Science & Technology

BMCRI gets South India's 1st infectious disease lab

About News:-

- ❖ South India's first Infectious Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (IRDL) will be set up by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), said the medical education department on Friday.



Key Points:-

- ❖ Hitherto Karnataka relied on the National Institute of Virology (NIV) lab in Pune to test samples related to suspected viral outbreaks and global epidemics.

- ❖ Going forward, BMCRI will be the nodal agency for carrying out random testing of samples from all south Indian states in case of any outbreak of viral or bacterial diseases.
- ❖ Dr Asima Banu, principal and HoD of microbiology, at BMCRI said that once operational, the lab will be a repository of various pathogens, fungi, and other microorganisms.
- ❖ Even though the Centre had sanctioned IRDL for BMCRI in May 2024 and released funds in June 2024, the work on setting up the lab has been progressing at a snail's pace, according to sources in the medical education department. BMCRI has to roll out a tender for the supply of equipment and other machinery after the work is completed, they added.

Sport

Neeraj Chopra named world's best male javelin thrower in 2024 by reputed U.S. track and field magazine

About News:-

- ❖ India's Paris Olympics silver medallist Neeraj Chopra has been named the best male javelin thrower in the world in 2024 by the globally renowned American magazine 'Track and Field News'.



Key Points:-

- ❖ The recognition follows a season of remarkable consistency for the 27-year-old Indian athlete, who secured a silver medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Competing in six events throughout the season, Chopra finished on top twice and runner-up in the remaining four.

- ❖ Neeraj Chopra began the 2024 season in May with an 88.36m throw at the Doha Diamond League, finishing second behind Czechia's Jakub Vadlejch.
- ❖ The Tokyo 2020 gold medallist won the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland and the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition in India before finishing second behind Arshad Nadeem's Olympic record of 92.97m with an 89.45m throw at Paris 2024.
- ❖ At the Lausanne Diamond League, Chopra achieved his career's second-best throw of 89.49m and concluded his season in Brussels. Chopra finished second in both competitions behind Paris 2024 bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada.
- ❖ Track and Field News ranked Peters second in the javelin throw standings while Olympic champion Nadeem of Pakistan was placed sixth.
- ❖ The magazine cited Nadeem's limited participation - only two international competitions - as a factor for his lower ranking, despite his record-breaking Olympic performance.
- ❖ Chopra, the reigning world champion, will focus on defending his world title in Tokyo this year and breach the elusive 90m mark. His 2025 season is also expected to include the competitions in the Diamond League series.
- ❖ Founded in 1948, the magazine, which claims itself to be 'The Bible Of The Sport', publishes world and American rankings every year. The magazine is considered an authority in global track and field circles.

Miscellaneous

India's first robotic system performs telesurgeries over a distance of 286 km



About News:-

- ❖ In a groundbreaking achievement, India's indigenous surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra, successfully conducted two robotic cardiac surgeries via telesurgery over a distance of 286 kilometers.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The surgeries were remotely performed at Manipal Hospital in Jaipur by Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, operating from Gurugram, using the advanced SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System.
- ❖ The first procedure, a Telerobotic-assisted Internal Mammary Artery Harvesting, was completed in just 58 minutes. The surgery demonstrated remarkable precision, with an ultra-low latency of 35-40 milliseconds (1/20th of a second).
- ❖ This was followed by another world-first: a robotic beating heart endoscopic coronary artery bypass (TECAB), considered one of the most complex cardiac surgical procedures. This surgery was also performed via telesurgery, connecting Gurugram and Jaipur, with an equally low latency of just 40 milliseconds.
- ❖ "We are thrilled to have advanced surgical capabilities to benefit humanity, particularly in areas that need it the most," said Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of SS Innovations. "By enabling telesurgery, we can bridge gaps in access to medical expertise and deliver high-quality care, regardless of geographical barriers. For a country like India, with its vast rural population and significant healthcare disparities, this innovation is transformative."
- ❖ Dr. Lalit Malik, Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur, added, "This groundbreaking interstate robotic cardiac telesurgery marks a significant leap in enhancing patient care. The remote robotic-assisted CABG on an elderly patient in Jaipur showcases how technology can bridge geographical gaps to provide accurate and timely medical interventions."

- ❖ Developed by SS Innovations, the SSI Mantra 3 Surgical Robotic System is the only robotic system worldwide to receive regulatory approval for telesurgery and tele-proctoring. Its recent approval by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) paves the way for remote surgeries and medical education, allowing healthcare professionals to collaborate across distances.

Important Day

National Youth Day - 12 January 2025

About News:-

- ❖ National Youth Day is a significant celebration in India, dedicated to the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ❖ It is celebrated annually on January 12th. The Indian government declared this day as National Youth Day in 1984, with the first celebration taking place in 1985.
- ❖ The objective is to inspire and empower the youth by promoting Vivekananda's teachings, which emphasize strength, purity, patience, perseverance, and selfless service.

The theme for National Youth Day 2025 is "Arise, Awake, and Realize the Power You Hold."



History of Rashtriya Yuva Diwas

- ❖ The decision to celebrate National Youth Day was made by the Indian government in 1984.
- ❖ It was observed for the first time in 1985, and since then, it has been celebrated every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ❖ This day is not only a tribute to his life and works but also serves as a day to promote his vision for the youth of India.

- ❖ Swami Vivekananda emphasized the role of youth in the development of the country. He believed that the youth are the backbone of a nation, capable of bringing about social, political, and spiritual change.
- ❖ His teachings inspired numerous leaders and thinkers, and they continue to inspire millions of young minds across India and the world.

○○○○

**MPSC
WALLAH**