

INTERNATIONAL

Germany Joined UN Common in South Korea as 18th Member State

About News:-

- ❖ The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) formally joined the United Nations Command (UNC), which is headed by the United States of America (USA), on August 2, 2024, at Pyeongtaek, South Korea, south of Seoul.
- ❖ Germany became the eighteenth member of the United Nations Command (UNC). This organization assists in guarding the tightly guarded border with North Korea and has vowed to defend the South in the event of war.
- ❖ The first UNC expansion since Italy's reinstatement in 2013 occurs with this.



Key Points:-

- ❖ German Federal Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius emphasized during Germany's UNC entrance ceremony that Berlin's strong belief in the interdependence of European and Indo-Pacific security is reflected in this development.
- ❖ Although Germany did not join the UN in 1953, it did offer South Korea medical assistance from 1954 to 1959 before the signing of the armistice.
- ❖ The USA, UK, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, France, New Zealand, Philippines, Turkey, Thailand, South Africa, Greece, Belgium, Colombia, Denmark, Norway, and Italy are among the countries that make up the UNC.
- ❖ These nations supplied medical assistance and combat soldiers in the Korean War (1950–1953).

Concerning UNC:-

- ❖ On July 7, 1950, UNC was founded following the UN's recognition of North Korea's invasion of South Korea.

- ❖ Resolutions 83 and 84 of the UN Security Council (UNSC) established the USA as the organization's leader. It gave member states the international legal authority to bring peace back to the Korean Peninsula.
- ❖ It is not connected to the United Nations (UN) and is headed by the US military commander stationed in South Korea.
- ❖ 22 nations sent military personnel or medical supplies to support South Korea under the UN flag during the Korean War and the post-Armistice reconstruction period that began on July 27, 2023.

National

14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue held in New Delhi

About News:-

- ❖ The 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue took place in New Delhi on August 01, 2024.
- ❖ Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam Senior Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Chien co-chaired it.
- ❖ The dialogue coincided with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's official three-day visit to India from 30 July to 1 August 2024.



Key Points:-

- ❖ During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the range of bilateral defence cooperation issues and noted the transformative progress in the ties after the signing of the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' in June 2022 during the visit of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to Vietnam.

- ❖ Vietnam proposed five focus areas for cooperation which included delegation exchanges and dialogue, staff-talks; Service-to-Service cooperation; Education and training; and Defence Industry cooperation.
- ❖ The Defence Secretary welcomed the five point proposal and proposed cooperation in emerging areas of concern for both countries like Cyber Security, Information Security, Military Medicine, and Submarine Search & Rescue.
- ❖ The Defence Secretary highlighted the potential of the domestic defence industry to fulfill the capacity and capability enhancement of Friendly Foreign Countries and looked forward to a fruitful partnership with Vietnam People's Armed Forces, and their industries.
- ❖ After the meeting, the Defence Secretary and the Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen cooperation in the field of training including exchange of instructors and experts.
- ❖ Defence cooperation is one of the strong pillars of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Vietnam.
- ❖ Vietnam is an important partner in India's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific Region.

Maharashtra

'Mukhyamantri Baliraja Electricity Waiver Scheme' announced for farmers



About News:-

The Maharashtra government has approved the launch of the Mukhyamantri Baliraja Free Electricity Scheme for the next five years, for which Rs 14,760 crore will be provided as a subsidy to provide free electricity to 44,300 farmers up to 7.5 horsepower capacity.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The Mukhyamantri Baliraja Free Electricity Bill Scheme for farmers has been implemented from July 25, 2024.
- ❖ The scheme has been approved to be implemented for a period of five years i.e. from March 2019 to April 2024, but after three years, a decision will be taken on the implementation of the scheme in the next period.
- ❖ Free power will be provided to agricultural pump consumers up to 7.5 HP in the state.
- ❖ Under this scheme, 44 lakh 3000 farmers will be provided electricity up to 7.5 MW capacity to meet the burden of electricity bills on the farmers.
- ❖ Due to the waiver of the electricity tariff, the government will give the amount of electricity concession to MSEDCL company in advance. Currently, an electricity tariff discount of Rs 6,985 crore and an electricity bill waiver discount of Rs 775 crore will be paid by the government to MSEDCL Company.

About Maharashtra:-

- ❖ Capital:- Mumbai
- ❖ Chief Minister :- Eknath Shinde

Economic

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$500 million agreement to construct the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP)

About News:-



- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) declared on August 1, 2024, that the World Bank (WB) and the Government of India (GoI) had inked a USD 500 million contract to build the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP).

- ❖ The project uses climate resilience techniques and green technologies to deploy a safe and green route.
- ❖ Additionally, MoRTH disclosed that May 2026 is the projected completion date for the GNHCP project.

History:-

- ❖ The Gol and the World Bank first inked this loan agreement in December 2020.
- ❖ The loan will be given by the World Bank Group's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (WBG). Its maturity is 18.5 years, with a 5-year grace period.

About GNHCP:-

- ❖ The GNHCP project will span 781 kilometers (km) across four states, including Himachal Pradesh (HP), Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- ❖ The project will receive funding support from the World Bank for USD 500 million, which will go toward the project's overall cost of USD 1288.24 million (around Rs 7,662.47 crore).

Key Points:-

- ❖ The utilization of recycled asphalt pavement and cement-treated sub-base will enable the preservation of natural resources during the construction of the route.
- ❖ The project encourages the use of marginal and local resources such as waste plastic, fly ash, and lime.
- ❖ Slope protection will be achieved by bio-engineering techniques.
- ❖ Both during the project's development and operation, these green technologies and bio-engineering solutions—especially in hilly areas—will help to decrease carbon emissions and guarantee the conservation of natural resources.
- ❖ GNHCP will improve the region's socioeconomic development and connectivity, paving the way for smooth, weather-resistant motorways.

About World Bank(WB):-

- ❖ Established:-1944
- ❖ Headquarters:- Washington, DC, (USA)
- ❖ President :- Ajay Banga

Appointment

RBI Approves Re-appointment of Inderjit Camotra as MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank



About News:-

- ❖ Inderjit Camotra has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) for a further two years, with approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ Since 2022, he has held the positions of MD and CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank.

Concerning Inderjit Camotra:-

- ❖ With more than 28 years of experience, Inderjit Camotra has held top positions at Citigroup, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ), and Standard Chartered Bank (SCB).
- ❖ Before joining Unity Bank, he worked as the Executive Director (ED) of Centrum Financial Services Limited, the bank's promoter entity.

About Unity Small Finance Bank Limited:-

- ❖ Incorporated:- 2021
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Science & Technology

Isro's Human Space Flight Centre enters space flight agreement with Axiom Space



About News:-

- ❖ The names of the two Indian gaganyatri (astronauts) for the upcoming joint India-United States of America (USA) expedition to the International Space Station (ISS) have been released by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The National Mission Assignment Board has designated Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair as the backup gaganyatri and Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as the primary gaganyatri, according to the ISRO.
- ❖ Being the first and only Indian in space was Rakesh Sharma. He launched into space on the Soviet rocket Soyuz T-11 on April 3, 1984.
- ❖ We refer to people who travel in space as astronauts. Indians refer to them as Gaganyatri, Russians as Cosmonauts, and Chinese as Taikonauts.

About Axiom-4 mission to the ISS:-

- ❖ A joint ISRO-NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) mission to the International Space Station (ISS) was decided upon during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the USA in June 2023.
- ❖ The United States government's national space agency is called NASA.
- ❖ The Human Space Flight Center of the ISRO and Axiom Space Inc., USA, signed a Space Flight Agreement (SFA) for Axiom-4, the company's forthcoming voyage to the International Space Station, to operationalize the 2023 agreement. Axiom Company is a NASA-designated service provider that offers NASA human space flight services for the space mission to the International Space Station.
- ❖ The training of both gaganyatri is scheduled to start in the first week of August 2024, according to ISRO.
- ❖ Only one Indian will be sent to the International Space Station (ISS), where he will carry out several scientific studies and participate in space outreach initiatives.

Concerning the Indian Gaganyatri and Gaganyaan Mission:-

- ❖ The Gaganyaan trip, which envisioned sending Indians into space for a three-day trip and successfully returning them, was conceived by ISRO in 2007.
- ❖ 2018 saw the start of the project, which has a Rs 10,000 crore budget.
- ❖ After being chosen for the mission, four pilots from the Indian Air Force received training in Russia.
- ❖ ISRO has established an astronaut training center in Bengaluru specifically for this purpose.
- ❖ The four gaganyatris who have been chosen are Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, and Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.
- ❖ The Antriksh Yatri Pankh was given to these four gaganyatri at the ISRO Vikram Sarabhai Space Center in February.
- ❖ The Air Force Test Pilot School, a division of the Bengaluru-based Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), is home to these pilots.

Concerning Human Space Flight:-

- ❖ Only the United States of America, China, and Russia are now capable of launching manned space missions.
- ❖ The first man to travel into space was Soviet Yuri Gagarin. On April 12, 1961, he launched into space aboard the Soviet Vostok Rocket.
- ❖ On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova of the Soviet Union launched the Vostok 6 rocket into space, becoming the first woman to do so.
- ❖ The only Indian astronaut to have spaceflight experience is Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma. He took part in the Soviet mission on board the Soyuz T-11 on April 3, 1984.

Concerning the International Space Station (ISS):-

- ❖ One kind of spaceship that orbits the planet is called a "Space Station," where people can spend extended periods conducting scientific studies.

- ❖ Currently, the Chinese Tiangong Space Station and the International Space Station are the two fully operational manned space stations orbiting Earth.
- ❖ The launch of the International Space Station took place in 1998. Russia, Japan, Canada, the United States, and Europe are all partners in this collaborative initiative.
- ❖ By the end of 2024, Russia plans to leave the International Space Station Project, according to their announcement.
- ❖ Situated around 400 kilometers (250 miles) above Earth, astronauts utilize the International Space Station (ISS) for a variety of research endeavors.

About the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):-

- ❖ Established:- 15 August 1969
- ❖ Headquarters:- Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ❖ Chairman:- S.Somanath

Sport

Lt Col Kabilan Sai Ashok becomes India's youngest Olympic Boxing referee at Paris Olympics 2024

About News:-

- ❖ Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok, an Indian Army officer currently serving, accomplished a noteworthy feat by being the youngest Olympic boxing referee from India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- ❖ This accomplishment demonstrates his extraordinary commitment, professionalism, and integrity, which embodies the Indian Army's high standards.



Concerning Lt Kabilan Sai Ashok:-

- ❖ Lieutenant Colonel Ashok, who is currently employed by the Indian Army as a Joint Secretary at the Services Sports Control Board, has demonstrated his steadfast devotion to moral integrity, fair play, and exceptional sportsmanship by serving as an Olympic referee.

- ❖ As a referee, he upholds the Olympic spirit by ensuring that the games are administered with the highest integrity and impartiality.

Key Points:-

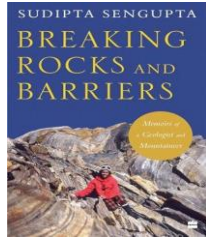
- ❖ The unsung heroes of the Olympics are the technical officials and referees, like Lieutenant Colonel Ashok. The credibility of the games depends on their commitment to upholding the strictest fairness requirements and moral standards. This accomplishment, which highlights the skill and knowledge of Indian authorities on the international scene, makes the Indian Army and the country proud.
- ❖ Lt Col Ashok, a Joint Secretary of the Army's Services Sports Control Board, has demonstrated his steadfast commitment to moral principles, fair play, and excellence in sportsmanship through his participation as an Olympic referee. According to Indian Army officials, he upholds the Olympic ethos by ensuring that the games are handled with the highest honesty and impartiality in his role as a referee.
- ❖ Technical officials and referees like Lieutenant Colonel Ashok, according to Army authorities, are the "unsung heroes" of the Olympics. The credibility of the games depends on their commitment to upholding the strictest fairness requirements and moral standards. 24 members of the armed forces make up the 117 competitors from India competing in the Paris Olympics, which got underway on July 26. The group of 22 male athletes is led by the well-recognized javelin thrower Subedar Neeraj Chopra, with two female athletes present.
- ❖ The two female service members competing at the Paris Olympics are Ritika Hooda, who won a bronze medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships in 2023, and Jaismine Lamboria, who won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2022. Early in the competition, Jaismine Lamboria, a competitor in the women's 57 kg category, withdrew. Six Indian boxers are competing in the Olympics.

Book

Breaking Rocks and Barriers: Memoirs of a Geologist and Mountaineer, a Book by Sudipta Sengupta

About News:-

Sudipta Sengupta, a geologist and experienced climber, wrote a memoir called "Breaking Rocks and Barriers: Memoirs of a Geologist and Mountaineer" that describes her experiences traveling the world to do fieldwork in extreme locations as a geologist.

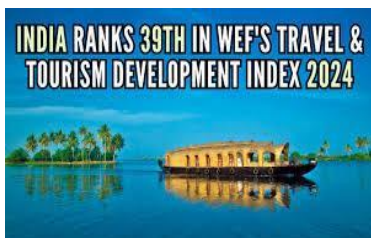


Concerning the Book:-

- ❖ HarperCollins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd. is the publisher of the book.
- ❖ As part of the Third Indian Antarctic Expedition in 1983–1984, Sudipta Sengupta and Dr. Aditi Pant became two of the first Indian women to set foot in Antarctica.
- ❖ She also participated in the 1967 all-female expedition that ascended the Himalayan peak of Ronti Peak.
- ❖ In 1991, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) awarded her the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology. Only 19 women have received the honor so far, including her.
- ❖ She is a Fellow of the West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology as well as the Indian National Science Academy.

Index

India Ranks 39th in Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024



About News:-

- ❖ According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.

- ❖ In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked 54th. However, due to a revision in the WEF's methodology, India's 2021 rank was adjusted to 38th place.

Key Points:-

- ❖ As per the TTDI report, out of the TTDI pillars mentioned, India's scores have improved in three areas: Prioritization of Travel & Tourism, Safety & Security, and Health & Hygiene.
- ❖ As per the UNWTO barometer for May 2024, there were 975 million International Tourist arrivals around the world in 2022, wherein India recorded 14.3 million International Tourist Arrivals which represented 1.47% of the international inbound tourism market share. The share of India's International Tourist Arrivals in Asia & Pacific is 15.66% in 2022.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism promotes the tourism destinations and tourism products of the country holistically both within the country and overseas markets.
- ❖ These objectives are met through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy and a synergized campaign in association with the travel trade, State Governments, and Indian Missions.
- ❖ Promotions are also undertaken through the Website and Social Media platforms of the Ministry.
- ❖ The tourist destinations in the country are also amplified through the different promotional materials developed by the Ministry.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism also participates in travel fairs/exhibitions held in major and potential overseas markets to increase India's share in the global tourism market.
- ❖ Under the "Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS)", the Ministry of Tourism has been reimbursing the amount incurred by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the scheme of UDAN (RCS). To date, Rs.226 Crore has been reimbursed to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Under RCS UDAN Tourism, 53 tourism routes are operational for better connectivity of important tourist places.

Important Day

Indian Organ Donation Day – 3 August

About Day:-

- ❖ On August 3, 2024, the nation will mark the 14th Indian Organ Donation Day. The purpose of the Indian Organ Donation Day is to raise public awareness of organ donation. It also honors the accomplishments that the families of the departed contributors made to society.
- ❖ In addition to dispelling myths and misconceptions about organ donation, Indian Organ Donation Day strives to inspire and urge individuals to donate their organs and tissues after they pass away.
- ❖ India observes the 14th Organ Donation Day with Nationwide awareness programs



History:-

- ❖ Since 2010, the nation has commemorated the Indian Organ Donation Day. The date of the annual Indian Organ Donation Day was previously November 27.
- ❖ In 2022, the National Organization for Tissue and Organ Transplantation decided to mark Indian Organ Donation Day on August 3rd annually.
- ❖ Therefore, August 3rd will be the date of the Indian Organ Donation Day celebration starting in 2023.
- ❖ The reason this day was selected is that the first successful deceased donor heart transplant was carried out in India on August 3, 1994. A family member donated the heart of a brain stem dead individual, saving another person's life.
- ❖ As a result, the day inspires people to promise to donate their organs when they pass away.

