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 **Friday, 01 March 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Friday, 01 March 2024

Jal Shakti Ministry Signs Pact with 12 Institutions for River Basin Management Collaboration

- Jal Shakti Ministry has signed agreement with 12 technical education institutions for academic and research collaboration towards basin management of six rivers.
- These are Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, Cauvery and Periyar.
- This agreement was signed under the National River Conservation Plan.
- Through this project, the responsibility of research, monitoring and gathering technical knowledge required for the condition assessment and management plan in basin management of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauveri, Narmada and Periyar has been given to 12 institutions (different IIT, NIT and NEERI).
- UNESCO has included Namami Gange Mission among the ten best conservation and revitalization campaigns in the world.

The following institutions got the responsibility:

- Narmada Basin Management — IIT Indore and IIT Gandhinagar
- Godavari Basin Management — IIT Hyderabad and NEERI Nagpur
- Mahanadi Basin Management — IIT Raipur and IIT Rourkela
- Krishna Basin Management — NIT Warangal and NIT Surathkal
- Cauvery Basin Management — IISc Bangalore and NIT Trichy
- Periyar Basin Management — IIT Palakkad and NIT Calicut

Q. Recently, Jal Shakti Ministry has signed agreements with how many institutions for river basin management cooperation? **12**



Friday, 01 March 2024

Sangeet Natak Akademi Honors Six Artists as Fellows; Awards Announced for 92 in Various Fields

- Six eminent personalities in the field of performing arts have been elected by Sangeet Natak Akademi as Akademi Fellows or Akademi Ratna. The Fellowship of the Akademi is a most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 at any given time.
- The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi also selected ninety-two artists from different fields including Music, Dance, Theatre, and Puppetry for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the years 2022 and 2023. The decision was taken at its meeting held on 21st and 22nd February.
- The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952. These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs.3, 00, 000/- (Rupees three lakhs) while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards will be conferred by President Droupadi Murmu in a special investiture ceremony.
- Note: These six personalities are Vinayak Khedekar, R. Visweswaran, Sunayana Hazarilal, Raja & Radha Reddy, Dulal Roy and D.P. Sinha.

Q. What is the prize money given by Sangeet Natak Akademi in honor of Academy Fellow or Academy Ratna? **Rs. 3 Lakhs**

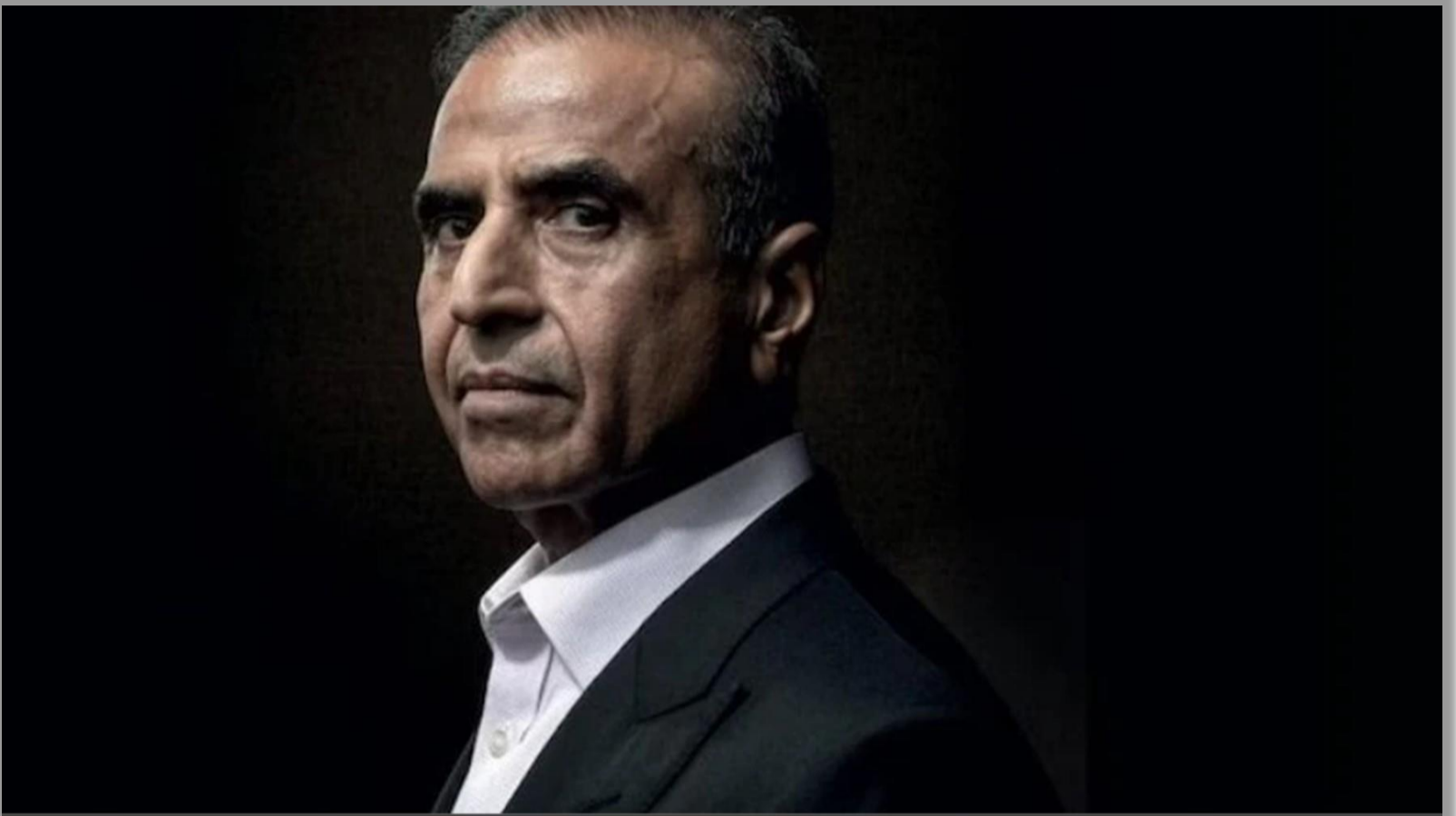


Friday, 01 March 2024

NTPC Green Energy and MAHAGENCO Partner for Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra

- NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, has signed a Joint venture Agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO), to develop Renewable Energy Parks in Maharashtra.
- The company to be set up under the joint venture will develop GigaWatt (GW)-scale renewable energy parks and undertake projects of this scale in a phased manner.
- The agreement aligns with the green energy objectives of NTPC and is another step in the Government of India's efforts towards energy transition.
- The Joint Venture Agreement was signed at NTPC headquarters in New Delhi today by Director (Projects), MAHAGENCO, Abhay Harne and CGM (NGEL), V V Sivakumar in the presence of senior officials from NGEL and MAHAGENCO.
- NTPC Group has ambitious plans to attain 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032. Currently, it has 3.4 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity and more than 22 GW is in pipeline. NTPC is committed to supporting Maharashtra's and India's decarbonisation goals.
- MAHAGENCO has an installed capacity of about 13,170 MW, including 9,540 MW Thermal, 2,580 MW Hydro, 672 MW Gas and 378 MW Solar-based Power Plant capacity.

Q. Which wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited has signed a joint venture agreement with MAHAGENCO to develop renewable energy parks in Maharashtra? **NGEL**



Friday, 01 March 2024

Sunil Bharti Mittal becomes first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King

- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III.
- The award grants Mr. Mittal the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, recognising his contributions to fostering stronger business ties between India and the UK.
- The 66-year-old entrepreneur in a statement said that UK and India share historical relations, which are now entering a new era of increased cooperation and collaboration.
- An honorary Knighthood is one of the highest honours granted by the British Sovereign to civilians, conferred upon foreign nationals in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

Q. Who has become the first Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III? **Sunil Bharti Mittal**



Reliance
Industries Limited

The
WALT DISNEY
Company



Friday, 01 March 2024

Reliance, Disney To Merge Indian Media Businesses

- Reliance Industries Ltd. will merge its television and streaming business with Walt Disney Co.'s India unit to create the country's largest media company valued at Rs 70,352 crore. The two companies have signed a binding, definitive agreement to form a joint venture that will combine the digital streaming and television assets of Viacom18 and Star India.
- As part of the transaction, the media undertaking of Viacom18 will be merged into Disney-owned Star India Pvt. through a court-approved scheme of arrangement. Reliance will invest Rs 11,500 crore in the venture to fund growth. The Mukesh Ambani-promoted company will control the joint venture via a 16.34% direct stake and 46.82% held through Viacom 18. Disney will own 36.84%.
- Nita Ambani will be the chairperson of the merged entity, while former Star India chief Uday Shankar will serve as vice chairperson.
- Note: The deal marks one of the biggest consolidations in India's media sector, even as a \$10 billion merger between Sony Group's India unit and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. has run into trouble.

Q. Reliance Industries Ltd. will merge its television and streaming business with which American multinational mass media and entertainment conglomerate to create the country's largest media company valued at Rs 70,352 crore? **Walt Disney Company**



Acharya Lokesh Muni to be Honored as 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'

Friday, 01 March 2024

Acharya Lokesh Muni Honoured As 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will honour Acharya Lokesh Muni, the founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center, as the 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'
- This will be done in an event in Karnataka, which is being organised by the Jain Pilgrim Centre, Navagraha Tirtha Kshetra in Hubli Varur, Karnataka.
- The honour will be conferred in recognition of Acharya Lokeshji's contribution to promoting peace and harmony globally as well as his efforts in enhancing the pride of India and Jainism on the international platform.
- Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Acharya Dr Lokesh Muni is a writer, poet, thinker and social reformer who has been making efforts in national character building and establishing non-violence, mutual cooperation and peace, for the last 32 years. To highlight the importance of eradicating social evils, Acharya Lokesh Muni has travelled 20,000 KMS across India. The organisation set up for this very cause, is Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati.
- Acharya Lokesh Muni has been bestowed with 'Ethical Honour' of Gulzarilal Nanda Foundation by then-President Smt Pratibha Patil in 2006, he was honoured with the National Communal Harmony Award by the Govt of India in 2010, the Ambassador of Peace Award by the United Nations in 2014 and with the 'Keys of Milpitas City' by the Mayor of Milpitas California Hoze Astawish.

Q. Who will be Honoured As 'Global Jain Peace Ambassador'?
Acharya Lokesh Muni

WINNER - 2024

Romain Rolland
Book Prize



Divan Staliner

Le Divan de Staline /
Stalin's Couch

TRANSLATOR
PANKAJ KUMAR CHATTERJEE
AUTHOR
JEAN-DANIEL BALTASSAT
INDIAN PUBLISHER
NEW BHARAT SAHITYA KUTIR
LANGUAGE
BENGALI



Friday, 01 March 2024

Bengali translation wins Romain Rolland Book Prize 2024

- The French Institute in India, in collaboration with Apeejay Trust, announces Pankaj Kumar Chatterjee's book "Divan Staliner", a translation of Jean-Daniel Baltassat's Stalin's Couch, the winner of 7th Romain Rolland Book Prize.
- This Bengali translation has been published by New Bharat Sahitya Kutir.
- Instituted in 2017 by the French Institute in India, it recognises translations of French books into Indian languages, including English.
- The prize aims to promote and acknowledge the efforts of Indian translators and publishers in introducing the richness of Francophone literature and thought in all its diversity to Indian readers. Ms. Priti Paul, Director, of Oxford Bookstores supports the Romain Rolland Prize through the Apeejay Trust.
- This is the second time a Bengali translator has won the prize, with Trinanjan Chakraborty winning for Kamel Daoud's Meursault, contre-enquête in 2022.
- The French original, Le Divan de Staline, by Jean-Daniel Baltassat, has been adapted into a 2016 movie of the same name.

Q. Which book won the 7th Romain Rolland Book Award?
Divan Staliner



Friday, 01 March 2024

Snowflake Appoints Indian-Origin Sridhar Ramaswamy As CEO

- Sridhar Ramaswamy, of Indian origin, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors at Snowflake, a data cloud company based in the United States. This adds another name to the already long list of Indian-origin CEOs of big multinational firms. Ramaswamy, formerly serving as Senior Vice President of AI at Snowflake, assumes the role of CEO, succeeding Frank Sloatman, who has chosen to retire but will remain Chairman of the Board.
- Ramaswamy joined Snowflake in May 2023 through the acquisition of Neeva, the world's pioneering private AI-powered search engine. Since then, he has been at the forefront of shaping Snowflake's AI strategy.
- Under his leadership, Snowflake Cortex was introduced, a new fully managed service designed to simplify and secure AI for all users, driving swift business value. Before joining Snowflake, Ramaswamy co-founded Neeva in 2019. Previously, he oversaw all of Google's Advertising products, including search, display, and video advertising, as well as analytics, shopping, payments, and travel.
- Over his 15-year tenure at Google, he played a pivotal role in driving the growth of AdWords and Google's advertising business from \$1.5 billion to over \$100 billion.
- Ramaswamy's professional journey includes research roles at Bell Labs, Lucent Technologies, and Bell Communications Research (Bellcore).

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Snowflake, a data cloud company based in the United States? **Sridhar Ramaswamy**



Friday, 01 March 2024

SpaceX plan to provide communication svcs to Vietnam over Starlink on hold

- SpaceX's plans to provide communications services to Vietnam with its Starlink satellites have been put on hold, halting support for Vietnamese coast guard drones.
- The Southeast Asian nation is planning to upgrade its internet infrastructure after experiencing recent outages at its five major underwater fibre-optic cables.
- Vietnam also needs satellite service for its vast mountainous areas and at sea, where it is often at odds with China over contested boundaries.
- SpaceX had been seeking an exception to Vietnamese rules limiting foreign ownership to a non-controlling 50 per cent stake of telecommunication companies with network infrastructure.
- But a revision of the country's telecommunications law approved by parliament in November did not soften the limits.

Vietnam

- Capital: Hanoi
- Currency: Vietnamese dong
- Official language: Vietnamese
- Prime minister: Pham Minh Chinh
- President: Vo Van Thuong

Q. Recently SpaceX's plans to provide communications services to which country with its Starlink satellites have been put on hold, halting support for country's coast guard drones? **Vietnam**



Friday, 01 March 2024

Former Intel India chief Avtar Saini died

- Renowned chip designer and former Intel India chief, Avtar Saini, died after his cycle was hit by a speeding cab in the satellite township of Navi Mumbai.
- During his tenure in Intel from 1982 to 2004, Saini was instrumental in the design of several processors including Intel 386, Intel 486, Pentium, and more.
- A fitness enthusiast, Saini was a member of the Chembur Amateur Cycling Group.
- Saini holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai, and a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota. He holds 7 patents related to microprocessor design.
- Saini's death comes less than a year after runner Rajalakshmi Vijay, the Chief Executive Officer of Business Altruist Technologies Pvt. Ltd, a BPO company., was run over while cycling on Worli Sea Face, on 19 March, 2023.

Q. Name the Renowned chip designer and former Intel India chief who was instrumental in the design of several processors including Intel 386, Intel 486, Pentium, and more?

Avtar Saini



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