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 **Friday, 23 February 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Friday, 23 February 2024

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates MTEX-24, showcasing latest advancements in naval technology

- The Maritime Technical Exposition MTEX-24 stands as a special attraction in the MILAN 2024 taking place in Visakhapatnam.
- MTEX-24 showcases the latest advancements in naval technology.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated MTEX-24, a three-day defence exposition as part of MILAN 2024.
- MTEX-24 highlights India's push towards self-reliance in the defence sector. It showcases the latest advancements in naval technology like shipbuilding, communication systems, cybersecurity, and sustainable energy solutions developed by the Indian industry.
- Major players from the Indian defence production, defence start-ups, defence PSUs and Indian Naval organisations are taking part in MTEX-24.
- This exposition fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange between industry leaders, researchers, and defence professionals.
- By facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting self-reliance, MTEX 24 will propel the Indian maritime industry forward, contributing to a more secure and prosperous future.

Q. What is the name of the three-day defense exhibition recently inaugurated by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh as part of MILAN 2024? **MTEX-24**



Friday, 23 February 2024

India and Greece aim to double bilateral trade by 2030

- India and Greece aim to double their bilateral trade to nearly \$4 billion by 2030 and enhance connectivity through infrastructure projects like the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (Imec).
- This is the first visit by a Greek premier to India since 2008.
- The two countries identified pharmaceuticals, ports, chemicals, shipping, food, communications and defence as key sectors to help double their bilateral trade, which stood at \$1.9 billion in 2022-23.
- The partnership in shipping is particularly noteworthy, with India eyeing investment opportunities in Greek ports and seeking Athens' support to modernize its shipping industry.
- The two nations also agreed to establish a joint working group on defence, maritime security, counterterrorism and cybersecurity, building on a history of defence collaboration. This includes recent military exercises and naval operations, underscoring the growing strategic partnership between India and Greece.
- Greece's Prime Minister Mitsotakis is set to be the chief guest at the Raisina Dialogue, the Indian foreign ministry's premier geopolitical conference.

Q. India and Greece aim to double their bilateral trade to about \$4 billion by which year? **2030**



CABINET DECISION
23RD FEBRUARY 2024

Umbrella Scheme on "Safety of Women"



❖ Cabinet approves continuation of the Umbrella scheme at a cost of ₹1179.72 crore during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26

❖ ₹ 885.49 crore to be provided by MHA & ₹ 294.23 crore to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund



Friday, 23 February 2024

Centre decides to continue Women's safety scheme till 2025-26

- The government decided to continue the umbrella scheme on 'Safety of Women' at a total cost of ₹ 1,179.72 crore during the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Out of the total project outlay of ₹ 1,179.72 crore, a total of ₹ 885.49 crore will be provided by the MHA from its own budget and ₹ 294.23 crore will be funded from Nirbhaya Fund.
- The objectives of these projects include strengthening mechanisms in states and Union Territories for ensuring timely intervention and investigation in case of crime against women and higher efficiency in investigation and crime prevention in such matters.
- The Government of India has proposed to continue the a number of projects under the Umbrella Scheme for "Safety of Women".
- These are: Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 2.0; Upgradation of Central Forensic Sciences laboratories, including setting up of National Forensic Data Centre; Strengthening of DNA Analysis, Cyber Forensic capacities in State Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs).
- The projects include Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children; Capacity building and training of investigators and prosecutors in handling sexual assault cases against women and children; and Women Help Desk & Anti-human Trafficking Units.

Q. The government decided to continue the umbrella scheme on 'Women Safety' during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 at a total cost of _____. **₹ 1,179.72 crore**



Friday, 23 February 2024

Asian Track Cycling Championship: India creates history by clinching Gold in Junior Women's Team Sprint Event

- In the Asian Track Cycling Championship, India created history by clinching Gold in the Junior Women's Team Sprint Event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi.
- The women's junior team, comprising Sarita Kumari, Niya Sebastian, Zaina Mohammed Ali Pirkhan, and Sabina Kumari outpaced South Korea with an impressive timing of 53.383 seconds to win the gold.
- In the men's junior team event, India's Narayan Mahto, Syed Khalid Baghi, and Mayanglambam Wattaba Meitei won the silver medal. In the para-team sprint event, Arshad Shaikh, Jalaluddin Ansari, and Basavaraj Horaddi also won silver, adding to India's medal total in the para-cycling team event.
- In the team pursuit event, the junior women's team consisting of Harshita Jakhar, Suhani Kumari, Dhanyadha JP, and Bhumika took home the Bronze medal, while South Korea and Kazakhstan won the Gold and Silver respectively.
- India won four medals on the opening day, including one gold, two silver, and one bronze, demonstrating the strength and tenacity of its cycling contingent.

Q. India created history by defeating which team in the Asian Track Cycling Championships and winning gold in the junior women's team sprint event? **South Korea**



Friday, 23 February 2024

Karnataka govt passes Bill to set age limit for sale of cigarettes to 21

- The Karnataka government presented the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Bill, 2024 which increased the age limit of sale of cigarettes from 18 years to 21 years.
- Earlier, the age limit for sale of cigarettes was fixed at 18 years, now the age limit has been increased to 21 years.
- Also, cigarettes cannot be sold within 100 meters of schools. There are small traders who also sell groceries. A fine of 10,000 will be a problem. So we have limited it to one thousand.
- Unauthorized operation of hookah bar shall be punishable with imprisonment not less than one year and extending to three years and a fine of Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 lakh. There is a possibility to impose fines along with jail term if violation is reported.

Karnataka:

- Capital: Bangalore
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Siddaramaiah

Q. The Karnataka government has passed a bill to set what age limit for the sale of cigarettes? **21**



Friday, 23 February 2024

The Office UK Actor Ewen MacIntosh Aka Big Keith Dies At 50

- Welsh actor and comedian Ewen Macintosh passed away at the age of 50.
- He is popularly known for his portrayal of Keith Bishop in the British version of The Office.
- His comedic talent extended beyond the series, with appearances in popular U.K. comedies like Miranda and Little Britain.
- Renowned for his deadpan performances, Macintosh captured audiences hearts with his portrayal of the lovable accountant Keith in The Office.
- Notably, Macintosh reunited with The Office creator Ricky Gervais on the Netflix series After Life. His versatility was further showcased in films, including a role as a waiter in Yorgos Lanthimos's The Lobster (2015), alongside Colin Farrell and Olivia Colman.

Q. Ewen Macintosh, who passed away recently, was a famous _____. **Actor**



Friday, 23 February 2024

Agra's Jama Masjid metro station renamed

- The Uttar Pradesh metro has renamed the Jama Masjid station in Agra to Mankameshwar Mandir, barely months before the next general elections.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had instructed the Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) to change the name during an Agra visit last year.
- Following orders received from the state, the signage of the Jama Masjid Metro Station has been switched to Mankameshwar Metro Station. This is the sixth metro station on the 13-station corridor — running from the Taj Mahal East Gate to the Sikandra monument.
- The Jama Masjid station was the third and final underground metro station on the priority corridor of six stations from the Taj Mahal to the Jama Masjid.

Uttar Pradesh:

- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Deputy chief minister: Keshav Prasad Maurya, Brajesh Pathak

Q. What is the new name of Agra's Jama Masjid metro station? **Mankameshwar Mandir**



Friday, 23 February 2024

Indian quarter-miler Anjali Devi banned for four years for a doping violation

- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has banned Anjali Devi, the country's fastest quarter-miler last year, for four years for failing a dope test in June 2023.
- She tested positive for GW1516, which is prohibited at all times under metabolic modulators on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Prohibited List.
- Incidentally, the US Anti-Doping Agency's website mentions that GW1516 was pulled from clinical trials when it was found to cause cancer, which meant that it had not undergone human studies and was not safe to use.
- Anjali, competing for Haryana, had clocked a stunning 51.48s to win the gold at the Inter-State Nationals in Bhubaneswar in June and had qualified for the Asian Games.
- The time made the 25-year-old the sixth-fastest woman in the all-time Indian 400m list along with Haryana's former Asian champion Nirmala Sheoran who, incidentally, was punished with an eight-year ban recently for a second doping violation.
- Anjali, who had competed in the 2019 World Championships in Doha, was tested on the day of her impressive run (June 16, 2023), and a few weeks later came the news that she had tested positive and was handed a provisional suspension.

Q. Indian quarter-miler Anjali Devi has been banned for how many years for doping violation? **Four**



Friday, 23 February 2024

GDP growth to slow down to 6.5% in FY25: Morgan Stanley

- Morgan Stanley Research said that it expects India's GDP growth for FY25 to moderate to 6.5 per cent from 6.9 per cent projected for FY24.
- ICRA, meanwhile, has projected the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) GDP growth to moderate sequentially to 6 per cent in Q3 FY24 from 7.6 per cent, led by agriculture and industry sectors.
- Expecting the GDP growth to remain healthy, Morgan Stanley Research has projected growth for the third quarter of FY24 ending December 2023 at 6.5 per cent, even as it slows from 7.7 per cent in the first half of the current financial year.
- The research arm of the investment bank also said that, supported by strength in services exports and softening global commodity prices, especially oil, the current account deficit is likely to remain benign.
- The ICRA report noted a slowing down of investment activity in the third quarter of the current financial year. It said that the government's gross capital expenditure dipped slightly in October-December 2023 to 24.4 per cent from 26.4 per cent in the previous quarter.
- The capital outlay and net lending of 25 state governments shrank by 3.9 per cent Y-o-Y, after having surged by 42.4 per cent in Q2 FY24.
- The growth in gross value added (GVA) in the services sector, on the other hand, according to ICRA projections, is expected to rise to 6.5 per cent in Q3 FY24 from 5.8 per cent in Q2. It will be led by trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting.

Q. As per Morgan Stanley Research, India's GDP growth for FY2025 to moderate to _____ percent from an estimated 6.9 percent for FY2024.

6.5



Friday, 23 February 2024

Goa, MakeMyTrip ink pact to promote state's culture, sustainable tourism

- The Goa government and online travel firm MakeMyTrip signed an agreement to promote the state's cultural heritage and culinary traditions to make it into a year-round destination, moving beyond the sun, sand and beaches, according to a statement.
- As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a public-private partnership, MakeMyTrip will highlight the state's inland cultural richness and culinary traditions, which usually take a back seat to popular coastal attractions by curating a cultural map of Goa, pushing various initiatives to promote the multi-faceted state.

MakeMyTrip:

- Founded: 2000
- Founder: Deep Kalra
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- Chairman: Deep Kalra
- CEO: Rajesh Magow

Goa:

- Capital: Panaji
- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief minister: Pramod Sawant

Q. Goa government signed an agreement with which online travel firm to promote the cultural heritage and culinary traditions of the state?

MakeMyTrip



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