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Wednesday, 13 November 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Renowned Mridangam Maestro Varadarao Kamalakara Rao Passes Away

- The world of Carnatic music mourns the loss of Varadarao Kamalakara Rao, a highly respected mridangam scholar and performer, whose passing has left a void in the music community.
- Known for his pioneering contributions to the art of mridangam, Rao's death marks the end of an era in Indian classical percussion.

Lifelong Contributions to Carnatic Percussion:

- Rao dedicated his life to the preservation and innovation of mridangam playing. His exceptional skills and profound understanding of rhythm made him a global figure in the Carnatic music tradition.

Author and Teacher:

- Not only a performer, Rao authored several authoritative texts on mridangam techniques and rhythm, helping to educate and inspire countless generations of percussionists. His unique approach to teaching further cemented his status as a revered figure in the music world.

Collaborations with Music Legends:

- Throughout his career, Rao collaborated with many legendary musicians, including violinist Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu and vocalist Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer.

Q. What is Varadarao Kamalakara Rao best known for?
Mastery of the mridangam



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Alix Didier Fils-Aimé Sworn in as Haiti's New Prime Minister

- Alix Didier Fils-Aimé has officially been sworn in as Haiti's Prime Minister in a ceremony held in Port-au-Prince. He succeeds Garry Conille, taking on the responsibility of leading the nation during a period of severe challenges, including gang violence and political instability.

Fils-Aimé's Leadership Priorities:

- As Prime Minister, Fils-Aimé's primary focus will be on improving security and organizing upcoming elections.
- His appointment reflects efforts to stabilize Haiti, with a focus on addressing the escalating violence and political turmoil the country is facing:

Fils-Aimé's Background and Expertise:

- Fils-Aimé has a strong business management and finance background, having studied at Boston University and participated in Harvard's Leaders in Development program.
- His professional experience spans various industries, including telecommunications, manufacturing, and tourism, with leadership roles in Haiti's Chamber of Commerce.

Q. Who has been sworn in as Haiti's new Prime Minister? **Alix Didier Fils-Aimé**



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

AfDB releases 511 million USD to finance government programmes in Niger

- The African Development Bank (AfDB) has allocated \$511 million to support Niger's government programs, aiming to stabilize the country's economy and drive social development.
- This funding is crucial in addressing the challenges exacerbated by sanctions from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) following the military coup in July 2023.

Addressing Economic Stagnation and Sanctions Impact:

- The AfDB's funding will assist Niger in overcoming the economic stagnation, rising inflation, and limited external support resulting from ECOWAS sanctions. These sanctions significantly impacted key sectors, including agriculture and oil.

Focus on Resilience and Economic Diversification:

- The bank's financial aid is focused on building resilience, promoting economic diversification, and providing immediate relief in critical sectors like agriculture. Part of the funding will also improve financial inclusion by enhancing access to financial services, particularly in rural areas.

Q. How much funding has the African Development Bank (AfDB) released to support government programs in Niger?
\$511 million



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

India Launches First Space Defense Exercise: Antariksha Abhyas – 2024

- India has launched its first-ever space defense exercise, Antariksha Abhyas – 2024, which is taking place from November 11 to 13, 2024.
- This strategic initiative aims to strengthen space security capabilities amid increasing threats to space assets.

Objective and Focus of the Exercise:

- The exercise, led by the Defence Space Agency, focuses on enhancing India's space defense strategy by securing national interests in space.
- It addresses vulnerabilities in space-based operations and aims to improve coordination among key defense and space organizations.

Collaboration Across Multiple Defense Agencies:

- Antariksha Abhyas is a joint effort involving multiple military branches, including the Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Intelligence Agency, and crucial participation from ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation).
- These agencies are working together to tackle operational challenges and improve India's space resilience.

Q. What is the name of India's first space defense exercise launched in 2024? **Antariksha Abhyas – 2024**



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Govt extends tenure of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri till 14th of July, 2026

- The Indian government has extended the tenure of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri until July 14, 2026.
- Misri, a seasoned diplomat with significant expertise in China and national security, assumed the role on July 15, 2024, following his predecessor, Vinay Kwatra.

Continuity in Foreign Policy and Diplomacy:

- Misri's extended tenure ensures continuity in India's foreign policy and diplomatic efforts as he navigates complex global challenges.
- His leadership will be crucial in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing India's strategic interests globally.

Experience and Focus on National Security:

- Vikram Misri is known for his extensive experience in national security and foreign relations.
- His previous assignments have included key roles in managing India's diplomatic relations with China.
- His continued leadership is expected to bring stability and focused diplomacy during a time of evolving international dynamics.

Q. What is the new tenure date for Vikram Misri as India's Foreign Secretary? **July 14, 2026**



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Japan: Liberal Democratic Party's Shigeru Ishiba re-elected as country's PM

- Shigeru Ishiba has been re-elected as Japan's Prime Minister after several attempts, succeeding a difficult period for his party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- His re-election comes with a mandate to restore credibility to the party following scandals and a decline in public support.

Leadership Challenges and Strategic Goals:

- As Prime Minister, Ishiba faces urgent challenges including Japan's sluggish economic growth, rising regional tensions—particularly with China—and the need for stronger national security measures. His leadership will focus on reinforcing defense alliances and exploring regional security frameworks akin to NATO.

Ishiba's Cabinet Composition:

- Ishiba's new cabinet includes seasoned politicians, with Takeshi Iwaya returning as Foreign Minister and Gen Nakatani as Defense Minister. This experienced team aims to address Japan's complex internal and external challenges.

Q. Who has been re-elected as Japan's Prime Minister in 2024? **Shigeru Ishiba**

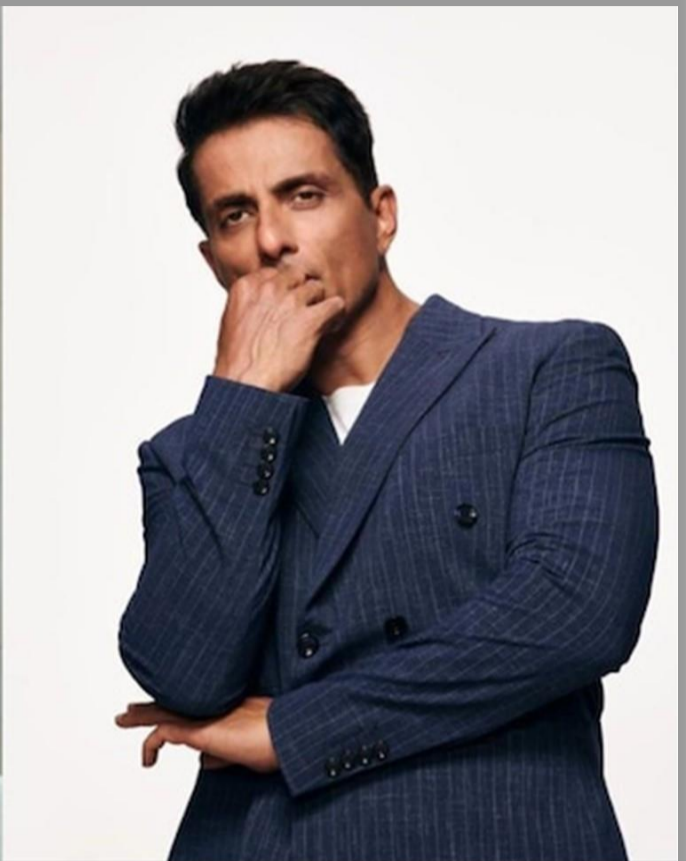


Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Chess: GM Aravindh Chithambaram wins Chennai Grand Masters 2024

- Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram claimed the prestigious Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title in a dramatic finish.
- After a strong surge in the final rounds, he secured the championship by defeating GM Levon Aronian in a tense blitz play-off.
- This victory followed a remarkable performance, including a pivotal win over GM Arjun Erigaisi, propelling him into a three-way tie for first place after seven classical rounds. Chithambaram's superior tie-break score helped him clinch the title.
- The event saw fierce competition, particularly in the Masters category, which featured a high rating average of 2729. Additionally, GM V Pranav triumphed in the newly introduced Challengers category, maintaining an unbeaten streak throughout.
- The tournament showcased the growing strength of Indian chess talent and emphasized Tamil Nadu's commitment to the sport.

Q. Who won the Chennai Grandmasters 2024 chess tournament? **Arvind Chitambaram**



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand

- Sonu Sood, renowned actor and philanthropist, has been appointed as Thailand's Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor by the Thai Ministry of Tourism and Sports.
- This role acknowledges his influence, particularly in promoting tourism.

Promoting Tourism from India:

- As Brand Ambassador, Sood's primary focus will be to encourage Indian travelers to visit Thailand.
- He will also provide advice to Thai authorities on marketing and public relations strategies to boost tourism from India.

Humanitarian Efforts and Public Admiration:

- Sood's appointment follows his widespread admiration for his humanitarian work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he helped thousands of migrant workers.
- His altruistic efforts have contributed to his suitability for the prestigious role.

Q. Who has been appointed as Thailand's Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor? **Sonu Sood**



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Lalabalavu sworn in as President of Fiji

- Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu was elected as Fiji's President on October 31, 2024, following a parliamentary vote where he secured 37 votes against opposition candidate Ratu Meli Tora Taivaiqia, who garnered 16 votes

Role and Background:

- Ratu Naiqama, the paramount chief of Cakaudrove and the Tovata Confederacy, had served as Fiji's Speaker of Parliament prior to his election.
- His transition from this role to the presidency marks the conclusion of his term as Speaker

Departure of Ratu Wiliame Katonivere:

- Ratu Naiqama's term follows the presidency of Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, who decided not to seek re-election after serving as Fiji's president since November 2021.
- Ratu Wiliame's tenure was notable for his environmental advocacy, particularly in ocean conservation.

Q. Who was recently sworn in as the President of Fiji? **Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu**



Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Actor Manoj Mitra passes away at 86

- Veteran actor and playwright Manoj Mitra, a key figure in Bengali theatre, passed away on November 12, 2024, in Kolkata.

Renowned for His Satirical Works:

- Mitra gained recognition for his comedies and politically charged plays that often addressed social issues.

Legacy in Theatre and Film:

- Mitra's influence extended beyond acting, shaping modern Bengali theatre with impactful performances and strong, socially relevant roles in films.
- Manoj Mitra, the celebrated Bengali playwright, actor, and theatre icon, received numerous prestigious awards throughout his career, recognizing his significant contributions to the arts.

Some of the key awards and honors he received include:

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Best Playwright (1985)
- Asiatic Society Gold Medal™ (2005) for his exceptional contribution to theatre
- Filmfare Award East for Best Actor for his role in Banchharamer Bagan (1980)
- West Bengal State Government Award for Best Playwright (1983 and 1989)

Q. Which renowned actor passed away at the age of 86 in November 2024? **Manoj Mitra**



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