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Monday, 17 June 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Monday, 17 June 2024

Cyril Ramaphosa Re-Elected South African President

- Cyril Ramaphosa is re-elected as South Africa's president following a landmark coalition deal between his African National Congress (ANC) and opposition parties.
- The new government of national unity combines Mr Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right Democratic Alliance and other smaller parties.
- The 71-year-old Ramaphosa won convincingly in a Parliament vote against a surprise candidate, Julius Malema, the leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters. Mr. Ramaphosa got 283 votes against Malema's 44 in the 400-member house.
- Cyril Ramaphosa secured his second term, after striking a crucial agreement just hours before the vote for the president with once its fiercest political rival, the Democratic Alliance party, as ANC lost its 30-year majority in Africa's national assembly.
- In elections last month, the vote share of African National Congress dropped to 40%, while the Democratic Alliance emerged as the second largest party with 22% of the votes.
- The parties will now co-govern South Africa in its first national coalition where no party has a majority.

Q. Who has been elected as South African President?
Cyril Ramaphosa



Monday, 17 June 2024

Russia, Egypt to conduct joint naval exercises in the Mediterranean

- Two warships of the Russian Pacific Fleet will participate in joint naval exercises with the Egyptian Navy in the Mediterranean Sea, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced.
- According to the ministry, a group of combat ships from the Pacific Fleet, including the missile cruiser Varyag and the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov, has left for the Egyptian port of Alexandria to engage in the joint exercise with the Egyptian Navy.
- The ministry further specified that the Egyptian Navy will be represented by the frigate ENS Al-Qadeer during the drills.
- The exercises will be conducted in the PASSEX format, which focuses on mastering combat coordination techniques between the fleets of different nations. The drills will include elements of joint maneuvering, communication training, and inspection actions.

Egypt:

- Capital: Cairo
- President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister: Mostafa Madbouly

Q. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, Russia will take part in joint naval exercises with the Egyptian Navy in which sea? **Mediterranean**



Monday, 17 June 2024

India only South Asian country to attend Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit

- India is the only South Asian country that will attend a Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit over the weekend at Switzerland's Buergenstock resort near the city of Lucerne, according to a list of participating states released by the organisers.
- More than 90 countries — half from Europe — and organisations including the United Nations, have confirmed their participation in the summit while Russia (not invited), China, and Pakistan are some notable absentees who will not join the talks.
- India will be represented by Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Notable attendees will include UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, US Vice President Kamala Harris, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The summit will aim to chart a path toward peace in Ukraine.

Q. Name the only South Asian country to participate in Ukraine Peace Summit hosted by Switzerland?

India



Monday, 17 June 2024

India reclaims fourth-biggest global equity market tag from Hong Kong

- The domestic equity markets have once again overtaken Hong Kong to reclaim the fourth-largest global market tag. Following the sharp rebound in the market from election result day lows, India's market capitalisation has soared 10 per cent to \$5.2 trillion, or Rs 435 trillion (BSE-listed companies). By comparison, Hong Kong's mcap is \$5.17 trillion, down 5.4 per cent from this year's high of \$5.47 trillion.
- India surpassed Hong Kong's market value for the first time in January. Since their market value has crisscrossed with each other a few times.
- From this year's low of \$4.3 trillion, Hong Kong's market cap rose as much as 27 per cent amid a rebound in Hong Kong and China equities during a steady stream of policy support measures from Beijing.
- Currently, Hong Kong market trades at a 12-month forward price-to-earnings multiple of about 9 compared to 20 times for India.
- On a price-to-book basis, India trades at 3x, while Hong Kong is at just one time.

Q. India has once again regained the title of the fourth largest global equity market, surpassing which country? **Hong Kong**



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

University Grants Commission

New Delhi, India

Monday, 17 June 2024

University Grants Commission Announces New Fee Refund Policy For Higher Educational Institutions

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will be required to provide a full refund of fees for all cancellations or migrations up to 30th September this year.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced this in the new fee refund policy for the 2024-25 academic session.
- This has been done to address complaints from students and parents regarding non-refund of fees upon cancellation or withdrawal of admissions.
- This policy applies to all HEIs under Central or State Acts, UGC-recognized institutions, deemed universities, and organizations involved in admissions counseling.
- The higher education regulatory body also said that after 30th September and until 31st October this year, a refund can be issued with a deduction of no more than one thousand rupees as a processing fee.
- It added that for admission schedules extending beyond 31st October, the provisions from the UGC Notification of October 2018 will apply. Institutions violating this policy will face punitive actions as specified in the 2018 notification.

Q. Under the new fee refund policy of the UGC for the 2024-25 academic session, refunds can be issued after September 30 and up to October 31 this year with a deduction of no more than _____ as processing fee. **One thousand rupees**



Sahitya Akademi Award

Monday, 17 June 2024

Sahitya Akademi announces Yuva Puraskar, Bal Sahitya Puraskar winners for 2024

- The Sahitya Akademi announced the names of 23 writers, including English writer K Vaishali and Hindi author Gaurav Pandey, who will receive the prestigious Yuva Puraskar across as many languages.
- The National Academy of Letters also announced the names of 24 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024.
- The winner of the Yuva Puraskar in Sanskrit will be announced at a later date, the Akademi said in a statement.
- While K Vaishali will be honoured for her memoir "Homeless: Growing up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India", Gaurav Pandey won the prestigious award for his poetry collection "Smritiyon Ke Beech Ghiri Hai Prithvi".
- The Yuva Puraskar has been awarded for 10 poetry books, seven collections of short stories, two collections of articles and one of essays, one novel, one book of ghazals and one memoir.
- Yuva Puraskar awardees will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 at an awards ceremony later.

Q. Name the Hindi author, who will receive this year's prestigious Yuva Puraskar? **Gaurav Pandey**



Monday, 17 June 2024

MEA and SBI sign MoU for digital payment services on eMigrate portal

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the State Bank of India (SBI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate SBI's payment gateway, SBIEPay, with the eMigrate portal.
- This integration aims to provide an additional digital payment service for Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents, and other users of the portal, officials announced on Saturday.
- Launched in 2014, the eMigrate portal has been instrumental in making the emigration process online and transparent for Indian workers heading to countries where emigration checks are required. The portal connects foreign employers, registered recruiting agents, and insurance companies issuing the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna, facilitating seamless, safe, and legal migration.
- The MEA statement highlighted that the portal also allows for the voluntary registration of emigrants with ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) category passports seeking overseas employment.

Q. Recently With which ministry, State Bank of India (SBI) has signed an MoU to integrate SBIEPay with the e-Migrate portal? **Ministry of External Affairs**



Monday, 17 June 2024

Ex-Arsenal and Everton striker Campbell dies aged 54

- Former Arsenal and Everton striker Kevin Campbell has died at the age of 54 after a short illness.
- Campbell scored 148 goals in 542 appearances across spells with eight clubs during his career.
- He won four major trophies with Arsenal and also played for Leyton Orient, Leicester, Nottingham Forest, Trabzonspor, Everton, West Brom and Cardiff.
- Campbell made his final appearance as a player in February 2007 before moving into broadcasting.
- The Arsenal Football Club, commonly known as simply Arsenal, is a professional football club based in Holloway, North London, England.
- Everton Football Club is also a professional association football club based in Liverpool, England.

Q. Kevin Campbell, who passed away recently, was related to which sport? **Football**



Monday, 17 June 2024

Millwall goalkeeper Matija Sarkic passes away at 26

- Millwall and Montenegro goalkeeper Matija Sarkic passed away at the age of 26. Sarkic fell ill in his home country while on international duty.
- Born in Grimsby, England, Sarkic played for Aston Villa and Belgian side Anderlecht at youth level.
- He made 33 appearances for Millwall after joining in August 2023 from Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers.
- Millwall Football Club is a professional football club in Bermondsey, South East London, England.

Q. Name the Millwall Football Club goalkeeper, who passed away at the age of 26?

Matija Sarkic



Monday, 17 June 2024

G7 agrees \$50bn loan for Ukraine from Russian assets

- The G7 has agreed to use frozen Russian assets to raise \$50bn (£39bn) for Ukraine to help it fight invading Russian forces.
- Also at the G7 summit in Italy, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Mr Biden signed a 10-year bilateral security deal between Ukraine and the US, hailed by Kyiv as "historic".
- The agreement envisages US military and training aid to Ukraine - but it does not commit Washington to send troops to fight for its ally.
- According to the White House, the security deal means Washington and Kyiv will work to build and maintain Ukraine's defence and deterrence capability, bolster the country's defence industrial base, and support economic recovery and energy security.
- Separately, some \$325bn worth of assets were frozen by the G7, alongside the EU, following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The pot of assets is generating about \$3bn a year in interest.
- Under the G7 plan, that \$3bn will be used to pay off the annual interest on the \$50bn loan for the Ukrainians, taken out on the international markets.

Q. Recently, the G7 has agreed to use Russian assets to raise \$50 billion (£39 billion) for which country?
Ukraine



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