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Friday, 28 June 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Friday, 28 June 2024

Paraguay Becomes 100th Full Member Of The International Solar Alliance

- Paraguay became the 100th country to join as a full member of the International Solar Alliance with its Ambassador to India formally handing over Instrument of Ratification during a meeting in New Delhi.
- Spain became the 99th member of the ISA earlier this year, as it handed over the Instrument of Ratification on May 21, 2024.
- The ISA was born as a coalition of solar resource-rich countries to address their unique energy needs.
- It was launched by India and France on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris on November 30, 2015.
- One of the significant driving philosophies of ISA is "One Sun One World One Grid" (OSOWOG).
- The objective of the alliance is to mobilize efforts to reduce the cost of solar energy, facilitate its deployment, and bring together countries to address common challenges related to solar energy.

Q. Name the 100th country to join as full member of the International Solar Alliance? **Paraguay**



Friday, 28 June 2024

India's first coal gasification pilot project launched in Jharkhand

- The government of India-owned Coal India Limited subsidiary company, Eastern Coalfields Limited, has launched a pilot project for in situ underground coal gasification at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.
- The coal will not be removed from the mine, and the coal gasification process will take place within the mine.
- If the project is successful, it will create transformative opportunities for India's energy sector, showcasing the sustainable and efficient use of the country's coal resources.
- The project aims to prove that underground gasification at the coal-bearing site is economically viable.
- It will convert coal into valuable gasses like methane, hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide.
- These gasses will be used to produce synthetic natural gas, chemical feedstocks for fuels, fertilisers, explosives, and other industrial applications.
- To make India a leader in the underground coal gasification field.

Q. India's first coal gasification pilot project has been launched in which state ? **Jharkhand**



Friday, 28 June 2024

CAG inaugurates first museum in 164 Years at historic Chadwick House

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India inaugurated the 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum at Shimla.
- A significant milestone in the preservation and celebration of the institution's rich heritage and contributions to the nation's governance.
- Chadwick House, a significant landmark in Shimla, boasts a rich and extensive history.
- Its historical significance is further highlighted by Mahatma Gandhi's stay in 1946 during his visit to Shimla for the Cabinet Mission.
- Post-independence, in 1950, a training school for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service was started here.
- With the training establishment moving, Chadwick House gradually fell into disrepair.
- Without proper care and maintenance, it was on the brink of demolition in 2018.
- At that juncture, the Supreme Audit Institution of India stepped in to safeguard its heritage.

Q. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India inaugurated the 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' museum in _____. **Shimla**



Friday, 28 June 2024

China becomes first country to retrieve rocks from the moon's far side

- China brought a capsule full of lunar soil from the far side of the moon down to Earth, achieving the latest success in an ambitious schedule to explore the moon and other parts of the solar system.
- The sample, retrieved by the China National Space Administration's Chang'e-6 lander after a 53-day mission, highlights China's growing capabilities in space and notches another win in a series of lunar missions that started in 2007 and have so far been executed almost without flaw.
- Such sentiments and the prospects of international lunar sample exchanges highlighted the hope that China's robotic missions to the moon and Mars will serve to advance scientific understanding of the solar system.
- In February, a privately operated American spacecraft landed on the moon.
- NASA is also pursuing the Artemis campaign to return Americans to the lunar surface, although its next mission, a flight by astronauts around the moon, has been delayed because of technical issues.

China:

- Capital: Beijing
- President: Xi Jinping
- Currency: Renminbi

Q. Which country has become first to retrieve rocks from the moon's far side? **China**



Friday, 28 June 2024

S.Korea, US, Japan hold 1st trilateral 'Freedom Edge' exercise

- South Korea, the US and Japan began their first trilateral multi-domain exercise, amid efforts to deepen security cooperation against threats from North Korea, recently emboldened by its deepening ties with Russia.
- The three-day exercise, named Freedom Edge, got underway in international waters south of South Korea's southern resort island of Jeju.
- The new exercise takes its name from key bilateral exercises the US holds regularly with the Asian neighbours -- Freedom Shield with South Korea and Keen Edge with Japan.
- The drills mobilised various warships and aircraft from the three sides, including the US Navy's USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier, South Korea's Seoae Ryu Seong-ryong destroyer and Japan's JS Ise helicopter destroyer.
- Freedom Edge expresses the will of South Korea, the US and Japan to promote trilateral interoperability and protect freedom for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, including the Korean Peninsula. The exercise will focus on ballistic missile defence, air defence, anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue, maritime interdiction and defensive cyber training, adding the three sides will continue to expand Freedom Edge going forward.

Q. What is the name of the trilateral exercise among South Korea, the US and Japan amid efforts to deepen security cooperation against threats from North Korea? **Freedom Edge**



Friday, 28 June 2024

SpaceX bags \$843 million NASA contract to de-orbit ISS in 2030

- Elon Musk's SpaceX has won a \$843 million NASA contract to prepare for the safe and responsible deorbit of the International Space Station (ISS) in a controlled manner after the end of its operational life in 2030.
- As part of the contract, SpaceX will develop and deliver the US Deorbit Vehicle that will provide the capability to deorbit the space station and ensure avoidance of risk to populated areas.
- Selecting a US Deorbit Vehicle for the International Space Station will help NASA and its international partners ensure a safe and responsible transition in low Earth orbit at the end of station operations.
- While SpaceX will make the deorbit spacecraft, NASA will operate it throughout its mission.
- In addition to the space station, it is expected to destructively break up as part of the re-entry process.
- The ISS has seen astronauts from CSA (Canadian Space Agency), ESA (European Space Agency), JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), and State Space Corporation Roscosmos, since 1998.
- Each agency was responsible for managing and controlling the hardware it provided.

Q. Who has won a \$843 million NASA contract to prepare for the safe and responsible deorbit of the International Space Station (ISS) in a controlled manner after the end of its operational life in 2030? **SpaceX**



Friday, 28 June 2024

Flipkart rolling out own payments app 'Super.money'

- Indian e-commerce giant Flipkart has quietly started rolling out its own payments app, dubbed Super.money, as it broadens its fintech ambitions more than a year and half after separating from PhonePe.
- The Walmart-owned firm's new app, now live in beta on Play Store, allows users to make mobile payments via UPI, an interoperable network that is the most popular way Indians transact online.
- To woo customers, Super.money is promising “real cashback” and not “useless rewards” for paying, sending or receiving money via the app, the Android app's description says.
- The firm, part of Flipkart Group, also plans to expand its offerings to include secured cards and lending.
- Super.money identifies DMI Finance, Axis Bank and Credit Saison India among its partners on its website.
- The launch follows Flipkart's separation from PhonePe in late 2022.
- PhonePe is the largest mobile payments app in India, processing nearly 50% of all transactions on the UPI network.

Q. What is the name of the payment app rolled out by Walmart-owned Flipkart as it broadens its fintech ambitions more than a year and half after separating from PhonePe?

Super.money



Friday, 28 June 2024

India's Santhosh Suvarna wins his second World Series of Poker title

- Indian Poker maestro Santhosh Suvarna scripted history by winning his second bracelet in the World Series of Poker (WSOP) and taking home a record prize money of over Rs 45 crore.
- He ran an eventful 3-day feat at the WSOP where he battled with the best poker players from across the world, emerging as a winner of the prestigious event.
- Suvarna is a successful businessman from Bangalore and a recognised Poker player in the Indian and International Poker circuits.
- He used to initially compete in tournaments in India.
- Santhosh's win in the 'Super High Roller' event has placed him in the current top 100 in the all-time money list in the world.
- Poker is a recognised mind sport and leading Poker platforms like PokerBaazi are working towards building a multi-faceted Poker ecosystem in India.
- They have launched marquee IPs like National Poker Series India, the country's most prestigious Poker event and G.O.A.T., the single biggest tournament with the largest prize money in India.

Q. Which Indian Poker maestro scripted history by winning his second bracelet in the World Series of Poker (WSOP) and taking home a record prize money of over Rs 45 crore?

Santhosh Suvarna



Friday, 28 June 2024

Health Ministry launches national STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024

- Former Sri Lankan head coach Chris Silverwood has resigned from his role of men's team coach citing personal reasons.
- Silverwood took charge of the Sri Lankan team in April 2022 after moving ahead as the head coach of the England men's team.
- Under his coaching, Sri Lanka won 8 Tests, 26 ODIs and 18 T20Is.
- On the other hand former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene has resigned from his role of team's consultant coach.
- He was signed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on an extension of one year in January 2024.
- Jayawardene had first taken up the role in 2022 and the team also won the Asia Cup in the same year under Dasun Shanaka's leadership.
- But their poor showings at the ICC events - T20 World Cup 2022 and 2024 and ODI World Cup 2023 had led to his position being under scrutiny.

Q. Name the head coach of Sri Lanka men's cricket team who has resigned from his role citing personal reasons? **Chris Silverwood**



Friday, 28 June 2024

Arundhati Roy awarded UK's Pen Pinter Prize for her 'unflinching' writings

- Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy was honoured with the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize 2024 for her unflinching and unswerving writings.
- The prize, established in 2009 by the charity English PEN, defends freedom of expression and celebrates literature in memory of Nobel-Laureate playwright Harold Pinter.
- Roy expressed her delight at being named this year's winner amid an incomprehensible turn the world is taking.
- The renowned author, who won the Booker Prize for her debut novel 'The God of Small Things', was chosen by this year's judges Chair of English PEN Ruth Borthwick; actor and activist Khalid Abdalla; and writer and musician Roger Robinson. She will receive the award at a ceremony co-hosted by the British Library on October 10.

PEN Pinter Prize

- The prize is awarded annually to a writer of outstanding literary merit resident in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland or the Commonwealth who, in the words of Harold Pinter's Nobel Prize in Literature speech, casts an unflinching, unswerving gaze upon the world and shows a fierce intellectual determination to define the real truth of our lives and our societies.

Q. This year who was honoured with the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize 2024 for her unflinching and unswerving writings? **Arundhati Roy**



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