



22 June 2024

National and International News

<p><b>INS SUNAYNA</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INS Sunayna, on a long-range deployment to the <b>South West Indian Ocean Region (IOR)</b>, arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on June 20, 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INS Sunayna, a Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), was commissioned in 2013 at Kochi.</li> <li>It is the second ship of the Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV) class.</li> <li>INS Sunayna operates under the Southern Naval Command and was constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.</li> </ul> <p><b>INS Sunayna is versatile in its operational roles, capable of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet support operations</li> <li>Coastal and offshore patrolling</li> <li>Ocean surveillance</li> <li>Monitoring Sea Lines of Communications and offshore assets</li> <li>Escort duties</li> </ul> <p><b>Significance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INS Sunayna significantly enhances the Indian Navy's operational reach and capability, ensuring maritime security and safeguarding national interests in the region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Saryu Class Vessels:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other vessels in the Saryu class include INS Sumitra and INS Sumedha.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every year on June 21st, the world celebrates World Hydrography Day, organized by the <b>International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)</b>.</li> <li>This significant day aims to raise awareness about the field of hydrography and its essential role in understanding our seas and oceans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme for 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The theme for World Hydrography Day 2024 is <b>“Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities.”</b></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This theme highlights the evolving nature of navigation, including advancements in e-navigation, autonomous shipping, and efforts to reduce emissions.</li> </ul> <p><b>India's Contribution to Hydrography:</b>  <b>Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating under the Indian Navy, the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD) is the primary agency responsible for conducting hydrographic surveys and publishing nautical charts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Achievements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published over 650 electronic and paper navigation charts.</li> <li>Distributed 650,000 Electronic Navigational Charts last year.</li> <li>Earned revenue of nearly 800 million rupees.</li> </ul> <p><b>NAVAREA VIII Coordinator:</b>  As the NAVAREA VIII coordinator, the INHD covers 26 million square kilometers of the Indian Ocean. It disseminates crucial navigation safety information through the "<b>India WINS</b>" web portal, which has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surpassed 3.5 million views since December 2022.</li> <li>An average of 3,500 daily visitors.</li> <li>Training and International Cooperation</li> </ul> <p><b>National Institute of Hydrography (NIH):</b>  <b>Located in Goa, the National Institute of Hydrography (NIH) is India's premier hydrography training center.</b> It has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trained over 800 trainees from 41 countries.</li> <li>Accreditation from the IHO for Cat A and Cat B certificates.</li> </ul> <p><b>International Collaboration:</b>  Aligned with India's SAGAR initiative, the Indian Navy has engaged in international collaboration by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting joint surveys covering 89,000 square kilometers over the last five years.</li> <li>Producing 96 charts in cooperation with friendly foreign nations.</li> <li>Assisting in capacity building and knowledge sharing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Global Energy Transition Index</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the <b>Global Energy Transition Index released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)</b> on 19 June 2024, India has been ranked <b>63rd out of 120 countries, improving three ranks from last year's 67th position.</b></li> <li><b>Sweden has again topped the Index</b>, reflecting its continued leadership in energy transition.</li> <li>The WEF highlighted India's significant advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Global Energy Transition Index, published annually by the <b>WEF in association with Accenture, evaluates nations' progress and preparedness in building an equitable, secure, and sustainable energy future.</b></li> <li>• It tracks government policies and their effectiveness in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, promoting non-fossil-based power sources, and enhancing energy efficiency.</li> </ul> <p><b>European nations dominate the 2024 Index's top ranks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sweden</li> <li>• Denmark</li> <li>• Finland</li> <li>• Switzerland</li> <li>• France</li> </ul> <p><b>China is ranked 20th, while India stands at 63rd.</b></p> <p><b>World Economic Forum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded in 1971 by German economist Klaus Schwab, the WEF is a non-profit international organization headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland.</li> <li>• It aims to foster collaboration between global stakeholders to address common challenges.</li> <li>• The WEF publishes several influential reports, including the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report, and Global IT Report.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hemis Festival 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Hemis Festival in Ladakh, also known as Hemis Tsechu, is celebrated annually on the 10th day of the Tibetan lunar month Tse-Chu.</b></li> <li>• This two-day festival commemorates the birth anniversary of <b>Guru Padmasambhava, a revered figure believed to be an incarnation of Lord Buddha.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The origins of the Hemis Festival date back to the 8th century, celebrating the <b>significant spiritual figure Guru Padmasambhava.</b></li> <li>• Various legends suggest that Guru Padmasambhava drove out demons and evil spirits from Ladakh during the 8th century.</li> </ul> <p><b>Highlights of the Festival:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chham Dance:</b> The masked dance is a highlight, depicting the triumph of good over evil. Lamas and monks wear vibrant costumes, long gowns, elaborate masks, and headgear, each holding special significance.</li> <li>• <b>Sacred Plays:</b> Sacred plays performed during the event</li> </ul>



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	<p>keep spectators entertained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Devil Dances:</b> Vital aspects of the celebration include Devil Dances and the ritual destruction of a dough sculpture representing evil powers by the head of the Black Hat dancers. The broken pieces are thrown in four directions, symbolizing the purification of the soul.</li> <li>• Local Drink 'Chang': A traditional Tibetan drink made from rice water, served during the festival.</li> <li>• <b>Handicrafts Exhibition:</b> Striking handicrafts, including gemstones, jewelry, wicker baskets, carpets, paintings, and indigenous goods from Ladakh, add to the festival's charm.</li> <li>• <b>Thangkas:</b> Every 12th year, known as the Tibetan Year of Monkey, features the display of the largest thangka of Guru Padmasambhava, decorated with semi-precious gems, stones, and pearls.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Casimir effect</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scientists have discovered a way to control the Casimir effect, potentially revolutionizing nanotechnology.</b></li> <li>• <b>This advancement could lead to smarter and more agile nanotech machines.</b></li> </ul> <p>Key points: About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Casimir effect is a quantum phenomenon where two materials placed close together are attracted or repelled due to <b>quantum fluctuations</b>.</li> <li>• Researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences have managed to manipulate this effect, reversing the transition from attractive to repulsive using a ferrofluid as an intermediate medium.</li> <li>• This ability to control the Casimir effect marks a significant breakthrough for engineering nanotechnology, which often accounts for this effect in its design.</li> </ul>

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