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22 June 2024

National and International News

INS SUNAYNA

**Context:**

- INS Sunayna, on a long-range deployment to the **South West Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**, arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on June 20, 2024.

**About:**

- INS Sunayna, a Saryu class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), was commissioned in 2013 at Kochi.
- It is the second ship of the Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV) class.
- INS Sunayna operates under the Southern Naval Command and was constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited.

**INS Sunayna is versatile in its operational roles, capable of:**

- Fleet support operations
- Coastal and offshore patrolling
- Ocean surveillance
- Monitoring Sea Lines of Communications and offshore assets
- Escort duties

**Significance:**

- INS Sunayna significantly enhances the Indian Navy's operational reach and capability, ensuring maritime security and safeguarding national interests in the region.

**Saryu Class Vessels:**

- Other vessels in the Saryu class include INS Sumitra and INS Sumedha.



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**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2024**

**Context:**

- Every year on June 21st, the world celebrates World Hydrography Day, organized by the **International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)**.
- This significant day aims to raise awareness about the field of hydrography and its essential role in understanding our seas and oceans.

**Theme for 2024:**

- The theme for World Hydrography Day 2024 is **“Hydrographic Information – Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities.”**
- This theme highlights the evolving nature of navigation, including advancements in e-navigation, autonomous shipping, and efforts to reduce emissions.

**India’s Contribution to Hydrography:**

**Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD)**

- Operating under the Indian Navy, the Indian Naval Hydrographic Department (INHD) is the primary agency responsible for conducting hydrographic surveys and publishing nautical charts.

**Key Achievements:**

- Published over 650 electronic and paper navigation charts.
- Distributed 650,000 Electronic Navigational Charts last year.
- Earned revenue of nearly 800 million rupees.

**NAVAREA VIII Coordinator:**

As the NAVAREA VIII coordinator, the INHD covers 26 million square kilometers of the Indian Ocean. It disseminates crucial navigation safety information through the **"India WINS" web portal**, which has:

- Surpassed 3.5 million views since December 2022.
- An average of 3,500 daily visitors.
- Training and International Cooperation



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	<p><b>National Institute of Hydrography (NIH):</b> Located in Goa, the National Institute of Hydrography (NIH) is India's premier hydrography training center. 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>



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	<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 Cologne, 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 keep spectators entertained.</li> <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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