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22 June 2024

National & 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> <li>This theme highlights the evolving nature of navigation, including advancements in e-navigation, autonomous shipping, and efforts to reduce emissions.</li> </ul>



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### 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

#### National Institute of Hydrography (NIH):

Located in Goa, the National Institute of Hydrography (NIH) is India's premier hydrography training center. It has:

- Trained over 800 trainees from 41 countries.
- Accreditation from the IHO for Cat A and Cat B certificates.

#### International Collaboration:

Aligned with India's SAGAR initiative, the Indian Navy has engaged in international collaboration by:

- Conducting joint surveys covering 89,000 square kilometers over the last five years.
- Producing 96 charts in cooperation with friendly foreign nations.
- Assisting in capacity building and knowledge sharing.

### Global Energy Transition Index

#### Context:

- According to the **Global Energy Transition Index released by the World Economic Forum (WEF)** on 19 June 2024, India has been ranked **63rd out of 120 countries, improving three ranks from last year's 67th position.**
- **Sweden has again topped the Index**, reflecting its continued leadership in energy transition.
- The WEF highlighted India's significant advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.



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	<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></ul>



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- **Sacred Plays:** Sacred plays performed during the event keep spectators entertained.
- **Devil Dances:** 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.
- **Local Drink 'Chang':** A traditional Tibetan drink made from rice water, served during the festival.
- **Handicrafts Exhibition:** Striking handicrafts, including gemstones, jewelry, wicker baskets, carpets, paintings, and indigenous goods from Ladakh, add to the festival's charm.
- **Thangkas:** 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.

### Casimir effect

#### Context:

- **Scientists have discovered a way to control the Casimir effect, potentially revolutionizing nanotechnology.**
- **This advancement could lead to smarter and more agile nanotech machines.**

#### Key points:

##### About:

- The Casimir effect is a quantum phenomenon where two materials placed close together are attracted or repelled due to **quantum fluctuations**.
- 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.
- This ability to control the Casimir effect marks a significant breakthrough for engineering nanotechnology, which often accounts for this effect in its design.

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