



CURRENT AFFAIRS 11th Jan 2024

International News

Rajnath Singh Visits UK For Defense And Security Talks



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has embarked on a crucial three-day visit to London, emphasizing the multifaceted dimensions of the India-UK Defence Partnership. The visit aims to foster high-level discussions covering a broad spectrum of defence, security, and industrial cooperation issues between the two nations.

The discussions are anticipated to encompass a wide range of topics, including defence strategies, security challenges, and collaborative industrial ventures. This engagement aims to foster partnerships, encourage investments, and explore avenues for joint ventures between Indian and British companies.

South Korea Bans Trade Of Dog Meat In New Law



South Korea's parliament made history by passing a groundbreaking bill that bans the eating and selling of dog meat. This move marks the end of a centuries-old practice that has been increasingly criticized in the face of growing support for animal welfare. Proposed by the ruling party and enjoying rare bipartisan support, the bill passed with an overwhelming majority of 208 votes and two abstentions in the single-chamber parliament.

The legislation aims to "eradicate the consumption of dogs" and will take effect after a three-year grace period. The breeding and slaughtering of dogs for human consumption will be punishable by up to three years in prison or a fine of 30 million won (\$22,800). Notably, the bill does not stipulate penalties for individuals consuming dog meat.

State News

Chhattisgarh Launches "Ramlala Darshan" Scheme: Free Pilgrimage To Ayodhya Dham



Chhattisgarh Government will launch the Ramlala Darshan Scheme, a pilgrimage to the newly built Ram Temple at Ayodhya. The decision was made during a state cabinet meeting held in Raipur.

To fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee, the state will send around 20,000 residents to Ayodhya for darshan of Shri Ramlala every year.

It is Open to Chhattisgarh residents aged 18-75 who pass a health exam. Disabled people can go with one family member. Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, funded by Tourism

Department, will manage. District committees under District Collectors will select beneficiaries.

Maharashtra Creates New Safe Haven For Endangered Canids And Diverse Wildlife



The Maharashtra government has established a crucial new wildlife habitat in Sangli district, aptly named the Atpadi Conservation Reserve.

Spanning a compact 9.48 sq. km, this reserve prioritizes the protection of the endangered 'canid' family, including wild dogs, wolves, jackals, and foxes. Strategically located, Atpadi bridges the gap between the Maini Conservation Area and the Madhok Bird Sanctuary, fostering a safe wildlife corridor.

This diverse sanctuary boasts three distinct forest types – semi-evergreen, moist deciduous, and dry deciduous. Its rich flora and fauna encompass 35 tree species, 15 shrubs, 14 vines, 116 herbs, and even a parasitic plant, creating a vibrant ecological tapestry.

Important Days News

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2024



National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, observed annually on January 11, serves as a poignant reminder of the need to address this global crisis and bring an end to the suffering endured by victims.

This year, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day falls on a Thursday, January 11. The annual observance serves as a rallying point for individuals, communities, and organizations to come together, share information, and take collective action against human trafficking.

Human trafficking encompasses forced labor, criminal activities, sexual exploitation, organ removal, and smuggling. Despite our progress, slavery persists in the shadows. In 2007, the United States Senate declared January 11 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. President Barack Obama further dedicated the entire month of January 2010 to raise awareness about this deeply rooted issue.

Schemes News

Street Vendors Get A Boost: PAiSA Dashboard & PM SVANidhi Portal Launched



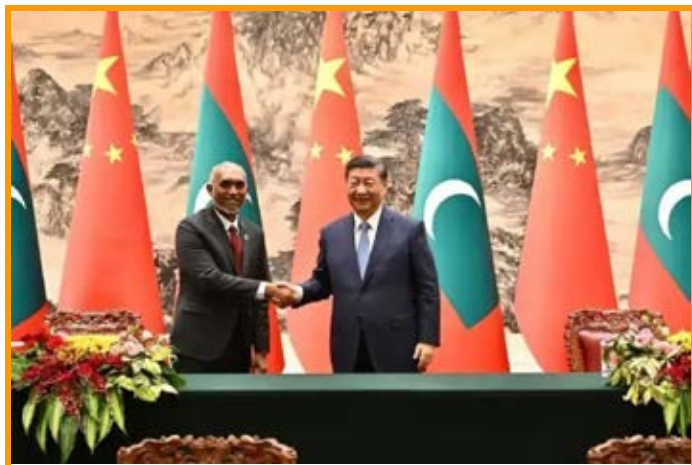
Union Minister Hardeep S. Puri emphasized the importance of strong grievance redressal committees under the Street Vendors Act 2014, aiming to swiftly resolve disputes among vendors. He further unveiled two key initiatives to empower street vendors:

PAiSA Dashboard: This online platform provides real-time updates on the progress of the PM SVANidhi Mission scheme. Vendors can track loan applications, disbursements, and repayments at their fingertips, fostering transparency and accountability.

PM SVANidhi Mission Monitoring Portal: This dedicated portal offers comprehensive data and insights on the scheme's nationwide implementation. Stakeholders, including government officials, lenders, and street vendor associations, can access valuable information to monitor progress, identify challenges, and ensure effective execution.

Agreements News

Maldives And China Sign 20 Agreements For Diverse Cooperation



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu recently held significant talks, culminating in the signing of 20 key agreements that span various areas of cooperation.

The leaders announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, demonstrating the mutual commitment to enhancing diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Twenty key agreements were signed, encompassing various sectors such as tourism cooperation, disaster risk reduction, blue economy, and investments in the digital economy. The agreements also included a commitment from China to provide grant assistance to the Maldives, with specific details undisclosed.

Scientists From Mauritius And Bangladesh Join India's 43rd Antarctic Expedition



This December, India's 43rd Antarctic expedition, led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, welcomed scientists from Mauritius and Bangladesh onboard, marking a significant step in international polar research collaboration.

This initiative stems from the maiden Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Oceanographers and Hydrographers conference held in 2022, which laid the groundwork for scientific partnerships among member nations.

The scientists joining the Antarctic expedition will spend 3-4 months actively engaged in collaborative research across various polar science disciplines. Their focus will lie on gaining insights into polar logistics and addressing the unique challenges posed by the harsh environment of the Antarctic.

Appointments News

Senthil Pandian C Appointed As India's WTO Ambassador



The Indian government has named IAS officer Senthil Pandian C as the ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva.

This appointment follows the conclusion of Brajendra Navnit's term as India's ambassador to the WTO on March 31, 2024.

Senthil Pandian C is currently serving as the commissioner of excise in Uttar Pradesh. His extensive experience in administrative roles within the Indian bureaucracy positions him well to represent the country's interests on the global trade stage.

Tshering Tobgay Re-Elected As Bhutan's Prime Minister



Bhutanese voters have overwhelmingly chosen Tshering Tobgay as their Prime Minister for a second term. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), led by Mr. Tobgay, secured a landslide victory, winning nearly two-thirds of the seats in the recent election, as announced by the election commission on January 10.

Tshering Tobgay, a former Prime Minister who previously held office from 2013 to 2018, has promised to strengthen ties with India, Bhutan's key trading partner. A 58-year-old former civil servant, Tshering Tobgay is a passionate conservation advocate holding degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and public administration from Harvard. He played a pivotal role as the leader of the Opposition when Bhutan's first parliament was established in 2008....