

Current Affairs 16th December 2024

1. Pioneering Green Steel: India's New Framework



- India unveiled its first-ever Taxonomy of Green Steel, aiming to promote low-carbon steel production. This framework sets standards for the green steel industry, contributing to the nation's decarbonization efforts. It positions India as a leader in sustainable industrial practices.

2. India Launches First Diabetes Biobank in Chennai



- India has launched its first diabetes biobank in Chennai, a collaboration between ICMR and MDRF. The biobank will collect, store, and distribute biological samples for diabetes research. This will advance the understanding of diabetes, its causes, and related disorders.

3. VIRAASAT Sari Festival 2024 in New Delhi



- The Ministry of Textiles is hosting the Viraasat Sari Festival 2024 at Handloom Haat in New Delhi, showcasing India's handwoven sari heritage. The festival aims to promote the handloom industry and support artisans. It highlights the cultural significance of sari weaving traditions.

4. Cyclone Chido Wrecks Havoc in Mayotte and Mozambique



- Cyclone Chido, a Category 4 storm, caused severe damage in Mayotte, followed by landfall in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado. The cyclone's winds exceeded 200 km/h, and it resulted in widespread destruction and loss of life. The storm is expected to impact northern Mozambique with heavy rains.

5. UK Joins the Indo-Pacific Bloc: CPTPP



- The UK officially became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This marks a significant post-Brexit trade milestone for the UK. It is expected to strengthen its economic ties with the Indo-Pacific region.

6. Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile Tested by US Armed Forces



- The U.S. military successfully tested the **Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW)**, known as "Dark Eagle," capable of traveling at speeds over Mach 5. The missile's test was conducted at Cape Canaveral, Florida. It represents a major advancement in hypersonic technology for the U.S. military.

7. Mount Semeru Erupts in East Java, Indonesia



- Mount Semeru in East Java, Indonesia, erupted on December 15, sending ash clouds up to 1,000 meters high. The eruption prompted an orange aviation warning for nearby areas. Flight restrictions were imposed within a 5-kilometer radius to ensure safety.

8. Mikheil Kavelashvili Elected as Georgia's New President



- Mikheil Kavelashvili, a former footballer, was elected President of Georgia on December 16, 2024. His victory comes amid rising concerns about Georgia's relationship with Russia. The election reflects the growing influence of the ruling Georgian Dream party.

9. Uttarakhand Launches India's First Yoga Policy



- Uttarakhand has launched India's first-ever Yoga Policy to promote the state as a global yoga hub. The policy aims to integrate yoga, Ayurveda, and wellness into tourism, health, and employment sectors. Rishikesh, already known as the "Yoga Capital of the World," is central to this initiative.

10. NCL Launches 'CHARAK' Health Scheme for Free Treatment



- Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has launched the **CHARAK** project to provide free health treatment to economically weaker sections in Singrauli and Sonbhadra. The

scheme covers critical diseases such as cancer, TB, and HIV. It aims to improve healthcare access for underprivileged families in the region.

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