

Daily Current Affairs

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Angola Announces Departure From OPEC

- **Angola**, a significant oil-producing nation, has declared its decision to **exit the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** with effect from January 1, 2024.
- This move follows the footsteps of **Ecuador in 2020 and Qatar in 2019**, reflecting a trend of nations with relatively small oil output distancing themselves from the influential oil-exporting organization.



- **Angola became a member of OPEC in 2007**, contributing approximately 1.1 million barrels per day to the global oil market.
- In comparison, the entire **OPEC group, founded in 1960** by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Iran, and Iraq, produces around **28 million barrels per day**.
- Since its entry into OPEC, Angola actively participated in the organization's efforts to manage the oil market, collaborating with other member nations and non-members within the OPEC+ group.
- OPEC, over the years, has evolved from its initial founding members to include a diverse range of nations.
- The group, **initially formed by** Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Iran, and Iraq, has seen new entrants and exits. Notably, Angola's departure reduces OPEC's membership to 12 countries, collectively accounting for approximately 27% of the global oil market, which totals 102 million barrels per day.



Lithium Blocks In Argentina

- In a significant development, India is poised to **secure exploration and development rights for five lithium blocks in Argentina**, marking its second international foray into critical minerals after a partnership with **Australia in 2022**.
- The deal is on the verge of finalization between **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)** and **Catamarca Minera Y Energética Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN)**, an Argentine state-owned mining and energy company.



KABIL
खनिज बिदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड
KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LTD.

- The Indian government plans to **invest around Rs 200 crore** over the next five years for exploration, signaling a strategic commitment to securing a domestic supply of critical minerals. The proposal is awaiting approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

- India is also set to establish an offshore office for KABIL in Catamarca, Argentina, enhancing coordination with provincial regulatory authorities. This move is seen as a proactive measure to ensure effective oversight during the exploration and extraction processes.
- **Argentina, holding 21% of the world's lithium reserves** concentrated in the Lithium Triangle, is a key partner for India. The salt-lake lithium extraction method employed in Argentina proves economically favorable, contributing significantly to production.



- This acquisition aligns with India's pursuit of self-sufficiency in meeting clean energy demands, especially for electric vehicles. The exploration and development agreement is a crucial step towards achieving India's goal of becoming a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles by 2070.
- **KABIL's active engagement** with various countries rich in critical minerals, including Bolivia and Chile, underscores India's strategic efforts to diversify its sources and reduce reliance on imports, particularly from Hong Kong and China.

International Year Of Camelids

- In a move highlighting the crucial **role of camelids** in the lives of people worldwide, the **United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids**.

- This decision aims to spotlight the **diverse contributions of camelids**, including alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, in promoting food security, nutrition, and economic growth, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- According to the **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)**, camelids impact the lives of millions of households in over 90 countries.
- Camelids serve as a vital **source of milk and meat**, contributing significantly to the fight against hunger and malnutrition.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF **CAMELIDS** 2024

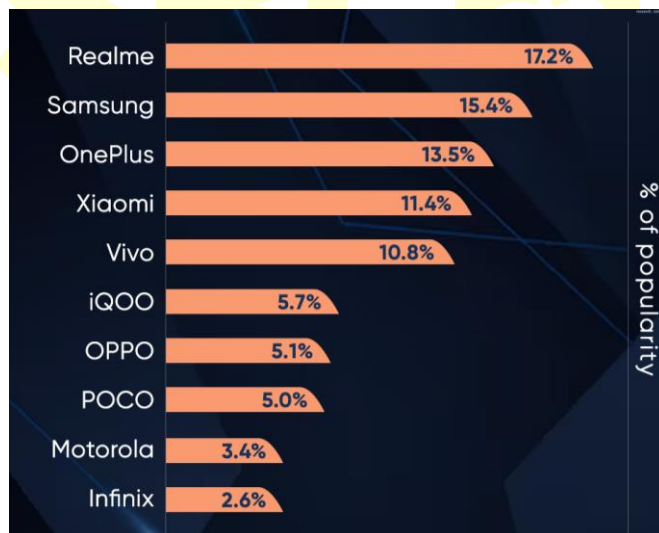
- The fibres derived from **camelids find use in clothing and shelter**, aligning with sustainable practices and supporting livelihoods.
- Camelids serve as reliable **means of transportation and providers of organic fertilizer**, enhancing agricultural practices in various regions.
- Thriving in challenging conditions, camelids prove to be resilient and adaptive, making them invaluable in diverse ecosystems.
- In the highlands of **the Andes mountain ranges and arid and semi-arid lands** in Africa and Asia, camelids play a pivotal role in the livelihoods of the inhabitants. Their presence is crucial for the sustainability of these unique ecosystems.
- Camelids, as resilient **beings surviving in harsh conditions**, become ambassadors for raising awareness about climate change. Their experiences and adaptations can serve as powerful tools in understanding and addressing environmental challenges.
- The **primary objective of the International Year of Camelids 2024** is to build awareness of the untapped potential of camelids. By doing so, it aims to shed

light on the multifaceted contributions of these animals to various aspects of human life.

- The declaration calls for **increased investment in the camelid sector**. This includes advocating for greater research, capacity development, and the use of innovative practices and technologies to further enhance the contributions of camelids.
- The **year 2024 serves as a call to action**, urging global communities, governments, and organizations to recognize and harness the potential of camelids in creating sustainable and resilient societies.

Vivo Money Laundering Case

- It was reported by India media that the **Indian authorities recently arrested** three employees of the Indian branch of the **Chinese mobile phone manufacturer, vivo**, in the name of so-called combating financial crimes. Vivo stated it was "deeply shocked." This is at least the third time since October of this year that Indian authorities have made a **harsh move against vivo**.



- The interim **chief executive officer** of Vivo India, Chinese national **Hong Xuquan alias Terry**, its chief financial officer **Harinder Dahiya** and consultant **Hemant Munjal** were taken into custody under the provisions of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**.



- ED submitted in court that the accused conducted **illegal activities** that enabled Vivo India to make **wrongful gains up to the tune of ₹1 lakh crore**, which the company remitted abroad between 2014 to 2021.
- In recent years, Chinese smartphone manufacturers have been the **harder-hit targets of selective enforcement** and targeted interference in India.
- From "**recovering evaded taxes**," conducting office raids, to seizing 4.8 billion yuan (\$670 million) of **Xiaomi's Indian funds**, and then arresting vivo executives, these actions constitute a stark contrast to the welcoming attitude they initially received upon entering the Indian market.
- Some analysts believe that in order to further promote the development of **India's local smartphone industry chain**, New Delhi has not hesitated to exert judicial investigations and other politicized means to attempt to intimidate and force Chinese companies to retreat.



- India has stepped up moves assaulting Chinese companies since 2020, such as **banning more than 200 Chinese apps**, launching so-called tax and anti-money laundering investigations into Chinese companies and heightening scrutiny of Chinese investments, Dai Yonghong, director of the Institute of Area and International Communication of Shenzhen University.



- The **Playing geopolitical games with China** is not affordable for India, Dai said, noting that unscrupulous crackdowns on Chinese companies will have sweeping **negative impact on India's industries** including electronics and information technology, component manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and even infrastructure.
- **India's unilateral and protectionist** moves will also have a profound impact on China-India economic and trade ties, Dai said. **"Although bilateral trade** is still on the rise, the trend may not continue given India's 'small yard, high fence' approach, following in the steps of the US. Besides, **Chinese companies have low confidence** in investing in India and many hold a wait-and-see attitude about returning to India due to potential risks," Dai noted.



- **"Amid China-US tensions,** India seeks closer ties with the US to attract more foreign capital to develop its manufacturing sector and compete with China in various aspects including industrial development and global governance," Lou said.

Mission Investigation@75 Days

- In a significant move, the **Bihar Police** has announced the implementation of **'Mission Investigation@75 Days,'** aiming to streamline and expedite the criminal justice process in the state. Starting from January 1 next year, investigators will be mandated to complete the investigation of cases within 75 days of the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs).
- The initiative **aims to ensure that investigations**, including the filing of chargesheets, are concluded within 75 days of the registration of FIRs.
- The Additional Director General (ADG) of Bihar Police, JS Gangwar, emphasized the importance of timely investigations, stating that unnecessary delays contradict legal principles.



- **Performance reviews** of all police stations and district police will be conducted **on a monthly basis**, starting from January 1.
- To **enhance accountability and efficiency**, the performances of all police stations and district police will undergo monthly reviews starting January 1, 2024. This proactive approach by the Bihar government reflects a commitment to making the state police force more people-friendly and accountable.
- The 'Mission Investigation@75 Days' is designed to ensure that investigations, including the filing of chargesheets, are completed within the stipulated time frame, with a focus on avoiding unnecessary delays.
- The importance of adhering to legal principles and minimizing delays in the submission of chargesheets. He emphasized that any delay in this process goes **against the principles of law**, and the new initiative aims to rectify such issues, contributing to a more effective and streamlined criminal justice system.

'MedTech Mitra'

- Union Health Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** virtually launched **MedTech Mitra** - a **strategic initiative** to empower MedTech innovators and advance healthcare solutions.



- He said, it will be a **game-changer for Indian MedTech industry** and facilitate indigenous development of affordable, quality MedTech devices and diagnostics.
- Dr. Mandaviya stated that the **medical devices sector** is an integral constituent of India's healthcare sector. He said, India is taking a **holistic approach** to health with a vision to transform the health landscape in the country by 2047.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When Did Angola Become A Member Of OPEC

- A. 2005
- B. 2006
- C. 2007
- D. 2008

ANSWER: C

2. Indian Organization Is Involved In Securing Lithium Exploration Rights In Argentina

- A. GAIL
- B. KABIL
- C. BHEL
- D. NTPC

ANSWER: B

3. Which Indian Organization Is Involved In Securing Exploration And Development Rights In Argentina

- A. GAIL
- B. KABIL
- C. BHEL
- D. NTPC

ANSWER: B

4. Mission Investigation@75 Days Launched By

- A. Bihar
- B. Gujrat
- C. UP
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

5. Which Organization Declared 2024 As The International Year Of Camelids

- A. UNESCO
- B. WHO
- C. UNICEF
- D. UN

ANSWER: D

6. What Measures Will Be Undertaken To Improve Policing Standards In Bihar

- A. Quarterly Performance Reviews
- B. Monthly Performance Reviews
- C. Annual Performance Reviews
- D. Daily Performance Reviews

ANSWER: B

7. Which Team Emerged Victorious In Cricket Under-19 Asia Cup

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Sri Lanka

ANSWER: C

8. What Environmental Factor Is NASA's TEMPO Satellite Primarily Designed To Monitor And Analyze

- A. Climate change patterns
- B. Ocean currents and temperature
- C. Air pollution levels and distribution
- D. Space debris and celestial objects

ANSWER: C

9. Which Country's Film Won Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award For Best Film At The 29th Kolkata International Film Festival

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: A

10. Who Recently Revealed Ownership Of The Mumbai Team In The Indian Street Premier League

- A. Shah Rukh Khan
- B. Aamir Khan
- C. Salman Khan
- D. Amitabh Bachchan

ANSWER: D

11. Director General Of Prisons And Correctional Services

- A. Ananya Singh
- B. Rajesh Kumar
- C. Neeraj Sharma
- D. Maheshwar Dayal

ANSWER: D

12. What Regulatory Approval Have Razorpay Recently Secured From RBI

- A. Digital Lenders
- B. Contactless Payments
- C. Payment Aggregators
- D. Cryptocurrency Exchanges

ANSWER: C

13. Focus Of Strategic Partnership Between MediaTek And Nvidia

- A. Artificial Intelligence in Automotive Industry
- B. Renewable Energy Solutions
- C. Smartphone Manufacturing
- D. Space Exploration Technologies

ANSWER: A

14. Indian Sports Legends Became First Asian Men To Be Inducted Into International Tennis Hall Of Fame

- A. Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna
- B. Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes
- C. Yuki Bhambri and Ramkumar Ramanathan
- D. Ramesh Krishnan and Ashok Amritraj

ANSWER: B

15. Who Were Recipients Of The Indira Gandhi Prize For Peace 2023

- A. Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad
- B. Angela Merkel and Kofi Annan
- C. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Aung San Suu Kyi
- D. Pratham NGO and Sir David Attenborough

ANSWER: A

16. Focus Of The 'Indus Solitaire Program' Recently Introduced By Indusind Bank

- A. Diamond Industry
- B. Pharmaceuticals Industry
- C. Gold Industry
- D. Automotive Industry

ANSWER: A

17. Which Football Academy Recently Achieved Aiff's 'Elite 3-star' Rating

- A. Platinum Soccer Academy
- B. Zinc Football Academy
- C. Sapphire Sports School
- D. Diamond Soccer Club

ANSWER: B

18. Who Has Been Named The 2023 ITF World Champions By The International Tennis Federation

- A. Federer and Osaka
- B. Nadal and Halep
- C. Djokovic and Sabalenka
- D. Murray and Pliskova

ANSWER: C

19. Which Country Awarded 2023 International Gender Equality Prize To The Afghan Women Skills Development Center

- A. Sweden
- B. Norway
- C. Denmark
- D. Finland

ANSWER: D

20. Who Received Global Icon Award At The G20 Initiative Summit In Colombo, Sri Lanka

- A. Rajesh Kumar Verma
- B. Srinivas Naik Dharavath
- C. Ananya Sharma
- D. Sanjay Patel

ANSWER: B