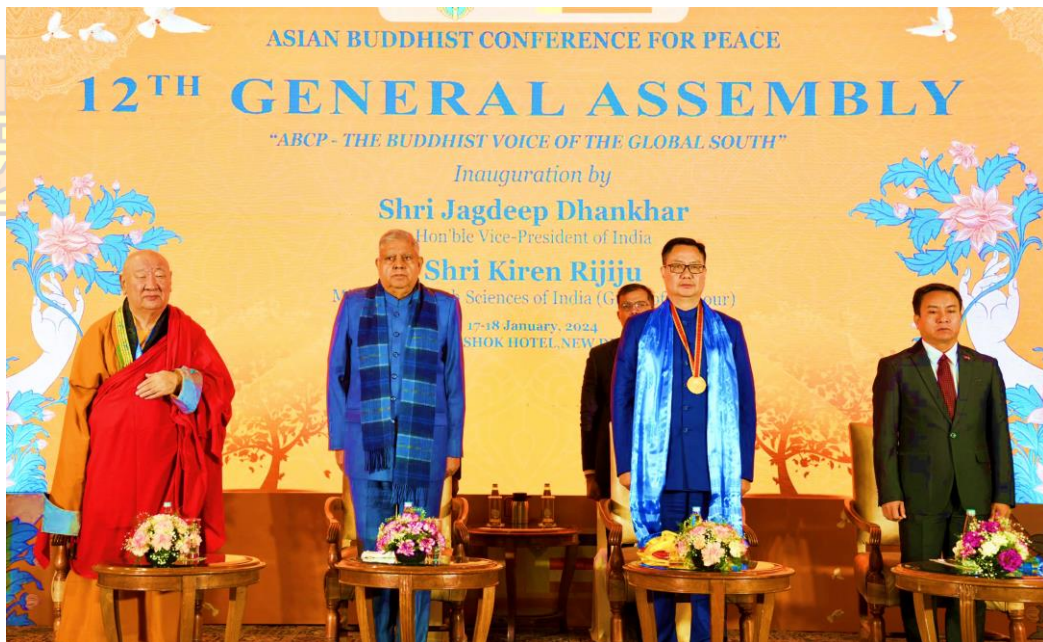


Daily Current Affairs

18 January 2024

Asian Buddhist Conference For Peace

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that the world today faces challenges like climate change, conflict, terrorism and poverty which are universal and it can be addressed by common resolve and **collaborative and collective approach**.
- He was speaking after **inaugurating the 12th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace in New Delhi**. Mr Dhankhar said, Buddha's timeless wisdom, his Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path guide people towards inner peace, compassion, and non-violence. He said, it is a transformative roadmap for individuals and nations facing today's conflicts.



- The Vice President said, violence has never generated unity and peace has never led to divisions. He said, across the continent, **Buddhist Stupas** stand as silent testaments to Buddha's enduring wisdom. Mr Dhankhar said, the principles of Bhagwan Buddha are no less than a beacon of hope and light to catalyse convergence of all stakeholders on a common platform. He said, In a world yearning for harmony, Buddha's light shines brightest.
- The Vice President said, **Buddhism was born in India** and was spread to different parts of the world. He said, teachings of Buddha are guiding compass

of the future. Mr Dhankhar said, **Buddha's teachings inspire India's service-driven governance**, prioritizing citizen **welfare and inclusivity**, from farmers and the vulnerable to the Divyangjans. He said, this commitment extends to environmental sustainability, where the interconnectedness of all life guides India's advocacy for a greener future.

- When we talk of Buddhism in Asia, it is a large part of area and population which is multicultural encompassing diverse customs and traditions, art, architecture, music, literature, lifestyle, philosophy, food, politics and religion.
- The Minister said, it has been practiced and maintained by various ethnic groups since pre-history. He said, Buddhism has undoubtedly been a critical factor in binding several nations in Asia together and also with India.

9th Indian International Science Festival

- **Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh** will inaugurate the **9th Indian International Science Festival in Faridabad, Haryana**.
- The **primary objective** of this festival is to commemorate the world of science, making it accessible to all. It will continue till 20th January, which aims to engage the public with science and celebrate the joy of science.



9TH INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL (IISF)

- **Department of Science and Technology** informed that during the festival, 17 different events are being organized keeping in mind different sections of the society like young students, women scientists, toy manufacturers, social organizations, science teachers and start-ups. School, College students and general public can visit the festival through registration.

- The department said that in the *era defined by technological leaps*, India emerges as a global frontrunner, showcasing its unparalleled prowess on the international stage.
- From the ground-breaking Mars Orbiter Mission to the awe-inspiring Chandrayaan expeditions, India is not just keeping pace with technological advancements, it is leading the charge.

Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa

- The much-awaited '**Srimandir Parikrama Prakalpa**' or **Jagannath Temple Heritage corridor project at Puri in Odisha** will be open to the public on 17 Jan 2024.
- Ahead of the grand opening, a large number of devotees from across the country have gathered at the seaside pilgrim town.
- The project worth over **4 thousand crore rupees**, is part of a significant initiative of the state government to transform pilgrim town into a world heritage city.
- Maha Yagna, which began on Makar Sankranti Day, is on its third day on Wednesday and will conclude with the offering of Purna Ahuti by **Puri Gajapati King Dibyasingha Deb**.

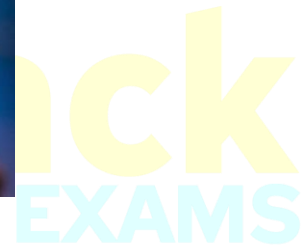


- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will inaugurate the project worth eight hundred crore rupees project. Devotees are happy to see the renovation of the surroundings of the Srimandir.
- The Temple heritage corridor has been built to enhance the visual connection between devotees and the shrine.

- The Odisha government has arranged for 10 thousand people from different parts of the country to visit the 12th-century shrine in Puri daily for a month starting from the 22nd of this month.

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa

- **India Chess Wizard Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** defeated World Chess Champion Ding Liren in the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee, in the Netherlands.
- As a result of this victory, Praggnanandhaa became **only the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand** to defeat a reigning champion. He also overtook Anand to become India's new number one Chess player in terms of live ratings.



Startup Ecosystem Development

- The **startup ecosystem** in India witnessed a significant boost as **Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu** emerged as the best-performing states in the Startup Ranking.



- The rankings, released by **Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal**, highlight the commendable initiatives undertaken by these states to foster the growth of startups and encourage budding entrepreneurs. Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana were also recognized as top performers in this dynamic landscape.



सत्यमेव जयते

**DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF
INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

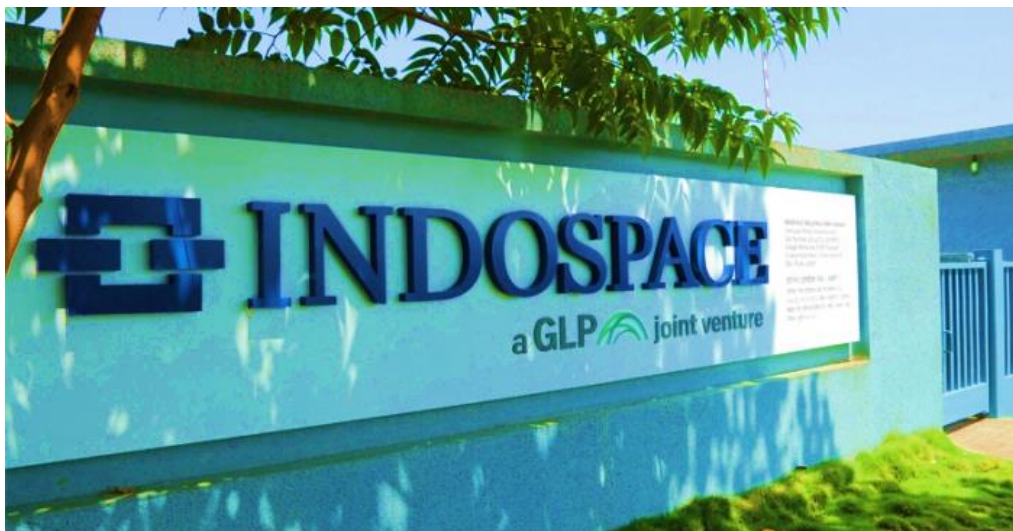
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, a crucial department under the Commerce Ministry, carried out the evaluation.
- The rankings encompassed a diverse range of states and union territories, providing a comprehensive overview of the startup landscape across the nation.
- A total of 33 states and union territories actively participated in the evaluation, categorized **under five distinct groups** – best performers, top performers, leaders, aspiring leaders, and emerging startup ecosystems. The rankings serve as a testament to the varied and evolving nature of the startup ecosystem in different regions of the country.
- In a parallel development, Minister Piyush Goyal is set to engage in discussions with senior representatives from **approximately 40 unicorn startups**. The agenda includes deliberations on strategies to further promote sustainable growth within the sector.
- **Notable companies such as** Lenskart, Zerodha, CarDekho, EasyMyTrip, and Boat are expected to participate in the meeting. The discussions aim to address various facets of the startup landscape, including risks, domestic capital mobilization plans, and avenues for fostering innovation.



- According to the DPIIT report, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu showcased exceptional performance in creating a conducive environment for startups. These states have been instrumental in implementing policies that support entrepreneurship and innovation.
- The rankings not only acknowledge the current achievements but also underline the potential for future growth and development within the startup ecosystem.

IndoSpace & Tamil Nadu Govt

- **IndoSpace**, a leading player in industrial and logistics real estate, has solidified its commitment to **Tamil Nadu's economic development** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) valued at **Rs 2000 crore**.
- This landmark agreement was unveiled during the **Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024**, a prestigious event attended by key dignitaries, including MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.



- The MoU underscores IndoSpace's strategic focus on contributing to the growth of Tamil Nadu's industrial landscape. This significant investment is poised to have far-reaching implications, not only for the state's economic prosperity but also for job creation.
- IndoSpace's Rs 2000 crore investment is expected to **generate employment opportunities for approximately 15,000 individuals**. This boost in job creation is a positive step towards addressing unemployment challenges and fostering a more robust economy for Tamil Nadu.
- The official announcement of this strategic alliance was made in the presence of key figures such as MK Stalin and Piyush Goyal. Their involvement in the event emphasizes the importance of IndoSpace's commitment and its potential impact on the state's industrial growth.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Asian Buddhist Conference For Peace 2024 Held In

- A. Paris
- B. New Delhi
- C. Athens
- D. New York

ANSWER: B

2. Srimandir Parikrama Prakarpa Made In

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

3. Which Edition Indian International Science Festival Held In Faridabad

- A. 7th
- B. 8th
- C. 9th
- D. 10th

ANSWER: C

4. Who Releases Startup Ecosystem Development Ranking

- A. Niti Aayog
- B. DPIIT
- C. iCreate
- D. CauseKey Social

ANSWER: B

5. Which Organization Financed 80% Of Total Project Cost Of Atal Setu, Longest Bridge In India

- A. United Nations Development Programme
- B. International Finance Corporation
- C. Japan International Cooperation Agency
- D. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ANSWER: C

6. What Prompted US & UK To Execute Airstrikes In Yemen, Targeting Houthi Rebels

- A. Cybersecurity threats
- B. Economic sanctions
- C. Nuclear proliferation
- D. Red Sea shipping attacks

ANSWER: D

7. With Which Indian State Is Dance Drama Known As Yakshagana Most Strongly Associated

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Odisha
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

8. During Which Dates Is National Road Safety Week Observed Annually

- A. February 1 to 7
- B. January 11 to 17
- C. March 5 to 11
- D. April 20 to 26

ANSWER: B

9. What Is Recent Professional Role Taken Up By Sheel Vardhan Singh

- A. Member of UPSC
- B. Director General of CISF
- C. Chief Justice of a High Court
- D. Ambassador to a Foreign Country

ANSWER: A

10. What Has Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, West Bengal, Internationally Recognized For By WAZA

- A. Wolverine Conservation
- B. Snow Leopards Conservation
- C. Penguin Conservation
- D. Snowy Owl Conservation

ANSWER: B

11. Which Company Announced Plans To Establish A Semiconductor Plant In Sanand, Gujarat

- A. Qualcomm Incorporated
- B. Silicon Innovations
- C. Simmtech
- D. NVIDIA Corporation

ANSWER: C

12. Institution Collaborated With Armed Forces Medical Services For Joint Research Projects & Addressing Scientific Issues

- A. PGIMER Chandigarh
- B. AIIMS Delhi
- C. JIPMER Puducherry
- D. NIMHANS Bengaluru

ANSWER: B

13. City Set World Record With Longest Solar Light Line Installation

- A. Ayodhya
- B. Mathura
- C. Varanasi
- D. Haridwar

ANSWER: A

14. Which Financial Institution Signed An MoU With DAY-NRLM For The Svyam Siddha Financial Product

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Federal Bank
- D. SBI

ANSWER: D

15. What Has The Indian Army Declared 2024 As, Emphasizing Its Commitment To Utilizing Technology

- A. Year of Technology Absorption
- B. Year of Modernization
- C. Year of Cybersecurity
- D. Year of Infrastructure Enhancement

ANSWER: A

16. At Stanford University, What Material Utilized To Create A Highly Absorbent Alternative To Cotton, Wood Pulp In Sanitary Napkins

- A. Bamboo fibers
- B. Hemp leaves
- C. Jute fibers
- D. Sisal leaves

ANSWER: D

17. Which Country Signed Security Agreement With Ukraine, Emphasizing Its Vital Role In Ukraine's Safety

- A. United Kingdom
- B. United States
- C. Germany
- D. France

ANSWER: A

18. In Which City Is Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurating The Research Institute Of Homoeopathy

- A. Kolkata
- B. Jaipur
- C. Pune
- D. Guwahati

ANSWER: D

19. What Institution Developed 'Work4food' Concept For Food Delivery Agents

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Guwahati
- C. IIT Indore
- D. IIT Hyderabad

ANSWER: B

20. Which Among Following Empire Was Known As “Mulk-e-khadim”

- A. Mysore Sultanate
- B. Madurai Sultanate
- C. Maratha Kingdom
- D. Bijapur Kingdom

ANSWER: C