

Daily Current Affairs

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Shenzhou-18 Crew

- In the latest advancement of **China's space program**, the **Shenzhou-18 mission** saw the successful launch of a three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft.
- The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the **Tiangong space station**, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors.
- The **Shenzhou-18 spacecraft**, dubbed the "Divine Vessel," lifted off atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.



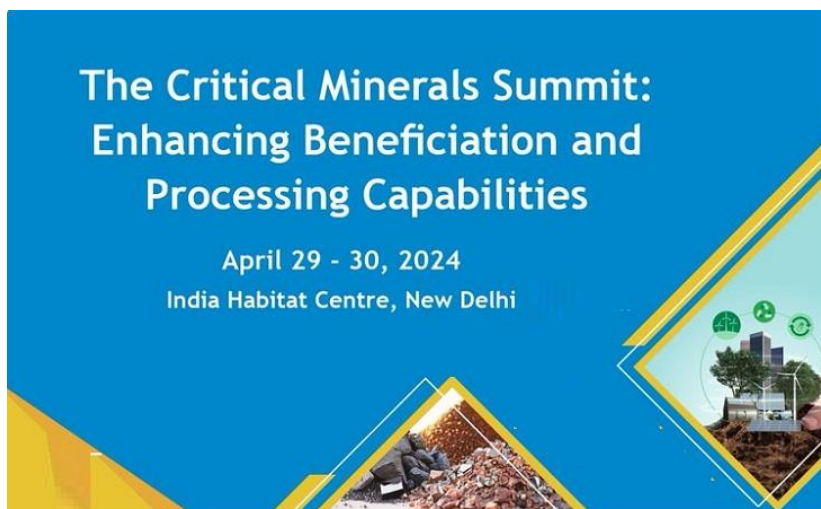
- The crew comprises mission commander **Ye Guangfu**, along with crewmates **Li Cong** and **Li Guangsu**, with diverse backgrounds in spaceflight and aviation.
- After reaching orbit, the spacecraft will conduct an automated rendezvous to dock with the **Tiangong space station**, situated approximately 400 km above the Earth.



- Upon arrival at the **Tiangong space station**, the Shenzhou-18 crew will join the astronauts from the Shenzhou-17 mission, who have been on station since October.
- The **primary responsibilities of the Shenzhou-18 crew** during their six-month tenure include scientific experiments, spacewalks, and routine maintenance of the space station.
- China's broader space exploration goals aim to put astronauts on the Moon by 2030, with significant progress made in developing crucial elements for crewed lunar missions.

Critical Minerals Summit

- **Ministry of Mines** will hold **Critical Minerals Summit** Enhancing Beneficiation and Processing Capabilities in New Delhi.
- The two day Summit is a pivotal event designed to foster collaboration, share knowledge and drive innovation in the field of critical mineral beneficiation and processing.
- The Ministry said, the summit is set against the backdrop of India's rapid **economic growth and ambitious clean energy** targets, which underscore the urgent need for securing a domestic supply of Critical Raw Materials.
- The summit will bring together a diverse array of Indian and international stakeholders, including industry leaders, startups, government officials, scientists, academics, and policy experts.



Gina Justus

- **Gina Justus, a teacher at Our Own English High School, Sharjah Girls' Branch,** has been named the regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards.
- **Justus, originally from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala,** has been working in the UAE since 2005 and was recognised for her outstanding mentorship and dedication to charity.



- This year's competition saw a **record-breaking number of nominations**, with over 14,840 submissions from 141 countries.
- The Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards is a global competition that honors exceptional primary and secondary school teachers.



- Students, parents, and peers can nominate teachers who have made a significant impact on their educational journey.

- In its sixth year, the competition emphasizes the crucial role teachers serve in molding the lives of their students and equipping them for the global stage.
- The public will now vote to determine the overall winner of the **2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards**, which will be announced on May 29th.

AEO Status

- **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** announces a significant milestone for India's Gem and Jewellery (GJ) industry as it receives **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status** from the Ministry of Finance.
- This status, previously denied, now facilitates smoother **export-import processes**, reduces cargo release times, and lowers bank guarantees by 50%, aiming to enhance ease of doing business.



- Initially excluded from the AEO program, the GJEPC's persistent engagement with relevant Ministries successfully advocates for the gem and jewellery industry's inclusion.
- **Ministry of Finance** now extends eligibility for AEO participation to units within the sector, enabling them to capitalize on associated benefits.
- In response to the new opportunity, the GJEPC conducts an informative Outreach Program focused on obtaining AEO status.
- Encouragingly, **20 companies swiftly apply for AEO status** following the Outreach Program. Asian Star emerges as the pioneer, being granted AEO Status, thereby becoming the first in the Indian gem and jewellery industry to receive the certificate.
- The **GJEPC expresses gratitude to the Government**, particularly the Ministry of Finance, for considering their request and bringing the gem and jewellery industry under the purview of the AEO program.

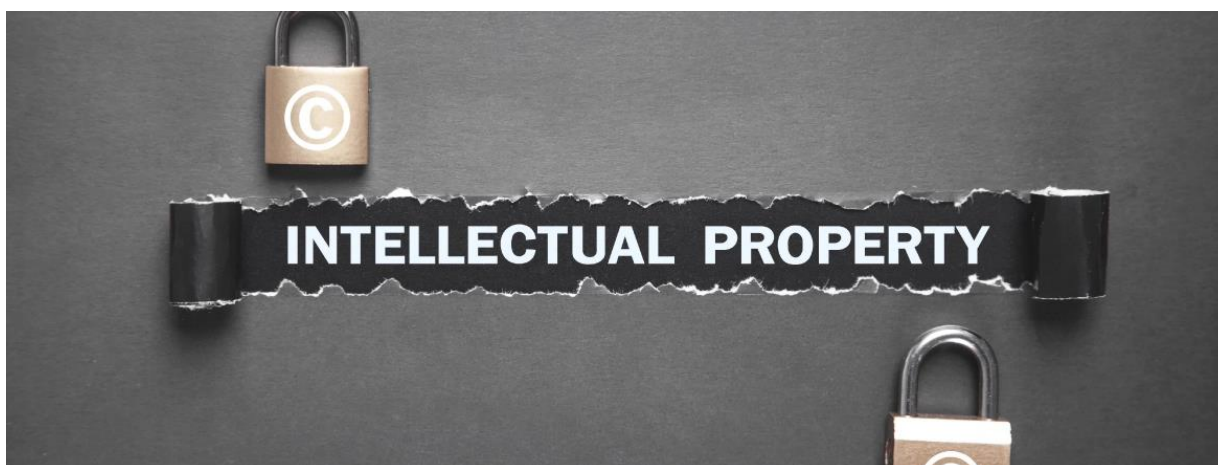
- This collaborative effort marks a significant step towards streamlining trade operations and fostering industry growth.

IP Protection

- In the recently released **2024 Special 301 Report by the U.S. Trade Representatives (USTR)**, India finds itself on the **Priority Watch List** for intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement.
- This decision comes amidst ongoing concerns regarding India's handling of IP security issues. India faces significant **challenges in its patent system**, with applicants encountering lengthy waiting periods and excessive reporting requirements.



- Moreover, there are concerns regarding the **potential threat of patent revocations**, lack of presumption of patent validity, and narrow patentability criteria under the **Indian Patents Act**, which pose burdens across various sectors.
- While some progress has been noted, particularly in raising public awareness and engaging with the **United States on IP matters**, USTR emphasizes that India remains inconsistent in its overall progress on IP protection and enforcement.
- Despite **gradual improvements in online IP enforcement**, tangible benefits for innovators and creators are lacking, undermining their efforts.



- USTR has announced plans for intense bilateral engagement with India and other countries on the Priority Watch List in the coming year.
- This engagement **aims to address the shortcomings in IP protection** and enforcement, with a focus on fostering a more conducive environment for innovation and creativity.
- Emphasizing the **importance of intellectual property rights**, USTR underscores that inadequate protection and enforcement in foreign markets not only harm the U.S. economy but also hinder the dynamism of American innovators and impact the livelihoods of workers.
- It stresses the need for a balanced approach that safeguards the interests of creators while promoting innovation.
- While China has taken steps towards **IP-related legal and regulatory reform**, including amendments to patent, copyright, and criminal laws, USTR notes that these efforts require effective implementation and fall short of comprehensive changes needed to improve the IP landscape.

Archery World Cup

- Indian contingent has won **eight medals including 5 Gold, 2 Silver and a bronze** so far at **Archery World Cup in Shanghai**.
- The **Indian trio** of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions of South Korea in Recurve Men's Team event to claim the fifth gold.



- This is the **first-ever triumph of Indian men's recurve team** over the archery powerhouse in a World Cup final.
- This will boost India's prospects for securing a berth in the upcoming Paris Olympics. Meanwhile, in the finals of women's recurve individual event, **India's Deepika Kumari goes down** to Asian Games champion Lim Sihyeon of South Korea and settles for the silver.
- Earlier, Reigning **Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam** added a fourth gold in women's compound individual section yesterday, while Priyansh settled for a maiden World Cup silver in the men's individual compound section.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Shenzhou-18 Crew Mission Is launched By

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. UK

ANSWER: B

2. Critical Minerals Summit Held In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Kochi
- C. Bhubaneswar
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: A

3. Nethra Kumanan Related To

- A. Sailing
- B. Badminton
- C. Tennis
- D. Cricket

ANSWER: A

4. India Gaming Report 2024 Released By Which Organization

- A. Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council and WinZO
- B. All Indian Gaming Federation and Enigma Gaming
- C. Indian Digital Gaming Society and BL4ZE Esports
- D. All Indian Gaming Federation and Dream 11

ANSWER: A

5. Rashtriya Raksha University Recently Signed An Mou With Which Country To Boost Innovation In Aerospace

- A. Russia
- B. Israel
- C. Japan
- D. France

ANSWER: D

6. Barak Valley Is Located In Which State

- A. Nagaland
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: C

7. Indian Historical Records Commission Is Functioning Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Power

ANSWER: A

8. Which Bank Collaborated With RBI To Revolutionize Agricultural Lending Through Digitalization

- A. NABARD
- B. SBI
- C. SIDBI
- D. HDFC

ANSWER: A

9. Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array System Developed By Which Organization

- A. DRDO
- B. HAL
- C. ISRO
- D. BHEL

ANSWER: A

10. Panhala Fort Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Gujarat
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: A

11. Who Achieved India's First Rowing Quota For Paris Olympics

- A. Balraj Panwar
- B. Sawarn Singh
- C. Arjun Lal
- D. Jaswinder Singh

ANSWER: A

12. Saurav Ghosal Announced His Retirement, Is Associated With

- A. Squash
- B. Table Tennis
- C. Chess
- D. Badminton

ANSWER: A

13. Who Has Been Re-elected To International Narcotics Control Board For The Term 2025-2030

- A. Jatin Narlikar
- B. Sudhi Choudhary
- C. Jagjit Pavadia
- D. David T. Johnson

ANSWER: C

14. Where Is World's Largest Hybrid Renewable Energy Park Being Established

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujarat
- C. Odisha
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: B

15. Queqiao-2, A Relay Satellite, Recently Launched By Which Country

- A. Russia
- B. Japan
- C. India
- D. China

ANSWER: D

16. Great Barrier Reef Is Located In Which Country

- A. Australia
- B. India
- C. Maldives
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: A

17. What Is ' Doxxing ', Recently Seen In News

- A. Form of online gaming
- B. Publishing personal information about an individual without consent
- C. New method to mine cryptocurrency
- D. AI tool for voice recognition

ANSWER: B

18. What Is Objective Of 'Suvidha Portal' Developed By Election Commission Of India

- A. To conduct online voting during elections
- B. To streamline the process of obtaining permissions and facilities for election campaigning
- C. To monitor social media activities of political parties
- D. To register voters for upcoming elections

ANSWER: B

19. Satpula Dam Is Located In Which State/UT

- A. Delhi
- B. Odisha
- C. Gujarat
- D. Ladakh

ANSWER: A

20. Metronymics Borne By Later Rulers Of Which Among Following Dynasties

- A. Maurya
- B. Sunga
- C. Kanva
- D. Satavahana

ANSWER: D