

Daily Current Affairs 17 January 2024



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Important News: International

Emmy Awards 2024

Why in News:

- Primetime Emmy Awards took place in Los Angeles on January 15th 2024 after being postponed due to the SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes.

Key Points:

- This is the 75th Primetime Emmy Awards. The greatest and brightest in television were honored at the Emmy Awards 2024 presentation. With numerous series competing for the top prizes, the occasion demonstrated the diversity and vibrancy of modern television. HBO's "Succession" topped the nominations, demonstrating the show's enormous influence on both reviewers and viewers.

List of winners of Emmy Awards 2024

Category	Winner(s)
Drama Series	Succession
Comedy Series	The Bear
Lead Actress in a Drama Series	Sarah Snook (Succession)
Lead Actor in a Drama Series	Kieran Culkin (Succession)
Limited or Anthology Series	Beef
Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Ali Wong (Beef)



Lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie	Steven Yeun (Beef)
Directing for a Drama Series	Mark Mylod (Succession)
Talk Series	The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
Writing for a Comedy Series	Christopher Storer (The Bear)
Directing for a Comedy Series	Christopher Storer (The Bear)
Lead Actor in a Comedy Series	Jeremy Allen White (The Bear)
Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series	Ebon Moss-Bachrach (The Bear)
Supporting Actor in a Drama Series	Matthew Macfadyen (Succession)
Supporting Actress in a Drama Series	Jennifer Coolidge (The White Lotus)
Lead Actress in a Comedy Series	Quinta Brunson (Abbott Elementary)
Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series	Ayo Edebiri (The Bear)

Source: Hindustan Times

Reformist Arevalo sworn in as Guatemala president

Why in News:

- On January 15, 2024, Bernardo Arévalo took the oath of office as President of Guatemala, after months of political opposition and attempts to scuttle his inauguration.



Key Points:

- The latest in a series of legislative setbacks triggered by opponents underscored the challenges Arevalo faces as leader of Central America's most populous nation, to which he has pledged to bring sweeping reforms and tackle the rising cost of living and violence.
- With Arevalo's election triumph, Guatemala's political landscape—which has always been dominated by conservative parties—saw a significant change.
- Arevalo, a 65-year-old sociologist and career diplomat, is regarded as the leader of a progressive movement and an advocate for democracy.

Source: Reuters

Oxford Scientists Initiates First Human Trials For Deadly Nipah Virus

Why in News:

- The University of Oxford has started human testing of an experimental vaccine against the brain-swelling Nipah virus.

Key Points:

- The University of Oxford said, it had begun human testing of an experimental vaccine against the brain-swelling Nipah virus that led to outbreaks in India's Kerala state and other parts of Asia.
- There is no vaccine yet for the deadly virus. Nipah was first identified about 25 years ago in Malaysia and has led to outbreaks in Bangladesh, India and Singapore.
- The first participants in the Oxford trial have already received doses of the vaccine. The shot is based on the same technology as the one used in AstraZeneca and Serum Institute of India's COVID-19 shots.
- The 51-patient early-stage trial will take place in Oxford and will examine the safety and immune response of the vaccine in people aged 18 to 55 years, a spokesperson for the University's Pandemic Sciences Institute said.



- Moderna in 2022 also started an early-stage clinical trial of a Nipah virus vaccine, which it co-developed with the U.S.' National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
- In September, Kerala witnessed its fourth Nipah outbreak in five years, with six people infected and two deaths.
- The infection can cause fever, headache, cough and difficulty breathing, with brain swelling likely to follow. Its fatality rate is estimated at 40% to 75%, according to the World Health Organization.

Source: DD News

Important News: National

Indian President Launches 5th Meghalaya Games

Why in News:

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 5th Edition of the Meghalaya Games in Tura, Meghalaya on January 15, 2024.

Key Points:

- President of India Draupadi Murmu officially launched the 5th Meghalaya Games on January 15 at the PA Sangma Stadium in Tura.
- This is the first time the games are being organised outside of Shillong.
- The Meghalaya Games have resumed after a gap of 16 years.
- The Meghalaya Games' 5th edition is hosting close to 3000 athletes participating in competitions spanning 23 disciplines spread across 16 venues in Tura over a period of six days.
- Furthermore, in this edition, traditional indigenous games have been incorporated into the roster, marking a notable distinction as the first occasion where the inauguration is conducted by the President of India.

Source: PIB



Yes Bank Introduces Veefin's SmartFin for Digital Supply Chain Finance

Why in News:

- The launch of SmartFin by Yes Bank, in collaboration with Veefin Solutions, underscores the bank's commitment to supporting MSMEs and fostering innovation in the realm of working capital management within the digital Supply Chain Finance platform.

Key Points:

- As part of a strategic initiative to enhance backing for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Yes Bank has unveiled SmartFin, a sophisticated digital Supply Chain Finance (SCF) platform created in partnership with Veefin Solutions.
- Acknowledging the increasing significance of Supply Chain Finance (SCF) models in enhancing working capital efficiencies, Yes Bank has made an investment in the resilient SmartFin platform to enhance its digital capabilities in this particular domain.
- SmartFin, developed by Veefin Solutions, introduces a comprehensive digital Supply Chain Finance (SCF) platform.
- The platform's digital features are designed to elevate operational and financial efficiencies for every participant within the supply chain.

Source: Hindu Business Line

I-STEM To Launch 'Samavesha' At IISc Bengaluru

Why in News:

- On January 16, at IISc., Bengaluru, the Samavesha project was unveiled by I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map).

Key Points:

- I-STEM, an acronym for the Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering Facilities Map, stands as an initiative under the auspices of the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India.
- The underlying concept of "One Nation One Portal" has shaped its development, catering to the scientific community with the overarching goal of connecting researchers with resources.



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- This platform serves as a valuable tool for users engaged in research and development endeavors, aiding them in pinpointing the specific facility required for their work.
- To further enhance user experience, a panel of experts will be assembled to furnish information, guiding users in the optimal utilization of resources through I-STEM's S&T Chat Room.
- Additionally, a digital catalogue of technologies and technology products, mandated by the Empowered Technology Group, seamlessly integrates into the I-STEM web portal, adding another dimension to its comprehensive offerings.

Source: The Hindu

A book named "Gandhi A Life in Three Campaigns" Launched by M.J. Akbar

Why in News:

- Eminent author M.J. Akbar and Co-author K. Natwar Singh recently released a new book titled "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns."

Key Points:

- Eminent author, M.J. Akbar, launched his new book named "Gandhi A Life in Three Campaigns" at the Prime Minister's Museum and Library at the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya. The event was hosted by Nripendra Misra, who was the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is currently the Chairman of the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society.
- The Foreword of the book has been written by K. Natwar Singh, former diplomat and External Affairs Minister of India.
- During the book launch, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval commended Gandhi for using "soft power" as a tactical instrument to subvert colonial control. He dubbed Gandhi's political strategy "smart power," saying it was inclusive and went beyond traditional ideas of soft and hard power.

Source: The Sunday Guardian



Important News: Defence

Vice Admiral AN Pramod Appointed Director General Naval Operations

Why in News:

- Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) on 15 Jan 2024.

Key Points:

- An alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course, Naval Academy, Goa, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1990.
- The Flag Officer is a CAT 'A' Sea King Air Operations Officer and a Communication & Electronics Warfare Specialist.
- He did the Staff Course at DSSC Wellington (Nilgiris) and the Naval Higher Command Course at NWC, Goa.
- His important previous appointments include Fleet Operations Officer, Western Fleet, Command of IN ships Abhay, Shardul and Satpura, Executive Officer Rajput, SCO Sujata and GO II Kirpan.
- He commanded the Naval Air Station, Utkrosh at Port Blair and was also the Directing Staff at DSSC, Wellington.
- He has also held important staff appointments that include Joint Director, Naval Air Staff & Joint Director, Director and the Principal Director Aircraft Acquisition.
- He has also been the member of Indian Strategic & Operational Council (INSOC) and Tactical Audit Group (TAG) from 2016-19 and 2006-09 respectively.

Source: PIB

