

Daily Current Affairs 18 January 2024



Important News: National

World Economic Forum and Telangana Government Collaborate to Establish C4IR

Why in News:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) and Telangana team up to create the first-ever Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in Hyderabad, emphasizing health tech and life sciences.

Key Points:

- In a pioneering initiative, the Telangana government and the World Economic Forum (WEF) are collaboratively setting up the 19th Center of WEF's Fourth Industrial Revolution Network (4IR) in Hyderabad.
- The Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution Telangana is a thematic centre on healthcare and life sciences set up in collaboration with the state government.
- The centre will facilitate, advance and accelerate development and adoption of newer technologies including genomics, personalised medicine and healthcare manufacturing, with a focus on the interplay between life sciences and technology.
- It will leverage on the strengths the State possesses such as abundant availability of talent pool, world class infrastructure and cluster-based approach besides the progressive industrial policies of the government.
- The C4IR in Hyderabad is positioned to emerge as the global leader in healthcare, generating job opportunities in the healthcare industry and promoting collaborations between the government and small and medium enterprises.
- The official unveiling is set to occur at BioAsia 2024.

Source: WEF



IndoSpace Signs Rs 2000 Cr Deal

Why in News:

- IndoSpace and the Tamil Nadu government ink a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth Rs 2,000 crore.

Key Points:

- IndoSpace, the real estate developer, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government at the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024.
- With a value of Rs 2,000 crore, this significant agreement aims to enhance the state's industrial landscape and foster economic growth.
- The official announcement occurred during the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024, overseen by M.K. Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and Piyush Goyal, India's Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- IndoSpace's investment is expected to create 15,000 new jobs, making a substantial contribution to employment opportunities in the state.
- IndoSpace currently possesses a land reserve of around 600 acres in the area.
- Operating across 14 top-notch industrial and logistics parks strategically situated near key industrial centers, IndoSpace has successfully constructed and leased approximately 13 million square feet (msf) of space, involving a total investment of roughly Rs 4,000 crore in the state.

Source: [Housing.com](https://housing.com)

Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty Assumes Role As Commandant

Why in News:

- Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty took over as Commandant, Indian Naval Academy, on 15 Jan 24.

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1989 and is a graduate of Defence Service Staff College, Wellington (2005) and National Defence College, New Delhi (2017).



- A specialist in 'Gunnery and Missiles', he served as the commissioning crew of INS Delhi and did all his specialist tenures onboard the frontline Guided Missile Destroyer.
- He has served as the Executive officer of a Seaward Defence Patrol Vessel, Guided Missile Vessel and Landing Platform Dock INS Jalashwa.
- He has commanded Anti-Submarine Patrol Vessel INS Ajay, Guided Missile Corvette INS Khanjar and Guided Missile Frigate INS Shivalik.
- He has served as Directing Staff at the Naval and Maritime Academy, Sri Lanka and was India's Defence Adviser to the Republic of Singapore with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of the Philippines.
- He was Commodore (Naval Plans) from 2018 – 2020, where his charter of responsibility included drawing up Indian Navy's Perspective, Financial and Acquisition Plans.

Source: PIB

Kerala Launches Operation AMRITH To Combat AMR

Why in News:

- The Kerala Drug Control Department launched tests in the first week of January 2024 called Operation Amrith (AMRITH - Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health) to prevent the overuse of antibiotics in the state.

Key Points:

- The aim is to conduct surprise raids in pharmacies to detect over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription.
- Pharmacies must keep accurate records of antibiotic sales as per this initiative. Additionally, a poster mentioning 'antibiotics not sold without doctor's prescription' should be displayed in the establishment. If not complied, strict action would be taken against pharmacies and medical stores that supply antibiotics without doctor's prescription.
- The public can also participate in this initiative by reporting any pharmacies selling antibiotics without a prescription to the Drug Control Department.



- Once a complaint is received, it will be transferred to the corresponding zonal office for verification and immediate departmental actions will be taken, if violation is detected.
- The Kerala government was the first state in India that came up with the state action plan on AMR, KARSAP, in 2018. Aligned with India's National Action Plan on AMR, Kerala's plan reflected a multi-sectoral approach. Besides human health aspects, it aimed to address animal and environmental dimensions of the AMR problem, which is crucial for effective containment of AMR.
- In August 2023, Kerala became the first state in India to establish block-level AMR Committees in all 191 blocks.
- The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) also inaugurated an AMR laboratory for environmental surveillance of AMR in August 2023.
- In 2017, the World Bank estimated that the global increase in healthcare costs are expected to reach up to \$1.2 trillion per year by 2050 in a high AMR impact scenario. In a similar situation, the world will lose 3.8 per cent of its annual gross domestic product by 2050 and there could be up to 10 million deaths annually, with the most deaths happening in Asia and Africa.

Source: Down to Earth

Praggnanandhaa Become India's No.1 Chess Player

Why in News:

- Chess prodigy Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has secured the top spot among India's chess players after defeating World Champion Ding Liren in the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament.

Key Points:

- 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.



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- Pragganandhaa also leapfrogged over five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand as the country's top-ranked chess player in the FIDE's live ratings with a rating of 2748.3, while Anand is at 2748.
- Pragganandhaa started playing chess at the age of five and became India's youngest Grandmaster and the world's second-youngest at the age of 12 in 2018.
- Interestingly, his elder sister, R Vaishali, is also a Grandmaster, making them the world's first-ever brother-sister GM duo.

Source: DD News

India International Science Festival 2023

Why in News:

- India International Science Festival (IISF) was held on January 17, 2024 in Faridabad, Haryana.

Key Points:

- India International Science Festival-2023 (IISF) organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) from January 17 to January 20. The event will celebrate India's achievements in science and technology.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India is organizing the 9th edition of IISF and its autonomous organization National Innovation Foundation-India is the coordination and implementation body of IISF 2023.
- Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh while releasing the brochure of the ninth edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 on 16 December 2023 during the Curtain raiser program organised at Constitutional Club, New Delhi.
- The aim of this science festival is to celebrate the achievements of India in the frontier areas of science and technology. The festival also aims to acknowledge the achievements of science enthusiasts and inculcate scientific temper among young students and spread the same among the



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Indian citizens. The central theme of IISF 2023 is “Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal”.

- This time, 22 countries are also participating at IISF 2023. These include Argentine Republic, Republic of Armenia, Commonwealth of Australia, Kingdom of Cambodia, French Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Kenya, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of Namibia, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Singapore, Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America (USA), Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Republic of Zimbabwe.
- IISF is the largest science festival which brings together and connects all the segments of society. This has been organised since 2015 and the IISF 2023 is the ninth edition of the series. In this edition total 17 events have been scheduled.

Source: PIB

