

Daily Current Affairs 29 December 2023



Important News: International

Parasite Actor Lee Sun-kyun Passed Away

Why in News:

- Actor Lee Sun-Kyun, best known for his role in the Oscar-winning film "Parasite", passed away recently.

Key Points:

- Lee Sun-kyun was a South Korean actor. Internationally, he was best known for his role in Bong Joon-ho's Academy Award-winning film Parasite (2019), for which he won a Screen Actors Guild Award along with his castmates.
- He received several other awards, including a nomination for an International Emmy Award.
- Affectionately dubbed "The Voice" by fans, he earned this nickname due to his distinctive deep voice.
- Lee Sun-kyun, renowned for his role in Dr. Brain (2021), secured a 2022 Emmy nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in Dr. Brain.

Source: Mint

Important News: National

Uttar Pradesh to Implement Green Hydrogen Policy

Why in News:

- In a drive towards sustainable energy and addressing the challenges of climate change, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to implement the Green Hydrogen Policy-2023 in the state.

Key Points:

- The policy aims to encourage and enhance the production and utilization of green hydrogen, a promising substitute for fossil fuels.



- The policy is anticipated to provide several advantages to companies establishing green hydrogen production units, including:
 - Availability of land at discounted rates
 - Exemption from stamp duty and electricity duty
 - Capital and interest subsidies
 - Appealing additional incentives
- The policy will concentrate on promoting green hydrogen production for various applications, including:
 - Ammonia production: Green hydrogen can be combined with nitrogen to create sustainable ammonia for fertilizers and other industrial uses.
 - Transportation: Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles present a cleaner alternative to conventional gasoline-powered vehicles.
 - Power generation: Green hydrogen can be utilized in fuel cells to generate electricity without emissions.
- Green hydrogen, generated by splitting water using renewable sources such as solar or wind power, is a clean fuel that produces no greenhouse gases during combustion. This quality positions it as a vital tool in achieving net-zero carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of global warming.

Source: Hindustan Times

Tamil Superstar Vijayakanth Passes Away

Why in News:

- DMDK leader and Tamil Cinema icon Vijayakanth passes away.

Key Points:

- Tamil superstar and Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) founder Vijayakanth, fondly called 'Captain', passed away at a private hospital in Chennai after a prolonged illness.
- His notable roles include Vaidehi Kathirunthal (1984), Amman Kovil Kizhakale (1986), Poonthotta Kaavalkaaran (1988), Senthora Poove (1988), Pulan Visaranai (1990), Chinna Gounder (1992), Honest Raj (1994), Thayagam (1996) and Vaanathaippola (2000).
- He Has Won Two Filmfare Awards South and Three Tamil Nadu State Film Awards.



- Vijayakanth was the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 2011 to 2016.
- He was the founder and president of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) Political party and served as an MLA twice representing the constituency of Virudhachalam and Rishivandiyam respectively from 2006 to 2016.

Source: Indian Express

Ayodhya Airport to be renamed Maharishi Valmiki Airport

Why in News:

- Ayodhya's new airport to be named 'Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Ayodhya Dham'

Key Points:

- The Ayodhya International Airport will be named after Maharishi Valmiki, the saint who wrote the epic Ramayana.
- It was developed at a cost of more than ₹1,450 crore.
- The airport, which will connect the holy city with the world will have an area of 6,500 square metres with an ability to serve more than 10 lakh passengers every year.
- The new airport will be equipped with sustainability features which include an insulated roofing system, LED lighting, rain-water harvesting, landscaping with fountains, a water treatment plant, a sewage treatment plant, a solar power plant, and many other facilities, to meet the five-star GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) ratings.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Ayodhya's new airport on December 30, 2023.

Source: Mint

Incident Of Ammonia Gas Leakage Reported In Ennore

Why in News:

- The leak of ammonia gas from a subsea pipeline linked to a fertiliser manufacturing unit in north Chennai led to local residents suffering



shortness of breath and nausea. The incident has raised concerns about the safety protocols in place and the potential environmental impact of such leaks.

Key Points:

- Coromandel International Limited, a Murugappa group company which runs the fertiliser plant, said in a statement: "As part of routine operation, we noticed abnormality on 26/12/2023 at 23.30 hrs in the ammonia unloading subsea pipeline near shoreside, outside the plant premises.
- Our Standard Operating Procedure activated immediately, and we have isolated ammonia system facility and brought the situation to normalcy in the shortest time."
- During the process, the company said, "A few members in the local community expressed discomfort and were given medical attention immediately. All are safe and normalcy is restored."
- The government has issued an order mandating that the company carry out appropriate tests after a full repair of its pipelines to completely rule out any scope for leak. This must be done before unloading Ammonia (in liquid form through undersea pipelines) from ships.

Source: Business Standard

MHA Declares Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) Unlawful

Why in News:

- The Government of India has declared 'Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction)/MLJK-MA as an 'Unlawful Association' under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967.

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has declared Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masrat Alam faction) as an unlawful association. The organisation



has been declared unlawful under Section 3(1) of the Anti-Terrorist Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967 for 5 years.

- Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction)/MLJK-MA has been involved in anti-national activities and its members have been indulging in secessionist activities in the Jammu and Kashmir and supporting terrorist activities in India.
- The members of this organization, by inciting the people, wants to establish Islamic rule in Jammu and Kashmir, which is prejudicial to the sovereignty, security and integrity of India. Many criminal cases have been registered against this organization under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, IPC 1860, The Arms Act 1959 and Ranbir Penal Code 1932.
- Under the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism, 4 organizations have been declared as terrorist organizations, 6 individuals as terrorists and 2 organizations as unlawful organizations so far in 2023 by the Home Ministry.
- UAPA is the primary anti-terrorism law enacted in India in 1967. It was enacted to outlaw and punish illegal and terrorist activities which pose a threat to the integrity and sovereignty of India.

Source: PIB

Indian Wrestler Pooja Dhanda Suspended for One Year

Why in News:

- Former world and Asian championships medallist Pooja Dhanda has been issued a one-year suspension by India's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for three whereabouts failures in a year.

Key Points:

- Former world and Asian championships medallist has been suspended for one year for three whereabouts failures in a year. Wrestler Pooja Dhanda, who won world championships bronze in 2018, was found guilty of missing



dope collections and filing failures and has been banned from 15.06.2023 (“light degree” offence).

- NADA recorded two filing failures and one missed test against Pooja in 2022. Filing failures involved discrepancies in submitting location updates.
- NADA, formed in 2005, is India’s central anti-doping agency and authorised to conduct ‘in competition’ and ‘out of competition’ testing of Indian athletes. It operates under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations.
- Each year, several Indian athletes who compete at elite levels in their respective sports are chosen to be part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) by NADA. Pooja Dhanda was among those included in the RTP for the year 2022.
- All athletes enlisted in the RTP must regularly update NADA about their whereabouts, providing details such as their residence, training locations, work engagements, competition schedules, and other relevant information quarterly. Non-compliance is deemed to be a filing failure.
- Additionally, these athletes need to provide NADA with a 60-minute time slot for potential testing which implies they are accountable for a potential missed test if they are unavailable during the specified time.
- Failure to comply with the obligations laid down by NADA leads to whereabouts failure. Three whereabouts failures within 12 months lead to a suspension.
- NADA recorded two filing failures and one missed test against Pooja. The NADA issued the first filing failure letter to Pooja Dhanda in July 2022 and the second one in October.
- The Indian wrestler missed the test in December 2022. Pooja argued that the missed test had occurred due to her travel plan to Vishakhapatnam for the national wrestling championships scheduled from December 21 to 23.

Source: olympics.com



Ayodhya Railway Station To Be Renamed As Ayodhya Dham

Why in News:

- The Ayodhya railway junction in Uttar Pradesh has been officially renamed as Ayodhya Dham junction.

Key Points:

- Ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Indian Railways has changed the name of the city's railway station to 'Ayodhya Dham' from 'Ayodhya Junction'. The move also comes ahead of the inauguration of the station's new building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 30.
- Today's Ayodhya Dham railway station is a cutting-edge establishment that skillfully combines traditional Indian architecture with contemporary conveniences.
- The station structure has domes, pillars, arches, and murals that portray Lord Rama's life and majesty, giving it the appearance of a grand temple. All the amenities required for a comfortable travel are available inside, including escalators, lifts, tourist information offices, and medical facilities.
- The redevelopment work, which started a couple of years ago, has been executed by RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service) Limited, a central public sector undertaking under the ministry of Railways.
- Ayodhya Dham Railway Station boasts a range of facilities that go beyond typical railway stations, surpassing even airport standards. Notably, the Infant Care Room occupies a prominent position, providing medical attention to infants of passengers. In the event of an injury or illness during the journey, a dedicated sick room at the station is available for first aid and medical assistance, the statement added.

Source: The Times of India

