

❖ **Egypt Re-elects El-Sisi for 3rd term in the 2024 presidential Elections**

➤ Egyptian President ‘**Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**’ has been elected as the President of Egypt for the third consecutive time. The **National Election Authority** announced on 18 December 2023 that President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi had received 89.6 percent of the votes in the election.

➤ He is the Egypt’s 8th president, who has been in office since 2014. He was 1st elected as president in mid-2014, then re-elected in 2018 for 2nd term. In 2019, constitutional amendments in Egypt extended the presidential term from 4 years to 6 years and also amended the constitution to raise the limit on consecutive terms in office from 2 to 3.

➤ Abdel Fattah El-Sisi will start his 3rd term with six-years tenure, starting from April 2024.

➤ Abdel Fattah El-Sisi also visited India during 74th celebration of Republic Day in January 26, 2023.

➤ In his early life, he is an Egyptian general, who served as military attache in Saudi Arabia, Chief-of-staff, and then commander of Egypt’s Northern Military Zone.

About Egypt:

➤ **President** – Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil El-Sisi

➤ **Capital** – Cairo

➤ **Currency** – Egyptian Pound (EGP)

❖ Kerala's Shaikh Hassan Khan climbs Mount Vinson

- **Shaikh Hassan Khan**, a 36-year-old Kerala government employee, has climbed Mount Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica. This is the fifth peak that Shaikh Hasan Khan has conquered.
- Khan said after reaching the summit at 8.40 pm (local time) on December 12, he hoisted the Indian flag.
- The motto of the expedition is to spread awareness about climate change that is happening in Antarctica.
- Apart from Mount Vinson, Shaikh Hassan Khan has climbed four other highest peaks – Mount Everest (Asia), Mount Denali (North America), Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa), and Mount Elbrus (Europe).
- **About Mount Vinson:** Mount Vinson is the highest mountain in Antarctica. It rises 4,892 metres (16,050 feet) above sea level.
- It is part of the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains, near the Ronne Ice Shelf. The Ellsworth Mountains are a mountain range in Antarctica.
- They form a chain of mountains 360 km (224 mi) long and 48 km (30 mi) wide in a north-to-south configuration.

❖ India hosts anti-terror exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states

- India hosted a Joint anti-terror exercise of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations with a border aim of suppressing the use of internet activities.
- The exercise was carried out in New Delhi with the support of executive committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).
- This is the 4th edition of the RATS seminar, one of India's initiatives starting in 2019, was attended by delegates from all member countries of Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

- The member delegates discussed the role of social media platforms and enhancing the law enforcement capabilities in countering terrorists misusing emerging technologies.
- The SCO members showed their keen interest in depending cooperation amongst each other for countering the misuse of the internet by terrorists, separatists and extremists and issues related to cyber security.

About SCO:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were the members of the Shanghai Five. Pakistan and India were become official members of SCO in 2017.

- SCO has two permanent bodies, SCO Secretariat in Beijing and Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent. RATS was established in during a meeting of the council of Heads of SCO Member States on June 7, 2002, in Saint Petersburg, though the organization did not become active until 2004.

❖ Israeli Film ‘Children of Nobody’ won Best film award at Kolkata International Film Festival

- The **29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** concluded with a momentous highlight as the Israeli film ‘**Children of Nobody**’ secured the prestigious **Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film**. Inspired by a true story, this compassionate Israeli drama sheds light on the often unnoticed and uncared-for individuals on the periphery of society.
- In addition to the triumph of ‘Children of Nobody,’ Venezuelan filmmaker Carlos Daniel Malave secured the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Director for his film ‘One Way.’

➤ This film festival closing ceremony were held at Rabindra Sadan. 219 films from 39 countries were screened at 23 locations across Kolkata.

➤ For the best film 'Royal Bengal Tiger Trophy' 51 Lakh rupees were given as an award. Apart from this NETPAC award for best film in the Asian award given to 'Broken Dreams.'

❖ **Mitchell Starc becomes the most expensive player in IPL history**

➤ Australian bowler Mitchell Starc has become the most expensive player in IPL history. Mitchell Starc was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for Rs 24.75 crore and included in their team.

➤ Mitchell's base price was Rs 2 crore. The player auction for IPL 2024 took place at the Coca-Cola Arena in Dubai.

➤ Apart from Mitchell Starc, World Cup 2023 champion team Australia's captain Pat Cummins also picked up for ₹20.5 crore by Sunrisers Hyderabad

➤ Only 72 players could be sold in the IPL 2024 mini-auction, out of which 30 were foreigners. All 10 teams spent Rs 230 crore and Rs 45 lakh on these 72 players.

➤ **History of IPL:**

➤ First Edition – 2008

➤ Most Successful teams – Mumbai Indians & Chennai Super Kings (5 titles)

➤ Most Runs – Virat Kohli (7263 runs)

➤ Most Wickets – Yuzvendra Chahal (187 wickets)

❖ **India tops Global Remittance Charts at USD 125 Billion in 2023**

- According to the World Bank's migration and development Report, India has topped the migrants in 2023 in terms of receipts.
- In 2023, overseas Indians sent an estimated \$ 125 billion to India.
- The World Bank's latest migration and development report indicates an increase of 3.8% in **low and medium-income countries (LMICs)** to reach US \$ 669 billion in 2023.
- In 2023, there is a continuous increase in remittance flow to LMIC. However, there is a slow growth compared to previous years.
- In overall, South Asia saw an increase of 7.2 percent in 2023. The Middle East and North Africa saw a decline in remittance flow for the second consecutive year.
- It was mainly due to a sharp decline in flow in Egypt. The remittance flow in Europe and Central Asia declined by 1.4 percent after significant benefits in 2022.
- The top 5 countries in terms of money received from migrants are
 1. India \$ 125 billion
 2. Mexico \$ 67 billion
 3. China \$ 50 billion
 4. Philippines \$ 40 billion
 5. Egypt \$ 24 billion.

❖ **UN declares the year 2024 as the International Year of Camelids**

- The United Nations has declared the year 2024 as the International Year of the Camelids to highlight the importance of camelids in the lives of people around the world.
- The International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to create awareness about the untapped potential of Camelids and strive to increase investment in the Camelids

sector through research, capacity development and use of innovative practices and technologies.

➤ Camelids, are camels found in more than 90 countries of the world. These are herbivores, thin necks, long legs and ruminants. Their teeth are sharp. They do not have hooves but instead have two toes with nails and soft pads called tylopoda in Greek, meaning “padded foot”.

➤ Camelids are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. These creatures contribute to local communities' food security, nutrition and economic development.

❖ **Five-Day Kuno Forest Festival Inaugurated In MP**

➤ The **five-day Kuno Van Mahotsav** was launched in **Ranipura village** on the outskirts of **Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh**. A forest retreat (tent city) has been developed in Ranipura village to attract wildlife lovers and tourists. Madhya Pradesh is organising the **1st edition of Kuno Van Mahotsav**.

➤ Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board is the main organiser of Kuno Forest Festival. This edition is organised by Ike Ventures Pvt Ltd and Lalluji & Co. in association with the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board.

➤ The event also aims to advocate cheetah conservation by highlighting the diverse flora and fauna and the importance of the Kuno Forest. It also includes local arts and crafts, folk music, dance forms and adventure sports.

❖ **International Human Solidarity Day 2023**

- **International Human Solidarity Day 2023** is a significant observance held annually on **December 20th**.
- Recognized by the **UN General Assembly**, this day emphasizes the importance of solidarity in fostering global unity and diversity.
- The theme for International Human Solidarity Day 2023 is “Advocate for Change”.
- This theme underscores the proactive approach of raising awareness about global issues and advocating for policies that emphasize equality, human rights, and social justice.
- The roots of this day trace back to **December 22, 2005**, when the **UN General Assembly** acknowledged solidarity as a fundamental value of the **twenty-first century through Resolution 60/209**.
- This recognition led to the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund to combat poverty, coupled with the declaration of International Human Solidarity Day.