

12/06/2024

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1. Oxford University Agrees to Return Stolen 500-Year-Old Bronze Idol to India

Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum to Return 500-Year-Old Stolen Bronze Idol to India

#### Key Points:

##### 1. Return Decision:

- Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum has decided to return a 16th-century bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar to India.

##### 2. Historical Context:

- The 60cm-tall statue, believed to have been stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, India.

##### 3. Acquisition:

- The statue was acquired by the museum in 1967 from Sotheby's auction house.
- It was part of Dr. J.R. Belmont's collection, and the museum asserts it was acquired in "good faith."

##### 4. Investigation Trigger:

- An independent researcher raised doubts regarding the statue's origins, leading to an investigation by the museum.

##### 5. Museum Action:

- Following the investigation, the Ashmolean Museum alerted the Indian High Commission about the concerns surrounding the statue.

##### 6. Formal Request:

- The decision to return the idol followed a formal request from the Indian government.

### **About Oxford University:**

- **Founded:** 1096
- **Headquarters:** United Kingdom
- **CEO:** Dr. Mairi Gibbs

## **2. Japan-India Maritime Exercise JIMEX-24 Kicks Off in Yokosuka**

8th Japan-India Maritime Exercise JIMEX-24 Begins in Yokosuka

### **Key Points:**

#### **1. Event Details:**

- The 8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24) has commenced in Yokosuka, Japan.

#### **2. Host and Participants:**

- The exercise is hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).
- Participating vessels include the Indian Navy's INS Shivalik and Japan's JS Yugiri.

#### **3. Objective:**

- The exercise aims to exchange and learn from each other's best practices.
- It seeks to enhance operational interactions between the Indian Navy and the JMSDF.

#### **4. Strategic Importance:**

- The exercise reaffirms mutual commitments to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **About Japan:**

- **Capital:** Tokyo
- **Prime Minister:** Fumio Kishida

- **Currency:** Yen

### 3. India Participates in Inaugural IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore

India Participates in Inaugural IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum in Singapore

#### Key Points:

##### 1. Event Participation:

- India participated in the first Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum.
- The forum was held in Singapore from June 5th to 6th, 2024.

##### 2. Indian Delegation:

- The Indian delegation was led by Sunil Barthwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- A business delegation led by Invest India also attended the event.

##### 3. IPEF Overview:

- The IPEF was launched on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo, Japan.
- Initiated by the United States in collaboration with Indo-Pacific partners.

##### 4. Objectives:

- The initiative aims to address economic challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It seeks to strengthen alliances and partnerships.
- The focus is on addressing economic challenges relevant to the 21st century.

#### About Singapore:

- **Capital:** Singapore City
- **President:** Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- **Prime Minister:** Lawrence Wong

BHAGYALAXMI PASULA