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Thursday, 14 March 2024

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 www.race4job.com

 raceinstitute@gmail.com

 Chaitanyapuri, Dilsukhnagar, Ameerpet, KPHB,
Himayathnagar, Hastinapuram, Secunderabad



DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Thursday, 14 March 2024

24 writers receive Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023

- Twenty four writers, including English author Neelum Saran Gaur and Hindi novelist Sanjeev, received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023.
- The award ceremony coincided with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the National Academy of Letters at the Sahityotsav.
- The awards were given for literary works including nine books of poetry, six novels, five of short stories, three essays, and one literary study.
- Sanjeev for his novel *Mujhe Pehchaano* and Gaur for her book *Requiem in Raga Janki* received the prestigious award.
- Sadiqua Nawab Saher received the award for her book *Rajdev Ki Amrai* in Urdu, while Swarnjit Savi was awarded for his book of poetry *Mann Di Chip* in Punjabi.
- Other recipients of the awards in poetry include Vijay Verma (Dogri), Vinod Joshi (Gujarati), Manshoor Banihali (Kashmiri), Sorokkhaibam Gambhini (Manipuri), Ashutosh Parida (Odia), Gaje Singh Rajpurohit (Rajasthani), Arun Ranjan Mishra (Sanskrit), and Vinod Asudani (Sindhi).

Q. Hindi novelist Sanjeev has received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2023 for which of his novels? **Mujhe Pehchaano**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

Sports Minister launches KIRTI, a nationwide talent hunt initiative

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme in Chandigarh.
- Aimed at school children between nine and 18 years, the nation-wide scheme will have two main objectives – to hunt talent from every nook and corner of the country and to use sports as a tool to curb addiction towards drugs and other gadgetry distractions.
- Taking the help of scientific tools, KIRTI will involve physical education teachers and experts in scouting talent. In the first phase, 10 Khelo India disciplines -- archery, athletics, boxing, football, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling have been identified.
- A scouting and training programme of this scale is a first in India and comes at a time when the nation wants to “become a top 10 sports nation in the world by 2036 and among the top five by 2047.

Q. Sports Minister has recently launched KIRTI programme in Chandigarh. In context to same, what does KIRTI stands for? **Khelo India Rising Talent Identification**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

Tripartite MoU signed among USOF, Prasar Bharati and ONDC

- Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under Department of Telecommunications (DoT), signed a tripartite pact with Prasar Bharati, under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, and Open Network for Digital Commerce, under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, to proliferate affordable and accessible digital services across the country.
- The objective of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to bundle broadband services with OTT and e-commerce platforms for rural India riding on BharatNet infrastructure under the USOF.
- The USOF has been instrumental in enabling high-speed broadband and mobile connections across gram panchayats (GPs or village administrations) and villages in the country.
- This pact, the government elaborated, will enable bundling of Prasar Bharati services as an over-the-top (OTT) offering to consumers, including linear channels, live TV and on-demand content, while USOF will ensure efficient and high-speed broadband services in rural and remote areas.

Q. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) signed a tripartite agreement with _____ for affordable and accessible broadband. **Prasar Bharati and Open Network for Digital Commerce**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

PM Modi inaugurates India's first automobile in-plant railway siding at Suzuki Motor Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding at Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India.
- As part of the government's Gati Shakti programme, the in-plant railway siding at SMG aims to reduce carbon footprint in logistics, bring down fossil fuel consumption and reduce road congestion.
- The SMG railway siding project is a collaboration between Maruti and Gujarat Rail Infrastructure Development (G-RIDE). Once fully operational, the facility can dispatch 300,000 cars annually to 15 destinations across India.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding at which wholly owned subsidiary of the country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India? **Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG)**



INDIA REMAINS WORLD'S TOP ARMS IMPORTER

Thursday, 14 March 2024

India remains world's top arms importer: SIPRI report

- India remained the world's top arms importer, but its imports declined by 11 per cent between 2013-17 and 2018-22, according to a report released by Stockholm-based defence think-tank SIPRI.
- The decline was linked to a complex procurement process, efforts to diversify arms suppliers and attempts to replace imports with local designs.
- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said the five largest arms importers in the world during 2018-22 were India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Australia and China.
- The five largest arms exporters were the United States, Russia, France, China and Germany.
- The imports by Pakistan, the world's eighth-largest arms importer during 2018-22, increased by 14 per cent, with China as its main supplier, the report said.
- It said France's arms exports increased by 44 per cent between 2013-17 and 2018-22 and most of these exports were to countries in Asia and Oceania and the Middle East.

Q. According to a report released by Stockholm-based defense think-tank SIPRI, which country is the world's top arms importer? **India**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

FIH Hockey Rankings: Indian men slip to 4th, women's team ranked 9th

- India slipped a spot to the fourth position in the latest FIH men's world rankings with Germany taking the third place following their impressive run at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.
- Netherlands (3060) continue to sit at the top of the rankings.
- Belgium (2848) continue to hold on to the second place in the rankings.
- Australia (2757), who were the stand out performers during the FIH Pro League mini-tournament in India, leapfrogged England (2720) into fifth place. Argentina (2524) and Spain (2296) continue to hold on to the seventh and eighth positions respectively.
- In the Women's Rankings, India (2215), who failed to make the cut for the Paris Games, are ranked ninth in the list headed by Netherlands (3422).
- Argentina (2827) and Germany (2732) moved ahead of Australia into second and third places.

Q. What is the rank of India in the latest FIH men's world rankings? **4th**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

PM Modi lays foundation for semiconductor projects worth Rs 1.25 trillion

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the inauguration of "India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat", where he laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects collectively worth around Rs 1.25 trillion.
- The foundation stones were laid for three crucial semiconductor projects: the Semiconductor Fabrication Facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) in Gujarat, the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Morigaon, Assam, and another OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat.
- DSIR in Gujarat - Rs 91,000 crore
- The Semiconductor Fabrication Facility at the Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) will be jointly established by Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) under the Modified Scheme for setting up Semiconductor Fabs in India. With an investment exceeding Rs 91,000 crore, this facility will mark India's first commercial semiconductor fab, initially producing 28-nanometer chips. The venture is estimated to create around 20,000 skilled jobs directly and indirectly.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects collectively worth approximately _____. **Rs 1.25 trillion**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

ISMA appoints Deepak Ballani as the new Director General

- Industry body Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has announced the appointment of Deepak Ballani as its new Director General.
- Prior to joining ISMA, Ballani served as the Director General at the All India Plastics Manufacturers Association, where he spearheaded policy advocacy, government affairs management, and international partner management.
- The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) is the national body representing the interests of sugar and bio-energy producers in India.

ISMA :

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Established: 1932

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association? **Deepak Ballani**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

Rural Development Ministry Ties Up With IIT-Delhi for Using AI

- The Ministry of Rural Development has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to formalise their partnership in applications of geospatial technology and artificial intelligence.
- The MoU centred around the project “BhuPRAHARI,” an initiative aimed at leveraging ground and space-based geospatial technologies along with Artificial Intelligence to monitor and manage assets under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- The project is to be executed by the HydroSense lab led by Manabendra Saharia.
- This collaboration is expected to harness the power of technology for the betterment of rural development processes.

Q. The Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with which Indian Institute of Technology to formalize their partnership in applications of geospatial technology and artificial intelligence? **IIT-Delhi**



Thursday, 14 March 2024

NIELIT, ITI Egypt sign MoU to enhance workforce skills, promote employment, foster international cooperation

- The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) in India and the Information Technology Institute (ITI) in Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance workforce skills, promote employment opportunities, address skills gaps, and foster international cooperation.
- NIELIT, which is an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, signed the MoU with ITI, affiliated with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in Cairo.
- The agreement was signed by the NIELIT Director General, MM Tripathi and Egypt's ITI Chairman, Heba Saleh to promote cooperation and collaboration in the IECT domain. Under the MoU, both the institutes intend to collaborate in multiple areas including curriculum and training materials development and sharing virtual labs facilities.

Q. NIELIT signed MoU with which Institute to enhance workforce skills, boost employability, promote international collaboration? **ITI Egypt**



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