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Monday, 04 March 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Monday, 04 March 2024

Defence Ministry signs 5 major capital acquisition contracts to further boost Make-in-India initiative

- Defence Ministry has signed five major capital acquisition contracts worth over 39,125 crore rupees to further boost Make-in-India initiative.
- Out of the five contracts, one was with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for procurement of Aero-engines for MiG-29 aircraft, two with Larsen and Toubro Limited for procurement of Close-in Weapon System and procurement of High-Power Radar and two with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited for procurement of BrahMos missiles and procurement of Ship borne BrahMos system for the Indian Defence Forces.
- These deals will further strengthen indigenous capabilities, save foreign exchange and reduce dependency on Foreign Origin Equipment Manufactures in future.
- The deals signed will further strengthen indigenous capabilities, save foreign exchange and reduce dependency on Foreign Origin Equipment Manufactures in future.
- The contract for RD-33 Aero Engines for MiG-29 aircraft has been signed at a cost of 5,249.72 crore rupees.
- These Aero Engines are expected to fulfill the need of Indian Air Force to sustain the operational capability of the MiG-29 fleet for the residual service life. The Close-in Weapon System will provide terminal Air Defence to select locations of the country.
- The project will boost and encourage active participation of Indian aerospace, defence and associated industries including MSMEs.
- The High-Power Radar will replace existing long-range radars of Indian Air Force with modern Active Aperture Phased Array based HPR with advanced surveillance features.

Q. Recently the Defense Ministry has signed how many major capital acquisition contracts worth more than Rs 39,125 crore to further boost the Make-in-India initiative? **5**



Monday, 04 March 2024

FIU imposes Rs 5.49 cr penalty on Paytm Payments Bank for PMLA violations

- The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India), an organisation under the Revenue Department of the Finance Ministry, imposed a penalty of Rs 5.49 crore on Paytm Payments Bank.
- The FIU's penalty is with reference to the violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) read with PML rules.
- The Unit had initiated a review of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd after receiving specific information from law enforcement agencies in respect of a few entities and their network of businesses engaged in a number of illegal acts, including organising and facilitating online gambling.
- After scrutiny of documents, FIU had issued a compliance Show Cause Notice to the bank for its violations of PML rules, including Know Your Customer (KYC) safeguards in respect of Payout services and beneficiary accounts.
- The FIU action follows the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) January 31 directive barring Paytm Payments Bank from accepting fresh deposits or credits in the accounts of its customers from February 29. The date was later extended to March 15.

Q. How much fine FIU imposed on Paytm Payments Bank for PMLA violations? **Rs 5.49 crore**



Monday, 04 March 2024

JSW Steel, Italy govt sign agreement to relaunch Piombino steel hub

- JSW Steel, Italy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Italian government to relaunch the steelworks site of Piombino with an investment of 143 million euros.
- An MoU was signed with Italian authorities and its subsidiary, JSW Steel Italy SRL.
- Apart from doubling the current rail-making capacity from 300,000 tonnes to 600,000 tonnes per annum, the investments at Piombino are aimed at making the rail mill more efficient, the most modern, technologically advanced, and best in class.
- This project will safeguard the aspiration towards the development of Piombino as a steel hub and will step up domestic production which will result in a reduction of imports of steel products in Italy.
- The project envisages setting up a tandem mill, head hardening facility, and increasing the length of rails from 108 to 120 metres.
- The MoU sets the conditions for efficient and sustainable state support for the production of rails, the company said, adding that it was part of a broader project to kick-start the economic development of the region which also includes the restarting of the production of steel products to safeguard employment and reduce the import of steel products into Italy.
- In 2018, JSW Steel announced the acquisition of Aferpi S.p.A, Piombino Logistics S.p.A and GSI Lucchini S.p.A for 55 million euros on a cash-free, debt-free basis. With the transaction, JSW Steel hoped to establish its presence in Italy with access to the European speciality steel long products market.

Q. Recently JSW Steel has signed an agreement with which country to relaunch Piombino Steel Hub? **Italy**



INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

- Cabinet approves establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with headquarters in India
- One-time budgetary support of Rs.150 crore for a period of five years till 2027-28

Monday, 04 March 2024

Cabinet announces International 'Big Cat' Alliance

- The Union Cabinet formally announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore from the central government until 2028.
- The IBCA is an initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023 in Mysuru commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- The objective of the IBCA is to ensure cooperation for the conservation of seven big cats: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar, and puma.
- Five of these cats, apart from jaguar and puma, are found in India.
- The IBCA proposes to have an assembly of members, a standing committee as well as a secretariat based in India. The Environment Ministry will appoint an interim director general to head the IBCA secretariat, until members of the alliance can meet and appoint a permanent office-bearer to oversee day-to-day operations.

Q. The Union Cabinet has formally announced the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) by which year? **2028**

SHAKTI

India Election Fact-Checking Collective

A consortium of fact-checkers and news publishers in India working collaboratively in the run up to the 2024 polls to aid early detection of online misinformation and deepfakes, and to amplify the reach of fact-checks in local languages



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Monday, 04 March 2024

Google partners with Shakti to battle misinformation

- With India preparing for its general elections, Google has announced a partnership to combat misinformation. The tech giant has partnered with Shakti, an Indian fact-checking collective, to help detect online misinformation, including deepfakes.
- Shakti comprises of major Indian news outlets along with independent fact-checkers. It aims to create a common repository that news publishers can use to tackle the challenges of misinformation at scale.
- Shakti will be driven by DataLEADS, in collaboration with the Misinformation Combat Alliance, The Quint, VishvasNews, Boom, Factly, and Newschecker, with support from the Google News Initiative.
- Additionally, the project will provide news organisations and fact-checkers training in advanced fact-checking methodologies, deepfake detection, and the Google tools like the Fact Check Explorer, to streamline verification processes. The Fact-Checking collective will continue to onboard new partners and scale the effort to reach most parts of the country, prioritising publishers producing original news in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali and Marathi.

Q. Google has partnered with which Indian fact-checking group to help detect online misinformation, including deepfakes, as India prepares for general elections? **Shakti**



Monday, 04 March 2024

Centre signs tripartite agreement with State government of Tripura, Tripura Motha and other stakeholders in New Delhi

- A tripartite agreement was signed between the Centre, the State government of Tripura and the Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance, popularly known as Tripura Motha and other stakeholders, in New Delhi.
- Citing several accords and agreements signed by the central government for peace and stability in northeast India, Shah also said that his ministry has worked to achieve a terrorism-free, dispute-free, violence-free northeast under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Ten thousand people have left their arms and come into the mainstream and due to this an environment of development has been created in the North East.
- Shah cited a slew of agreements and accords signed with different stakeholders in the region, including the 2019 NLFT peace accord, the Bru migrant permanent resettlement agreement in Tripura and Bodo Accord in Assam in 2020, Karbi Peace Accord in Assam in 2021, Adivasi Accord and Assam-Meghalaya inter-state boundary agreement in 2022, Assam-Arunachal Pradesh inter-state boundary agreement Dimasa peace pact and the UNLF accord and ULFA Accord in 2023.

Q. Recently the Center signed a tripartite agreement with _____ state government, Tripura Motha and other stakeholders in New Delhi. **Tripura**



Exercise Samudra Laksamana: Strengthening Indo-Malaysian Maritime Cooperation

Monday, 04 March 2024

India, Malaysia holding joint naval exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'

- Indian and Malaysian navy ships are currently conducting joint exercise 'Samudra Laksamana'.
- Indian Naval Ship Kiltan and Royal Malaysian Naval Ship KD Lekir are participating in the 3rd edition of this exercise, which began at Visakhapatnam and comprises both harbour professional interactions, followed by the operational phase at sea.
- At harbour, crew of both ships will have various professional interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchange on topics of mutual interest, sports fixtures, and other interactions.
- These interactions are aimed to enhance knowledge base, share best practices and further cooperation on maritime aspects. The exercise aims to strengthen bonds and enhance interoperability between the Indian and Royal Malaysian Navy.

Q. 'Samudra Laksamana' is a joint naval exercise between India and which country? **Malaysia**



Monday, 04 March 2024

Aziz Qureshi, former Uttar Pradesh Governor and Congress veteran, dies at 83

- Former Uttar Pradesh Governor and Congress veteran Aziz Qureshi died in Bhopal. Qureshi was 83.
- Qureshi had served as the governor of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Mizoram.
- He was first elected as an MLA in 1972 from Madhya Pradesh's Sehore seat and became a Lok Sabha member in 1984.
- Born on April 24, 1941, in Bhopal, Aziz Qureshi embarked on his political journey with a strong foundation rooted in his dedication to public service.
- Beyond his political roles, Aziz Qureshi was appointed the President of the Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy by the then Kamal Nath government on January 24, 2020. This position allowed him to contribute to the promotion of Urdu language and literature, reflecting his diverse interests and commitment to cultural preservation.

Q. Name the former Uttar Pradesh Governor, who passed away recently? **Aziz Qureshi**



Monday, 04 March 2024

Thailand replaces its WTO ambassador after protest by India

- Thailand has reportedly decided to replace its Ambassador to World Trade Organization (WTO), Pimchanok Vonkorpon, after India lodged a protest over her remarks at the 13th ministerial conference.
- Vonkorpon accused India of using its rice procurement programme at Minimum Support Price (MSP) to capture the export market and not to benefit the people.
- From 2018 to 2022, India held the title of the world's largest rice exporting country, followed by Thailand and Vietnam. However, in 2023, India banned the export of broken and non-basmati white rice due to uncertainties surrounding rice production, geopolitical factors, El Nino phenomena, and extreme weather conditions.
- This measure aimed to stabilise domestic prices and ensure sufficient availability in the domestic market.
- She'll be replaced by Thai foreign secretary.

Q. After India's opposition, Thailand has decided to replace which ambassador to WTO? Pimchanok Vonkorpon



L&T commissions Green Hydrogen Plant at its manufacturing complex in Hazira



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Monday, 04 March 2024

L&T commissions first indigenously-built Hydrogen Electrolyser at Hazira

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) commissioned its first indigenously-manufactured electrolyser at the Green Hydrogen Plant at A M Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat.
- Featuring a rated power capacity of 1 MW (expandable to 2 MW), this electrolyser can produce 200 Nm³/Hr of hydrogen. It is equipped with two stacks and an Electrolyser Processing Unit (EPU) ML-400, which is indigenously manufactured and assembled, adhering to the latest international standards, and offers exceptional flexibility and thermal stability. The electrolyser will now undergo rigorous testing to optimise its performance, and in turn, paving the way for full-fledged manufacturing of electrolysers.
- L&T Electrolysers Ltd, a newly incorporated entity of L&T, is focused on manufacturing pressurised alkaline electrolysers using the technology from McPhy Energy, France.

Q. Which company recently commissioned its first indigenously manufactured electrolyzer at the Green Hydrogen Plant in Hazira, Gujarat? **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**



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