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 **Monday, 26 August 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Monday, 26 August 2024

Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan announces Retirement

- Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has announced retirement from all three formats of international cricket.
- Dhawan last played for India in the ODI series against Bangladesh in December 2022.
- Dhawan has represented India in 34 Tests, 167 ODIs, and 68 T20Is from 2010 to 2022, revealing his decision to retire from international as well as domestic cricket.

key facts about Shikhar Dhawan

Notable Achievements:

- Fastest Century on Test Debut: Scored 187 runs off 174 balls against Australia in 2013.
- Leading Run-scorer in ICC Tournaments: He has been the leading run-scorer in several ICC tournaments, including the 2013 Champions Trophy and the 2015 World Cup.
- First Indian to Score a Century in his 100th ODI: Achieved this milestone in February 2018 against South Africa.

Q. Which cricketer announced retirement from all formats of international and domestic cricket in 2024? **Shikhar Dhawan**



Monday, 26 August 2024

Indian women clinch first-ever team title at U17 Wrestling World Championships in Jordan

- At the ongoing Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Amman, Jordan, Indian women extended their dominance to win its first-ever team title with 185 points.

Team Standings:

- 1st Place: India (185 points)
- 2nd Place: Japan (146 points)
- 3rd Place: Kazakhstan (79 points)

Key Performances:

- Kajal: Won gold in the 69kg category, defeating Ukraine's Oleksandra Rybak (9-2).
- Shrutika Patil: Secured silver in the 46kg category, losing to Japan's Yuu Katsume.
- Raj Bala: Won bronze in the 40kg category, defeating Japan's Monaka Umekawa (11-5).
- Muskan: Won bronze in the 53kg category by defeating the USA's Isabella Gonzales by technical superiority.

Q. Which team won the first-ever team title at the Under-17 Wrestling World Championships in Jordan?
India

EXERCISE MITRA SHAKTHI 'X' - 2024

JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE



Monday, 26 August 2024

India, Sri Lanka joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI concludes with final drills in Sri Lanka

- High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha and Sri Lanka's State Minister of Defence, Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, witnessed the final exercise at the 10th edition of India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.
- Personnel from both sides engaged in multiple tactical drills in sub-conventional scenarios.
- The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability between the Indian and Sri Lankan forces and strengthen bilateral ties.

Indian Contingent:

- Comprised of 106 personnel.
- Represented by a battalion of Rajputana Rifles, along with personnel from other arms and services.

Sri Lankan Contingent:

- Represented by personnel from the Gajaba Regiment of the Sri Lankan Army.

Annual Training Event:

- MITRA SHAKTI is an annual exercise conducted alternately in India and Sri Lanka.
- The previous edition was held in Pune, India, in November 2023.

Q. Which countries participated in the 10th edition of the Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI? **India, Sri Lanka**



Monday, 26 August 2024

India launches first reusable hybrid rocket RHUMI-1

- India launched its first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI-1', developed by the Tamil Nadu-based start-up Space Zone India with Martin Group, from Thiruvudandhai in Chennai.

Rocket Features:

- Type: Reusable hybrid rocket.
- Payload: Carried 3 Cube Satellites and 50 PICO Satellites.
- Fuel System: Equipped with a generic-fuel-based hybrid motor.
- Safety Features: Includes an electrically triggered, CO₂-based parachute deployer; 100% pyrotechnic-free and 0% TNT.

Mission Objective:

- Data Collection: Satellites will collect data on global warming and climate change.

Leadership:

- Mission Lead: Anand Megalingam, Founder of Space Zone India.
- Mentorship: Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, Former Director of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC).

Q. What is the name of India's first reusable hybrid rocket launched from Chennai? **RHUMI-1.**



Monday, 26 August 2024

IIM Bangalore announces India's first global centre of excellence on PE and VC

- IIM Bangalore has announced the establishment of India's first global centre of excellence on Private Equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC).

Key Points:

- **Name of Centre:** The centre will be named the Tony James Centre for Private Equity and Venture Capital, after the renowned investment banker Tony James.
- **Collaborators:** An MoU was signed between Professor U Dinesh Kumar, Dean, Faculty at IIM Bangalore, and Mathew Cyriac, Executive Chairman of Florintree Advisors Pvt Ltd, to set up the Centre.
- **Financial Contribution:** Mathew Cyriac is contributing Rs 17.5 crore towards the Centre, marking the largest-ever contribution from an alumnus.
- **Objective:** The Centre aims to become a global thought leader in research related to the PE and VC landscape.
- **Functions of the Centre:** It will focus on cutting-edge research, education, and industry collaboration, providing students with opportunities to connect with industry leaders, gain practical insights, and explore the latest trends in the PE-VC sector.

Q. What is the name of India's first global centre of excellence on Private Equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) announced by IIM Bangalore? **Tony James Centre for Private Equity and Venture Capital.**



Monday, 26 August 2024

Ministry of Coal launches national safety portal, targets zero accidents in coal mines

- The Ministry of Coal has launched the National Coal Mines Safety Report Portal with the aim of achieving "Zero Accident, Fail-Proof Safety" in coal mines.
- Review and Evaluation: Amrit Lal Meena, Secretary of the Ministry of Coal, reviewed the progress of the portal and emphasized the need for comprehensive safety audits across all coal mines.
- Key Modules: The portal includes two main modules—the Accident Module and the Safety Audit Module—designed to enhance safety management in coal mines.
- Accident Module: This module allows for near-real-time accident reporting and management within 24 hours, facilitating prompt response to incidents.
- Safety Audit Module: This module strengthens the auditing process, improving safety practices and ensuring stringent safety protocols are followed.
- Commitment to Safety: Coal companies are dedicated to implementing robust safety policies in line with their vision and mission, addressing numerous hazards present in coal mining.
- Safety Culture: The Ministry of Coal, along with coal PSUs, is focused on fostering a "Culture of Mine Safety" by identifying and mitigating potential hazards through risk assessment procedures.
- Technological Advancements: The integration of advanced modules in the safety portal represents a significant advancement in safety management, setting new standards for safety in the coal mining sector.

Q. What is the primary goal of the National Coal Mines Safety Report Portal launched by the Ministry of Coal? **Achieving "Zero Accident, Fail-Proof Safety" in coal mines.**



Monday, 26 August 2024

Govt approves Unified Pension Scheme, to benefit 2.3 mn central employees

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for government employees.

Key Points:

- **Pension Benefits:** The UPS provides for an assured pension, guaranteeing 50% of the average basic salary for the last 12 months before retirement for government employees who complete a minimum of 25 years in service.
- **Family Pension:** The scheme includes a provision for family pension, which ensures that the pensioner's family will receive 60% of the pension after the pensioner's death.
- **Minimum Pension Assurance:** Under the UPS, a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month is guaranteed for government employees who have completed at least 10 years of service.
- **Employee Choice:** Government employees will have the option to choose between the existing National Pension System (NPS) and the newly approved Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

Q. What is the newly approved pension scheme by the Union Cabinet that will benefit 2.3 million central government employees? **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).**



Monday, 26 August 2024

Zydus Lifesciences to acquire 50% stake in Sterling Biotech

- Zydus Lifesciences, through its wholly owned subsidiary, has agreed to acquire a 50% stake in Sterling Biotech (SBL) from Perfect Day Inc., a Temasek portfolio company.

Key Facts:

- **Formation of Joint Venture (JV):** This acquisition will result in Sterling Biotech becoming a 50:50 joint venture between Zydus Lifesciences and Perfect Day Inc., with both companies having equal representation on the board.
- **Shift in Focus:** Sterling Biotech, which currently manufactures fermentation-based products such as gelatine and APIs, will pivot to focus on animal-free protein production under the new JV.
- **New Manufacturing Facility:** The JV plans to establish a manufacturing facility dedicated to producing fermented, animal-free protein products for global markets, addressing the growing demand for sustainable and ethically sourced nutrition.
- **Consumer Demand:** The initiative aims to cater to consumers who prefer animal-free alternatives or are lactose intolerant, reflecting the increasing market demand for such products.

Q. Which company is acquiring a 50% stake in Sterling Biotech (SBL) from Perfect Day Inc.? **Zydus Lifesciences.**



Monday, 26 August 2024

Union Cabinet Approves Bio E3 Policy and Vigyan Dhara Scheme

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval to the Bio E3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy, along with the merging of three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology into a unified central sector scheme named Vigyan Dhara.

Key Highlights:

Bio E3 Policy:

- **Objective:** To promote high-performance biomanufacturing and accelerate innovation in biotechnology, focusing on sectors such as bio-AI, biomanufacturing hubs, and biofoundries.
- **Impact:** The policy aims to advance technology development and commercialization while supporting the expansion of India's skilled workforce. It will also contribute to government initiatives like achieving a Net Zero carbon economy and promoting sustainable, environmentally friendly practices.

Vigyan Dhara Scheme:

- **Structure:** This scheme consolidates three previous umbrella schemes into one, with a total allocation of ₹10,579 crore.

Q. What is the name of the central sector scheme that merges three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology, approved by the Union Cabinet? **Vigyan Dhara.**



Monday, 26 August 2024

Romanian PM Marcel Ciolacu re-elected as chairman of country's Social Democratic Party (PSD)

- Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu was re-elected as the chairman of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) during the PSD Congress.
- Support for Candidacy: Ciolacu received overwhelming support from party delegates, with 2,257 out of 2,380 delegates voting in his favor.
- Presidential Candidate Confirmation: Alongside his re-election as chairman, Ciolacu was also confirmed as the PSD's candidate for the upcoming Romanian presidential elections.
- Election Timeline: The Romanian presidential elections are scheduled for November 24, 2024, with a potential second round on December 8 if no candidate achieves an absolute majority.
- Ineligibility of Current President: The current President, Klaus Iohannis, who was first elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2019, is ineligible for re-election as per the Romanian Constitution, as he will complete his second and final term in December 2024.

Q. Who was re-elected as the chairman of Romania's Social Democratic Party (PSD) and confirmed as the party's candidate for the upcoming presidential elections?
Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu.



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