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Wednesday, 28 August 2024

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Bharat Biotech launches oral cholera vaccine after positive phase 3 trial

- Bharat Biotech announced that its phase 3 trials for the oral cholera vaccine, Hillchol, confirmed that it is safe for public use.
- Hillchol was developed by Bharat Biotech under a license from Singapore-based Hilleman Laboratories.
- Bharat Biotech is launching Hillchol globally, with the capacity to produce 200 million doses annually.
- The vaccine aims to address a global shortage, filling a deficit of 40 million doses per year. Hillchol can be administered to individuals aged one year and above.
- The WHO reported 249,793 cholera cases and 2,137 deaths in 25 countries in the first half of 2024, compared to 166,442 cases and 69 deaths in the same period in 2023.
- Since early 2023, 102 million oral cholera vaccine doses have been requested by 17 countries, nearly double the 51 million doses produced during that time.
- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection spread through contaminated food or water, which can cause severe dehydration and death within hours if untreated.

Q. What is the name of Bharat Biotech's oral cholera vaccine that was developed under a license from Hilleman Laboratories and confirmed safe in phase 3 trials? **Hillchol**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Nirmal Singh Bhangoo, Pearls Group owner in Rs 45,000 cr scam, dies

- Nirmal Singh Bhangoo, the controversial owner of Pearls Group, who was at the centre of a Rs 45,000 crore scam that duped nearly 55 million investors, passed away after spending eight years in judicial custody.
- Bhangoo, hailing from Punjab's Barnala, had humble beginnings, selling milk in his youth before earning a degree in Political Science.
- His journey into the world of finance allegedly began in the 1970s when he moved to Kolkata and worked with a chit-fund company.
- He later joined a Haryana-based firm involved in investor fraud before launching his venture in 1980.

What was Pearls Group's Scam?

- The Pearls Group scam, also known as the PACL scam, is one of India's largest financial frauds.
- The company, under the guise of real estate investment schemes, collected around ₹49,100 crore (approximately \$6.8 billion) from over 5.85 crore investors, promising high returns or land in return.
- However, it was revealed to be a Ponzi scheme, with most investments being fraudulent.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) ordered PACL to return the money, but the process has been slow, and many investors are still awaiting refunds.
- Key executives, including Chairman Nirmal Singh Bhangoo, were arrested for their involvement.

Q. Name the owner of the Pearls Group who died recently?
Nirmal Singh Bhangoo



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

India develops indigenous mpox detection RT-PCR kit, gets CDSCO nod

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared its second public health emergency of international concern due to Monkeypox.
- A new strain of the Monkeypox virus, Clade-1, is identified as more transmissible and has higher mortality rates.
- India has developed its own indigenous RT-PCR testing kit to combat Monkeypox, which has been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- Siemens Healthineers' IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay has received manufacturing approval from CDSCO.
- This development marks a significant achievement for the "Make in India" initiative and is a critical step in addressing the Monkeypox public health emergency.
- The assay targets two distinct regions in the viral genome, covering both clade I and clade II variants, ensuring comprehensive detection of various strains.
- The test is platform-agnostic, meaning it can be integrated into existing lab workflows without requiring new instruments.

Q. What is the name of the indigenous RT-PCR testing kit developed in India to combat Monkeypox, approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)?
IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay.



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Russian Navy inducts new Karakurt-class corvette

- A new small missile corvette under Project 22800 Amur, also known as the "Karakurt-Class," has been commissioned into the Russian Navy.
- The newly accepted vessel is equipped with the Kalibr-NK cruise missile system.
- Ships of Project 22800 Amur, designed by engineers of the Almaz Central Marine Design Bureau, have embodied the power of shock weapons and high seaworthiness.
- Project 22800 missile ships are carriers of the universal Kalibr vertical-launch cruise missile system and, in the future, of Zirkon hypersonic missiles.
- The ships are relatively small in size and displacement, which allows them to operate in the near sea zone and pass through inland river communications.

Karakurt-class corvette

- The Karakurt-class corvette is a small, modern missile ship developed for the Russian Navy by the Almaz Central Marine Design Bureau.
- Measuring about 67 meters in length and displacing 800 tons, these corvettes are heavily armed with Kalibr-NK cruise missiles, Pantsir-M air defense systems, and a 76.2 mm naval gun.

Q. What is the primary role of the Karakurt-class corvette in the Russian Navy? **To conduct anti-surface warfare, shore bombardment, and air defense operations in coastal waters and near-sea zones.**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Nigerian President appoints new intelligence, secret police chiefs

- Nigerian President Bola Tinubu has appointed new directors for two key security agencies: the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Department of State Services (DSS).

Mohammed Mohammed:

- **Position:** New Director-General of the NIA
- **Background:** A seasoned diplomat with a distinguished career in the foreign service since joining the NIA in 1995
- **Expectation:** His extensive experience is anticipated to provide a fresh perspective on the agency's operations.

Adeola Ajayi:

- **Position:** New Director-General of the DSS
- **Background:** A long-serving officer who has advanced steadily through the DSS ranks
- **Expectation:** His deep knowledge of the agency is seen as a crucial asset in addressing the nation's security challenges.

Q. Who were the new appointments for the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Department of State Services (DSS) in Nigeria? **Mohammed Mohammed (NIA) & Adeola Ajayi (DSS)**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

24th International Mother Teresa Awards: Key Highlights

- The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place at the Millennium Plaza Dubai, marking the 114th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa. This event, organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, was notably held outside India for only the second time, both occasions being in Dubai.

Key Facts:

- **Establishment:** The awards were instituted in 1997, following the passing of Mother Teresa.
- **Objective:** The awards honor individuals for exceptional contributions in various fields including education, science, culture, sports, social work, medicine, industry, and politics.
- **International Participation:** The 2024 ceremony featured awardees from multiple countries, highlighting its global significance.

Awardees:

- João Bernardo Vieira II (Posthumously, Guinea-Bissau)
- Sidharth Srivastava and Namit Bajoria (Industry)
- Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman (Chairman, NRB Bank Limited)
- Irka Bochenko (Arts)
- MP Rozario (Education)
- Murli Panjabi and Sureandar Singh Khandari (Social Work, UAE)
- Ahmed al Hashemi (Young Musician and Child Prodigy)

Q. Where was the 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony held? **Dubai**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

IMF Approves \$820 Million Disbursement to Egypt Under \$8 Billion Loan Program

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a disbursement of \$820 million to Egypt as part of an \$8 billion loan program aimed at addressing the country's economic challenges.

Key Details:

- **Loan Program:** The \$8 billion loan agreement was finalized in March 2023, with the program running from December 2022 to September 2026.
- **Economic Improvements:** According to the IMF, Egypt has seen improved macroeconomic conditions, with inflationary pressures easing, foreign exchange shortages resolved, and fiscal targets met.
- **Regional and Domestic Challenges:** The IMF highlighted ongoing regional tensions, including the Gaza-Israel conflict and Red Sea tensions, as well as domestic policy challenges, requiring decisive action and continued implementation of program commitments.
- **IMF Recommendations:** The IMF advised continued fiscal consolidation, enhanced revenue mobilization, and accelerated structural reforms to boost private sector growth.
- **Economic Impact:** The crisis in Egypt, exacerbated by the Gaza conflict, has significantly affected the tourism sector and Suez Canal revenues, contributing to the country's economic difficulties.

Q. How much did the IMF disburse to Egypt as part of its \$8 billion loan program? **\$820 million.**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Vietnam's National Assembly Approves New Government Leaders

- Vietnam's National Assembly has approved the appointment of several key government positions, including three deputy prime ministers, two ministers, and heads of the judiciary.

Key Appointments:

- **Deputy Prime Ministers:** Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court Nguyen Hoa Binh, Minister of Finance Ho Duc Phoc, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Bui Thanh Son.
- **Ministers:** Do Duc Duy, former Secretary of Yen Bai Province's Party Committee, as Minister of Natural Resources and Environment; Nguyen Hai Ninh, former Secretary of Khanh Hoa Province's Party Committee, as Minister of Justice.
- **Judiciary Appointments:** Le Minh Tri, former Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuracy, as Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court; Nguyen Huy Tien, former Permanent Deputy Prosecutor General, as Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuracy.
- **Objective:** These appointments aim to strengthen Vietnam's governance and judiciary by bringing experienced leaders into key positions.

Q. Who was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court in Vietnam? **Le Minh Tri**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Apple Appoints Indian-Origin Kevan Parekh as New CFO

- Apple has announced the appointment of Indian-origin engineer Kevan Parekh as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), marking the second major leadership change within the tech giant.

Key Details:

- **New Appointment:** Kevan Parekh, currently the Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis at Apple, will assume the role of CFO starting January 1, 2025.
- **Background:** Parekh holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Chicago.
- **Career at Apple:** Parekh has been with Apple for over 11 years, overseeing critical areas like Financial Planning and Analysis, Investor Relations, and Market Research. He has also led finance for Apple's Worldwide Sales, Retail, and Marketing divisions.
- **Previous Experience:** Before joining Apple, Parekh held senior leadership roles at Thomson Reuters and General Motors, where he contributed significantly in finance and business development.
- **Leadership Transition:** Parekh's appointment follows the transition of the current CFO, Luca Maestri, to a new role within Apple. Maestri has played a key role in grooming Parekh for this position.

Q. Who has Apple appointed as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO)? **Kevan Parekh**



Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Former England Football Manager Sven-Goran Eriksson Passes Away at 76

- Sven-Goran Eriksson, the renowned Swedish football manager who led England's national team from 2001 to 2006, passed away at the age of 76 after battling pancreatic cancer.

Key Career Highlights:

- **International Management:** Eriksson was the first foreigner to manage England's national football team, leading them to the World Cup quarter-finals in 2002 and 2006, as well as the quarter-finals of the 2004 Euros.
- **Club Management:** Eriksson's managerial career began in 1977 with Swedish club Degerfors IF. He later managed top European clubs including IFK Goteborg (Sweden), Benfica (Portugal), and Italian teams like Roma and Lazio.
- **Other Roles:** Post-England, Eriksson managed national teams of Mexico, Ivory Coast, and the Philippines, though he never managed Sweden's national team.
- **Final Appearance:** In March 2023, Eriksson fulfilled a lifelong dream by managing Liverpool Legends in a charity match against Ajax Legends, securing a 4-2 victory.

Q. Which national football team did Sven-Goran Eriksson manage from 2001 to 2006? **England**



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