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Saturday, 28 September 2024

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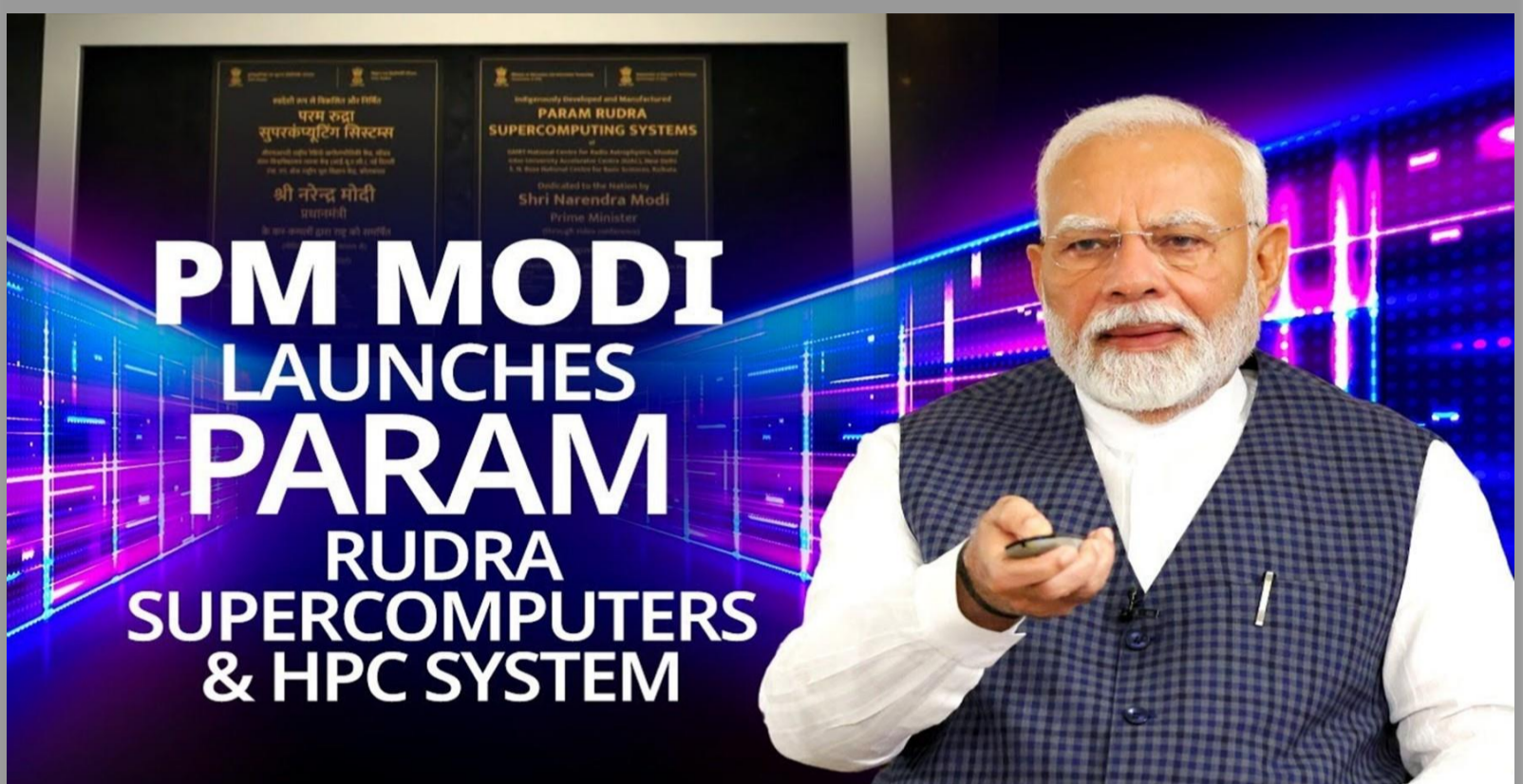


Saturday, 28 September 2024

India Rises to 39th Position in Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024

- India has climbed to the 39th position out of 133 economies in the Global Innovation Index, reflecting the nation's steady rise in innovation capacity.
- **Central & Southern Asia:** India ranks 1st among the 10 economies in the Central and Southern Asia region, showing regional leadership in innovation.
- **Lower-Middle-Income Economies:** India holds the top position among lower-middle-income economies.
- **WIPO S&T Cluster Ranking:** India ranks 4th in the Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), with major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai included in the world's top 100 S&T clusters. Globally, India is 7th in intangible asset intensity.
- **Leadership:** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal credited India's innovation growth to the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Significant Growth:** India was ranked 81st in 2015, showcasing a substantial improvement in innovation performance over the years.
- **Global Leaders:** Switzerland, Sweden, the US, Singapore, and the UK are ranked as the most innovative countries, while India is among the fastest-growing innovators along with China, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Q. What is India's rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024? **39th**



Saturday, 28 September 2024

PM Modi Launches PARAM Rudra Supercomputers for Scientific Advancement

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three indigenously developed PARAM Rudra Supercomputers via video conference. These supercomputers are deployed in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- **High-Performance Computing (HPC) System:** Along with the supercomputers, a High-Performance Computing (HPC) system for weather and climate research was also inaugurated.
- **Digital Revolution:** PM Modi emphasized that computing capacity is crucial for national capability in the digital era and India is advancing rapidly in science, technology, and research.
- **Self-Reliance:** The launch marks a significant step towards India's self-reliance in computing, strengthening its position in global scientific and technological innovation.
- **Industry 4.0:** The supercomputing initiative is a foundational step for India's success in Industry 4.0, enhancing sectors that depend on technology and computing.
- **Semiconductor Mission:** PM Modi highlighted the India Semiconductor Mission, aimed at developing a domestic semiconductor ecosystem to become a key player in the global supply chain.

Q. Under which mission were the PARAM Rudra supercomputers developed? **National Supercomputing Mission**



Saturday, 28 September 2024

India Becomes World's Third-Largest Producer and Consumer of Ethanol

- India has become the world's third-largest producer and consumer of ethanol, as announced by the Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi.
- The top five countries producing and consuming ethanol are: United States, Brazil, India, China & European Union.
- **Sugar Industry Growth:** Over the last decade, sugarcane cultivation in India increased by 18%, while sugarcane production surged by 40%.
- **Farmers' Role:** The government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy has addressed farmers' dues, transforming them from "Anna Dattas" (food providers) to "Urja Dattas" (energy providers), highlighting their crucial role in India's renewable energy landscape.
- **Green Hydrogen Mission:** The government also launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an allocation of ₹19,744 crore, aiming to position India as a global leader in green hydrogen production, usage, and export.
- **Sustainability Focus:** The Indian government is committed to creating a sustainable sugar industry that serves as both an economic pillar and a key player in renewable energy.

What is Ethanol?

- Ethanol is a renewable alcohol-based fuel made primarily from fermenting sugar or starch from crops like corn and sugarcane.

Q. What is India's rank in global ethanol production and consumption? **Third**



Saturday, 28 September 2024

Maharashtra Government Signs MoUs Worth ₹47,500 Crore for Renewable Energy Projects

- **MoUs in Renewable Energy:** The Maharashtra government signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹47,500 crore with four major companies—SJVN, MahaGenco Renewable Energy Ltd, RECPDCL, THDC, and HPRGE-HPCL—for renewable energy projects aimed at achieving zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- **State's Renewable Energy Goal:** The projects align with the state's goal of generating 50% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Key Projects:

- A 500 MW hybrid project by RECPDCL, with an investment of ₹3,000 crore, will generate 1,663 jobs.
- THDC will develop renewable energy projects with a capacity of 4,250 MW, investing ₹29,329 crore and creating 14,130 direct and 4,250 indirect jobs.
- HPRGE-HPCL will set up a 50 KTPA green hydrogen plant in Raigad district with a ₹12,000 crore investment, generating 1,635 jobs.
- SJVN, in partnership with MahaGenco, will develop a 505 MW floating solar power plant on Lower Wardha Dam, with a total investment of ₹3,030 crore, creating 1,400 jobs.

Q. What is the total investment value of the MoUs signed by the Maharashtra government for renewable energy projects?
₹47,500 crore



Saturday, 28 September 2024

Dwayne Bravo Named Mentor of Kolkata Knight Riders After Retirement from Cricket

- Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been appointed as the mentor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) team Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), shortly after announcing his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- **Mentor Role:** Bravo replaces Gautam Gambhir, who stepped down in July after being appointed head coach of the Indian men's cricket team.
- **Retirement:** Bravo, 40, had earlier retired from international cricket in 2018 but returned to play for the 2020 T20 World Cup. He officially retired again in 2021 and concluded his IPL career in 2022.
- **Coaching Transition:** Over the past year, Bravo transitioned into coaching, serving as a coach for the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and the Afghanistan cricket teams.
- **T20 Records:** Bravo retires as the leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket, with 631 wickets in 582 matches. His contributions to the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) were also notable, where he claimed 129 wickets at an average of 23.02 and scored 1,155 runs with a strike rate of 129.33 in 107 matches.

Q. Who was appointed as the mentor of Kolkata Knight Riders after retiring from all forms of cricket? **Dwayne Bravo**



Saturday, 28 September 2024

Amazon India Signs MoU with Labour Ministry to Utilize NCS Portal for Job Seekers

- Amazon India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to leverage the National Career Service (NCS) portal for job postings.
- **Objective:** The MoU aims to facilitate job seekers across India in accessing available work opportunities at Amazon and its staffing agencies.
- **Job Opportunities:** Registered job seekers on the NCS portal will have the chance to explore and apply for various roles within Amazon's corporate offices and operations, tailored to their skills and qualifications.
- **Enhanced Sourcing:** The partnership will enable Amazon and its staffing agencies to effectively source candidate profiles from the extensive NCS database for hiring across the country.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** The initiative aims to include diverse candidate cohorts, such as women and persons with disabilities, in Amazon's hiring processes.
- **Streamlined Application Process:** Job seekers registered on the NCS portal will benefit from a smoother application process for relevant job opportunities at Amazon.

Q. Which portal will Amazon India utilize to connect with job seekers as per the MoU signed with the Ministry of Labour and Employment? **National Career Service (NCS) portal.**



Saturday, 28 September 2024

Shigeru Ishiba to become Japan's next PM after winning LDP leadership race

- Shigeru Ishiba won the leadership race within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) with 215 votes, defeating Sanae Takaichi, the economic security minister, who garnered 194 votes.
- The race included nine candidates, with Ishiba's rival Shinjiro Koizumi eliminated in an earlier round.
- This marks Ishiba's fifth attempt to lead the LDP, which has largely dominated Japanese politics since 1955.

Political Stance and Vision

- Ishiba is known as a political maverick, often criticizing his own party and holding a more progressive stance within the conservative LDP.
- His outspokenness has earned him grassroots support and public backing, even though it has alienated some party members.

Challenges Ahead

- **Rehabilitating the LDP's Image:** One of Ishiba's main tasks is to restore the LDP's image before the 2025 general elections.
- **Economic Issues:** He will need to address Japan's growing cost-of-living crisis and tackle the weakening yen.

Q. Who is set to become Japan's new Prime Minister after winning the Liberal Democratic Party leadership race?
Shigeru Ishiba



Saturday, 28 September 2024

Azerbaijan buys fighter jets from Pakistan under \$1.6 billion deal

- Azerbaijan purchased JF-17 Block III fighter jets from Pakistan under a \$1.6 billion deal, including jets, armament, and training.
- Integration into Air Force: The jets have been integrated into the Azerbaijani Air Force arsenal, presented formally to President Ilham Aliyev at Heydar Aliyev International Airport.
- Exhibition Presentation: The ceremony took place during the Azerbaijan International Defence Exhibition 2024 in Baku.

Strengthening Military Ties:

- President Aliyev emphasized that this deal would strengthen military cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and foster closer defense collaboration.
- Azerbaijan became the third country to acquire JF-17 jets after Myanmar and Nigeria. Iraq is also speculated to be considering the purchase.

Jet Specifications:

- The JF-17 Block III is a joint development of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and China's Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group.
- It features advanced avionics, including an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar and long-range missile capabilities.

Q. Which country recently purchased JF-17 Block III fighter jets from Pakistan in a \$1.6 billion deal? **Azerbaijan**



Saturday, 28 September 2024

ADB approves \$37.5 million grant to Nauru

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$37.5 million grant under the Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development Project to improve urban services in Nauru.
- Challenges Faced: Nauru faces increasing natural hazards, poor access to reliable water and sanitation services, which are worsened by climate change.
- This project aims to boost resilience against climate change while improving the quality of life in Nauru.

Funding Sources:

- The project is funded by the Asian Development Fund, which provides support to ADB's poorest and most vulnerable developing members.
- The Nauru government will contribute an additional \$2.3 million to the project.

Water Supply System:

- The project will establish Nauru's first reticulated water supply system using tanks, pumps, and pipes, which will serve 55% of the population.
- It will also strengthen non-reticulated water supply services for the remaining households and improve access to desalinated water to supplement rainwater.

Q. What is the amount of the ADB grant approved for Nauru's urban development? **\$37.5 million**



सत्यमेव जयते

**Ministry of Electronics and
Information Technology
Government of India****Saturday, 28 September 2024****IT Ministry, MCTE join hands to foster defence innovations**

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has formalized a partnership with the Military College of Telecommunications Engineering (MCTE) to promote innovation and technological advancements for defense applications.
- **Indigenous Product Development:** MeitY's research and development organizations have handed over various indigenously developed products to MCTE, emphasizing India's commitment to self-reliance in defense technology.
- **Accelerating Advanced Technologies:** The partnership aims to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies to address the evolving needs and challenges of the Indian Army.
- **Support for MSMEs:** The initiative will also create an incubation ecosystem to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), fostering the cross-pollination of ideas and technologies.
- **Lightweight Bulletproof Jackets:** In a separate development, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and researchers from IIT Delhi have developed lightweight bulletproof jackets named ABHED, offering 360-degree protection.

Q. What partnership was formalized by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) to enhance defense technology?
to promote innovation in defense applications




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