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 **Tuesday, 20 August 2024**

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DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

Assam's vegan Eri Silk gets coveted Oeko-Tex tag in big win for Northeast

- Assam's vegan Eri Silk received the prestigious Oeko-Tex certification on India's 78th Independence Day.
- Eri Silk is the world's only vegan silk, produced without killing the moth inside the cocoon, emphasizing ethical and sustainable practices.

Key Points:

- Global Recognition:** The Oeko-Tex certification is a rigorous standard that ensures textiles are tested for harmful substances and produced in environmentally friendly conditions.
- Geographical Indication (GI) Status:** Eri Silk holds a GI tag, highlighting its regional importance and authenticity as a product of Assam.
- Role of NEHHDC:** The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) played a crucial role in obtaining this certification.
- Global Market Impact:** This certification paves the way for Eri Silk to penetrate the global export market, expanding its international presence as an eco-friendly fabric.

Q. Which prestigious certification did Assam's vegan Eri Silk receive on India's 78th Independence Day, highlighting its ethical production and eco-friendly practices? **Oeko-Tex certification**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

Centre launches new decision support system for agriculture sector

- The Union government has introduced the Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS), a digital geospatial platform designed for the agriculture sector.

Key Points:

- **Collaborative Development:** The platform was developed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Space, integrating advanced geospatial and satellite technologies.
- **Comprehensive Data Access:** Krishi-DSS offers seamless access to all-India data, including satellite images of farms, weather updates, water reservoir storage levels, groundwater data, and soil health information.
- **Drought Monitoring:** The platform includes features for drought monitoring, providing near real-time information on indicators such as soil moisture, water storage, crop condition, and dry spells, allowing the government to stay ahead of potential droughts.

Q. What is the name of the new digital geospatial platform launched by the Union government for the agriculture sector that offers comprehensive data access and supports drought monitoring? **Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS)**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

First Test Flight Of India's Human Space Mission Rocket

- India's first human-rated rocket test flight for the Gaganyaan mission is expected in December 2024, marking a significant milestone in India's human spaceflight program.

Key Points:

- ISRO's Role:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is spearheading this mission, with the integration of the crew module underway at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram.
- Rocket Stages:** The three stages of the Gaganyaan rocket, codenamed G1, have arrived at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, where final integration will be completed ahead of the planned test flight.
- Successful SSLV Launch:** ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) recently completed its third and final development flight, successfully orbiting two satellites (EOS-08 and SR-0), showcasing India's growing capabilities in satellite launch technology.
- SSLV Details:** The SSLV, designed and developed by ISRO, has a payload capacity of 500 kg and is powered by solid fuel. It is positioned as a cost-effective solution for launching small satellites.

Q. When is the first test flight of India's human-rated rocket for the Gaganyaan mission expected to take place?
December 2024



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

Australia and New Zealand Unite on Clean Energy Transition

- Australia and New Zealand have announced new economic and energy commitments to support the clean energy transition in their region.
- **Climate Club:** New Zealand has joined Australia's Climate Club, an initiative established in 2022 to focus on industrial decarbonization and achieving net zero emissions.
- **Paris Agreement Goals:** Both nations are enhancing cooperation to meet their climate goals under the Paris Agreement, which emphasizes reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global temperature rise.
- **Global Clean Energy Transition:** The two countries aim to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the global shift towards clean energy, aligning with international efforts to combat climate change.

Australia:

- Capital: Canberra
- Governor-General: Sam Mostyn
- Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese
- Currency: Australian dollar

Q. Which new initiative has New Zealand joined with Australia to focus on industrial decarbonization and achieving net zero emissions? **The Climate Club**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

Alfaro takes charge of Paraguay national team

- Argentine manager Gustavo Alfaro has been appointed as the head coach of Paraguay's national football team on a contract extending until the 2026 World Cup.
- Change in Leadership: Alfaro replaces fellow Argentine Daniel Garnero, who was dismissed following Paraguay's elimination in the group stage of the Copa America in July.
- Previous Experience: Alfaro previously managed Costa Rica and stepped down from that role earlier in the week. He has also managed top teams like Boca Juniors and Ecuador.
- Contract Release: The Paraguayan Football Association reportedly paid 600,000 U.S. dollars to trigger a release clause in Alfaro's contract, securing his services.

Paraguay:

- Capital: Asunción
- President: Santiago Peña
- Currency: Guaraní

Q. Who has been appointed as the new head coach of Paraguay's national football team, replacing Daniel Garnero? **Gustavo Alfaro**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

Maharashtra govt's 'Ladki Bahin' scheme launched

- The Maharashtra government rolled out the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana', which seeks to provide ₹1500 per month to over one crore women in the state.
- Modelled on the lines of the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde has assured that this scheme will not be temporary and will continue indefinitely.
- The chief minister also associated the scheme with upcoming Raksha Bandhan festival, guaranteeing to protect the interests of women in the state through the scheme.

How to register

- The Maharashtra government has launched an app called Nari Shakti Dhoot, through which women eligible for the scheme can easily apply online.
- For women unable to apply online, local administration officials such as anganwadi workers and gram sevaks have been tasked with helping women apply.
- There is no fee associated with applying for the scheme.

Q. What is the monthly financial assistance provided under Maharashtra's 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana'?

₹1,500 per month

Salee Sukumaran Nair



**RBI Approves
Salee
Sukumaran Nair
as MD & CEO of
Tamilnad
Mercantile
Bank**

Tuesday, 20 August 2024

RBI approves Salee Sukumaran Nair as MD, CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Salee Sukumaran Nair as the managing director and chief executive officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB), for a period of three years.
- His last assignment was as deputy managing director and chief credit officer of State Bank of India, until May 2024, where he was responsible for managing the credit portfolio.
- This comes at a time when the bank is being headed by a three-member Committee of Executives (COEs) overseeing its administration and operations.
- The COE was appointed after the central bank rejected the candidates proposed by the bank in April, following Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam's resignation as MD and CEO in September last year.

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

- Headquarters: Thoothukudi
- CEO: K V Rama Moorthy
- Founded: 11 May 1921

Q. Who has been appointed as the managing director and CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank by the Reserve Bank of India? **Salee Sukumaran Nair**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

Parliament Constitutes Key Financial Committees for 2024-25 Term

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat announced the formation of key parliamentary committees.
- Public Accounts Committee (PAC): Congress' K C Venugopal will head the PAC, responsible for overseeing government accounts.
- Committee on Estimates: BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal will lead this committee, tasked with evaluating government spending.
- Committee on Public Undertakings (CoPU): BJP's Baijayant Panda will chair CoPU, which monitors the functioning of public sector enterprises.
- Committee Tenure: These three financial committees have a one-year tenure and include members from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Election of Members: Members of these committees are elected by both Houses of Parliament.
- Department-related Standing Committees: Other standing committees oversee various Union ministries and departments.
- Welfare Committees: The Committee on Welfare of OBCs is headed by BJP's Ganesh Singh, while the Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs is chaired by BJP's Faggan Singh Kulaste.

Q. Who heads the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as announced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat? **Congress' K C Venugopal**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

70th National Film Awards announced

- The winners of the 70th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi.
- Best Indian films produced across languages in the calendar year 2022 was honoured by the President.
- Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022, were eligible for contention.
- This year's jury includes Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Rahul Rawail; Nila Madhab Panda, Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury; and Gangadhar Mudalair, Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.
- The Malayalam-language drama Aattam won the Best Feature Film award, while Rishab Shetty won the Best Actor award and the Best Actress honour was shared by Nithya Menen and Manasi Parekh. Ponniyin Selvan: 1 won the most awards, four.

Here is the list of winners at the 70th National Film Awards:

- FEATURE CATEGORIES
- Best Feature Film – Aattam
- Best Actor – Rishab Shetty, Kantara
- Best Actress – Nithya Menen in Tiruchitrabalam, and Manasi Parekh in Kutch Express
- Best Director – Sooraj Barjatya, Uunchai

Q. Which movie won the Best Feature Film Award at the 70th National Film Awards 2024? **Aattam (Malyalam)**



Tuesday, 20 August 2024

CM Adityanath announces scheme to boost entrepreneurship among youth

- On the 78th Independence Day, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana' to promote entrepreneurship among the youth of Uttar Pradesh.
- Objective: The scheme aims to empower the state's youngsters by encouraging them to set up micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) units.
- Target: The state government targets the establishment of 10 lakh MSME units under this scheme.
- Employment Goal: The initiative aims to create employment opportunities for 50 lakh youngsters.
- Immediate Impact: 10 lakh youth are expected to gain employment or self-employment in the coming years.
- Current Achievements: Over 1.62 crore youngsters have secured employment through investments in the state, and 62 lakh youth have been connected with self-employment opportunities under central and state government schemes.

Q. What is the primary aim of the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana' announced by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath? **To promote entrepreneurship among the youth of Uttar Pradesh by encouraging the establishment of MSME units.**



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