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Monday, 16 September 2024

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 www.race4job.com

 raceinstitute@gmail.com

 Chaitanyapuri, Dilsukhnagar, Ameerpet, KPHB,
Himayathnagar, Hastinapuram, Secunderabad



DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR



Monday, 16 September 2024

DRDO's Successful Field Trials of Indian Light Tank 'Zorawar'

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed the initial automotive trials of the Indian Light Tank Zorawar, demonstrating its capability in challenging desert terrain.

Technical Highlights:

- Zorawar is designed for high-altitude deployment.
- Lightweight and versatile, making it ideal for rapid mobility in difficult terrain.
- Equipped with precision firing systems that demonstrated accurate target engagement during trials.
- During the trials, the tank's firing accuracy and overall performance were rigorously tested and met the required standards.
- **Indigenous Development:** The Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) developed the tank, with significant contributions from Indian industries, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- **Strategic Importance:** The success of the Zorawar tank is seen as a major milestone towards enhancing India's indigenous defence capabilities and reducing reliance on foreign technology.

Q. Which Indian light tank, developed by DRDO, is designed for high-altitude operations and demonstrated successful performance during desert terrain trials? '**Zorawar**'.



Monday, 16 September 2024

Port Blair Renamed as 'Sri Vijaya Puram'

- The Government of India has decided to rename Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as Sri Vijaya Puram.
- Reason for Renaming: This renaming is part of an initiative to remove colonial influences and honor the country's rich historical and cultural heritage. Sri Vijaya Puram signifies victory, reflecting the achievements of the freedom struggle.

Port Blair:

- Capital city of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Indian Union Territory located in the Bay of Bengal.

Historical Significance:

- Played a key role in India's freedom struggle.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose first unfurled the Indian national flag (Tiranga) in Port Blair in 1943.
- Home to the infamous Cellular Jail, where freedom fighters like Veer Savarkar were imprisoned.
- **Colonial Past:** Named by the British after Archibald Blair, a British naval officer who helped establish the penal colony.
- **Chola Empire:** Historically served as a naval base for the Chola Empire, an ancient Tamil dynasty that ruled parts of South Asia.

Q. Which Indian city, formerly known for its colonial past and the infamous Cellular Jail, is being renamed as Sri Vijaya Puram? **Port Blair**



Monday, 16 September 2024

MoU signed to improve efficiency in foodgrain procurement and distribution

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India (FCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance efficiency and accountability in the procurement and distribution of foodgrains.
- The MoU sets specific performance standards and accountability measures to optimize the use of public funds in ensuring food security.

Key Focus:

- Efficient management of food subsidy funds.
- Improvement in FCI operations and performance of its depots to ensure effective use of resources.
- **Significance:** This initiative is part of the government's effort to manage foodgrain distribution in a transparent manner, with the highest level of efficiency, contributing to the overall success of public welfare schemes like the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Q. Which two entities signed an MoU to enhance efficiency and accountability in food grain procurement and distribution with a focus on performance benchmarks and resource optimization? **Department of Food and Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India (FCI).**



Monday, 16 September 2024

EEA and Norway Grants New Funding Agreement

- Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and the European Union (EU) signed a new funding agreement for the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants.

Funding Details:

- For the period 2021-2028, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein will contribute a total of 3.268 billion euros (approximately 3.62 billion U.S. dollars) to the EU's 15 least prosperous states.
- Norway will provide about 97% of this funding.
- **Signatories:** The agreement was signed in Brussels by the ambassadors from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein to the EU, and John Watson, Deputy Secretary-General of the EU.
- **Timeline:** Negotiations commenced in June 2022, the agreement was finalized in November 2023, and approved by the Council of the EU in June 2024.
- **Approval Process:** The agreement will be presented to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) for approval in the autumn. Following approval, individual agreements will be established with each beneficiary country.

Q. Which agreement, recently signed by Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and the EU, aims to provide 3.268 billion euros to the EU's least prosperous states from 2021 to 2028?

The EEA and Norway Grants agreement.

ADB

ASIAN
DEVELOPMENT
BANK

Monday, 16 September 2024

ADB Approves Loan for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Road Rehabilitation

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 320 million USD loan to support the rehabilitation of rural roads in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Project Details:

- The loan will fund the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project.
- The project aims to upgrade approximately 900 kilometers of rural roads that are prone to flooding and currently in poor condition.

Objectives:

- Improve safe and all-weather connectivity in rural areas.
- Enhance access to education, health care, and markets for remote communities.
- Incorporate climate-resilient design, road safety measures, and sustainable maintenance practices.

Rationale:

- Increased annual rainfall and temperature patterns have worsened the impact of disasters.
- Past flooding events have significantly damaged the road network, affecting connectivity and raising transportation costs.

Q. What is the amount of the loan approved by the Asian Development Bank for the rehabilitation of rural roads in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan? **320 million USD.**



Monday, 16 September 2024

Indian Companies in TIME's World's Best Companies 2024 List

- TIME's World's Best Companies of 2024 list features several Indian companies. The list includes 1,000 companies, with 22 Indian firms making the cut.
- Apple has topped the list globally, followed by Ireland-based tech major Accenture. Microsoft, BMW Group, and Amazon featured next in line.

Top Indian Rankings:

- HCLTech: Ranked 112, with a score of 91.75.
- Infosys: Ranked 119, with a score of 91.55.
- Wipro: Ranked 134, with a score of 91.29.
- Adani Group: Ranked 736, with a score of 83.72.
- Reliance Industries: Ranked 646, with a score of 84.87.

Notable Indian Companies:

- Mahindra Group: Ranked 187.
- Axis Bank: Ranked 504.
- State Bank of India: Ranked 518.
- ICICI Bank: Ranked 525.
- Larsen & Toubro: Ranked 549.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank: Ranked 551.
- ITC Limited: Ranked 586.
- Hero MotoCorp: Ranked 597.

Q. How many Indian companies were featured in TIME's World's Best Companies 2024 list? **22 Indian companies**



Monday, 16 September 2024

Iran launches satellite in space amid Western concerns over missile risks

- Iran launched Chamran-1 satellite on board Qaem-100 (in Farsi means upright) rocket developed by the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.
- This marks the second successful satellite launch by the same rocket in January.

Heightened Regional Tensions

- The launch took place amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza.
- Tehran recently launched missile and drone attacks on Israel, escalating regional tensions.

Nuclear Enrichment Concerns

- Iran is enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels, raising concerns among nonproliferation experts.
- The enrichment efforts come after the collapse of the nuclear deal with world powers.

International Reactions and Concerns

- The U.S. claims that Iran's satellite launches defy a UN Security Council resolution, urging Tehran not to engage in ballistic missile activities capable of delivering nuclear weapons.
- UN sanctions on Iran's ballistic missile program expired in October, sparking further concerns.

Q. What satellite did Iran launch into space using the Qaem-100 rocket? **Chamran-1 satellite**



Monday, 16 September 2024

UN chief appoints special envoy on water

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Retno L.P. Marsudi of Indonesia as his special envoy on water.
- The appointment aims to boost partnerships and drive efforts to advance the global water agenda.

Responsibilities and Focus

- **Follow-Up to UN 2023 Water Conference:** Marsudi will focus on leveraging the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference to support future global water processes.
- **Advancing the Water Agenda:** She will work toward the UN 2026 Water Conference and promote a water-secure future for all.

Key Areas of Advocacy

- **Promoting Global Cooperation:** Marsudi will advocate for stronger political, economic, and sociocultural cooperation at all levels to advance water security.
- **Supporting Water-Related Goals:** Her role will focus on achieving water-related goals and targets, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) under the 2030 Agenda for

Q. What key water-related goal will Marsudi prioritize in her role? **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on clean water and sanitation.**



Monday, 16 September 2024

APEDA, LuLu Group sign MoU to promote Indian organic products globally

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced partnership with global retail chain LuLu Group International (LLC).
- As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed LuLu Group will showcase a wide range of certified Indian organic products in its stores across the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- APEDA will facilitate connections between the organic growers in India, including Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Cooperatives, and the LuLu Group.
- In addition, LuLu Hypermarkets will provide a dedicated shelf space for Indian organic products that are certified under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).
- The group will also do promotional campaigns such as product sampling, interactive events, and consumer feedback drives, buyer-seller meets (BSM), B2B meetings and trade fairs to further boost the country's organic exports.

Q. What recent partnership did APEDA form to promote Indian organic products in the UAE? **With LuLu Group International to showcase certified Indian organic products**



Monday, 16 September 2024

Canada concludes funding arrangements for largest space programme

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revealed a funding agreement with Telesat to develop and operate the Lightspeed satellite network.
- The federal government will provide a loan of 2.14 billion Canadian dollars (US\$1.57 billion), making Telesat Lightspeed Canada's largest space program.

Goals and Benefits

- **Expansion of Connectivity:** Telesat Lightspeed will enhance internet and 5G networks across Canadian communities.
- **Improved Communication:** As a low-Earth-orbit satellite network, it will reduce latency in information transmission, aiding in the federal goal of providing high-speed internet to all Canadians by 2030.
- **Support for Government Initiatives:** The network will bolster Canada's satellite communications technology and assist in the modernization efforts of NATO and NORAD.

Project Timeline and Scope

- **Launch Schedule:** The first of the 198 low-Earth-orbit satellites is set to launch in 2026.
- **Program Status:** The Telesat Lightspeed program is already in progress.

Q. How much funding has the Canadian government allocated to Telesat Lightspeed? **2.14 billion Canadian dollars (US\$1.57 billion)**



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raceinstitute@gmail.com



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Himayathnagar, Hastinapuram, Secunderabad



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