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National and International News

Dell, HP, Foxconn get the nod under IT hardware PLI 2.0

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Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing

- Incentive:** 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India
- Target Segments:** Mobile phones and specified electronic components
- Eligibility:** Subject to thresholds of incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods
- Tenure of the Scheme:** Five years subsequent to the base year as defined (FY19-20)

Context

- **Dell, HP, Flextronics, and Foxconn** are among the 27 firms to get nod under the new IT hardware **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**
- This will lead to an investment of about **₹3,000 crore**, additional production of about **3.5 lakh crore units** and direct employment for some 50,000 and indirect jobs for 1.5 lakh (total two lakh employees).

About PLI 2.0

- The scheme proposes a financial incentive to **boost domestic manufacturing** and attract large investments in the value chain.
- The target segments under the PLI 2.0 Scheme shall include **Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One PCs and Servers, and Ultra Small Form Factor.**
- **Implementation:** Companies, both global and domestic, that meet the eligibility criteria specified in the PLI 2.0 Scheme guidelines will receive support for manufacturing goods in India within the specified target segment.
- **Tenure:** The incentives provided under the PLI 2.0 Scheme will be applicable for a period of 6 years
- **Base year:** For the calculation of net incremental sales of manufactured goods, the base year will be the financial year 2022-23.

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor S. Venkitaraman



Context

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) S. Venkitaraman, passes away.

About

- Born on January 28, 1931, in **Tirumayam of Pudukottai district**, Venkitaraman obtained a post-graduate degree in physics from University College, Thiruvananthapuram.
- After he joined the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1953**, he also received a post-graduate degree in management from the Carnegie Mellon University in the U.S., in 1968.
- Belonging to the Tamil Nadu cadre of the IAS, Venkitaraman was appointed RBI **Governor in December 1990** when a balance of payment crisis was brewing in the economy.



AI-powered chemist makes oxygen from Martian meteorites

Context

- Oxygen-producing materials made from meteorites found on Mars have been produced using a robotic **artificial intelligence (AI)-chemist**.
- The research, published in **NatureSynthesis**, provides a proof-of-concept for generating oxygen and may have implications for future manned missions to Mars.

Key points

- **Five different categories** of meteorites were selected, that come from or have been confirmed to exist on Mars, which were analysed by the robotic AI-chemist.
- Recent **evidence of water on Mars** and analysis of the elemental composition of meteorites found on the planet could provide an opportunity to make catalysts using Martian resources.

Maldives 'requests' India to withdraw military persons



Context

- Hours after being sworn in, President **Mohamed Muizzu** of the Maldives "requested" India to "withdraw" its military personnel from his country
- Indian military personnel was meant for the training of Maldivian personnel and for the maintenance of equipment.
- Mr. Muizzu-led **Progressive Party of Maldives** won the September election by defeating President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's **Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP)**.

Kadalundi's shrinking mudflat ecosystem



Context

- In Kadalundi, a village on the southwest coast in Kozhikode district of Kerala, the expanse of mudflats in the estuary of the **Kadalundipuzha** river has reduced to about 1 hectare.
- This is depriving prey to thousands of shorebirds that migrate from colder climes in winter to the village.

Key points

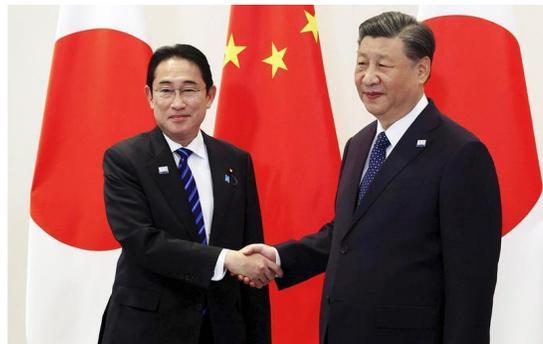
- Researchers point out that if the mudflats are not protected and restored, Kadalundi will vanish from the global map as a prominent destination of migrant shorebirds in a few years.
- It is the abundance of prey such as **polychaetes and crustaceans** in the mudflats that attract a wide variety of migrant shorebirds to Kadalundi from places such as Siberia, Ladakh, Mongolia, and



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Scotland.

Japan PM raises 'serious concerns' about military activity in talks with Xi



Context

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said that he told President Xi Jinping he has "serious concerns" about Chinese military activity during their first direct talks in a year and slammed Beijing's ban on its seafood.

Key points

- Military tensions have soared in the Pacific over China's actions in the disputed South China Sea and its drills around the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing regards as its own territory.
- **China banned all Japanese seafood** imports after Japan began releasing treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean from the stricken **Fukushima nuclear plant** in August, with Beijing accusing Tokyo of treating the sea like a "sewer".
- Japan insists the discharge is safe, a view backed by the UN atomic watchdog, the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.

Kerala Regional News

Kerala explores Thorium-based nuclear plant



Context:

- Distancing itself from decades of long opposition to nuclear power and its weaponization, Kerala now made an unusual move by announcing its intention to **establish a nuclear power facility in Kayamkulam, Alappuzha**.
- Utilizing **Kerala's abundant thorium deposits**, it has been proposed to set up a nuclear power plant on the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPCL) land at Kayamkulam.
- The government aims to tap nuclear energy to overcome the ever-increasing electricity demand in the state.
- Kerala explores a **Thorium-based nuclear plant as a final resort to address power demands**.

No response from the Center on Kerala's nuclear power plant demand

Context:

- Despite Kerala's repeated demands for permission to set up a nuclear power plant in Kerala, the Centre has not responded.
- As production has stopped at the **Kayamkulam thermal power plant**, the Electricity Board is planning to set up a nuclear power plant there.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, the Centre is not in agreement with the establishment of a nuclear power plant in Kerala as it is a densely populated state.
<p>Drone surveillance at MGNREGA sites</p> 	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The union government has expressed dissatisfaction with the Kerala government for failing to adhere to the drone surveillance mandate for MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) works. <p>About Drone Surveillance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drone surveillance at MGNREGA sites offers several advantages over traditional methods of monitoring, such as ground inspections and satellite imagery. • Drones can provide real-time data on the progress of MGNREGA worksites, allowing for more effective monitoring and oversight. • It can capture high-resolution images and videos of worksites, which can be used to identify and track attendance, assess work quality, and detect potential irregularities. • It can cover large areas quickly and efficiently, making it ideal for monitoring MGNREGA worksites in remote or inaccessible areas.
<p>Beneficiaries of PMAY scheme in Kerala await funds from union govt</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beneficiaries listed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme in the state are in a challenging situation due to the non-release of the union government's allocated funds. • A total of 1,02,744 families have been awaiting assistance for two years. • They are not eligible for consideration under alternative government housing schemes, as they are on the PMAY beneficiary list. <p>About PMAY Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), also known as the Housing for All mission, is a credit-linked subsidy scheme launched by the Government of India in June 2015 • Aim is to provide affordable housing to people from low-income groups and economically weaker sections in both urban and rural areas.

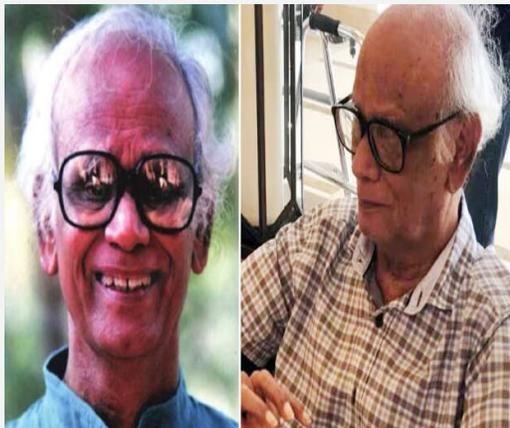


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- The scheme aims to build **20 million** affordable houses by 2022.
- The PMAY scheme **provides a subsidy on the interest rate of home loans** taken by eligible beneficiaries for constructing or purchasing a new house
- The PMAY scheme has two components:
 1. **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U):**
 - It is for the urban poor
 - It is administered by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
 2. **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G and also PMAY-R):**
 - It is for the rural poor
 - It is administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development.**

Person in News: CL Porinjukutty



Context:

- Artist Prof CL Porinjukutty passed away in Dubai after a prolonged illness.
- He is a native of Chiranelloor in Thrissur's Kecheri.
- Porinjukutty's dedication to promoting art in Kerala was unwavering.
- He served as the **Chairman of the Kerala Lalit Kala Akademi**, a prestigious institution dedicated to the promotion of art and cultural heritage.
- He also played a pivotal role in **establishing the College of Fine Arts** in Thiruvananthapuram, laying the foundation for formal art education in the state.
- In **2011**, he was honored with the **prestigious Raja Ravi Varma Award**
- It is the highest recognition for artistic excellence in Kerala.
- His paintings adorn galleries and private collections across India and abroad, a testament to his enduring legacy.
- Porinjukutty's **biography 'Chithrakalayile Ekantha Pathikan'**, is written by his sister's son and **UAE-based businessman and writer Mahesh Paulose**

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