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International & National News

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

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 the 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. Venkitaramanan



Context

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

About

- Born on January 28, 1931, in **Tirumayam of Pudukottai district**, Venkitaramanan 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 Carnegie Mellon University in the U.S., in 1968.
- Belonging to the Tamil Nadu cadre of the IAS, Venkitaramanan was appointed RBI **Governor in December 1990** when a balance of payment crisis was brewing in the economy.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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 the robotic AI-chemist analysed.
- 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 deprives 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 for migrant shorebirds in a few years.
- It is the abundance of prey such as **polychaetes and crustaceans** in the mudflats that attracts a wide variety of migrant shorebirds to Kadalundi from places such as Siberia, Ladakh, Mongolia, and Scotland.

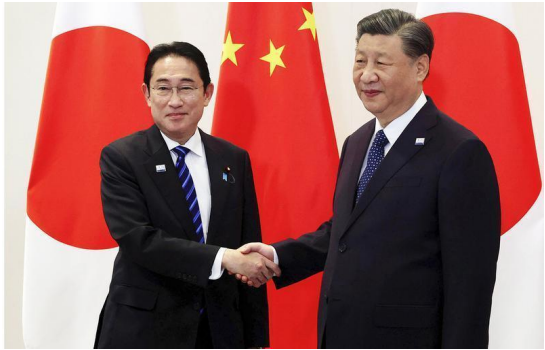


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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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**.

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