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DESCRIPTIVE

❖ 7 states to get PM MITRA mega textile parks

- PM MEGA INTEGRATED TEXTILE REGION AND APPAREL (PM MITRA) parks scheme was launched with an aim to strengthen the Indian textile industry by way of enabling scale of operations, reduce logistics cost by housing entire value chain at one location, attract investment, generate employment and augment export potential.
- The scheme is inspired by the 5F vision – Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- It aspires to fulfil the vision of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map.
- This scheme will develop integrated large scale and modern industrial infrastructure facility for total value-chain of the textile industry for example, spinning, weaving, processing, garmenting, textile manufacturing, processing, printing machinery industry.
- PM MITRA park will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle which will be owned by the Central and State governments and in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mode
- Recently an announcement was made by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the ‘PM MITRA mega textile parks’ will be set up in Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- These parks are categorised into Greenfield and Brownfield projects. Greenfield describes a completely new project that has to be executed from scratch, while a brownfield project has been worked on by others.

- The Centre's assistance for these parks will be 51 per cent and the remaining balance will be borne by the respective State governments.
- Kakatiya Mega Textile Park (KMTP) in Warangal is expected to get additional funding under this scheme. It is being developed on a vertically integrated model to cover the textile & apparel value chain.

❖ **Horseshoe crabs are disappearing along Odisha's coast**

- Horseshoe crabs are one of the oldest living creatures on earth appear to be disappearing from their familiar spawning grounds along Chandipur and Balaramgadi coast in Odisha's Balasore district.

Medicinal value:

- The blood of this crab is very important for the preparation of rapid diagnostic reagents.
- A molecule has been developed from a reagent of horseshoe crab to help in the treatment of pre-eclampsia (A potentially dangerous pregnancy complication characterised by high blood pressure.)

❖ **Low cost star sensor developed by IIA**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have developed a low-cost star sensor for astronomy and small CubeSat class satellite missions. This star sensor costs less than 10% of those available in the market.
- The star sensor named Starberry-Sense can help small CubeSat class satellite missions find their orientation in space. It is ready for launch on the PS4-Orbital Platform by ISRO.
- The instrument used to point the position of satellite in space and calculate the orientation of a satellite in orbit is known as star sensor. It is essentially a celestial compass.

❖ Indian army to hold AFINDEX exercise at Aundh, Maharashtra

- The Indian army will hold the second edition of the multinational Africa-Indian Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX 2023) at Aundh Military Station, Pune, Maharashtra from March 21 to March 30.
- This biennial joint military exercise was held for the first time in 2019 at the same location.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice with the participating nations in planning and conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations under chapter VII of United Nations peacekeeping operations.
- The exercise will focus on the exchange of best practices between the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in the conduct of United Nations-mandated tasks.

❖ Hockey India 5th Annual Awards 2022

- Gurbux Singh won the prestigious Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2022.
- Hardik Singh (midfielder) and Savita Punia (goalkeeper) won the Hockey India Balbir Singh Award for Player of The Year 2022 in men's and women's category respectively. Winners of 2021:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Amit Singh Bakshi.

Player of the Year (Men): Harmanpreet Singh

Player of The Year (Women): Savita

➤ President of Hockey India: Dilip Tirkey

➤ Union Sports Minister: Anurag Thakur

❖ **Delhi Capitals Join Hands with Satya Nadella to Own MLC Team In US**

- Delhi Capitals (IPL team) has joined hands with Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella to own and operate the Seattle franchise in the Major League Cricket (MLC).
- It is a new T20 franchise league in the USA.
- The team has been named Seattle Orcas.
- IPL's most successful teams- Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings are also associated with the new league.

❖ **Water technology firm Wabag bags Rs. 800 crore order in Bangladesh**

- Chennai based water technology firm VA Tech Wabag (Wabag) has secured a Rs.800 crore order from Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (WASA).
- The scope of the project includes design, build and operate for reconstruction of Pagla Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) with a capacity of 200 million liters per day at Pagla in Dhaka city.
- The project is funded by multilateral funding agencies including the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- The plant will operate based on an activated sludge treatment process, which uses biogas generated during the waste water treatment process, the order also meets the environmental norms and combats global climate change.

❖ **G. Krishna Kumar takes over as BPCL chairman**

- G. Krishna Kumar has taken over as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- He succeeded Arun Kumar Singh, who retired as chairman in October 2022.
- He will hold the position as Chairman & MD till April 2025 or until any further notice, whichever is earlier.

➤ BPCL is an Indian central public sector (CPS) undertaking under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and operates refineries in Bina, Kochi, Mumbai.

❖ **RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on HDFC**

➤ RBI has imposed 5 lakh monetary penalty on mortgage financier HDFC Ltd for failing to transfer matured deposits of certain depositors to designated bank accounts of such depositors during 2019-20.

➤ As per RBI, HDFC was found to be non compliant with certain provisions of Housing Finance Companies (NHB) directions, 2010.

➤ CEO of HDFC bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan

➤ HQ of HDFC bank: Mumbai

❖ **Global Recycling Day: 18th March**

➤ Global Recycling Day is observed every year on 18th March to help recognise and celebrate the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.

➤ It is being observed from 2018.

➤ Theme of 2023: Creative Innovation

➤ Every year recyclables saves over 700 million tonnes in CO₂ emissions, which projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030.