

International

India Close to finalizing \$450 Million BrahMos missile deal with Indonesia

About News:-



- ❖ India is now working to finalise a \$450 million deal to export the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Indonesia. Indonesia will become the second Asian country after the Philippines to buy the precision strike missile with a 290-km range.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The proposed deal has been in the works for a long time, with the Indonesian defense minister discussing the deal with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh during a visit to New Delhi in July 2020.
- ❖ "There are some budgetary constraints, but discussions have moved forward towards the conclusion of the BrahMos deal now,"
- ❖ India has stepped up discussions on the export of BrahMos to other Asian countries after inking a \$375 million contract to supply anti-ship coastal missile batteries to the Philippines in Jan 2022, with an eye on China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific.
- ❖ Apart from the Brahmos missiles, which have been developed jointly with Russia, India also plans to sell the Indigenous Akash air defense missile systems, which can intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones, and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25- km, to countries like Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

About Indonesia:-

- ❖ Capital:- Jakarta
- ❖ Currency :- Indonesian rupiah
- ❖ President :- Prabowo Subianto

National

PM Modi to distribute 65 lakh property cards under SVAMITVA Scheme Today

About News:-

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to distribute over 65 lakh property cards



under the SVAMITVA Scheme to property owners in more than 50,000 villages across 230 districts in 10 states and two union territories.

- ❖ The distribution will take place on January 18 at 12:30 PM via video conferencing.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The SVAMITVA Scheme, introduced to strengthen rural development, aims to provide a "Record of Rights" to households owning residential properties in villages.
- ❖ The scheme employs drone technology to survey and map inhabited areas.
- ❖ The initiative seeks to facilitate property monetization, enable access to institutional credit through bank loans, reduce property disputes, assess properties for taxation, and support village-level planning.
- ❖ To date, drone surveys have been completed in more than 3.17 lakh villages, covering 92% of the targeted areas. Around 2.25 crore property cards have been prepared across 1.53 lakh villages.
- ❖ The scheme has achieved full implementation in Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Haryana. Additionally, drone surveys have been completed in states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, along with several union territories.

State

Former Union Minister Gen. V K Singh sworn in as 25th Governor of Mizoram

About News:-



- ❖ Former Army chief V K Singh was sworn in as the new governor of Mizoram on Thursday.
- ❖ He is the 25th governor since Mizoram attained statehood in 1987.
- ❖ Singh, a former Union minister, replaced Hari Babu Kambhampati, who was appointed the governor of Odisha.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Singh in a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.
- ❖ Singh was appointed the governor by President Droupadi Murmu on December 24.
- ❖ Born in 1951, Singh served as the 24th Chief of Army Staff, from 2010 to 2012.
- ❖ After he retired from the military, he joined the BJP in 2014 and was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Ghaziabad constituency in UP in that year's general election. He was re-elected in the same seat in 2019.
- ❖ During PM Narendra Modi's first term, he served as the Minister of State for External Affairs, MoS (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), and MoS for Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ He was the MoS for Road Transport and Highways, and Civil Aviation in Modi's second term.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra government forms panel for Artificial Intelligence policy

About News:-



- ❖ Maharashtra government has formed a committee to submit recommendations for rolling out the state's Artificial Intelligence policy, Minister for Information Technology Ashish Shelar said on Friday.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The 16-member AI Policy Taskforce will help Maharashtra to develop the AI Policy 2025 to capitalise on the rapid growth of AI-based industry.
- ❖ Maharashtra will become India's first state to have a dedicated AI policy
- ❖ The policy will seek to help catalyse this growth further and propel Maharashtra towards its goal of achieving USD 1 trillion in GDP in the coming years.
- ❖ The AI policy will build upon the framework of the Central Government's AI Mission policy.

About Maharashtra:-

- ❖ Capital:- Mumbai
- ❖ Governor:- C. P. Radhakrishnan
- ❖ CM :- Devendra Fadnavis

Economic

World Bank projects India's growth to be 6.7 percent in next two fiscal years



About News:-

- ❖ The World Bank projects India's economy to grow by 6.7 percent in the next fiscal year starting in April, slightly higher than in the current fiscal year, and continuing to top the growth tally.
- ❖ The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects released on Thursday estimated the current fiscal year's growth rate at 6.5 percent, down from 8.2 percent in the previous period.

Key Points:-

- ❖ With the global gross domestic product growth rate stuck at 2.7 percent since 2023 and into the projections till 2026 according to the Bank, India is the world's fastest-growing large economy.
- ❖ China follows it with a projected growth of 4.5 percent this calendar year, and slowing down to 4 percent next year.
- ❖ The world's largest economy, the US, was estimated to have grown by 2.8 last year with the projected growth slowing down to 2.3 percent this year and 2 percent next year.
- ❖ The World Bank projections for India's GDP growth hew closely to the United Nations projections released last week 6.6 percent for this calendar year and 6.8 percent for next year.
- ❖ The World Bank attributed the drop in India's growth rate from 8.2 percent in 2023-24 to 6.5 percent in the current fiscal year to "a slowdown in investment and weak manufacturing growth".

About World Bank:-

- ❖ Established:- July 7, 1944
- ❖ Headquarters:- Washington, D.C., U.S.
- ❖ President :- Ajay Banga

Appointment

Nidhi Khare was given an additional charge of MNRE

About News:-

- ❖ Nidhi Khare, secretary of the Department of Consumers Affairs, and a 1992-batch IAS officer, has been given the additional charge of secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).



Key Points:-

- ❖ The appointment comes after Prashant Kumar Singh, secretary of MNRE, was repatriated to Manipur to serve as the chief secretary.
- ❖ Singh had taken charge as secretary of MNRE in October.
- ❖ Khare will be overlooking India's ambitious green energy targets and missions.

Defence

Defence Ministry signs contract with Bharat Dynamics for Navy's medium-range surface-to-air missiles



About News:-

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM) for the Indian Navy at a cost of approximately Rs 2,960 crore.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The officials of MoD and BDL inked the contract in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on January 16, 2025.
- ❖ The MRSAM system is a standard fit, onboard multiple Indian Naval Ships and is planned to be fitted on the majority of the future platforms planned for acquisition. The contract marks a critical milestone in the ongoing efforts to bolster India's defence capabilities and indigenise advanced military technology.
- ❖ With the emphasis on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the missiles would be supplied by BDL under the 'Buy (Indian)' category with largely Indigenous content. The contract would generate employment of approx. 3.5 lakh mandays in the defence industry, including various MSMEs.

Award

Chandigarh University receives the MAKATrophy (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy) 2024 from the President of India

About News:-

- ❖ In a glittering ceremony held today at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Chandigarh University officials Deep Inder Singh Sandhu, Senior Managing Director, and Dr. Devinder Singh, Pro Vice-Chancellor received the prestigious MAKATrophy (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy).
- ❖ President Draupadi Murmu handed over the MAKATrophy during the presentation of the National Sports Award, 2024.



Key Points:-

- ❖ In addition, Chandigarh University student and member of the Indian hockey team Sanjay Kumar also received the Arjuna Award, for his outstanding performance in the national game, hockey.
- ❖ Hockey player and CU student Sanjay Kumar honored with the Arjuna Award during the presentation of the National Sports Award, 2024.
- ❖ This is the first time in the history of the MAKATrophy that any private university has lifted the prestigious trophy, ever since it was instituted in the year 1956-57.
- ❖ Chandigarh University has been honored with the MAKATrophy, because of the excellent performance shown in the Khelo India University Games 2024.
- ❖ Chandigarh University won a total of 71 medals, which included 32 gold medals, 18 silver medals, and 21 bronze medals. In addition, the sports persons of Chandigarh University also won 10 medals representing India at the 19th Asian Games.
- ❖ Chandigarh University had the highest representation of 22 players in the Indian contingent of 650 players, which participated in the Asian Games.

Obituary

Renowned Filmmaker David Lynch Passes Away at 78

About News:-



- ❖ Renowned filmmaker David Lynch, celebrated for his visionary works like Mulholland Drive and Blue Velvet, and revered for his unique portrayal of American life, has passed away at the age of 78.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Born in Montana in 1946, Lynch began his artistic journey as a painter before transitioning to filmmaking. His debut feature, "Eraserhead" (1977), a nightmarish exploration of fatherhood, marked his arrival as a groundbreaking voice in indie cinema.
- ❖ Over the years, he crafted films that challenged conventional storytelling, including "Blue Velvet" (1986), "Wild at Heart" (1990), and "Mulholland Drive" (2001). Each of these earned him critical acclaim and cemented his reputation as a cinematic auteur.
- ❖ Lynch's foray into television with "Twin Peaks" in the 1990s was equally transformative. The series, with its eerie narrative of small-town secrets, set the stage for the modern era of prestige television.
- ❖ In 2017, he revisited the series with "Twin Peaks: The Return", receiving widespread praise for its innovative storytelling.
- ❖ Throughout his career, Lynch received four Oscar nominations, including three for Best Director. Though he never won a competitive Academy Award, he was honoured with an honorary Oscar in 2019 for his contributions to cinema.

