

International

China approves world's largest, \$137-billion dam on the Brahmaputra close to the Indian border



About News :-

- ❖ China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, stated as the planet's biggest, on the Brahmaputra river in Tibet near the Indian border.
- ❖ Estimated to cost \$137 billion, the mega infrastructure project has raised alarm in downstream countries, including India and Bangladesh, over potential impacts on water flow and regional stability.
- ❖ According to state-run Xinhua news agency on Wednesday, the Chinese government has sanctioned the development of a hydropower facility on the lower section of the Yarlung Zangbo River, which is the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra.

Key Points :-

- ❖ The dam is planned to be constructed at a massive gorge in the Himalayan region, where the Brahmaputra river makes a sharp U-turn before entering Arunachal Pradesh and flowing into Bangladesh.
- ❖ India has raised concerns over the dam, as it not only empowers China to control the river's water flow but also poses the risk of flooding border areas by releasing large volumes of water during potential hostilities due to its sheer size and scale.
- ❖ The Brahmaputra dam construction faces huge engineering difficulties due to its location on a tectonic plate boundary prone to earthquakes. The Tibetan plateau experiences frequent seismic activity owing to its position above tectonic plates.

- ❖ The Brahmaputra flows across the Tibetan Plateau, carving out the world's deepest canyon with an extraordinary vertical drop of 25,154 feet before entering India.
- ❖ The dam's construction site is situated in mainland China's region with highest rainfall, ensuring substantial water flow.

About China :-

- ❖ Capital :- Beijing
- ❖ Currency :- Renminbi
- ❖ President :- Xi Jinping

National

PM Modi chairs 45th PRAGATI meeting to review national projects

About News :-

- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi earlier today chaired the meeting of the 45th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.
- ❖ In the meeting, eight significant projects were reviewed, which included six Metro Projects of Urban Transport and one project each relating to Road connectivity and Thermal power. The combined cost of these projects, spread across different States/UTs, is more than Rs. 1 lakh crore.



Key Points :-

- ❖ Prime Minister stressed that all government officials, both at the Central and State levels, must recognize that project delays not only escalate costs but also hinder the public from receiving the intended benefits.

- ❖ During the interaction, Prime Minister also reviewed Public Grievances related to the Banking & Insurance Sector. While Prime Minister noted the reduction in the time taken for disposal, he also emphasized on the quality of disposal of the grievances.
- ❖ Considering more and more cities are coming up with Metro Projects as one of the preferred public transport systems, Prime Minister advised conducting workshops for experience sharing for cities where projects are under implementation or in the pipeline, to capture the best practices and learnings from experiences.
- ❖ During the review, Prime Minister stressed on the importance of timely Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Project Affected Families during implementation of projects. He further asked to ensure ease of living for such families by providing quality amenities at the new place.
- ❖ PM also reviewed PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. He directed to enhance the capacity of installations of Rooftops in the States/UTs by developing a quality vendor ecosystem. He further directed to reduce the time required in the process, starting from demand generation to operationalization of rooftop solar. He further directed states to adopt a saturation approach for villages, towns and cities in a phased manner.
- ❖ Up to the 45th edition of PRAGATI meetings, 363 projects having a total cost of around Rs. 19.12 lakh crore have been reviewed.

State

Himachal & Uttarakhand high courts get new chief justices



About News :-

The Central Government on Monday notified the appointment of new Chief Justices for two High Courts - Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Justice G. Narendar has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, while Justice GS Sandhawalia will serve as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Key Points :-

- ❖ On September 24, 2024, the Supreme Court Collegium proposed the appointment of Justice Narendar G, currently serving as a Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court. The appointment is set to take effect from the date the incumbent Chief Justice retires.
- ❖ Justice Narendar G was appointed as a Judge of the Karnataka High Court on January 2, 2015. He was later transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court on October 30, 2023, where he has been serving since.
- ❖ He is the senior-most judge in his parent High Court and belongs to the Other Backward Class. Prior to his judicial elevation, he practiced law at the Karnataka High Court.
- ❖ Initially, Justice GS Sandhawalia, a Judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court, was recommended to become the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. However, on September 17, the Supreme Court Collegium revised its recommendation and instead proposed Justice Suresh Kumar Kait for the position.
- ❖ Additionally, Justice Sandhawalia was later proposed to be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, with the appointment set to take place after October 18, 2024.

Economic

India's defence exports touched record Rs 21,083 crore in 2023-24, marks 32.5 pc growth



About News :-

- ❖ India's defence exports continue to rise touching a record Rs 21,083 crore (about USD 2.63 billion) in the FY2023-24, a growth of 32.5 per cent over the previous fiscal when the figure was Rs 15,920 crore.
- ❖ The figures indicated that the exports grew by 31 times in the last 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14.

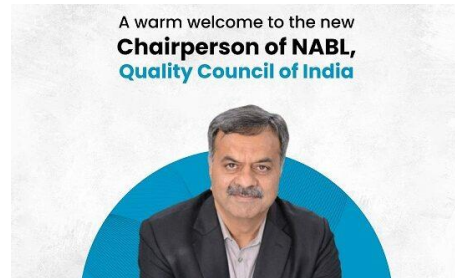
Key Points :-

- ❖ The defence industry, including the private sector and DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings), have made tremendous efforts in achieving the highest-ever exports.
- ❖ The private sector and DPSUs contributed about 60 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has exuded confidence that the target to export defence equipment worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029 will be met.
- ❖ The release said that to boost Aatmanirbharta in defence and minimise imports by DPSUs, the Department of Defence Production in July notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 346 items.
- ❖ The five lists for DPSUs are in addition to the five PILs of 509 items notified by the Department of Military Affairs. These lists include highly complex systems, sensors, weapons and ammunition.
- ❖ Defence production went up to a record-high figure of Rs 1,26,887 crore, reflecting a growth of 16.7 per cent over the defence production of the previous financial year.
- ❖ The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was Rs 1,08,684 crore. Of the total value of production in 2023-24, about 79.2 per cent has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and 20.8 per cent by the private sector.

- ❖ The data shows that in terms of absolute value, both DPSUs/PSUs and private sector have recorded a steady growth in defence production

Appointment

Dr. Sandip Shah Appointed as the Chairperson of NABL-QCI



About News :-

- ❖ Dr. Sandip Shah, an eminent medical professional and visionary leader, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ❖ NABL works to improve the quality of testing and calibration services, ensuring trust in the products and services used by consumers, businesses, and regulators.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Dr. Shah, a Gold Medalist in MD Pathology and Bacteriology from B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, has an extensive academic and professional background in pathology, molecular biology, and transplant immunology.
- ❖ He is the Joint Managing Director at Neuberg Diagnostics and the founder of Neuberg Supratech Reference Laboratories. Additionally, he serves as the Honorary Director at the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Center..
- ❖ Dr. Shah succeeds Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan in this role, bringing over 35 years of expertise in healthcare and diagnostics with a distinguished career in pathology, molecular biology, and transplant immunology.

- ❖ He conceptualized and launched India's first Drive-through COVID testing facility, which conducted over 3,500 tests at a single site.
- ❖ He has also contributed to healthcare innovation as a CAP Inspector and a visiting faculty member at IIM Ahmedabad. Dr. Shah has been a significant figure at NABL, having served as the Chair of the Medical Labs Accreditation Improvement Committee (MLAIC) and in various mentorship roles.
- ❖ The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a premier autonomous body set up by the Government of India.
- ❖ QCI is responsible for creating a Quality Mindset and envisions to ensure quality across products and services that touch every citizen.
- ❖ As an independent and autonomous body, QCI creates a mechanism for independent third-party assessments of products, services, and processes, coordinating its activities through its constituent boards and divisions.
- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, serves as the nodal point for QCI.

Defence

Ins Sarvekshak Arrives At Port Louis



About News :-

- ❖ INS Sarvekshak arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on 26 Dec 24 to undertake Joint Hydrographic Survey. On arrival, the ship. was received by Shri Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, Capt CG Binoop, Commandant, Mauritius National Coastguard and other military and civil dignitaries.

- ❖ A preliminary survey coordination meeting was held with the Hydrographic Survey Unit of Mauritius.

Key Points :-

- ❖ INS Sarvekshak will engage with Mauritian authorities through technical knowledge exchange, professional interactions and training sessions on hydrography.
- ❖ This crucial survey will enable Mauritius to develop maritime infrastructure, resource management and coastal development planning.
- ❖ The extant visit highlights strong maritime partnership between India and Mauritius, reflecting shared commitment to regional development and deeper bilateral cooperation in line with the GoI's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region).

Award

RINL wins Gold award at the AP State Energy Conservation Award-2024 competitions for Excellence in Energy Conservation in Iron & Steel sector

About News :-

RINL, the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has won the prestigious "Gold Award" in the State Energy Conservation Award 2024 competitions (conducted by the State Energy Conservation Mission of Andhra Pradesh) for its significant initiatives towards Energy Conservation in Iron & Steel category.



Key Points :-

- ❖ The Gold Award was received on behalf of RINL by Sri Uttam Brahma, GM (Energy, Environment & Utilities) RINL and Sri VVVS Pulla Reddy, DGM (Energy Management

Department) RINL from Sri K. Vijayanand, IAS, Special Chief secretary (Energy), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh at the Energy conservation week valedictory celebrations held at Vijayawada, recently.

- ❖ This prestigious Gold award was bestowed on RINL for implementing Energy conservation measures during the last 3 years, harnessing waste energy.

Sport

Vijayveer wins first 25m rapid fire pistol national title



About News :-

Punjab's Vijayveer Sidhu beat fellow Olympian Gurpreet Singh of Army Marksmanship Unit to clinch his maiden men's 25m rapid-fire pistol (RFP) title at the on-going 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) for pistol events here on Thursday.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Taking aim at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range (DKSSR) Finals Hall, Paris Olympian Vijayveer got the better of Rio Olympian Gurpreet 28-25 in the title round.
- ❖ Air Force's Shivam Shukla finished third with a score of 23.
- ❖ Vijayveer shot 581 in the qualifications to make it to the six-man eight series of five rapid-fire shots final round in second position, behind Uttar Pradesh's Ankur Goel, who shot 585.

Obituary

Ex-Suzuki Motor CEO Osamu Suzuki passes away at 94



About News :-

- ❖ Osamu Suzuki, the former President Chairman & CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation, died aged 94 on Wednesday afternoon from malignant lymphoma, as announced by the company on Friday.

Key Points :-

- ❖ Born January 30, 1930, in Gifu Prefecture, central Japan, Osamu Suzuki joined the automotive company in 1958 following his marriage into its founding family.
- ❖ Osamu Suzuki took his wife Shoko's family name; she was the daughter of then-president Shunzo Suzuki. Upon becoming president in 1978, he began transforming Suzuki Motor, established in 1920 as Suzuki Loom Manufacturing Co., into a prominent Japanese automotive manufacturer.
- ❖ From 1978 until his retirement in 2021 at 91, Suzuki served as president, chairman, and CEO. During his tenure, Suzuki Motor's consolidated sales grew exponentially from approximately 300 billion yen (USD 1.9 billion) in 1978 to beyond 3 trillion yen in fiscal 2006.
- ❖ Subsequently, under Osamu Suzuki's leadership, the company formed a capital alliance with Toyota Motor Corporation in 2019, concentrating on joint development of autonomous vehicles amid the industry's shift towards CASE (connected, autonomous, shared, and electric) technologies.
- ❖ Osamu Suzuki relinquished his presidential role in 2015 to his son, Toshihiro Suzuki, whilst remaining as chairman until 2021.
- ❖ His emphasis on producing economical compact vehicles for developing markets, particularly India, distinguished the company. Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, their subsidiary, secured 41.7 per cent of India's automotive market in fiscal 2023, substantially ahead of their closest competitor Hyundai Motor Co., which held 14.6 per cent

