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20 November 2023

### National and International News

#### Dell, HP, Foxconn get 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 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 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.



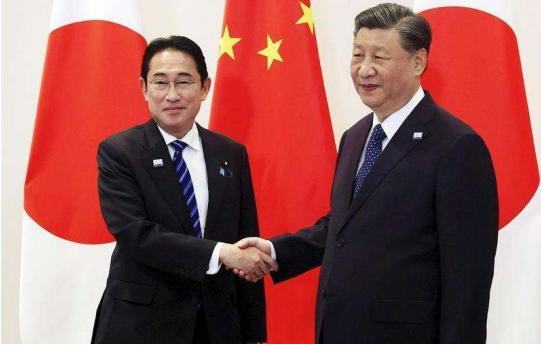
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<p><b>AI-powered chemist makes oxygen from Martian meteorites</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxygen-producing materials made from meteorites found on Mars have been produced using a robotic <b>artificial intelligence (AI)-chemist</b>.</li> <li>• The research, published in <b>Nature Synthesis</b>, provides a proof-of-concept for generating oxygen and may have implications for future manned missions to Mars.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Five different categories</b> of meteorites were selected, that come from or have been confirmed to exist on Mars, which were analysed by the robotic AI-chemist.</li> <li>• Recent <b>evidence of water on Mars</b> and analysis of the elemental composition of meteorites found on the planet could provide an opportunity to make catalysts using Martian resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Maldives ‘requests’ India to withdraw military persons</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hours after being sworn in, President <b>Mohamed Muizzu</b> of the Maldives “requested” India to “withdraw” its military personnel from his country</li> <li>• Indian military personnel was meant for the training of Maldivian personnel and for the maintenance of equipment.</li> <li>• Mr. Muizzu-led <b>Progressive Party of Maldives</b> won the September election by defeating President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih’s <b>Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP)</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kadalundi’s shrinking mudflat ecosystem</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Kadalundi, a village on the southwest coast in Kozhikode district of Kerala, the expanse of mudflats in the estuary of the <b>Kadalundipuzha</b> river has reduced to about 1 hectare.</li> <li>• This is depriving prey to thousands of shorebirds that migrate from colder climes in winter to the village.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It is the abundance of prey such as <b>polychaetes and crustaceans</b> in the mudflats that attract a wide variety of migrant shorebirds to Kadalundi from places such as Siberia, Ladakh, Mongolia, and Scotland.</li> </ul>



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### 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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