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4 March 2024

### National & International News

#### Seizure of CNC Machines Bound for Pakistan at Nhava Sheva Port

##### Context:

- Customs authorities at Nhava Sheva port recently intercepted a **dual-use shipment on a vessel destined for Karachi**, expressing suspicions regarding its potential utilization in **Pakistan's nuclear initiatives**.

##### About Nhava Sheva Port:

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port, also known as **JNPT and Nhava Sheva Port**, is the second largest container port in India after Mundra Port.
- Operated by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Authority (JNPTA), it is located on the eastern shores of the Arabian Sea in Navi Mumbai, Raigad district, Maharashtra.

#### Hanguls on the Path to Recovery



##### Context:

- The **endangered hangul, a shy deer species native to Kashmir**, is showing signs of recovery with a healthy mating season indicating a potential increase in numbers.
- The official figure suggested there are **19.2 males per 100 females** “which is much lower than the ideal ratio of 40-50 males per 100 females”.

##### Key points:

- Hangul's population declined sharply since 1947 but showed a steady increase from 183 in 2015 to 261 in 2021.
- Conservation efforts include securing habitats, regulating traffic on highways, and identifying threats.
- A captive breeding facility has been set up to further protect the species.

##### About:

Hangul, a subspecies of the Central Asian red deer, is primarily found in the dense riverine forests of the Valley and mountains of Jammu and Kashmir as well as northern Himachal Pradesh.

- **Habitat:** Dense riverine forests of the Valley and mountains of **Jammu and Kashmir and northern Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Threats:** Rising pollution, poaching, habitat fragmentation due to land use, and climate change.



বাংলা

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Impact of Human Activities:</b> Studies indicate that human activities are major factors contributing to the decline in the Hangul population.</li><li>● <b>Conservation Status:</b> The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified the Hangul as <b>Critically Endangered in the Red Data Book.</b></li><li>● <b>Legal Protection:</b> The animal is listed under <b>Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Cabinet Approval for Semiconductor Plants</b></p> <p><b>Potential in India:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In 2019, India's semiconductor consumption hit US\$21 billion, showing a growth rate of 15.1%.</li><li>● The country is expected to surpass USD 80 billion in semiconductor consumption by 2026 and USD 110 billion by 2030.</li><li>● Leading semiconductor manufacturing nations are the USA, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, the Netherlands, and emerging producers like Germany.</li></ul>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p>The Union Cabinet approved three semiconductor plant proposals to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.</p> <p><b>Semiconductor Fab with 50,000 wfsm Capacity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Location:</b> Dholera, Gujarat</li><li>● <b>Investment:</b> Rs. 91,000 crore</li><li>● <b>Partnership:</b> Tata Electronics Private Limited ("TEPL") and Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp (PSMC), Taiwan</li><li>● <b>Technology Partner:</b> PSMC, known for expertise in logic and memory foundry segments</li><li>● <b>Capacity:</b> 50,000 wafer starts per month (WSPM)</li></ul> <p><b>Segments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● High performance compute chips with 28 nm technology</li><li>● Power management chips for EVs, telecom, defense, automotive, consumer electronics, display, power electronics, etc.</li></ul> <p><b>Semiconductor ATMP Unit in Assam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Location:</b> Morigaon, Assam</li><li>● <b>Investment:</b> Rs. 27,000 crore</li><li>● <b>Company:</b> Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt Ltd ("TSAT")</li><li>● <b>Technology:</b> Developing indigenous advanced semiconductor packaging technologies including flip chip and ISIP</li><li>● <b>Capacity:</b> 48 million per day</li><li>● <b>Segments:</b> Automotive, EVs, consumer electronics, telecom, mobile phones, etc.</li></ul> <p><b>Semiconductor ATMP Unit for Specialized Chips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Location:</b> Sanand, Gujarat</li><li>● <b>Investment:</b> Rs. 7,600 crore</li></ul>



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- **Partnership:** CG Power, Renesas Electronics Corporation (Japan), and Stars Microelectronics (Thailand)
- **Technology Partner:** Renesas, a leading semiconductor company in specialized chips
- **Capacity:** 15 million per day
- **Segments:** Consumer, industrial, automotive, and power applications.

### ADITI scheme



#### Context:

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled the ADITI scheme at DefConnect 2024 to boost innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

#### Key points:

- **Scheme Name:** Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI)
- **Purpose:** Develop critical and strategic defence technologies.
- **Falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework.**
- **Period:** 2023-24 to 2025-26
- **Focus:** Innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies from startups
- **Grant Amount:** Up to **Rs 25 crore** for research, development, and innovation in defence technology
- **Benefits:** Nurtures youth innovation and advances country's technology sector
- **Technology Watch Tool:** To bridge the gap between modern Armed Forces' needs and defence innovation ecosystem
- **Challenges:** 17 challenges launched in the first edition for Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and Defence Space Agency to develop latest technologies
- **R&D Importance:** Need for self-reliance in technology development due to limitations of technology acquisition through offset and FDI
- **Government's Support:** Reserved 75% of defence capital acquisition budget for purchases from local companies including MSMEs.

### Shehbaz Sharif Becomes Pakistan's Prime Minister for the Second Time

#### Context:

- Shehbaz Sharif, a leader of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), has been elected as Pakistan's Prime Minister for the second time.



বাংলা



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	<p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He secured 201 votes in the election held at the National Assembly, while his opponent <b>Omar Ayub Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) received only 92 votes.</b></li><li>• In his victory speech, Shehbaz Sharif emphasized his commitment to <b>revive Pakistan's economy and eradicate terrorism.</b></li><li>• Shehbaz Sharif vowed to maintain <b>cordial relations with neighboring countries based on equality principles and not involve Pakistan in any geopolitical "great game."</b></li><li>• While emphasizing the importance of improving ties with all nations, he also raised the Kashmir issue, urging solidarity with the Kashmiri and Palestinian causes.</li></ul>
<p><b>India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in the Stainless steel sector</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Union Minister for Steel and Civil Aviation, Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b> virtually inaugurated India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant in Stainless Steel Sector.</li><li>• The plant, located at <b>Jindal Stainless Limited, Hisar, Haryana</b> is a global milestone, being the <b>world's first off-grid Green Hydrogen plant for the stainless steel industry.</b></li><li>• It is also the <b>world's first Green Hydrogen plant with rooftop &amp; floating solar.</b></li><li>• The project targets a significant <b>reduction in carbon emissions</b>, contributing to a sustainable future.</li><li>• This project is also a <b>state-of-the-art green hydrogen facility</b> with a target to reduce carbon emissions considerably by around 2,700 Metric Tonnes per annum and 54,000 tons of CO2 emissions over the next two decades.</li><li>• The government encourages <b>"green growth" and "green jobs" to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070.</b></li></ul>

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