

# SERB-FIRE



- SERB-FIRE is a novel initiative to bring together industry and academia on a common platform to exchange ground-breaking ideas and co-promote innovative research.

- I believe this collaboration will open many new doors for exploration in scientific research, which could make India a key player in technology-based solutions
- The FIRE program is a joint government and industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism to promote innovative technology solutions and strengthen academic research through collaboration with key research and development (R&D) organizations in India.
- Having been conceived in collaboration with Intel India, it is also being extended to other industry members, which would increase its impact and reach.

# LETEKU

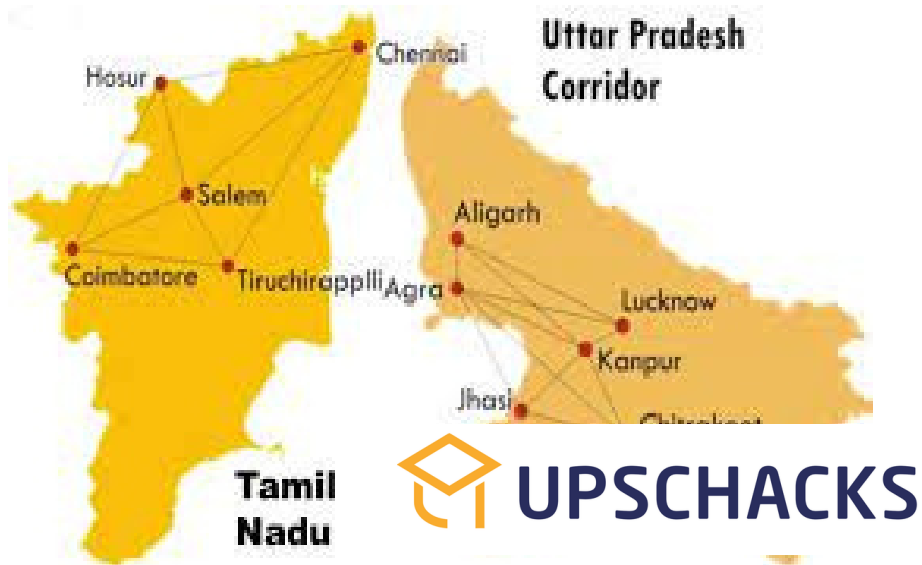


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- A shipment of fresh Burmese grapes referred as 'Leteku' in Assamese language has been exported to Dubai from Guwahati by air route.

- *Baccaurea motleyana* is a species of fruit tree which grows wild in parts of Southeast Asia.
- Its common names include rambai and rambi, and in Thai language mafai-farang. In the Bengali language the fruit is known as bugi and Narsingdi.
- In the Assamese language it is known as leteku.
- Each fruit has velvety pinkish, yellow, or brown skin which wrinkles at ripening and is filled with whitish pulp containing 3 to 5 seeds. The pulp is sweet to acid in taste.
- Leteku contains vitamin C and Iron.

# DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS IN INDIA



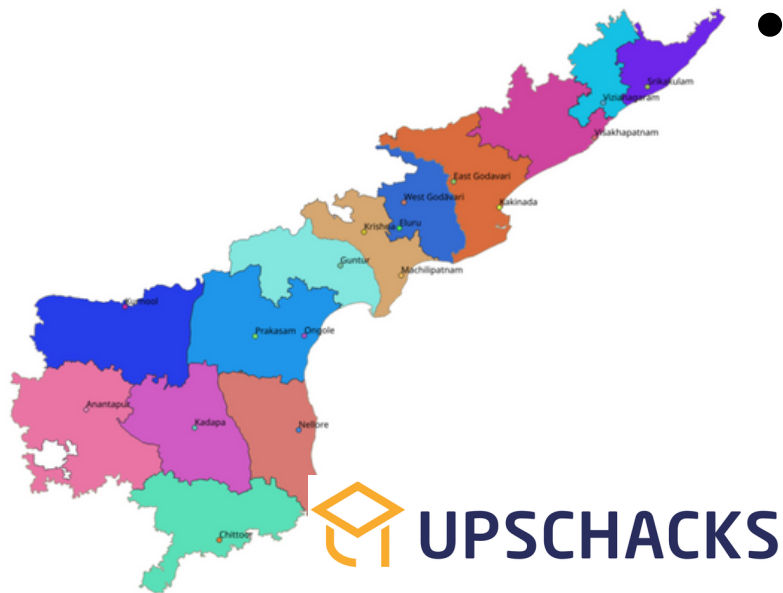
- During a webinar on India-Sweden Defence Industry Cooperation, Rajnath Singh invited Swedish firms to invest in Defence Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

- To support the growth of the Defence sector and enhance manufacturing capacity in the sector, Two Defence Industrial Corridors are being set up in India, one in Uttar Pradesh and another in Tamil Nadu.
- Promoting Make in India, the Defence Industrial Corridors will catalyse indigenous production of defence and aerospace-related items. This will reduce our imports and promote the export of these items to other countries.
- Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor consists of the following six nodal points with the potential to develop defence industries in the corridor: Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow.

- **The Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor, being set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu, consists of the following five nodal points: Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirappalli**



# Andhra Pradesh introduces SALT programme



- Andhra Pradesh has started a Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) programme to transform foundational learning in government schools for which the World Bank has approved a loan of 250 million dollars.
- The main objectives of the programme are strengthening foundation schools and providing training and skill development to teachers.
- Andhra Pradesh's public school education system has more than 40 lakh children and nearly 2 lakh teachers.
- The five-year programme is result-oriented with the WB releasing funds after key goals are achieved.
- The government has converted all Anganwadis into pre-primary schools and attached them to the nearest schools.
- The government's document on SALT documents several challenges to improving the learning outcomes.

- **These include inadequate facilities in schools and a need for increased focus on foundational learning, the need for upgrading teaching skills of teachers, improving teacher-student interactions in classes, and capacity development of state-level institutions such as the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT), State Institute of Education Management and Training (SIEMAT) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs).**
- **The government is also setting up new administrative structures which will monitor the working of schools, like the AP School Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission.**

# Ukraine and U.S. launch “Sea Breeze drills”



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- Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercises “Sea Breeze drills” in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation with Kiev as it faces off with Russia.
- The drills come just days after the British Royal Navy’s HMS Defender passed near Russian-annexed Crimea in the Black Sea, with Moscow saying it fired warning shots at the destroyer to ward it off.
- The Sea Breeze drills, which have taken place 21 times since 1997, will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.
- The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

# **DRDO successfully flight-tests 'Agni P' Ballistic Missile off Odisha Coast**



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested a New Generation Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile “Agni P (Prime)” from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

- As per Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) officials, Agni-Prime is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- Agni P (Prime) is a new-generation advanced variant from the Agni class of missiles.
- It is a canisterised surface-to-surface ballistic missile having a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.



# **Life could exist in the clouds of Jupiter but not Venus: Study**



- A new research has said the sulphuric acid clouds in Venus have too little water for active life to exist, Queen's University Belfast reported.
- However, it said the conditions of water and temperature within Jupiter's clouds could allow microbial-type life to subsist.
- This study counters the research that claimed phosphine gas in Venus' atmosphere indicated possible life in Venus' clouds.