

Prelim Bits 27-06-2017

CHESSE rocket

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- NASA is launching a new CHESSE sounding rocket which will study vast interstellar clouds to understand about the earliest stages of star formation.

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- Deep in space between distant stars, vast clouds of neutral atoms and molecules, as well as charged plasma particles called the interstellar medium that may evolve into new stars and even planets.

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- It will measure light filtering through the interstellar medium to study the atoms and molecules within, which provides crucial information for understanding the life-cycle of stars.

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UN Public Services Award

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- The United Nations Public Service Awards is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service.

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- It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide.

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- Through an annual competition, it recognizes the work of public servants, and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

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- This year, India was named **first in the Asia-Pacific group** for the category: 'Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable through Inclusive Services and Participation'.

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- The West Bengal government is among the winners to receive this Award for its initiative named “Kanyashree” to combat child marriage and ensure education to the girl child in the state.

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- The award is given on the occasion of The United Nations Public Service Day. It is celebrated in The Hague, Netherlands this year.

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Kanyashree Prakalpa Scheme

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- The scheme aims to improve status of adolescent girls from disadvantaged families through small cash transfers.

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- Through the initiative, cash was deposited into the bank account of girls for every year they remained in school and were unmarried.

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World’s largest floating solar plant

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- China switched on the world's largest floating solar plant, offshore from the city of Huainan in the eastern Anhui province.

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