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CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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International

India and Myanmar:



India and Myanmar signed and exchanged 10 memorandum of understanding (MoUs). The MoUs were signed and exchanged after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Myanmar President U Win Myint at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

Most of the agreements were aimed at developing Myanmar's Rakhine state. This MoU is the first of its kind of government to government (G2G) agreement signed by Myanmar with a cooperation partner focussed on socio-economic development and livelihood initiatives in Rakhine State.

The agreements included an MoU on 'Cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking'.

An agreement regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was also signed between the two sides.

Rakhine State: Rakhine is a province of Myanmar. It is considered the homeland of the Rohingya community. The Rohingyas are one of Myanmar's many ethnic minorities. According to UN estimates, The Rakhine state has witnessed a lot of violence in the past and scores of Rohingyas had fled the state facing persecution. In August 2017, a deadly crackdown by Myanmar's army on Rohingya Muslims sent hundred thousands fleeing across the border into Bangladesh.

South Sudan:



South Sudan, officially known as the Republic of South Sudan is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. It gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011, making it the most recent sovereign state with widespread recognition. Its Capital is Juba. The Currency used here is South Sudanese pound.

Recently, In February 2020, Riek Machar was resworn as vice president following a peace agreement with Salva Kiir, the current President of South Sudan. He is formally rejoining the government in a boost for a peace deal aimed at ending more than two years of conflict. Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon is a politician who served as the inaugural Vice President of South Sudan from its independence in 2011 until his dismissal in 2013.

Taliban:



The Taliban who refer to themselves as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) are a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement and military organization in Afghanistan. It is the main insurgent group that has been fighting against the Afghan government and American troops. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to overthrow the Taliban. The leader of Taliban is Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada who is a hardline

religious scholar. The Taliban have been in direct talks with the US since 2018, with both sides looking to end the long-running conflict that has cost tens of thousands of lives.

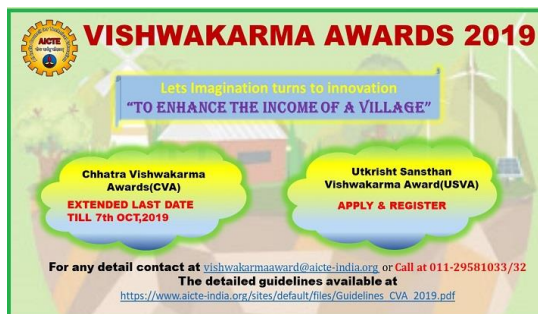
Recently, US and the Taliban signed an "agreement for bringing peace" to Afghanistan after more than 18 years of conflict. As per the agreement US will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan within 14 months as it seeks an exit from its longest-ever war. The accord was signed by Taliban fighter-turned-dealmaker Mullah Baradar alongside Washington's chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad, at a gilded desk in a conference room in a luxury Doha hotel.

The agreement is expected to lead to a dialogue between the Taliban and the Kabul government also. If the talks between them is successful then Afghanistan could ultimately see an end to the grinding 18-year conflict.



National

Vishwakarma Awards 2019:



Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the third edition of Vishwakarma Awards 2019 during an occasion in New Delhi. Around 23 groups were awarded Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards (CVA) while 6 institutes were awarded with Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award (USVA). The valedictory function of the Awards function was organized by All India

Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The award recognizes college students who have good potential and are an asset to the nation. The theme of the competition of the award was 'How to Enhance the income of a village'.

Vishwakarma Awards: Vishwakarma Awards was instituted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) since 2017. They are being awarded every year with an aim to motivate young individuals and inspire leaders and organizations to work towards the growth and development of the Nation.

The Chhatra Vishwakarma awards (CVA) are Class I awards. This award is awarded for Excellent Progressive Staff (for College students & Mentor).

Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award (USVA) are Class II awards. This award is presented for exemplary Institutional intervention.

Central Excise Day:



This day is celebrated on the 24th of February across India. The day is being celebrated to honor the service of Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) to the country. It is celebrated every year to convey the importance of excise and service tax excise tax among the common people and also to encourage the officers to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity. The day is also celebrated to commemorate

the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.

CBEC: It stands for Central Board of Excise and Custom. It is India's one of the oldest government agencies. It was founded in 1855 as the Customs and General Excise department. CBEC was later renamed as Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). It is headquartered in New Delhi. The Customs and Central Excise/ Central GST department was established to administer customs laws. It operates under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

It deals with matters related to smuggling and administration of matters relating to Customs, IGST, central excise, Central Goods & service tax and narcotics to the extent under the CBEC's purview. It is also responsible for the checking the implementation of Customs act, 1962, Central Excise Act 1944, Customs Tariff Act 1975 and Service Tax Act.

India and US:



President of the United States Donald Trump accompanied by the first Lady Melania Trump was given a warm welcome in India on 24th February 2020. He is the first serving President to visit Gujarat. He visited the Sabarmati Ashram, where he and the first lady of US spun the Charkha. Then they headed towards the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad for "Namaste Trump" event. Motera Stadium also known as known as Sardar

Patel Stadium is the world's largest stadium. The "NAMASTE TRUMP" event featured cultural performances.

After the Namaste Trump event, the President along with the US delegates visited Agra, Uttar Pradesh to see Taj Mahal - one of the Seven Wonders of the World. After the Taj Mahal visit, the US delegates returned to Delhi for the rest of their trip.

During the visit India and the United States finalized defence deals worth \$3 billion and signed three agreements, including in health and oil sectors. Bilateral talks between both the countries were held in five major categories of security, defence, energy, technology and people to people contact.

Indian polity

Law commission:



Law Commission of India

The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time. The government constitutes law commission from time to time as per the requirement. The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted every three years. It works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The First Law Commission of Independent India was established in 1955 under the Chairmanship of the then Attorney-General of India, M. C. Setalvad. Since then, twenty one more Commissions have been established. The first such Commission before the independence of India was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the Chairmanship of Lord Macaulay.

Recently, the Government of India (GoI) formally announced the constitution of the 22nd Law Commission. The law panel will advise the government on complex legal issues. The Commission has a term of three years. With the president giving his nod for the creation of the Law Commission, government will now appoint a chairperson to head the panel and other members.

The chairperson usually is a retired Supreme Court judge or a retired chief justice of a high court. The term of the previous commission had ended on August 31, 2018. Union Cabinet had last week had approved for the reconstituting the panel.

Indian policy News

ASKDISHA:



It is a Hindi Version of Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot. Artificial Intelligence based ASKDISHA was initially launched in English language. ASKDISHA chatbot is developed to resolve queries of railway passengers over the internet pertaining to various services

offered by IRCTC both in English as well as Hindi. It has been launched on the ticketing website www.irctc.co.in and tourism website www.irctctourism.com of its PSU, Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC). IRCTC also plans to launch ASKDISHA in more languages along with many other additional features in the near future.

Chatbot: The chatbot is a special computer programme designed to simulate conversation with users, especially over the internet. It is the first-of-its-kind initiative by IRCTC. It is aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users' queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.

PM-KISAN:



It refers to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. It is a Central Sector scheme initiative by the government of India in which all farmers will get up to Rs 6,000 per year as minimum income support. The initiative was announced by Piyush Goyal during the 2019 Interim Union Budget of India on 1 February 2019.

Recently, on 24 February 2020 the successful completion of one year of PM-KISAN was celebrated. In order to commemorate its success, PM Kisan Mobile app was launched by the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. PM Kisan Mobile App is launched to achieve Gol's goal of "Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022" easily.

The main aim of PM Kisan Mobile App is to help farmers learn about their payment status, their eligibility towards a scheme and many other information.

RAISE 2020:



It refers to 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020. It is India's first Artificial Intelligence summit to be organized by the Government in partnership with Industry and Academia.

Recently, the Government of India (GoI) announced the mega event, RAISE 2020 to be held from April 11-12 in New Delhi. The summit will be attended by experts of Artificial Intelligence from all over the world. The main focus of the summit will be to exchange ideas to use AI for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation in key areas like healthcare, education, agriculture, and smart mobility amongst other sectors. The main aim to implement AI in social transformation is that it will help in bringing regulatory changes. It will also improve the efficiency of workplaces.

Science and Technology

INCOIS:



It is an acronym for Indian National Centre for Ocean Information. INCOIS is an autonomous organization that functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). It was established in 1999. It is headquartered in Pragathi Nagar, Hyderabad. The organizations have provided a number of free services to users in the marine realm.

Recently, INCOIS launched 3 ocean-based advanced warning systems- Swell Surge Forecast System (SSFS), Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS) and the Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS). The main objective of this technology is to significantly reduce damage and losses to fishermen, offshore oil exploration industries and coastal population during extreme weather and oceanic events.

Swell Surges: Swell Surges often referred to as surface gravity waves as they are caused due to surface gravity. They are not the normal wind waves as Wind Waves are generated by the by the local winds. The swell waves originating from the Southern Indian Ocean frequently cause damage to the coastal region. They are like flash floods which take place without any noticeable changes in local winds or coastal environment. They cause damage to the boats and nets of the fishermen and are often mistaken for tsunamis.

National Science Day:



The day is celebrated by India on 28 February since 1987 every year. It is celebrated to honour the discovery of 'Raman Effect'. The Raman Effect was discovered by the Professor Sir C V Raman on February 28, 1928. He was later awarded the Nobel Prize for this discovery in 1930.

On 28 February 2020, India celebrated National Science Day 2020. The theme this year was "Women in Science". It was celebrated at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme aims to appreciate the contribution of women in the field of science.

C V Raman: Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman was born on 7th November 1888 in the then Madras Presidency (Tamil Nadu) in British India. He was exceptional in studies. He passed the matriculation at only 11 years of age. Two years later, he passed the Intermediate-level of exam and joined the Presidency College in 1902. He was fascinated with the scattering of light since his early years. It was in Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) Calcuta that Raman was carrying out experiments on scattering of light that he ended up discovering the Raman Effect in 1928. He discovered the change in wavelength of light that is seen when a beam of light is deflected by molecules. This scattering phenomenon was later termed as 'Raman scattering' or the 'Raman effect'. Raman was appointed to be the first Indian director of Indian Institute of Science (IIS) in 1933.

He became the first National Professor of the India after India gained independence in 1947. He received the highest civilian award from his home country, the Bharat Ratna, in 1954.

Environment & Climate News

Cave Fish:



Cavefish or cave fish is a generic term for fresh and brackish water fish adapted to life in caves and other underground habitats. Cavefish are members of a wide range of families and do not form a monophyletic group. Typical adaptations found in cavefish are reduced eyes and pigmentation. There are over 250 species of fish in the world living in dark caves with scarce food. Most of these fish are small, generally less

than 8.5 cms long as they have less food to prey and eat.

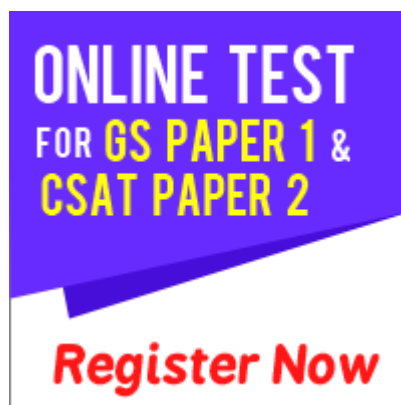
Recently, the experts from U.K. Switzerland and India have found the largest Cave Fish in the world in Meghalaya. It is regarded as the largest known subterranean fish in world and is 40 cm long. The fish was found in a cave located in a remote and densely forested area in Jaintia Hills.

M.M. Wildlife Sanctuary:



It refers to MalaiMahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary. It is located in Karnataka in Chamarajanagar district. The MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagara district will soon get the status of a tiger reserve. It will be the sixth one in the state and the 51st in the country.

The Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary was once the hideout of notorious brigand Veerappan. It is based on the confluence of the Eastern and Western ghats. It was notified as a sanctuary only in May 2013. It is home to tigers, leopards, sloth bears, elephants, dholes, antelopes, grizzled giant squirrels and honey badgers.



Sports News

SFI:



It refers to Swimming Federation of India. SFI is the national governing body for aquatic sports in India. Legally, it is a non-profit association registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1861. It was established in 1948 and is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Federation holds elections for its office bearers every four years. The SFI currently oversees competition in the sports of swimming, masters swimming, synchronized swimming, diving, high diving, and water polo. The current Chairman of Swimming Federation of India is Glenn Saldanha.

Recently, 11 year old Jiya Rai created a world record by becoming the youngest and the fastest specially-abled girl to swim 14 kilometres in open water in 3 hours 27 minutes and 30 seconds. The record was created under the supervision of the Swimming Association of Maharashtra.

Her achievement has been qualified for registration in the India Book of Records, Asia Book and Limca Book of Records. She was felicitated with a Certificate and Trophy.

She was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Delay in Speech at a tender age of about two years.

RFI:



It refers to the Rowing Federation of India. It was founded on 30th August 1976 with a view to make the sport of Rowing popular in India. It is affiliated with the Indian Olympic Association and Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron. It is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The president of RFI is Rajlaxmi Deo.

Recently, Rajlaxmi Singh Deo was again re-elected as the president of the Rowing Federation of India (RFI). The elections were conducted under the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) observer K Govindraj.

Rajpal Singh, G Bhasker, Souvik Ghose, and Sreekunara Kurup were elected as vice-presidents.

MV Sriram was voted as secretary-general of the RFI.

Krishna Kumar Singh and Chirajit Dhukan were appointed as joint-secretaries of the federation.

Jasbir Singh, Venkateshwara Rao, Ismail Baig, Jacob, and Manjunatha were elected as the executive committee members.

The elected candidates will remain at the post for 4 years till 2024.

D Gukesh:



He is India's Chess Grandmaster. He is from TamilNadu. He won the 34th Cannes Open in France. He defeated Harutyun Bargseghyan of France in fifty moves to win the chess tournament. Siva Mahadevan of India secured the 10th place with 6 points.

The Tamil Nadu player Gukesh became the world's second youngest Grandmaster ever in 2019 at the age of 12 years, 7 months, and 17 days after he won the Hillerod 110th Anniversary Open event in Denmark.

CGF:



It refers to Commonwealth Games Federation. CGF is the international organisation responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games, and is the foremost authority in matters relating to the games. It is headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

Recently, the Commonwealth Games Federation announced that India will host Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships 2022.

The decision was taken by CGF after the Executive Board meeting in London. The two events will be held in Chandigarh in January 2022, while the Birmingham Commonwealth Games is scheduled from 27th of July to 7th of August, 2022.

The decision is being considered a big win for India after IOA threatened to boycott the 2022 Birmingham Games for dropping shooting from the roster.

AIBA:



It is an acronym of International Boxing Association. AIBA was founded in 1946. It is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland. The current President of AIBA is Dr Mohamed Moustahsane.

AIBA World Cup 2020: Russia will become the first country to host the new format of AIBA Team World Cup in 2020. AIBA Executive committee members voted in favour to approve the Russian bid at its meeting in Budapest. The tournament will be coinciding with the 75th anniversary

of the victory in World War II under the motto “Boxing for peace”. The final is scheduled for October in the city of Nizhny Novgorod. The best national teams all over the world will take part in the edition. This format will make boxing more attractive to spectators and sponsors.

The first World Cup was conducted at the famous arena of Madison Square Garden in New York City, the USA in 1979. The World Cup was held from 1979 to 1998 and also in the period 2002-2006 as a team event. The last tournament was organised in Moscow in 2008.

Economic News

LIDEA:



It is an interactive AI Powered ChatBot solution. Birla Estates recently launched “LIDEA” for its customers on WhatsApp. The solution is aimed at providing information of its projects to users who are evaluating residential developments of Birla Estates. LIDEA which is powered with artificial intelligence, will answer the queries of the users regarding Birla Estates developments. It will also offer features like viewing location, configurations, amenities, virtual tours and accepting site visit requests. The launch of the ChatBot on WhatsApp adds to the digital experience of Birla Alokya, where the homes feature voice based automation and homebuyers can visualise their future home using an immersive Virtual Reality experience.

GoI:



Recently, the Government of India (GoI) launched SPICE+, a web form that integrates 10 services of various ministries and departments. This will help boost Ease of Doing Business in India, especially for a startup. It was launched by the Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) Injeti Srinivas.

SPICE+: It is an acronym for Simplified Performa for Incorporating Company Electronically Plus. This web form provides 10 services thereby saving time, cost for starting a business in India. The 10 services that it provides are DIN allotment, issue of PAN, TAN, EPFO and ESIC registration, opening bank account for a company, allotment of GSTIN, issue of Profession Tax, etc. Out of the ten services it will also provide services of the three Central Government Ministries like Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Labour and the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance.

Initiatives such as SPICE+ is necessary to improve India's ranking globally.

Places in News

Madhya Pradesh:



Madhya Pradesh (MP) is the second largest Indian state by area. It borders the states of Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the west, and Rajasthan to the northwest. Its capital is Bhopal. The current Chief Minister and Governor of Madhya Pradesh are Kamal Nath and Lal Ji Tandon respectively.

Recently, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to introduce the unified registration card and the second state to launch the unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister Kamal Nath distributed the unified cards, including vehicle registration and driving license, to six persons in a function held in Bhopal.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had issued the guidelines to bring uniformity in driving licenses and vehicle registration cards across the country in March 2019. These cards are being issued in compliance with these guidelines.

The objective of the card is to provide unified smart cards for driving license & vehicle registration with QR code.

Bihar:



Bihar is a state in East India, bordering Nepal. Bihar celebrates its foundation day as Bihar Diwas. It was formed on 22nd March 1912. The current Governor and the Chief Minister of Bihar are Phagu Chauhan and Nitish Kumar respectively.

Recently, annual budget for 2020-21 was presented in the Bihar Assembly. It was presented by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, who holds finance portfolio. The state budget which is worth 2 lakh 11 thousand and 761 crore rupees lays special emphasis on education, health and infrastructure.

Assam:



Assam is a state in northeastern India known for its wildlife, archeological sites and tea plantations. It is situated south of the eastern Himalayas along the Brahmaputra and Barak River valleys. Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. The state was the first site for oil drilling in Asia. Its capital is Dispur. The current Governor and the Chief Minister of Assam are Professor Jagdish Mukhi and Sarbananda Sonowal respectively.

Recently, a high-level committee (HLC) on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord formally submitted its report to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. The report was handed over by Justice

(retired) B K Sharma, the chairman of the MHA- constituted panel to the Chief Minister in the presence of the State Cabinet.

Assam Accord's Clause 6 : The Clause 6 of the Assam Accord pledges to provide constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

Jammu and Kashmir:



Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is a region administered by India as a union territory. It was a region formerly administered by India as a state from 1954 to 2019.

Recently, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned over Rs 400 crore to UT of J&K during the current financial year for infrastructural development of its rural areas.

The funding will be provided under Trench XXV of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD. The money has been sanctioned for the construction of roads and bridges which would provide all-weather connectivity to over 450 remote villages of the Union Territory of J&K.

Uttar Pradesh:



Uttar Pradesh is a state in northern India. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950. The current Chief Minister and Governor of Uttar Pradesh are Yogi Adityanath and Anandiben Patel respectively.

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to change the name of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Languages University, in Lucknow. For this, the State University Act – 1973 will be amended.

According to the Cabinet, the decision was taken believing that besides English, foreign languages - Japanese, French, German, are essential for employment and development of knowledge.

Defence

National War Memorial:



It is a monument that was erected in the memory of all the brave soldiers from all the three wings of the armed forces who have laid down their lives for the nation. The War Memorial has names of 25,942 soldiers martyred after Independence engraved. The memorial consists of four concentric circles namely the 'Veerta Chakra' or Circle of Bravery, 'Amar Chakra' or Circle of Immortality, 'Tyag Chakra' or Circle of Sacrifice and 'Rakshak Chakra' or Circle of Protection. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated and dedicated the monument to the nation on 25 February 2019.

On 25 February 2020, India observed the first anniversary of the iconic National War Memorial. A solemn ceremony was held where Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and veterans from the three services will lay wreaths and pay homage to the fallen soldiers. The memorial helps in strengthening the sense of high moral values, sacrifice and national pride in the citizens.

US and India:



India-US finalise defence deals worth \$3 bn. The deals were signed after delegation-level talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump who was in his maiden visit to India. In a joint statement with PM Narendra Modi, the US President Donald Trump said that India has agreed to purchase USD 3 billion worth advanced American military equipment including procurement of six AH-64E Apache & 24 MH-60 Romeo

helicopters from the US.

The deals are expected to enhance the joint defence capabilities between India and US and also of rising strategic partnership between both the countries.

Thal Sena Bhawan:



It is the name of the new Army Headquarters that is proposed to be constructed at Delhi Cantonment, opposite Manekshaw Centre. It will be constructed over 39 acres of land. The construction of the building is expected to be completed in 3 to 4 years.

The Defence Minister Rajan Singh recently laid foundation stone to construct a new Army Headquarters in Delhi Cantonment. The Thal Sena Bhawan will allow the Army to functions its headquarters under one roof, bringing together different offices currently working in eight different locations in the national capital. The new Army headquarters has been designed as a multi-storey environment-friendly building. It is being conceptualized as a multistory green building adopting Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) norms.

GRIHA: It is an acronym for Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment GRIHA norms is a rating tool that helps people assesses the performance of their building against certain nationally acceptable benchmarks. It evaluates the environmental performance of a building holistically over its entire life cycle, thereby providing a definitive standard for what constitutes a 'green building'.

Art and Culture

'Death: An Inside Story':



It is a book written by Jaggi Vasudev who is the Founder of Isha Foundation. He is famously known as Sadguru. In 2017, Jaggi Vasudev was awarded Padma Vibhushana for his services in the field of social services.

Recently, the Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu released the book titled 'Death- An Inside Story: A book for all those who shall' authored by Jaggi Vasudev. The book was released on the occasion of Mahashivaratri celebrations on 21st February at the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu where Vice-President Naidu was the Chief Guest.

DPIFF:

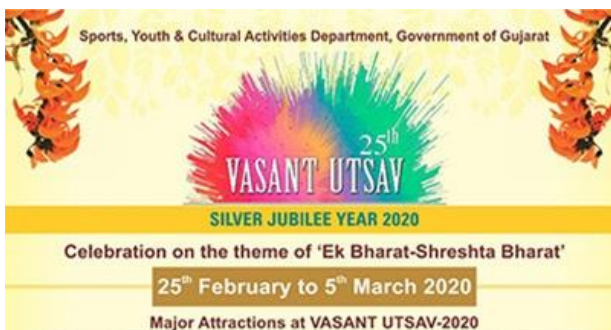


It stands for Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival. DPIFF is a unique platform to honour and encourage the most creative filmmakers, and to infuse life into their career. It commemorates those deserving storyteller, creative writers, passionate filmmakers, and maverick artists who

are part of great Indian cinema. It is India's only independent award function, with a mission to celebrate the legacy of Dadasaheb Phalke Ji – Father of Indian Cinema.

Recently, the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 was announced in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Actor Ravi Dubey served as the host of the event. Hrithik Roshan bagged the Best Actor award for film "Super 30".

Vasantotsav:



It is an 8 day cultural fair which is held at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. It is celebrated as the state's spring festival in February. It is also known as the Sanskruti Kunj Fair. Sanskruti Kunj Fair is an annual festival organised by the Government of Gujarat to celebrate the rich diverse heritage of the country.

Recently, the Eight day cultural fair Vasantotsav was inaugurated at Sanskruti Kunj in Gandhinagar. The annual festival was organised by the department of Youth and cultural Affairs. The theme for the vasantotsav 2020 festival was 'Ek Bhaart Shreshth Bharat'.

World Book of Records-London:



World Book of Records - London is an organization that catalogs and verifies number of world records across the world with authentic certification. It is a paramount international organization inspiring people to showcase their talents.

Recently, the World Book of Records, London felicitated Veteran actor Manoj Kumar with the WBR Golden Era of Bollywood honour for being a legendary actor and for his contribution to Indian cinema. The certificate of honour was presented to him by Santosh Shukla, Supreme Court Advocate (President of World Book of Records), Usman Khan (Vice President of World Book of Records, India) and Professor Rajeev Sharma. Before this, legendary actor Dilip Kumar has also been felicitated with the honour.

Losar festival:



It is a festival in Tibetan Buddhism. The holiday is celebrated on various dates depending on location tradition. The holiday is a new year's festival, celebrated on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar, which corresponds to a date in February or March in the Gregorian calendar. It is also called Tibetan New Year, Lhochhar. In 2020, the new year commenced on the 24th of February and celebrations ran until the 26th of the same month. It also commenced the Year

of the Male Iron Rat.

Recently, Losar festival was celebrated by the Tibetans from 24-26 February in the Dharamshala, Lahaul Valley of Himachal Pradesh. Prayers were offered at Dorje Drak Monastery in Shimla. Cultural events were held in different parts of the state as the Tibetan community celebrated the festival. The festival is aimed to preserve its unique identity and rich traditions. The festival includes sacred and secular prayers, several ceremonies, rituals, and folk dancing.

Person in News

Vijay Advani:



He has been appointed as the new Chairman of its Global Board of Directors by the US-India Business Council (USIBC). Vijay Adani before his appointed served as the Executive Chairman of the Board in January 2020. The council also announced two new members of the Global Board of Directors Lockheed Martin International Senior Vice President Tim Cahill and GE South Asia President & CEO Mahesh Palashikar.

USIBC: It stands for US-India Business Council. USIBC represents top global companies operating across the United States, India, and Indo-Pacific. US India Business Council (USIBC) represents top

global companies operating across the United States, India, and Indo-Pacific. It was founded in 1975. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States.

Dr. Niti Kumar:



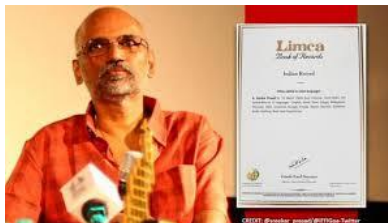
She is a senior scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow. She has won the SERB Women Excellence Award 2020. The award will be conferred by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind during National Science Day Celebrations on 28 February 2020 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The award is presented to women scientists below 40 years of age who have received recognition from national academies. The women researchers will be supported by research grant of Rs 5 lakh per annum for 3 years by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.

Dr. Kumar's research group is trying to understand the protein quality control machinery in human malaria parasite for exploration of alternative drug targets for malaria intervention.

Dr. Kumar's research group is trying to understand the protein quality control machinery in human malaria parasite for exploration of alternative drug targets for malaria intervention.

Dr. Niti Kumar has received several awards and honors like Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (DBT-IYBA 2015), EMBO Post-Doctoral Fellowship (2010-2012), INSA Medal for Young Scientist (2010) by Indian National Academy of Sciences, Marie Curie Early Stage Research Fellowship by European Union under 6th Framework Programme (2005-2006) and Max Planck Post-doctoral fellowship at Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry (2009).

Sreekar Prasad:



He is a veteran video editor who holds eight National Awards including a Special Jury Award. His recent Bollywood projects includes 'Super 30 and 'Saaho'.

Recently, he entered the Limca Book of Records for 'films edited in the most number of languages'. He received a certification from the Limca Records for editing films in 17 languages that are Hindi, English, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Punjabi, Pangchenpa, Karbi, Mishing, Bodo, and Marathi, Odia, Sinhalese, Bengali, Assamese and Nepali.

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