

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

1. India's first Ayurvedic café unveiled in Delhi (March 20, 2024)

Maharishi Ayurved Hospital at Shalimar Bagh, Delhi has launched Soma - Ayurvedic Kitchen, India's first Ayurvedic Kitchen.

An Overview of the News

- Food with an Ayurvedic touch: Soma – The Ayurvedic kitchen customizes meals based on the health of visitors, offering dishes like pakodas and pav bhaji without onion and garlic.
- Blending Ayurveda with Food: Dr. Himanshu, a physician, at Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital, emphasizes the homely and refreshing nature of Soma's dishes, emphasizing the blend of Ayurvedic principles with food.
- Positive Patron Experience: Many visitors share their delightful experiences with the healthy and delicious Ayurvedic cuisine at Soma – The Ayurvedic Kitchen.

2. Pokhara named as Nepal's new Tourism Capital (March 20, 2024)

On 17 March, the Government of Nepal officially designated Pokhara as the country's tourism capital during a ceremony at Barahi Ghat.

An Overview of the News

- Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' presided over the event, which featured cultural performances by renowned artists.
- Nepal announced to seek China's assistance in the development of Pokhara International Airport, which was constructed by China and was considered ready for commercial operations in January 2022.
- Despite operations, it is not being used as a result of disputes between Nepal and China over the airport's status under the Belt and Road Initiative.
- Concurrently, Nepal is preparing to seek Chinese assistance to build the Nepal-China Industrial Friendship Park, spread over about 4,000 acres in Jhapa in eastern Nepal, and potentially extending up to 6,600 acres along the Nepal-Bengal border.
- The Industrial Friendship Park and the 327-MW Upper Marsyangdi hydropower project are expected to be formalized at the Kathmandu investment summit on April 29-30.

About Pokhara

- It is known for its natural beauty and serene environment, situated on the banks of Phewa Lake with the majestic Annapurna mountain range as a stunning backdrop.
- Boating on Phewa Lake with its reflection of snow-capped peaks is a favorite activity for tourists seeking peace and adventure.
- Serving as the gateway to popular trekking routes like the Annapurna Circuit and Jomsom Trek, Pokhara offers ample opportunities for outdoor exploration.

- Cultural attractions such as the Bindhyabasini Temple and the World Peace Pagoda provide insight into the rich heritage of the region.

About Nepal

- Location: Nepal is located in South Asia, bordered by China to the north and India to the south.
- Government: It follows a federal democratic republic government.
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: The official currency used in Nepal is the Nepalese Rupee.
- Major Mountain Ranges: Nepal is famous for its majestic mountain ranges including the Himalayas and Annapurna.
- Major Rivers: The country is surrounded by important rivers like Karnali and Koshi.

3. Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan assumes charge as Governor of Telangana (March 20, 2024)

Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan takes charge as the Governor of Telangana.

An Overview of the News

- After the resignation of Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, President Draupadi Murmu has handed over the additional responsibility of looking after Telangana to Governor Radhakrishnan.
- Additionally, Governor Radhakrishnan has been assigned the task of acting as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- The official swearing-in ceremony took place at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad, with Chief Justice of the State High Court, Justice Alok Aradhe administering the oath.

About Telangana

Capital - Hyderabad

Chief Minister - Revanth Reddy

Established - 2 June 2014

4. Sir J.J. School of Art Granted De Novo Deemed University Status (Oct. 19, 2023)

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during a visit to the institute. J. School of Art was given the status of De Novo Deemed University.

An Overview of the News

- This designation reflects the institute's commitment to innovation in teaching and research in emerging knowledge fields.
- As a result, 'Sir J.J. School of Art, Architecture, and Design is set to become the only government-to-B-B university in Maharashtra with the tag with the tag 'reputed' de Novo.

Emphasis on innovation and excellence

- Accepting the institute as the innovation laboratory by the minister Pradhan.
- Implementation of National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) in the school.
- The goal is to establish the school as a global center of excellence.
- School role in developing pictures for new textbooks and study courses for Vishwakarma Yojana.

Protection of tradition and cultural heritage

- J.J. School of Art represents the tradition of social responsibility of the Indian system.
- This change at de Novo Deemed University recognizes the important contribution of the institute to art and design education.

5. 8 Indian products receive a Geographical Indication tag (Oct. 11, 2023)

The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently granted GI tags to 8 specific products. Of these, 3 are from Arunachal Pradesh, 1 from Tamil Nadu, 2 from Jammu and Kashmir, 1 from Odisha and 1 from Goa.

An Overview of the News

- Arunachal Pradesh has secured Geographical Indication (GI) tags for three different products: Khamti rice, Yak Churpi from Tawang and Tangsa cloth.
 - **Yak Churpi:** It is a dairy product derived from the indigenous Arunachali yak breed, which was applied for GI registration by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Center on Yak (ICAR-NRC on Yak) in December 2021.
 - **Khamti Rice:** It is a glutinous rice variety, cultivated in the Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **Tangsa Textiles:** Tangsa textile products of the Tangsa tribe in the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh are known for their unique designs and vibrant colors.

Support from NABARD and Vocal for Local campaign:

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) actively supported the registration of indigenous products of the region for Geographical Indication (GI) as part of the "Vocal for Local" campaign of the State Government.

Tamil Nadu to Udangudi Panangkarupatti:

- Udanagudi Panangkarupatti is a specific type of palm jaggery that originates from the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, which is known for its traditional production method.
- This palm jaggery has received international recognition and is exported to countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore.

Basohli Pashmina of Jammu and Kashmir and Kaladi of Udhampur:

- Basohli Pashmina: A traditional hand-made pashmina craft from the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, Basohli Pashmina received the GI tag for its exceptional softness and feather-like weight.
- Kaladi: This is a popular Dogra dish, which originated in Ramnagar in the Udhampur district.

Sweet dish 'Rasabali' of Kendrapara, Odisha:

- Rasabali: It is a delicious dish that originates from the 262-year-old Baladevyu temple at Ichchapur on the outskirts of Kendrapada town.
- It consists of deep-fried flat red-brown paneer patties soaked in thick and sweetened milk.
- Rasabali has historical significance and is part of the 56 offerings made to Lord Jagannath and his divine siblings at the Puri Srimandir.

Goa Cashew:

- Goa Cashew with its unique taste and identity has received the GI tag in sync with the Swayampurna Goa Mission for self-reliance.
- It is the 10th product from Goa to be awarded the coveted GI tag, which includes Harmal Chilli, Khola Chilli, Mindoli Banana, Agasam Brinjal, Sat Shiro Bhendo, Kaju Feni, Goa Khaje, Mancurad Mango and Goa Bebinka.

6. North America's first Gandhi Museum opens in Houston, Texas (Oct. 10, 2023)

North America's first Gandhi museum, the Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston (EGMH) was inaugurated in Houston, Texas, USA.

An Overview of the News

- The inauguration ceremony took place on 2 October 2023, coinciding with Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary.
- The museum officially opened to the public on August 15, 2023.

Special guest at the inauguration ceremony:

- The event was attended by prominent personalities, including Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi), Isaac Newton Farris Jr. (nephew of Martin Luther King), and Consul General of India (CGI) in Houston D. Manjunath.

Architectural Features and Design:

- The architecture of the museum is inspired by Gandhi's iconic twenty-four-spoke Chakra Charkha.
- A prominent statue of Gandhiji is prominently displayed in front of the museum.
- The museum's semicircular exterior walls depict notable peace activists including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., and Betty Williams.

Interactive Display:

- Inside the museum, visitors can see interactive exhibits that narrate Gandhi's life story in three different parts: "His Journey," "Our Journey," and "My Journey."

7. India Reclaims AIBD Presidency for Third Straight Term (Oct. 7, 2023)

India was re-elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for the third consecutive time.

An Overview of the News

- This re-election is a testament to India's leadership and influence in this prestigious international organization.
- India has already served as the Chair of the AIBD GC from 2018-2021 and 2021-2023.
- This reflects India's commitment and contribution to the organization over an extended period.

General Conference (GC) 2023:

- The 21st General Conference of AIBD and Associated Meetings 2023 was successfully held in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- AIBD Chairman Gaurav Dwivedi, who is also the CEO of Prasar Bharati, presided over the conference.

Objectives of the conference:

- The two-day conference aims to promote a dynamic and cohesive electronic media environment in the Asia-Pacific region.
- This objective was pursued through policy development and resource allocation discussions.

About AIBD:

- AIBD is a specialized regional inter-governmental organization established in 1977 in collaboration with UNESCO.
- The organization currently consists of 92 member organizations from 44 countries, including 26 government members and 44 associates.
- These members represent diverse regions including Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Africa, the Arab States, and North America.

Founding Membership of India:

- India is one of the founding members of AIBD, highlighting its historical partnership and commitment.
- Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, represents the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India within the AIBD.

Importance of India's role:

- India's prominent position within the AIBD underlines the international media's confidence in India and Prasar Bharati.
- This role provides a strong foundation for India to strategically pursue further achievements in the broadcasting sector on the global stage.

8. Bangladesh receives the first batch of Russian Uranium for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (Oct. 6, 2023)

The Russian Embassy in Bangladesh officially delivered the first batch of uranium from Russia to the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).

An Overview of the News

- After the commissioning of the Rooppur plant, Bangladesh is on its way to becoming the 33rd country globally to produce nuclear power.
- A formal "graduation ceremony" marked the handover of radioactive fuel from the Russian contractor, Rosatom, to RNPP officials.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin virtually attended the ceremony held at the Gana Bhavan and the Kremlin respectively.
- Rosatom Director General Alexei Likhachev presented the fuel, and the ceremony was presided over by Minister of Science and Technology Architect Yefesh Osman.
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi also participated via video conference.

Uranium Shipment and Transportation:

- The second batch of uranium-making nuclear fuel for the first unit of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant arrived in Dhaka via a special plane at Dhaka Shahjalal International Airport on October 5.
- The initial batch of uranium reached Bangladesh on 28 September and was safely transported by road to the nuclear power plant site the next day.

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Overview and Expenses Fuel Management:

- Rosatom, the Russian contractor, is responsible for the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, which has a total capacity of 2400 MW and consists of two units, each capable of producing 1200 MW of electricity.
- After nuclear fuel is loaded into the plant's reactors, it can generate electricity for up to a year before needing to reload the fuel.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that Russia is committed to reclaiming the spent fuel from the Rooppur plant and an agreement has been signed with the Russian Federation for the management of the spent fuel.

9. Union Cabinet approves Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana (Oct. 5, 2023)

The Union Cabinet on October 4, 2023 approved the establishment of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Mulugu district of Telangana.

An Overview of the News

- Amendments to the Central Universities Act 2009 were approved to facilitate the establishment of the university.
- The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill-2023 will be introduced in Parliament for legislative action.

Legal Mandate and Delayed Establishment:

- The University has been established under the provisions of the 13th Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act-2014.
- This Act mandated the establishment of a tribal university in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- A tribal university was established in Andhra Pradesh in 2019, after delays in land allocation had prevented the establishment of the university in Telangana.

Financial Provisions and Educational Objectives:

- Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University will receive funding provision of Rs 889.07 crore.
- The university aims to increase access to higher education in Telangana and improve the overall quality of education in the state.

- It will also focus on promoting tribal art, culture and traditional knowledge systems through instructional and research facilities.
- The establishment of the university seeks to address regional educational imbalances and create additional educational capacity.

Central Tribal Universities in India:

- Earlier, the Central Government had established two Central Tribal Universities in India:
 - Indira Gandhi National Tribal University is located in Amarkantak.
 - Andhra Pradesh Central Tribal University is located in Vizianagaram.
- Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana will be the third such university established with the aim of providing higher education and research facilities to the tribal population of the country.
- At present there are a total of 45 central universities in India.

10. India-Bangladesh SAMPRITI-XI: Joint Military Exercise Begins (Oct. 4, 2023)

India and Bangladesh began the 11th edition of their annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI, in Umroi, Meghalaya on October 3, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- SAMPRITI is organized by both countries on a rotation basis and is a symbol of their strong bilateral defense cooperation.
- Around 350 troops from India and Bangladesh will participate in SAMPRITI-XI and the exercise is scheduled to last for 14 days.
- SAMPRITI-XI consists of a **Command Post Exercise (CPX)** and a **Field Training Exercise (FTX)**.
- The CPX consists of 20 officials from each team and focuses on making decisions after thorough deliberations.
- FTX validates ground-level operations and includes joint tactical exercises for counter-terrorism operations, such as hostage rescue and crowd control measures.

Verification Exercises and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' Tools:

- A validation exercise will be conducted at Darrang Field Firing Range in **Assam on October 14 and 15, 2023**.
- During this exercise, participants will see the capabilities of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' equipment highlighting indigenous manufacturing.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations:

- SAMPRITI-XI aims to **enhance defense cooperation between India and Bangladesh.**
- It promotes deeper bilateral relations, cultural understanding and mutual benefit through shared experiences in sub-traditional operations.
- The exercise emphasizes on improving interoperability, sharing tactical expertise and promoting best practices between the two armies.

About Bangladesh

- It is located in South Asia and is bordered by India to the north, east and west and Myanmar to the southeast.
- The country is home to several major rivers, including the Padma (Ganga), Meghna and Jamuna, which flow through the country and create fertile plains important for agriculture.

Capital - **Dhaka**

Currency - **Bangladeshi Taka**

Official Languages - **Bengali, English**

Prime Minister - **Sheikh Hasina**