

President of India Honours Freedom Fighters on the occasion of Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee attended an event to commemorate the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha, at Patna today (April 17, 2017) where he honoured freedom fighters.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that we are today commemorating the hundred years of Champaran Satyagraha.
- Champaran in Bihar served as the laboratory of Satyagraha and National Freedom Movement.
- He said that the symbolic significance of Champaran Satyagraha was much greater than what actually happened in Champaran.
- Along with the Kheda Satyagraha of 1917-1918, the Champaran Satyagraha was the movement responsible for putting Gandhi on the front seat of the Indian nationalist movement and making satyagraha a powerful tool of civilian resistance.

Nation-wide training programme launched for Elected Women representatives (EWRs) of Panchayats



A comprehensive module for capacity building of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayats and a training program for Trainers of women panchayat leaders across the country was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj today.

- The training program was launched at Ranchi, Jharkhand through a video conference, by the Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi in the presence of Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi today.
- The training program seeks to empower EWRs of panchayats by enhancing their capacity, capability and skill in governance and administration of villages.
- Addressing the select women trainers/women sarpanches of Jharkhand at the video conference today, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi said that inspite of 33% reservation for women in the panchayat bodies, the EWRs continue to remain ineffective since they do not have appropriate knowledge and skill to administer the village, and the show continues to be run by their husbands.

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Prakash Javadekar launches Portal and Mobile App of RUSA



Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar today launched the unique portal and mobile app of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a body under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development here in New Delhi.

- Speaking on the occasion Shri Javadekar said “Our Government’s first priority is to improve the quality of primary as well as higher education.
- Unless we improve the quality of education we will not be able to create capable people and good citizen and therefore improvement of quality is the thrust for all our efforts in the educational fields.
- Today this is a unique event as well as experiment wherein we have inaugurated 17 facilities created under Rashtriya Uchchatat Shiksha Abiyan (RUSA) in one go in 14 states”.
- He said that Centre and State Government will be deliberating and discussing upon the modalities for bringing improvement further.
- Under the concept of RUSA the quality of education can go up by improving the research labs infrastructure and creating smart class rooms and various other programmes by which the quality enhancement and value addition to the students happen, Shri Javadekar added.
- The Minister said „RUSA is a success and during the last three years Modi Government has increased the expenditure to the tune of Rs. 2800 crore for this.
- He said we have created infrastructure in many universities, colleges and model colleges.

Army Commander’s Conference Begins



Biannual Army Commander’s Conference commenced on 17 April 2017 with the opening address by Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.

- Army Commander’s Conference is an important event in the planning and execution process of the Indian Army.
- To ensure due diligence, decisions are taken through a collegiate system comprising the Army Commanders and other senior officers who will deliberate upon the prevailing security scenario, strategic and actionable issues to ensure effective combat edge of the Indian Army.
- Gen Bipin Rawat, the Army Chief, in his opening address emphasized that all systems were working well and complimented all those who are working on the ground.

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- He observed that Indian Army continues to hold a strong image and a professional reputation.
- He exhorted all ranks to endeavour to further strengthen the same.

Power Purchase Agreement for Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Project signed



Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, presided over the signing of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) between Delhi Metro Railways Corporation (DMRC) & Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company (MPPMC) with Rewa Ultra Mega

Solar Limited, the implementing agency for the „world’s largest single-site solar power project“, the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Project (UMSPP, 750MW) in Bhopal today.

- Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- Addressing the gathering, Shri Naidu said that Madhya Pradesh is a special state having huge resource base that is being harnessed under Shri Chouhan’s leadership.
- Taking a huge step towards realizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of 24x7 Affordable, Quality Power for All, Madhya Pradesh has successfully brought down the rate of solar power to Rs. 3.30/ unit, which is a huge revolution in its own right, Shri Naidu noted.
- The Minister said that seven cities in the State qualified as smart cities in the first round comprising a total of 20 cities.
- This has been made possible only through people’s active participation and the dynamic leadership in the State, Shri Naidu said.

NDMA to conduct mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand



The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will conduct its first-ever mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand on Thursday (April 20, 2017) to help improve the preparedness and response mechanism in the event of a forest fire.

- The mock exercise will be conducted on the principle of Incident Response System (IRS), which identifies stakeholders and clearly attributes roles and

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responsibilities to each one of them.

- It will enhance preparedness and ensure a swift response by reducing confusion and chaos.
- It will help in filling gaps, ensuring better communication and improving coordination among various stakeholder agencies.
- It will also generate awareness among the local population about the Do's and Don'ts to be followed to prevent and respond to a forest fire.

70th Himachal Day celebrated across Himachal Pradesh



70th Himachal Day was celebrated across Himachal Pradesh (HP) on 15 April 2017. Himachal Pradesh came into existence by merging 30 odd princely states in 1948.

- According to Transparency International Survey 2005, Himachal Pradesh was found to be the second least corrupt state in the country.
- In 1948, Himachal Pradesh's Per Capita Income was Rs 240 and its GDP was Rs 26 crore. However, presently, Per Capita Income and its GDP are Rs 147277 and Rs 124570 crore respectively.
- Literacy rate increased from 7 per cent in 1948 to 82.80 per cent in 2011.
- Out of total 3226 panchayats, 3138 panchayats have been connected with motorable roads.
- HP had electricity only in 6 villages when it was formed and only 331 villages had drinking water facility. But now, every village of Himachal Pradesh has piped electricity facility and water facility.
- There were hardly any schools and health institutions at the time of its formation.
- Now, HP has a government school within a radius of 3 km and health institutions on almost every corner.

M.P. govt. inks pact to set up Asia's largest solar plant



The Madhya Pradesh government has inked a pact with IFC, member of the World Bank Group, to set up the world's largest solar energy plant with a capacity of 750 MW.

- The Rewa Ultra-Mega Solar Power Project will be set up in Gurh tehsil of Rewa district over an area of 1,500 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs 4,500 crore.
- The project will be the largest single-site solar power project in the world, a release said.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Madhya Pradesh Renewable Energy Development Corporation and IFC.

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- “Successful implementation of the Rewa Ultra-Mega Power project will be a key milestone for Madhya Pradesh’s outstanding efforts and leadership in renewable energy and the Centre’s remarkable vision on solar power,” the state’s Energy Minister Rajendra Shukla said.
- IFC, which is working with the Union government to assist in meeting its large-scale solar energy generation goals, is also supporting the state government for the project.