

Indian Warships on Overseas Deployment: Visit Souda Bay, Greece



As part of the Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment (OSD) to the Mediterranean Sea and the West Coast of Africa, four warships, namely Indian Naval Ships Mumbai, Trishul, Tarkash and Aditya, arrived at Souda Bay, Greece for a three-day visit yesterday.

- The warships will engage with the Hellenic Navy during their stay in the country. Apart from professional interactions, a number of sports and social engagements are planned, which would go a long way in enhancing co-operation and understanding between the two navies.
- The visiting ships are part of the Indian Navy's Western Naval Command and are based in Mumbai.
- The Task Group is headed by Rear Admiral RB Pandit, the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, who is flying his flag on the indigenous guided missile destroyer, INS Mumbai.
- The current visit seeks to underscore India's peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly and like-minded countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and to strengthen the existing bonds between India and Greece.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Appreciates India's Climate Actions



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, met the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, here today.

- During the meeting, Shri Dave highlighted India's Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS) train being run as an ongoing climate change awareness programme for various sections of society, especially students.
- The Environment Minister also emphasized the importance of sustainable lifestyles in addressing the climate change issues.
- UNFCCC Executive Secretary praised India's actions as an example for many other countries.
- She emphasized the need to showcase these efforts on international platforms.

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Prakash Javadekar inaugurates National Conference on innovation (Navonmesh) in School Education



Imparting of Quality Education to Students is the crux of the learning outcome process for which we have to strive continuously and it is the Teacher as well as Parents, concerned departments, Educationist and the society in general has to work collectively.

- Our Government has now charted the modalities of learning outcome process.
- Addressing a three day national conference on innovation (Navonmesh) in school education here at NCERT headquarters New Delhi today, Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar emphasised the need to impart quality Education to students in such a manner so that they could come up as good citizens imbued with values.
- Shri Javadekar said we are planning to create awareness among parents and teachers as well as students regarding the norms of education being given at certain level in definitive mode.
- For this posters will be displayed in school across the country.
- Teacher will be provided proper training and accountability will be fixed.
- He said our Government has drawn up the learning outcome charter to improve and ensure the quality of Education.

B.N. Mohapatra takes over as the New Financial Commissioner (FC) of (Railways)



Shri B.N.Mohapatra has been appointed as the new Financial Commissioner (FC) (Railways) and ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India and has taken over the charge on 17/04/2017.

- Prior to this posting, Shri B.N.Mohapatra was posted as Additional Member/ Finance since 01.11.2016.
- An officer of Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) of 1980 examination batch, Shri B.N.Mohapatra completed his post graduation in Political Science and graduation in LLB.
- During his career, Sh. Mohapatra has worked on various higher and middle level management posts on the Indian Railways like DRM/ Tinsukhia, NFR, Assistant General Manager (AGM) on East Coast Railway.

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- In Railway Board he has worked in various directorates like Pay Commission, Establishment, Expenditure and Accounts as Executive Director and Advisor.

Meritorious SC & ST students awarded with Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Awards



Meritorious Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students of Secondary and Senior School examination of year 2016 were awarded with “Dr. Ambedkar National Merit Awards” at a function here today.

- Ministers of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Shri Vijay Sampla and Shri Ramdas Athawale presented the Awards to the SC & ST students who have topped the 10th and 12th standards examination of year 2016. New printed version of „Collected Works of Babasaheb Ambedkar (CWBA)” and a set of Audio CDs on CWBA were released on the occasion.
- The function was organized by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The awards have been distributed in two categories - in the first category, those SC & ST students who has excelled in the Secondary School Examination in the year 2016.
- As there is no female student in First, Second and Third rank, hence special awards have been announced to the highest scoring girl students to encourage the girl child education.
- In the second category of awards, the top graded SC & ST students of Senior Secondary School Examination 2016 have been awarded.
- Total Awardees in 10th Class and 12th Class are 79 & 105. The prize money of First Prize is Rs. 60,000/-, Second Prize is Rs. 50,000/- and Third Prize is Rs. 40,000/-.

ISRO announces launch of South Asia Satellite on 5 May



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be launching its 'South Asia Satellite' on 5 May 2017. The launch aims to benefit all the countries in the region, except Pakistan.

- The news on the agency’s plan to launch South Asia Satellite was confirmed by ISRO chief AS Kiran Kumar during his telephonic interview with PTI. He informed that it’s going up in the first week of May 2017.
- But reports suggest (on basis of ISRO sources) that the launch of this communication satellite (GSAT-9) is scheduled for 5 May 2017. It will be

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launched on board the space agency's rocket GSLV-09 from Sriharikota spaceport.

- The satellite with a lift-mass of 2195 kilogramme would carry 12 ku-band transponders.
- It has been designed for a mission life of more than 12 years.
- Earlier, the satellite was named as SAARC Satellite but was changed to South Asia Satellite when Pakistan was dropped from the list of nations taking part in the project.

World Heritage Day observed



The 2017 World Heritage Day was observed across the world on 18 April 2017. The theme for the year is Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism.

- The theme for the 2017 World Heritage Day was chosen in relation to the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The day aims at raising awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving various sites around the world that have achieved world heritage status.
- As of July 2016, there are 27 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed World Heritage Sites in India that are recognised by the UNESCO.
- These sites are places of importance of cultural or natural heritage as described in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in 1972.
- India's first two sites inscribed on the list at the Seventh Session of the World Heritage held in 1983 were the Agra Fort and the Ajanta Caves.

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