

M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 47th Foundation Day of HUDCO



The Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 47th Foundation Day of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) today and said that HUDCO is playing an important role in taking financial inclusion forward in the country, as it is taking care of the housing finance needs of the

economically deprived sections.

- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said that in the last 47 years, HUDCO had constructed 16 million residential units across the country and over 92 per cent of these dwelling units have benefited the economically weaker sections and low income groups.
- He further said that HUDCO has assisted in the construction of about 67 lakh, viable & low cost sanitation units.
- Shri Naidu said that HUDCO executed 51 MoUs with various Primary Lending Institutions for Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme- Economically Weaker Section/ Low Income Group (CLSS-EWS/LIG) and 21 MoUs for Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Groups (CLSS-MIG).
- He highlighted that HUDCO has achieved the MoU targets in respect of overall sanctions and disbursements and from the past 5 years, HUDCO is continuously getting excellent rating, with Perfect 1 (One) 'MoU Rating' in 2015-16.

Shri Singh inaugurates two-day National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2017



The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 is being organised on 25th and 26th April, 2017 at New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and also addressed by Shri Parshottam Rupala and Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

- The Conference was attended by Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, besides Agriculture Production Commissioners/Principal Secretaries / Secretaries / Directors of the State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing, Senior Scientists from ICAR and other officials from relevant Ministries and agencies.
- In his inaugural address, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare applauded efforts of the Central and State Governments in attaining an estimated record production of about 272 million metric tons in foodgrains and 33.6 million tons oilseeds.
- Shri Singh particularly referred to the expected quantum jump in pulses production, which is estimated at a record breaking 22.14 million metric tons as per the second Advance Estimates. Shri Radha Mohan Singh pointed out to the

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encouraging first stage forecast of the South West monsoon during Kharif 2017 and exhorted the States to make all necessary arrangements of agricultural inputs for our farmers.

- Shri Singh further stressed on the commitment of the Government to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 and the initiatives taken by the Central Government towards this end.
- A roadmap has been prepared to scale up pulses production to 24 MMTs by 2021.

Rajnath Singh pays tribute to the martyred CRPF persone



The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh paid tributes to the martyred CRPF personnel, in Raipur, Chhattisgarh today. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Raman Singh and the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir also paid tributes to the bravehearts who sacrificed their lives in a Naxal

attack in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh yesterday.

- While paying tributes to martyred CRPF personnel, Shri Rajnath Singh said that their sacrifice will not go in vain.
- The Home Minister said that the attack in Sukma is a cold blooded murder by LWE groups and it is an act of cowardice. He said that it is an act of desperation and we have accepted it as a challenge.
- He said that the Government will review the strategy and if necessary, will revisit it. Shri Rajnath Singh said that the Government is working to root out the problem of Left Wing Extremism and LWE groups are anti-development & they do not want development in the area.
- Later, Shri Rajnath Singh visited the injured CRPF personnel at the Ramkrishna Care Hospital, in Raipur and enquired about their health.
- The Union Home Minister and the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh also reviewed the LWE situation in the state at a meeting in Raipur..

Centre Takes Ten New Swachh Iconic Places under Swachh Bharat Mission



The second quarterly review meeting on the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP), an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, was held today at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir.

- Ten Swachh Iconic Places are already implementing action plans in phase 1.
- The meeting was attended by the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri N.N. Vohra; Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar; Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh; Minister of State, J&K, Shri Ajay Nanda; Secretary, Ministry of

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Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer and senior officials from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, States, partnering PSUs and other local bodies.

- On this occasion, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar announced ten new Iconic places to be taken under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative.
- These ten new iconic places which are to be brought to a higher standard of swachhta and visitors' amenities are : 1. Gangotri, 2. Yamunotri. 3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, 4. Char Minar, Hyderabad, 5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa, 6. Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, 7. Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, 8. Baijnath Dham, Devghar, 9. Gaya Tirth in Bihar and 10. Somnath temple in Gujarat.

Prakash Javadekar inaugurates National Consultation on revised Accreditation Framework



Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar today inaugurated the one day National Consultation on Revised Accreditation Framework here in New Delhi.

- Highlighting the importance of quality education the Minister said any accreditation process or any certification or assessment process must also take into account the final product of it.
- Subject knowledge is one thing, the delivery of subject knowledge, infrastructure and building skill component in a student are another part.
- But ultimately the aim of education should be to build a good human being and only that kind of education could be termed creative that is capable of doing so and hence it should also be checked whether the parameters of intention, policy and schemes are getting reflected in the very institution, he said.
- Shri Javadekar appreciated the observations of MoS Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey in this connection and emphasised to think of education in totality and said it must reflect in the ranking of institutions He said quality of education imparted by any institution will be reflected in its adaptability to change.

Tripartite meetings with various communities from Assam held today



Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, held tripartite talks with Govt. of Assam, Six Communities, Adivasi National Convention and all-Koch Rajbongshi Students' Union (P) here today.

- Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju and Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Transport & Parliamentary Affairs,

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- Govt. of Assam met the representatives of these delegations.
- Senior Govt. of India and Govt. of Assam officials were present during the talks.
- The Six Communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Moran, Motok, Tai Ahom, Chutia and Adivasi (Tea Tribes) have been demanding Scheduled Tribe status to these Communities.
- Adivasi National Convention has been demanding ST status for Adivasi Communities in Assam and settlement for the militant groups which surrendered in 2012.
- All Koch Rajbongshi Students' Union (P) has been demanding ST status for Koch Rajbongshis and protection of their political, cultural and linguistic rights.
- All the three meetings were held in cordial atmosphere

Aamir Khan receives Dinanath Mangeshkar Award 2017



Superstar Aamir Khan was on 25 April 2017 honoured with the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award for his film Dangal, which was one of the biggest hits of 2016. The award was bestowed upon him by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

- By receiving the award, Aamir Khan broke his own record of not being part of any awards functions.
- He last attended an award show 16 years ago when Lagaan film was nominated in the Best Film category at the Academy Awards.
- Legendary actress Vyjayanthimala Bali was also honoured with Master Dinanath Vishesh Puraskar for her achievements in Hindi cinema.
- Mohan Wagh Award for best drama was presented to Sunil Barve for Amar Photo Studio Subak Sanstha.
- Uday Nirgudkar received an award for his editorial work while Kaushiki Chakraborty was awarded for her endeavour in the field of music.

Cuba and Morocco re-establish diplomatic ties after 37 years



Cuba and Morocco in the third week of April 2017 signed an agreement to re-establish diplomatic ties after a gap of 37 years.

- The announcement was made by the Cuban Foreign Ministry.
- The agreement, which states "Guided by the mutual will to develop friendly relations, the two governments agreed to reestablish ties as well

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as political, economic and cultural cooperation," was signed by the two countries' envoys to the United Nations in New York.

- Morocco's King Mohamed VI has already ordered the opening of an embassy in Havana. Cuba is one of the few Latin American countries where Rabat was not represented to date.
- After Cuba's diplomatic reestablishment with Morocco, South Korea, Somalia and Israel are the only remaining countries that do not have any ties with the Latin American nation.