

Uma Bharti to launch Water Conservation Programme for Bundelkhand



Union Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Sushri Uma Bharti will launch extensive water conservation programme for drought prone areas of Bundelkhand, Marathwada, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput in Odisha.

- Sushri Bharti will formally launch the programme on April 28, 2017 at Bandri, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).
- Announcing this in New Delhi today the Minister said that her Ministry has prepared a master plan for artificial recharge of groundwater in Bundelkhand region.
- In UP region of Bundelkhand, around 1100 percolation tanks, 14000 small check dams/Nala bunds and 7200 Recharge pits/shafts have been identified.
- In MP region of Bundelkhand, around 2000 percolation tanks, 55000 small check dams/Nala bunds and 17000 Recharge shafts have been identified.
- She said as a part of ground water exploration, 234 wells in UP are proposed to be constructed in five districts of Bundelkhand i.e., Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Chitrakoot and Mahoba.
- As a part of ground water exploration, 259 wells in MP are proposed to be constructed in six districts of Bundelkhand.

Venkaiah Naidu Launches Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council (MSEFC) Portal and MyMSME Mobile App



Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting launched two important initiatives of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ministry of MSME), viz. Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal and MyMSME Mobile App on

the occasion of the 15th Meeting of the National Board for MSME here today.

- Union Minister for MSME Shri Kalraj Mishra and Minister of State for MSME Shri Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary were present on this august occasion
- Shri Kalraj Mishra, speaking on the occasion, said that Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal on <http://msefc.msme.gov.in>, would facilitate implementation of the delayed

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payment provisions of the MSMED Act 2006 and also assist in monitoring of delayed payment cases.

- This online platform is expected to be a significant step in the direction of Digital India from the perspective of the MSME Sector in the country.
- With the access to this platform, micro and small enterprises would be able to file their delayed payment related grievances online.
- The grievance filed would be communicated through email and SMS to the parties involved. It would also help officers of the Ministry of MSME as well as the State Government concerned in monitoring the progress of cases both at the State and National levels.
- He also informed that most of the States have already uploaded the information regarding delayed payment cases on MSEFC portal.
- As on 31.03.2017, 3690 cases involving an amount of Rs.1660 crore are being considered by various MSEFCs.
- In fact, the online portal would be of great help to start-ups since delayed payment is probably the single biggest problem for start-ups.

Government revamps jobs on compassionate ground for Gramin Dak Sevaks



Department of Posts has revamped the existing compassionate engagement scheme offered to the dependent family members of Gramin Dak Sevak.

- A GDS who dies in harness, the dependents of such GDS will benefit from a liberalized and time bound procedure for engagement on compassionate grounds.
- Henceforth, any death of a Gramin Dak Sevak while on engagement would be compensated by a compassionate engagement to a dependent family member irrespective of the circumstances or indigence.
- Upper age limit of the applicant could also be relaxed wherever found to be necessary.
- Thus the new scheme of compassionate engagement will provide greater relief to the members of the family of the deceased GDS who belong to weaker and poorer sections of the society and are thrown into penury and hardship.
- The ambit of dependent family member has also been expanded to include:
 - Married son living with parents and dependent for livelihood on the GDS on the date of death of the GDS
 - Divorced daughter wholly dependent on the GDS at the time of death of the GDS
 - Daughter in law of the deceased GDS who is wholly dependent on the GDS, if the only son of the GDS is pre deceased.

Joint Review Meeting for revival of Closed Fertilizer Plants held



Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar presided over a Joint review meeting on revival plans for closed fertilizer projects under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers here today.

- The review was jointly held with Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Chemical & Fertilizer, Shri Mansukh Lal Mandaviya.
- Senior officers from the three Ministries were present during the meeting.
- Addressing the media after the meeting, Shri Ananthkumar informed that with the revival of the fertilizer projects, Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sindri and Talcher, an additional annual production capacity of 75 LMT would be created making India self-reliant in meeting the annual domestic demand of around 320 LMT, from being a net importer currently.
- Financial allocations and the ground level work would start in 2017 and the five plants would become fully functional by 2020-21, he added.

India successfully test-fires Agni-III ballistic missile



India on 27 April 2017 successfully test-fired 3000 kilometre range Agni-III ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.

- The test was aimed at re-establishing the operational effectiveness of the weapon system.
- The test was carried by the Strategic Forces Command with logistics support from Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Agni-III's first user successful trial was carried out on 21 September 2012.
- This Surface-to-Surface nuclear capable intermediate-range ballistic missile can hit targets in the range of around 3000 km.
- The two-stage solid-propelled missile has a length of 17 metres, 2 metres diameter and its launch weight is around 50 tonnes.
- It can carry a warhead of 1.5 tonne which is protected by carbon all composite heat shield.

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President confers the 52ND Jnanpith Award on Prof. Sankha Ghosh



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the 52nd Jnanpith Award on Prof. Sankha Ghosh in New Delhi today (April 27, 2017).

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that a poet and critique par excellence, a teacher of reputation, a recipient of the Sahitya

Akademi award, way back in 1977, Padma Bhushan Prof. Sankha Ghosh is indeed the most deserving recipient of this award.

- A professor of Bengali and an authority in his own right on the works of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Prof. Sankha Ghosh represents the fluid brilliance that characterizes India's multifarious literary genius.
- It is indeed an example of his brilliant fluidity that an author who strove to master Bengali academically, expressed himself in perhaps the most difficult literary genre of poetry.
- The President said that in conferring the award on Prof. Sankha Ghosh the selection board noted that his poetic idiom and experiments with various poetic forms mark his greatness as a creative talent.
- They also observed that Prof. Ghosh's poetry, while conveying messages, have remained free from polemics.
- One look at his works, be it Adim Lata- Gulmomay, Murkho Baro Samajik Noy or Baborer Parthana, to name a few, and one would be left in no doubt about every word of the observations mentioned by the selection board to be to the point and correct.

President of India presents CII president's Award for Lifetime Achievement and CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented CII President's Award for Lifetime Achievement to Mr. Rahul Bajaj and CII foundation Woman Exemplar Award in New Delhi today (April 27, 2017).

- Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated all the awardees – Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Chairman, Bajaj Auto Ltd. for receiving this year's CII President's Award for Lifetime Achievement and those conferred with Woman Exemplar Awards.
- He said that the institution of the CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award in 2005 is a welcome initiative to promote women's empowerment at the

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community level by discovering and recognizing those who have, against all odds, excelled and contributed significantly to the development process in India.

- This will be a great encouragement for the countless number of women who are contributing in different ways to strengthening our nation and its economy.
- The President reminded Industry that just as much as funds, the country also needs their ideas, energy and drive.
- He urged them to leverage CSR to re-imagine interventions and transformative solutions to address the higher developmental challenges in India.
- He emphasized that they should have a pan-Indian outlook and not limit themselves to a few geographies for CSR development. He stated that given the magnitude of the challenges before our country and the relatively short time available to address them, partnerships will play a very crucial role.
- It is important to collaborate for achieving scale, developing solutions to complex social problems and for technology development.

India & Cyprus sign Work Plan for 2017–18 in the Agriculture Sector



India and Cyprus here today signed Work Plan for 2017–18 to implement an already signed MOU for cooperation in the agriculture sector.

- It covers areas such as joint research projects, training/exchange programme for scientists/experts working in the specific fields in various institutes of the two countries, exchange of germplasms and technology, promotion of private sector participation and joint workshops and conferences etc.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare welcomed Shri Nicos Kouyialis and said that India's relations with Cyprus have always been warm and friendly with the two countries supporting each other's' views on various international matters.
- Shri Singh said that India has achieved tremendous progress in the Agriculture and Allied Sectors, which remains a principal source of income in the country.
- The government is working not only to accelerate agricultural production to meet the rising demand for food, but also to increase the income of those dependent on agriculture.
- Union Agriculture Minister said further said the government has set a

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target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 and briefly highlighted the initiatives taken in this regard.

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