

## Signing of MoU between CSIR & KVS



Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in the national capital today. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme.

- The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.
- Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Human Resource Development.
- Addressing the gathering, the Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Harshvardhan said, that the Jigyasa programme was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a new India and "Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)" of scientific community and institutions.
- It is a historic day when two ministries are collaborating on the Youth who are the future of the nation. The day also coincides with the birthday of Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee who is an inspirational figure and a role model for all Indians.

## Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres to be established in 100 districts of the country



The Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established in 100 districts of the country which will effectively ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.

- Shri Naqvi said that in next six months, Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres, providing job oriented skill training in various fields, will be established in Hyderabad, Noida, Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Indore, Allahabad, Mysore, Chennai, Goa, Gauhati, Kolakata, Patna, Kishanganj, Dehradun, Shahjahanpur, Rampur, Ranchi, Giridih, Mewat, Tijara, Panipat, Delhi, Uddhamsingh Nagar, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Mumbai etc.
- The Minority Affairs Minister today felicitated candidates, belonging to Minority communities, selected in the prestigious civil services examination who got financial assistance under "Nai Udaan" scheme, for coaching and preparation of competitive exams, of Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Shri Naqvi said that education is solution to several problems including poverty. Through education, we can also tackle menace of radicalism and terrorism.

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## India declares itself free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H5N8)



India had reported outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza at various epicenters in Delhi, Gwalior (MP), Rajpura (Punjab), Hissar (Haryana), Bellary (Karnataka), Allappuzha and Kottayam (Kerala), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Daman (Daman) and Khordha and Angul (Odisha) during October, 2016 to February, 2017.

- All the outbreaks of Avian Influenza (HPAI) mentioned above were notified to OIE and the control and containment operations were carried out as per the Action Plan on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza.
- Surveillance was carried out throughout the country and around the areas of the outbreaks since completion of the operation (including culling, disinfection and clean-up) and surveillance in the states showed no evidence of presence of Avian Influenza Virus.

## Ministry of Food Processing Industry establishes GST facilitation cell to guide industry about GST regime



The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has established a four member GST Facilitation Cell at its office to guide the industry about the new tax regime.

- The members of the GST Facilitation Cell can be accessed through Toll Free No 1800111175 or on #AskonGSTFPI. Further details can be accessed from <http://www.mofpi.nic.in>
- The ministry has created a GST cell for the purpose of implementation and facilitating the rollout of GST with immediate effect. The GST facilitation cell will provide all possible support for the rollout of the levy to the major industry and business associations related to MoFPI.
- This cell will serve as the first point of contact to address any issue being faced by any sector related to the ministry. The GST cell will be equipped with the complete knowledge of the relevant GST Act, rules, rate structure etc.
- The cell will be headed by Shri Bijaya Kumar Behera, Economic Advisor and Shri G Srinivasan, senior marketing officer, Shri S N Ahmed, Assistant Director, Shri Bikram Nath, Assistant Director as its Members.
- The Ministry is in the process of organising several programmes for the industry to sensitise associates about GST, and has also planned to conduct seminars to disseminate information about the new tax regime.

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**ECONOMY**

## Achal Kumar Joti takes over as new Chief Election Commissioner of India



Shri Achal Kumar Joti has assumed charge as the 21st Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, succeeding Dr. Nasim Zaidi here today.

- Dr. Zaidi demitted office yesterday after completing his tenure.
- After the assumption of charge, Shri Joti spoke about the priorities of the Commission and said that the Commission shall pursue vigorously its commitment to hold free, fair, inclusive and credible elections throughout the country.
- Secondly, the Commission will also pursue its mission to ensure that “No Voter to be Left Behind”. Thirdly, the Commission shall actively promote e-Governance for holding of elections to the State Assemblies and Parliamentary Elections in the country, Shri Jyoti added.
- Shri Jyoti has served as Election Commissioner since 13th May, 2015.
- During his tenure as Election Commissioner, State Assembly elections in the States of Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa were successfully conducted.

Appointments

## Sanjay Kumar takes charge as DG, NDRF



Shri Sanjay Kumar, is 1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Himachal Pradesh Cadre.



- He took charge as the Director General (DG) of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), today.
- The post of DG, NDRF fell vacant after incumbent Shri R K Pachnanda was appointed as the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- Prior to the appointment as DG, NDRF, Shri Sanjay Kumar was serving as Director General of Police in Himachal Pradesh.

Appointments

## Pankaj Advani defeats Sourav Kothari to win Asian Billiards Championship



Pankaj Advani on 14 April 2017 defeated Sourav Kothari 6-3 to win the Asian Billiards Championship final held in Chandigarh.

- It is Advani's seventh Asian title.

Sports

- Born on 24 July 1985, Pankaj Arjan Advani is an Indian professional player of English billiards and former professional snooker player.
- He has achieved a hat-trick of hat-tricks in English billiards, holding the World, Asian, and Indian National Championship titles simultaneously, in three different years: 2005, 2008 and 2012.
- In 2012, he became a snooker professional.
- He won the 2014 IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship, on his debut in that discipline.

### **Indian national team rises to 96<sup>th</sup> in FIFA rankings**



Indian national football team climbed four places to sit on the 96th position in the latest FIFA rankings updated on 6 July 2017.

- It is the second highest ranking for the country ever.
- In addition, it is India's highest FIFA ranking under coach Stephen Constantine.
- The rankings were updated following India's 2-0 win against Nepal in a friendly match.
- The national team also emerged victorious against Kyrgyzstan in AFC Asian Cup 2019 qualifiers group match held in June 2017.
- India currently scores 341 points, seven points behind 95th placed Cyprus.
- Earlier in May 2017, the Indian football team had made into the top 100 of the FIFA World Rankings for the first time in 21 years.
- It was in February 1996 that India was placed on the 94th spot, which is the country's best ever FIFA ranking.

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AFFAIRS