

Army's Super-40 initiative



Army Chief today met and complimented the students from Army's Super-40 coaching initiative that has been training local children to take Engineering Entrance Examination.

- Army's Super - 40 initiative for coaching the J&K youth for Engineering Entrance Exams broke all previous records when 26 boys and two girls from the state cracked the IIT-JEE Mains Exam 2017.
- Nine students have successfully qualified the IIT Advanced Exam, the results of which were declared on 11 June 17.
- The coaching is conducted at Srinagar by Army, its training partner Centre for Social Responsibility & Learning (CSRL) and Petronet LNG.
- This was also the first batch in which five girls from Kashmir valley were coached, out of which two had qualified in the JEE Mains.

India to be Co-Partner Country in ANUGA 2017



Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal today addressed a Joint Press Conference with the organizers of ANUGA - an international business platform for Food Industry to be held in Cologne, Germany.

- She also signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the ANUGA Exhibition with Ms Katharina C Hamma, Chief Operating Officer, Koelnmesse GmbH (Organizers of ANUGA).
- Minister of Food Processing Industries said that it was an honour for India to be a co-partner country in such a prestigious international event.
- "It gives us the opportunity to showcase our strengths and opportunities to an international audience".
- The Minister also said that Food Processing Sector has lots of challenges to deal with but due to the transformation happening in this sector in the last 3 years, the industry is ready to overcome the obstacles.
- Smt Badal said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the last 3 years, our Government has started nine Mega Food Parks; strengthening cold chain infrastructure; implementing Kisan-SAMPADA scheme with allocation of Rs 6000 crore; creation of corpus of Rs. 2000 Crore with NABARD for priority lending to the food processing industries; rationalising taxes; allowing 100% FDI in retail market for Food sector, etc.
- These steps will help the Government in achieving its vision of making India a Global Food Factory rather than being a market place only. "Brand India will be standing parallel with Brand ANUGA in Cologne, Germany", said the Minister. Smt Badal said infact Germany could be invited to partner in World Food India to be organized shortly by the Government of India.
- The Minister recognised the importance for India to be showcasing its strength in Food Processing Industries by participating in various International Food Exhibitions like SIAL in France and ANUGA in Germany.

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51 EMR Schools made Functional during The Last three years



Ministry of Tribal Affairs has actively initiated various efforts during the last three years to make more Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) functional. As a result, 51 new EMRS were made functional during the last three years.

- 161 EMR Schools are functional right now, while this figure was at 110 in the year 2013-14. More than 52 thousand tribal students are taking education in 161 EMR Schools of 26 States.
- Eklavya Model Residential School Scheme was started in 1998 and first school was started in the year 2000 in Maharashtra.
- A total of 259 schools have been sanctioned during the last 17 years, out of which, 72 EMRS were sanctioned during last three years. EMRSs have been functioning as institutions of excellence for tribal students.
- Results of these schools have been generally better than other Government schools in the tribal areas. Average pass percentage of students in Class Xth and XIIth in these EMRS is above 90%.
- Many EMRS students have been reported to be faring well in higher studies and competitive examinations.
- In order to further educational opportunities for more ST children, Government seeks to extend the facility of EMRSs in all the 672 Blocks where ST population is more than 50% of the total population in a span of next five years.

Meeting on Draft Ganga Bill Held



The committee constituted to review the provisions of the draft National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Bill, 2017 held its meeting in New Delhi today.

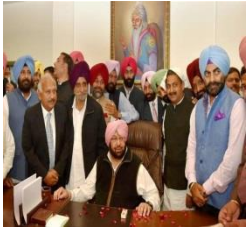
- The meeting held under the chairmanship of Director General, NMCG Shri UP Singh discussed various aspects of the Bill specially the preamble, definitions and some others chapters.
- Shri Sanjay Kundu, Joint Secretary (PP) of the Union Water Resources Ministry, Shri Purushaindra Kaurav, Advocate General, Madhya Pradesh and Shri Arun Kumar Gupta, Advocate, Allahabad High Court attended the meeting.
- This committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to examine the salient features of the draft National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Bill, 2017.
- The bill addresses the critical issues pertaining to River Ganga on its cleanliness (Nirmalta) and un-interrupted e-flow (Aviralta) and provides

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- corresponding penalty provisions thereof.
- The committee also recognized the enormous challenges being faced to maintain the wholesomeness of the River perpetuated due to over stressed water demand from agricultural, domestic and industrial sectors.

Punjab government okays 33% reservation for women in state jobs



In a major decision, the Punjab cabinet has decided to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs.

- The decision was taken in the first cabinet meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here, said an official spokesperson.
- He added women will be given the reservation also in the contractual appointments of the state government.
- Reaffirming the Punjab Congress's commitment towards empowerment of women, the cabinet also decided to increase their representation in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) from the present 33 per cent to 50 per cent, the spokesperson said.
- A series of decisions were also taken for the benefit of freedom fighters. The cabinet has decided to provide a house to every freedom fighter in the place he resides, besides allocating 300 units of free electricity every month, he said.
- It was also decided to provide one out-of-turn tube well connection to the freedom fighters and to exempt them from paying toll tax for state highways, the spokesperson added.

New Planet Is Largest Discovered That Orbits Two Suns



Astronomers have discovered two new gas giant planets, orbiting a star located about 138 light years away from the Earth.

- One of the two worlds is a Saturn-mass planet, while the other one is a cold exoplanet several times more massive than Jupiter, researchers said.
- The two planets orbit a star HD 27894, which was first detected in 2005 and is about 20 per cent less massive than the Sun. Researchers led by Trifon Trifonov of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany analysed the archival and new data to find additional planets in the HD 27894 system.
- The study detected the presence of two gas giant exoplanets, which received designations HD 27894 c and HD 27894 d.
- HD 27894 c has a mass of about 0.16 Jupiter masses, an orbital period of 36 days and is circling its host at a distance of 0.2 Astronomical Units (AU), 'Phys.org' reported.

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- HD 27894 d has a mass of about 5.4 Jupiter masses. It takes the planet over 14 years to complete one full orbit, as it is located almost 5.5 AU from the host. "The co-existence of a massive, distant, and moderately eccentric Jovian planet and a possibly resonant inner pair of massive planets makes the HD 27984 system truly unique," the researchers said.

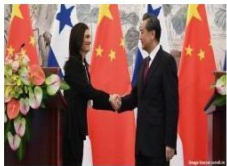
Centre to set up 100 AYUSH hospitals across country



Centre to set up 100 AYUSH hospitals The Centre has approved proposals for setting up of 100 Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) hospitals across the country.

- The same was revealed by the Minister of state for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik.
- The Minister said that during the last three years the Union government had approved posting of 4000 AYUSH doctors in primary health centres across the country.
- He added that their salaries are being paid by the Union government.
- The minister further stated that an AYUSH hospital equivalent to AIIMS would be opened within a month in New Delhi.
- Besides this, the Union Ministry had approved setting up of two 50-bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals at Theni and Tiruvannamalai districts in Tamil Nadu.
- Further, a total of Rs 283.6 lakh has been released out of sanctioned amount of Rs 563 crore for conservation and development of medicinal plants across Tamil Nadu.

Panama cuts diplomatic ties with Taiwan, establishes relations with China



Central American nation, Panama has cut its long-standing ties with Taiwan, choosing to establish diplomatic relations with China instead.

- The Panamanian government said that it recognised there was "only one China" and considered Taiwan part of it.
- The switch was made official with Panama's foreign minister signing a communiqué with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on 13 June 2017 in Beijing.
- The move leaves Taiwan with just 20 diplomatic allies.
- Confirming the development, Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela stated during a media address that Panama was upgrading its commercial ties with China and establishing full diplomatic links with the second most important customer of its key shipping canal.
- He further added saying that signing up to Beijing's "One China" principle would generate a great potential in all areas including investment and job creation.

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