

Dear Students

FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION

“The big challenge is to become all that you have the possibility of becoming. You cannot believe what it does to the human spirit to maximize your human potential and stretch yourself to the limit.” –Jim Rohn

The ordinary exist and exit. The extraordinary live and inspire. We have plenty of inspirational stories to share in this issue- the indomitable spirit and courage of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose that lit the fire of patriotism in youth; the remarkable dedication to profession of Dr. V. Shanta in the field of cancer cure and of D. Sivan who literally walked the extra mile(s) just to deliver the long awaited mail; the wonders cooperation and coordination can create as amply demonstrated by the simple villagers of Navlewadi, Chauras, Koraput, Puzhakkal and Gondwal; how even distress can bring out the best as substantiated by S.S. Paliwal and many more.

We update you on the latest efforts of the Union and State governments towards enriching lives through development of sports, scientific research, business enterprise and medical care. To satisfy your appetite for curiosity we have interesting snippets from the ancient times to the latest on a wide spectrum of topics.

We look forward to your support and suggestions.

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Vaccine Maitri - Nursing the World Back To Health

“Hope is the only thing stronger than fear”, said President Snow in The Hunger Games.

Today, when the entire world is barely coping with the pandemic, global supply chains coming under severe distress and millions of businesses permanently shut worldwide, India has become the ‘pharmacy of the world’ shipping life-saving vaccines across the world.

Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles, Myanmar, Bahrain, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Oman, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are some of the countries receiving vaccines developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca and manufactured by the **Serum Institute of India** (world’s largest vaccine manufacturer) under the **Vaccine Maitri** initiative.



CARICOM (a group of 20 Island countries), **the Pacific states, Nicaragua, Canada and Mongolia** are among many others in line to receive them. Plans are also in place to further supply 10 million doses to **Africa** and 1 million to **UN health workers** under GAVI's COVAX facility.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. India has provided 2 million Covishield doses in a week for free and unconditionally. When India went from being a net importer of masks, ventilators and PPE kits to a net exporter, its manufacturing efficiency and capacity building skills were on display for the global community.

Countries near and far receiving life-saving Indian vaccines is a significant world event that has put the land of Yoga and Ayurveda as a global heart-winner. In nursing the world back to health, India is walking its talk. international sentiments towards it have taken a sharp turn, going from “a poor handler of the pandemic” to being “the world’s saviour” in a few months. The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres tweeted, “The capacity to produce vaccines of India is one of the best assets that the world has today.”

India’s first indigenously developed vaccine by Bharat Biotech in partnership with Indian Council for Medical Research, Covaxin, is going to be shipped globally to countries such as USA and Brazil. The phase 1 and 2 of the clinical trials of the vaccine have shown that the vaccine is effective against the coronavirus. Phase 3 trials are on with around 26,000 plus volunteers in India.

The setting up of a COVID-19 emergency fund at SAARC, contributing development assistance worth US\$ 15.9 billion to Asian countries and delivering vaccines to many maritime countries in the Indian Ocean Region as part of India’s SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy are some noteworthy initiatives which establish India as an emerging benevolent leader in the region.



PRARAMBH



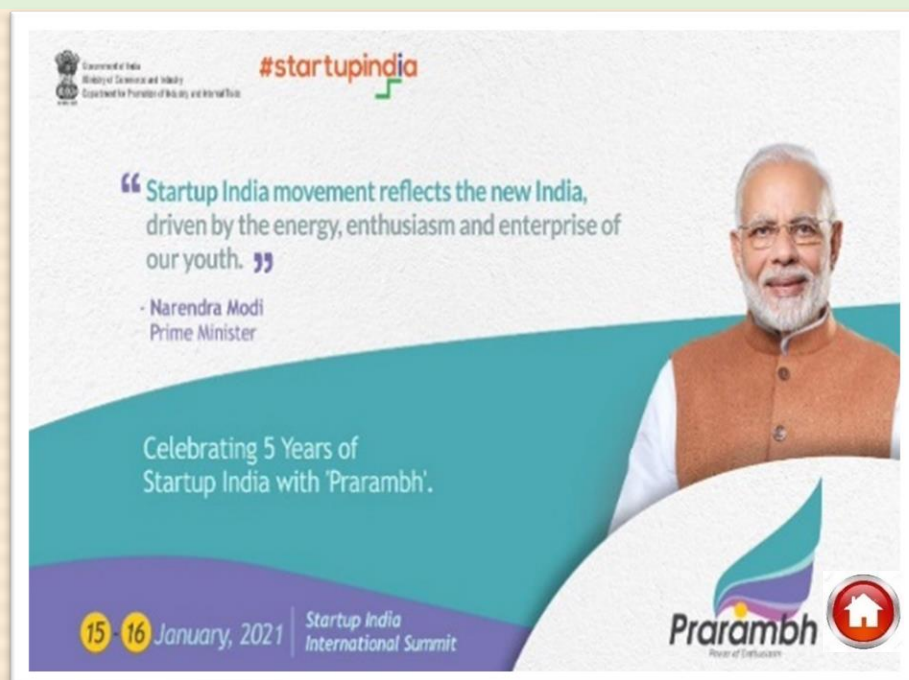
The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal inaugurated the two-day ‘Prarambh’, Startup India International Summit in New Delhi on 15th January 2021.

Prarambh (‘an auspicious beginning’) is expected to bring together top policy makers, industry, academia, investors, start-ups and all stakeholders from across the globe.

The Summit marked the fifth anniversary of the **Startup India** initiative. Participants were members of **BIMSTEC** (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries.

Objectives

- ➔ Encourage, inspire and develop capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship especially in youth
- ➔ Exchange knowledge on best practices on nurturing start-up ecosystems
- ➔ Mobilize global and domestic capital for investments into start-ups
- ➔ Provide opportunities to start-ups for entering domestic (private and public) and international markets
- ➔ Showcase high-quality, high technology and frugal innovations from India
- ➔ Enable ease of doing business for start-ups and investors.



For more information, log on to <https://www.theprarambh.in/>



India’s Highest Meteorological Centre At Leh

Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the meteorological centre (MC) at Leh in Ladakh via video conferencing on 29th December 2020. The centre would provide localised weather forecasts in the region, strengthening the early warning system which will benefit the locals, tourists, defence sector, disaster management and agriculture departments.

- ➔ It is the second MC located in the Himalayas. The first is in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ➔ At 3,500 metres, it is the highest in India.
- ➔ It will provide short-range (three days,) medium-range (12 days) and long-range (one month) forecast for Leh and Kargil districts of the Union Territory.



Coastal Research Vessel Sagar Anveshika Launched

On 9th January 2021, Union Minister for Earth Sciences, **Harsh Vardhan** launched Coastal Research Vehicle (CRV) 'Sagar Anveshika' at the Chennai Port, which will enable scientists to conduct various research missions by National Institute of Ocean technology (NIOT) in both coastal and offshore waters. Built by Titagarh Wagons, Kolkata, Anveshika is a DP -Capable vessel.



Sagar Anveshika

- is equipped with advanced navigation systems as well as research apparatus such as multibeam echosounder, ADCP, sub-bottom profiler, etc. with modern laboratories equipped with latest instruments.
- can explore deep ocean which is a source of water, food, mineral and energy.
- will help in identifying potential fishing zones which will strengthen the economy.
- will enhance weather forecasting with real-time information on cyclones etc., thereby enabling adequate disaster management measures.
- can accommodate as many as 8 scientists and 12 crew members for an endurance of 15 days for about 15 to 16 hours.

Did you know?

- ADCP (Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler) is a hydroacoustic current meter similar to a sonar, used to measure water current velocities over a depth range using the Doppler effect of sound waves scattered back from particles within the water column.
- Dynamic positioning (DP) is a computer-controlled system to automatically maintain a vessel's position and heading by using its own propellers and thrusters.
- NIOT's Research Vessels – Sagar Kanya, Sagar Sampada, Sagar Nidhi, Sagar Manjusha, Sagar Paschmi, Sagar Purvi and Sagar Tara
- National Institute of Ocean Technology Headquarters is in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



AIS Name	SAGARANVESHKA	Length	33 m
Type	Ship	Width	14 m
Flag	India	Draught Avg	2.3 m / ...
IMO	9867217	Speed Avg/Max	4.9 kn / 11.4 kn
MMSI	419001422	Deadweight
Call sign	VTAR	Gross Tonnage
Year Built	—	AIS Class	—



India's Youngest Mayor



Arya Rajendran (21), sworn in as the Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation, is the youngest mayor in India. She is still pursuing her B.Sc (Mathematics) from the All Saints College.

A CPI-M party member, she began her political journey as a child activist in Bala Sangam, the children's organisation affiliated to the CPI-M. She was in Class V then. Both her father (an electrician) and mother (LIC agent) have been CPI-M members for decades.

Arya Rajendran is the state president of Bala Sangam ; a state committee member of Students' Federation of India and also serves as CPI(M)'s area committee member at Chala. As the youngest candidate of CPI (M) from Mudavanmugal ward in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation in 2020 civic body elections, she defeated the United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Sreekala by 2872 votes.

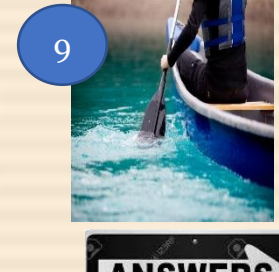
Arya succeeds VK Prasanth, who, at 34 was the youngest mayor of Thiruvananthapuram in 2015. She also broke the record of Sabitha Beegam (29), the youngest Indian Mayor – also first among Muslims – when she took over the Kollam Municipal Corporation in 2000.

Among the priorities that Arya has listed are waste management and setting up more primary health centres in Thiruvananthapuram.

CURIOSITY corner

An **idiom** is a widely used phrase when taken as a whole, has a particular meaning that one cannot deduce from the meanings of the individual words. Idioms are part of figurative language.

They add richness to writing, help **express complex ideas simply, add humour and keep the reader stimulated.**



ANSWERS

News Maker of The Month



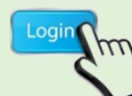
That not all superheroes wear capes seems apt for Coonoor-based 65-year-old retired postman D. Sivan. His inspiring story came to light when IAS officer Supriya Sahu tweeted about him. While not all jobs are easy, some people go the extra mile to complete their tasks. **D Sivan** is one such.

In 1985, Sivan joined the Indian Postal Service as a stamp collector in Wellington and in 2010, he became a Gram Dak Sevak (mail deliverer) and retired in March 2020. He lived much of his life trekking from the Hillgrove Post Office to nearby plantations.

Sivan never took a day off, because he knew how important each letter, money order and pension was for the villagers. One day he encountered a herd of elephants and the mother elephant charged at him. A truck driver nearby honked at the animal and saved Sivan's life. Now, the animals, including wild gaurs, are so familiar with Sivan that some even share a friendly nod when they encounter him.

Sivan may not be saving lives, but he is nothing less than a superhero. Here's his story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayo5xPit7U&feature=emb_logo



Artificial Intelligence Policy of Tamilnadu

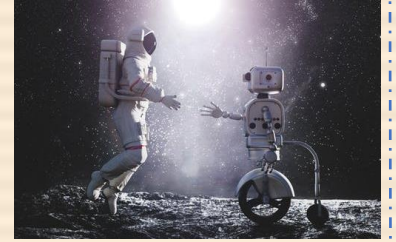


One of the technological inventions that revolutionized human lives in the modern world is Artificial Intelligence (AI). Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Shri. Edappadi K Palaniswamy recently announced Safe & Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy.

What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

AI refers to the development and use of machines that can think like humans and mimic their actions such as learning, reasoning and problem-solving.

Artificial Intelligence is used widely in human lives today – to support astronauts in space exploration; in self-driving cars; to provide customer support, detect anomalies and credit card frauds in banking; to analyse data and predict future trends in financial markets; to help farmers find more efficient ways to protect their crops from weeds; for diagnostics and in complicated surgical operations; in defence for analysing enemy movements, planning operations and also providing ground support to soldiers in the warfront.



Key features of TN's AI Policy

- (i) Using AI in E-governance so that public services can be efficient, economical and transparent.
- (ii) Promoting investment in AI research and development. A research centre is to be formed.
- (iii) Identifying possible AI applications in various departments and forming expert groups.
- (iv) Building a network for the State to function as the single source of truth for all government processes and data.
- (v) Upholding cyber security and preventing exploitation of data collected from the public by outside agencies.
- (vi) Holding open AI challenges for enthusiasts, students, teachers and start-ups.



For further reading refer: <https://elcot.in/sites/default/files/AIPolicy2020.pdf>



First-Ever Khelo India Winter Sports Festival in Ladakh



Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju inaugurated the first-ever Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports Festival on 21st January 2021, at Padum in Zaskar, organised by Ladakh's sport and youth services and tourism department under the Khelo India Program.

Due to extreme weather conditions, Zaskar used to remain virtually cut off from the rest of world for several months but no more now.

The 13-day festival from 18th to 30th January was organised by the Ladakh UT Administration aiming to promote Zaskar as a hub for adventure, tourism and sports, and boost its economy. Many officials, participants and a large number of sports lovers graced this occasion.

Key highlights:

- The winter sports festival comprises of trekking on the frozen Zaskar River, ice climbing, snow skiing, snow scooter, ice hockey, snow sculpture and ethnic food festival.
- One important event is Yak Riding. The Union Sports Minister rode on a Yak in Skisherak-Pibiting.
- In upcoming years, the ministry has plans to promote Ladakh as a centre for ice hockey, archery



Know Your Constitution

Why is Republic Day Important?

Every year 26th January is celebrated with zeal and pride in the country capital and state capitals because on this day in 1930, the Indian National Congress declared Purna Swaraj India's independence. However, that dream materialised only in 1947. The Constituent Assembly decided to implement the constitution on January 26th, marking it as Republic Day.

First Republic Day.

Venue: Irwin Amphitheatre (now Major Dhyan Chand Stadium)
The parade: Cultural performances and an army marching band.
Chief guest: Indonesian President Sukarno and Lady Sukarno

The Constitution Drafting Committee

1. Alladi Krishnaswami,
2. N. Gopalaswami;
3. B.R. Ambedkar,
4. K.M Munshi,
5. Md Saadulla,
6. B.L. Mitter and
7. D.P. Khaitan.

Sir Benegal Narsing Rao
(Constitutional Advisor).



<p>STAGE-I (13.12.1946 – 22.01.1947) The Constituent Assembly began framing the Constitution</p>	<p>STAGE-II (27.02.1947 – 30.08.1947) Many Advisory committees formed. E.g., Fundamental Rights and Minority Rights</p>	<p>STAGE-III (01.10.1947 – 31.10.1947) Draft submitted to the Drafting Committee. Constitutional Advisor – B N Rau</p>	<p>STAGE-IV (27.10.1947 – 21.02.1948) Scrutiny of Draft Constitution prepared by the Constitutional Advisor and the draft submitted to the President of the Assembly on the 21.02.1948</p>
<p>STAGE-V (26.10.1948) The Draft was circulated among the public for inputs. Taking these inputs into account, the Drafting Committee reprinted and resubmitted the version of the Draft Constitution along with a set of amendments.</p>		<p>STAGE-VI Draft Constitution presented on 04.11.1948 by B.R. Ambedkar. Debates till 17.10.1949</p>	<p>STAGE-VII The revised version introduced on 14.11.1949.</p>
<p>STAGE-VIII Second Reading. Many amendments moved.</p>	<p>STAGE-IX Ambedkar moved the motion 'that the Constitution as settled by the assembly be passed'. A few substantive debates.</p>	<p>STAGE-X Third Reading. 26.11.1949: Constituent Assembly voted for the motion 24.01.1950: Final version signed 26.01.1950: Comes to effect</p>	



A Government of Many Firsts

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were initiated into their offices in the White House on 20th January 2021.

This administration has many firsts in the country's history.

Earlier, the Presidential Election was muddled in controversy with claims of voting fraud by outgoing Republican President Donald Trump which culminated in the **Capitol building siege** by Trump's supporters.

The **oldest President** at 78, Joe Biden is the 46th President.

A **woman is in position of power** in the White House for the first time.

This is the first US administration to feature the **maximum number of Indian Americans in command**.

Some of the notable positions are –

- Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget Surgeon General
- Associate Attorney General
- Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights;
- Deputy Director at the US National Economic Council (NEC) in the White House
- Director of Speechwriting
- Assistant Press Secretary to the President
- Policy Advisor for Testing for the White House Covid-19 Response Team.

Apart from these, three Indian-Americans are part of the crucial National Security Council of the White House, steering the country's foreign policy and national security.



This is the first time **the First Lady will be working**.

Jill Biden is all set to keep her job. It may be noted that Jill Biden had continued her teaching job, even whilst serving as the Second Lady of the United States for 8 years during the Obama administration. She unapologetically proclaimed in an interview about the need for the country to respect teachers. This will serve as an inspiration to millions of women whose husbands are in public life.

The US for the first time will have a '**Second Gentleman**' Douglas Emhoff. Douglas has resigned his job to support his wife in her new role. Interestingly, there are no provisions in the US Constitution that actually define a position called the Second Gentleman.

Doug Emhoff is the first **Jewish spouse of an American Vice President**.



India and Japan for ICT Collaboration



India and Japan have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector.

The Memorandum of Cooperation:

The MoU was signed by the Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad, and the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Takeda Ryota. The agreement was exchanged through a video conference on 15th January 2021. This sets a framework for collaborations in the field of ICT, including 5G, artificial intelligence (AI) and submarine cable networks.

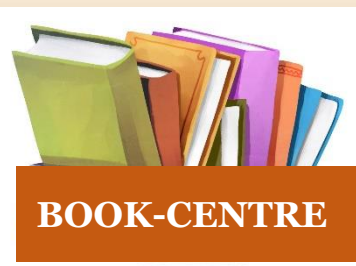
It also covers telecom security, human resource development, promotion of dialogue between Japanese and Indian industries including start-ups among other ICT-related issues.

International arena:

This MoC will ensure cooperation in the international arena including in the United Nations; discussing and sharing strategies to promote the integrity of the supply chain of ICT products; strengthening the security of ICT infrastructure through government-to-government and business-to-business cooperation, and continuing dialogue and engagement in Internet governance.

Beyond 5G

It has been agreed that Government of India organizations such as C-DOT and ITI Limited along with industry partners from Japan will also be part of this cooperation. Under Japan-India ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework of 2014, NEC, a Japanese company, laid the submarine optical fibre cables between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar. Similarly, Olympus is working with the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology in Hyderabad to introduce AI assisted diagnosis of colonoscopy.



The Incredible History of India's Geography

In The Incredible History of India's Geography, Sanjeev Sanyal presents history in an unbiased and engaging manner.

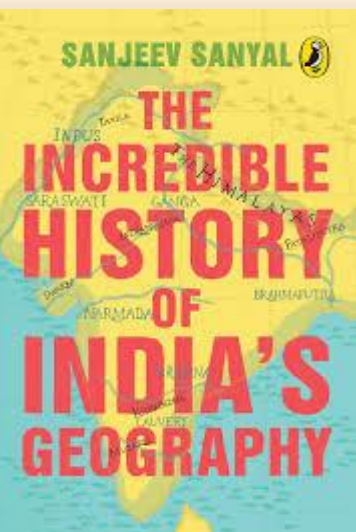
With fascinating examples, he argues convincingly that the geography of a land plays a pivotal role in shaping its history and that understanding history can help us make wiser decisions.

The author views the Ramayana and Mahabharata through the lens of geography and this shift in focus makes it interesting for young readers, instilling in them a curiosity for Indian epics.

Sanjeev Sanyal provides compelling factual and scientific evidence to bust a few myths - Aryan Invasion Theory and that Saraswathi was a mythical river.

The book chooses to leave readers with questions at certain places, thereby making space for them to ponder and explore more. For example, he presents the tale of India's civilisational continuity and wonders why Indians hadn't opposed the British strongly if their strong sense of civilisational identity was true.

Unarguably, this book will remain one of the best history books for children, packed with intriguing questions, amusing facts and neat illustrations.



P.M. Modi Honours Netaji



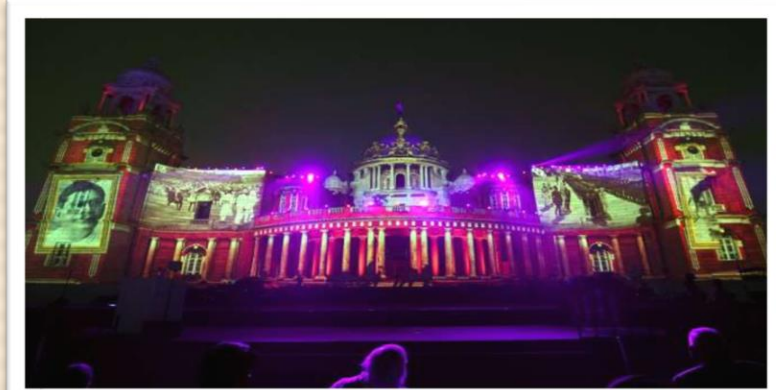
Prime Minister Modi participated in the celebrations marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on 23rd January 2021.

PM visited Netaji Bhawan (the mansion where Netaji's family lived) which now houses a museum. The Wanderer car that Netaji used to escape from British India, Netaji's uniforms, swords and old photographs were among other things displayed.

Then PM visited the National Library where an international conference on "Re-visiting the legacy of Netaji Subhas in the 21st century" and an Artists' Camp were organized. He interacted with the artists and participants.

Later, at the Victoria Memorial grounds, presiding over the inaugural function, PM announced that the country will celebrate Netaji's birth anniversary (23rd January) every year as 'Parakram Divas' in order to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation. PM Modi hailed Netaji as an embodiment of India's might and inspiration. A permanent exhibition and a Projection Mapping Show on Netaji was inaugurated on the occasion.

A commemorative coin and postage stamp were released by the Prime Minister. A cultural programme on the theme of Netaji was also held. One such performance was by 125 children from different states. This was coordinated by singer Usha Uthup.



Paying rich tributes, PM Modi said that Netaji is the biggest source of inspiration for the dream of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal). He recalled that Netaji considered poverty, illiteracy and disease among the biggest problems of the country. PM Modi added that the world is witnessing the powerful avatar of India once envisioned by Netaji.



PM Modi's address at the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Kolkata
<https://youtu.be/eRAU1bxs0h4>



Unhailed Heroes NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

Subhash Chandra Bose was born to Prabhavati Bose née Dutt and Janakinath Bose on 23rd January 1897 in Cuttack into wealth and privilege in a large Bengali family in Orissa.

A meritorious student par excellence, who cleared every examination with flying colours; Subhash Chandra Bose was entitled for all the riches and luxuries of the world. But he threw away everything to dedicate himself to the altar of Mother India. He stood for Swaraj (self-governance) and the use of force against the British regime. The result was obvious--- he was put behind the bars.

Later the British regime relented, released him but put him on house arrest. A sharp strategist, he knew he had to strike from outside India so, this modern day Shivaji disappeared from right under the nose of British Government and fled to Germany.



While in exile Netaji raised a Liberation Army in East Asia with Japanese aid and influence. Under Bose's leadership the INA (Indian National Army/Azad Hind Fauj) drew thousands of civilian volunteers from the Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present day Malaysia) and Burma.

The army was declared to be the Provisional Government of free India. His clarion call "Give me blood and I will give you freedom" & "Chalo Dilli" inspired and motivated the people towards the noble cause.

Bose attached great significance to music as a source of inspiration for a force that was being prepared to fight till the finish. Tagore's 'Jana Gana Mana' was rewritten in Hindi as 'Subh Sukh Chain' and made the official National Anthem of the provisional Government.

In all practicality, our National Anthem Jana Gana Mana was adopted by none other than Netaji. On December 29, 1943 he unfurled the Indian National Flag in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the first to be hoisted in Indian territory.

Even today we are yet to find a Women's Regiment in Indian Army but, the Rani of Jhansi Regiment was the Women's Infantry Regiment of Indian National Army way back in 1943.

Captain Lakshmi Sehgal and scores of those sparkling women soldiers' names are permanently etched in the annals of Indian history. While these soldiers (both men & women) fought against all odds to gain India its independence, their story and struggle somehow got lost and they became 'The Forgotten Army'.

Following Japan's defeat in WWII most of the members of the INA were captured by the British. Bose somehow eluded capture but was reported to have died in a plane crash in September 1945.



The bold and beautiful, self-reliant India which is the dream of every Indian today was visualised by Netaji. He said, "One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives". Let's strive and fulfil his cherished dreams and aspirations--that will be the true homage to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Login

Indian National Army anthem sung by Lt. Col. Dr Laxmi Saigal

<https://www.facebook.com/100000454692047/posts/5255364761155295/?sfnsn=wiwspwa>



Architectural Wonders - Nalanda



Nalanda, the first great university in recorded history, was a **Mahavihara**, a Buddhist monastery in Magadha.

Prajanavarman and Xuannzang claim Kumaragupta was the founder in 5th century BCE.

The seal discovered at the site authenticates it.

Location – about 80 km from Patna.

The fully residential Nalanda had around 10,000 students and 2,700 teachers who came from all over the world (Korea, Japan, China, Persia, Greece, Mongolia etc.)

The curriculum included philosophy, religion, Buddhism, astronomy, mathematics, anatomy etc.

Do You know
The name 'Nalanda' originated from 3 Sanskrit words: "Na", "Alam" and "Daa", which means 'no stopping of the gift of knowledge.'



Its renowned library (called **Dharma Kunj** = 'Mountain of Truth') constituted three main buildings which stood up to nine stories housing millions of manuscripts.

The three library buildings were named as **Ratnasagara** (sea of jewels), **Ratnaranjaka** (delighter of jewels) and **Ratnodadhi** (ocean of jewels).

Destroyed by	Restored by
Huns	Skanda's successors; bigger building
Gaudas in early 7 th century	Harshavardhana
Bhaktiyar Khilji in 1193	-

It is said that it took about 3-6 months to burn down completely and the smoke of nearly nine million manuscripts stayed there for many days.



Some famous alumni : Aryabhata, Dharmapala, Nagarjuna ,Vasubandhu, Suvishnu, Dharmakirti, Asanga, Harshavardhana, Padmasambhava and Xuannzang.

Excavations unearthed 11 monasteries and six brick temples neatly arranged on 12 hectares of land. The sculptures, coins, seals and inscriptions are on display in the Nalanda Archaeological Museum.



Geographical Wonders - Yana Rocks



Located amidst the Sahyadri hills, Yana Rocks stand out amidst many other limestone formations. They are composed of solid black crystalline karst limestone.

Yana is one of the wettest villages in the world; one of the cleanest in Karnataka and the second cleanest in India. Famous for the two massive rock outcrops - Bhairaveshwar Shikhara (120 m) and Mohini Shikhara (90 m), it is a trekkers' paradise.

Topography

The Bhairaveshwara Shikhara has 9.8-foot-tall opening that leads to a cave which houses a bronze statue of goddess Chandika and a self-manifested Shivalinga. Spring water from a small stream named Chandihole trickles over the Shivalinga, adding sanctity to this place. Scientists say the Shivalinga was formed by the stalactites and stalagmites. Beehives dot the now blackish brown rock surface.



Did you know?

Limestone - sedimentary rock mainly of calcium carbonate, usually in the form of calcite or aragonite.

Karst - soluble rock formations made up of dolomite, limestone and gypsum.

Outcrop- A rock formation that is visible on the surface

How to Reach

The road from Bangalore is via Sirsi (410 kilometres by NH4). The best approach is from Kumta or Sirsi.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST AND ATTRACTION:



Yana caves

The cave temple hosts an annual 10-day festival during Maha Shivratri.



Mirjan Fort

The architecturally beautiful Mirjan Fort has been the venue of several battles.



Vibhooti Falls

Vibhooti Falls sheltered in bamboo forests and mangroves is free from tourist crowds.



Flora & Fauna of India- Bee Hive Ginger



Beehive ginger plant (*Zingiber spectabilis*) has a distinct floral form that resembles a small beehive. All parts have a strong gingery fragrance.

The plant can reach a maximum height of 4.5 metres. The inflorescence is set atop a spike and can measure up to 30 cm in height. The bracts attached to the structure can differ in colour, from white, to yellow, orange, or even red, often darkening as the bracts mature and develop. The flowers themselves are small, with purple petals and yellow spots, and a fragile, papery texture.

Primarily grown in the West as an ornamental plant, it has been used in South-East Asia as a medicinal herb to treat headaches, back pain, and as an agent for food preservation. It has antimicrobial properties too. Beehive Ginger is also known as Black Ginger wort, Champagne Beehive, Malaysian Ginger, Nodding Ginger and Ginger wort.

Order: Zingiberales | Family: Zingiberaceae | Genus: Zingiber | Species: Z. spectabile



Know Your Nation - Meghalaya



Basic Facts

Capital – Shillong nicknamed “Scotland of the East”
Official Language – English
Main Languages – English, Khasi, Garo
Area – 22, 429 Sq Km
Assembly seats – 60 (Unicameral)
No of Districts – 11
Lok Sabha seats – 2
Rajya Sabha seats – 1
Created on – 21 June 1972

Famous Personality



P A Sangma
 Former speaker of Lok Sabha.
 Chief Minister 1988 -1990

Historical Facts:

- Garo, Khasi and Jaintia are the oldest living tribes here.
- Was a part of Assam with semi-autonomous status.
- During division of Bengal in 1905, was merged into a new province named Eastern Bengal and Assam. When Bengal was reunited in 1912, Meghalaya again became a part of Assam province.

Geographical Facts

- Shillong Peak (1,965 m) is the highest.
- Meghalaya (literally ‘abode of clouds’) is the wettest region of India.
- Shares borders with Assam and Bangladesh.

Interesting Facts



Cleanest Village
 Mawlyndong in Meghalaya is the Cleanest Village in India



Matrilineal System
 It is the Only India State that follows Matrilineal System where Lineage and Inheritance is traced through Women



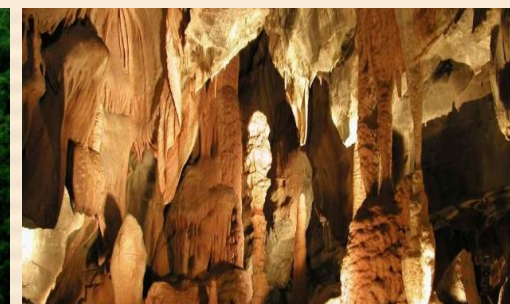
Tree Root Bridges
 The Tree Root Bridges of Cherapunji are made up of Roots of Living Trees that resemble a suspension bridge



Mysterious World Cup Insect
 Found in Ri-Bhoi District, these insects remain underground and come up only once in Four years, typically one month prior to the Soccer World cup



Nohkalikai Fall
 Located near Cherrapunji, Nohkalikai Falls is the Highest Plunge waterfall in India. It is located at a height of 1115 Feet.



Krem Liat Prah
 It is India's longest Natural cave, located in Jaintia hilla. It is known for its enormous trunk passage, The Aircraft Hanger



Mawphlang Sacred Forest
 The 78 hectares of land in protected by a local tribe called Lyngdoh. People are not allowed to take away anything from the sacred forest not even fallen leaves or stones

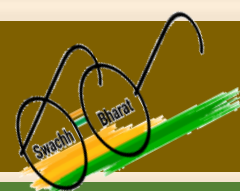


Highest Rainfall
 Mawsynram holds the record for receiving Highest Rainfall on Earth. Average annual rainfall is recorded to be 11,871 MM.

CURIOSITY corner

ANSWERS

- 1. Fit as a fiddle**
 Meaning: Being in good health
- 2. Don't judge a book by its cover**
 Meaning: Not judging something by its initial appearance
- 3. Costs an arm and a leg**
 Meaning: Something that is overpriced or very expensive
- 4. Having your head in the clouds**
 Meaning: Day dreaming, not paying attention
- 5. Hitting the nail on the head**
 Meaning: Performing a task with exactness
- 6. Pulling someone's leg**
 Meaning: Joking with someone
- 7. A slap on the wrist**
 Meaning: A mild warning or penalty
- 8. All ears**
 Meaning: very excited to hear; paying special attention to hear something
- 9. Paddle own canoe**
 Meaning: to be able to do something without help



Swachh Bharat ~SUCCESS STORIES~

Inspired by the Swachh Bharat mission, people in different parts of India took it upon themselves to transform their surroundings.

The people of Maharashtra's Navlewadi village facing a massive scarcity of clean water battled against all odds. As a result, a 35,000 litre water tank and several water pipelines have been installed. Now Navlewadi's surroundings are clean too.

Puzhakkal village (Kerala) is a role model for the state in tackling solid wastes. The villagers have installed waste bins and set up a biogas plant, and an entire waste management plan is in place.

A series of motivational campaigns conducted in the backward districts of Koraput (Odisha) resulted in making 11 villages ODF (Open defecation free).

The people of Chauras village (Madhya Pradesh) practically lived in dirt. The banks of Narmada were filled with piles of garbage. Then the villagers came together to clean the river banks. Chauras now has access to clean drinking water, and open defecation too has come to an end.

The people of Gondwal in Ludhiana have been working hard to ensure that India achieves a clean image. To keep their village beautiful and green, the residents of Gondwal collect all their garbage in one place for decomposition.

Jointly undertaken by the residents and the panchayat to ensure that Ludhiana's greenery is restored, Swachh Bharat Mission is doing a world of good for the region.



ITERATION
 is the
 key to
 INNOVATION

Comments?
 Suggestions?

We want to hear from you!



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Know Your Padma Awardees – Shri Shyam Sundar Paliwal



Born (9th July 1964) in Marwad, close to Piplantri in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan, Shyam Sundar Paliwal, dropped out of school at 12 to work on the family farm. He married Anita in 1987 and was blessed with a son and two daughters.

Rajsamand's emergence as one of Asia's largest marble markets left Piplantri barren. Water table went down to 800 feet. Farmers fled for contract work. His elder daughter Kiran (18) died of dehydration.

Distraught Paliwal planted a Kadamba tree in her memory. As the Sarpanch, he launched in 2005, the practice of planting 111 saplings for every girl child born there.

His Eco Feminism protected the girl child and Mother Nature. Villagers plant 11 trees for any death. Every married girl who leaves the village plants a tree.

His Kiran Nidhi Yojana involved creating a Fixed Deposit of INR 31000 (INR 10000 would be contributed by the girl's family and the rest from the community). Upon maturity, the amount would fund her education.

Every family signs an affidavit against female infanticide and child marriage.

His Swajaldhara Yojana helped construct nearly 1800 check dams.

Benefits

- In a decade, Piplantri became lush and prosperous.
- Water table rose (< 10-12 feet).
- Nearly 3.5 lakh trees planted; also aloe-vera and rose plants.
- Plant based products were manufactured.
- Increased employment opportunities for villagers.
- Piplantri became a Model village and recommended by Rajasthan govt.
- The girl-boy ratio of the village increased.



Do You Know?

- Piplantri village has a huge hoarding at its entrance with names of all girls born in the village in the past decade.
- Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education has introduced a lesson on Piplantri in Secondary school education.
- In 2017, a bi-lingual movie (Malayalam & Hindi) "Piplantri" was made on the transformation story of Piplantri village. There was also an Argentinian movie made on Piplantri story.
- Govt. of Namibia has recognized the benefits of Piplantri work and shown interest to implement the same in Namibia.
- Former President Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam had invited Shri Paliwal to help other villages.

- Govt. of Rajasthan initiated a welfare policy in 2016, inspired by the work done by Shri Paliwal.
- According to the policy, the Govt. provides INR 2500 to the family upon birth of girl child and the same amount on her first birthday.
- This is doubled to INR 5000 each if she finishes Class V and Class VIII.
- The Govt. gives INR 35000 upon the girl finishing Class XII making an overall total of INR 50000.



Cancer Crusader | Dr.V.Shanta

Dr.V.Shanta (11.3. 1927 – 19.1.2021) was born into a distinguished family that included two Nobel Laureates: C. V. Raman (grand uncle) and S. Chandrasekar (uncle). She had always wanted to become a doctor and completed her M.B.B.S from the Madras Medical College in 1949, D.G.O. in 1952, and M.D. (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) in 1955.

When Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy set up the Cancer Institute in 1954, she was about to complete her MD. She had passed the Public Service Commission examination and had been posted to the Women and Children Hospital. Later Dr.Shanta joined the Adyar Cancer Institute which began as a small, 12-bed cottage hospital with a single building, minimal equipment and just two doctors, Dr.Shanta and Dr.Krishnamurthi.



For three years she worked as honorary staff until the institute offered to pay her Rs.200 per month and residence within the campus. She moved into the campus in 1955, and remained there until her death.

Through a career of over 60 years, Dr. Shanta was an advocate of early detection of cancer and the need to change public perception of the disease, especially the extreme fear and hopelessness associated with the disease. In addition to care for patients and study of the disease she focused on creation of a pool of specialists and scientists at the institute.

She held several positions including that of the director of the institute, between 1980 and 1997. She served as a member of several national and international committees on health and medicine, including the WHO's Advisory Committee on Health.

She was also a member of the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission for Health.

Awards

Dr. Shanta, an elected fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, was a recipient of the Padma Shri Award (1986), Padma Bhushan (2006) and Padma Vibhushan (2016) and the Ramon Magsaysay Award (2005).



A Black Mark on Indian Democracy

A key feature of democracy is its tolerance to diverse opinion and acceptance of peaceful and constitutional protests.



Farmers' protest against the Farm Laws turned ugly on 26th January 2021.

When the entire nation was celebrating people's supremacy in the form of Republic Day, a group of protestors turned violent and started driving tractors across the capital.

Some were almost crushing police personnel on their way.

Some marched towards Red Fort waving flags of Sikhs. One of them even hoisted it there.

This is viewed as an open challenge to the sovereignty of the Indian Republic.

PROTEST TIMELINE

- **November 5:** Road blockade (Chakka Jam) by farmers.
- **November 26:** Delhi Chalo Movement. Farmers set up camps near New Delhi border. Police allow them to protest at the Nirankari ground in Burari.
- **December 1:** Talks between leaders of 35 unions and Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar fails. Centre's proposal to form a committee to discuss the farm laws rejected.
- **December 3:** Next round also fails. Centre makes many proposals on MSP and procurement system.
- **December 5:** In the next round, farm leaders observe "maunvrat" seeking a clear "yes or no" reply, forcing the Centre to call for another meeting on December 9.
- **December 8:** Bharat Bandh by farmers' unions. Farmers reject the proposal for amendments of the laws.
- **December 16:** Supreme Court suggests putting the new farm laws on hold and constituting an impartial and independent committee to end the impasse.
- **December 21:** The farmers observe a day-long relay hunger strike at all protest sites.
- **December 30:** Centre agrees to drop the penal provisions against farmers in an ordinance relating to stubble burning and to put on hold a proposed electricity amendment law.
- **January 8:** Centre asks the unions to suggest alternatives to their demand for repeal.
- **January 12:** Supreme Court puts on hold the implementation of the three farm laws and names a committee to suggest — in two months — any changes after hearing all sides.
- **January 21:** Government proposes to suspend the three farm laws for 18 months and set up a joint committee to discuss the laws.
- **January 26:** Groups break police barricades at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur border points and force their way into Delhi -- much before the permitted time for their tractor rally.



Scientist of The Year



Senior Scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey was honoured with DRDO's Scientist of the Year Award. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently felicitated the scientist with the prestigious award comprising a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

The citation accompanying the award recognises his invaluable contribution to herbal medicine research and development. It stated that Dr Hemant Kumar Pandey has significantly contributed to the development of five herbal products and filed seven patents, one of which included the anti-Leukoderma product Lukoskin.

Pandey has been undertaking research at DRDO's Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand for the past 25 years.

Though the scientist has developed six herbal drugs so far, Lukoskin (used for treating Leukoderma or Vitiligo, a condition in which white patches appear on the skin) has been most widely appreciated and found huge acceptance in the market.

It is a formulation of around eight herbs found in the Himalayan region.

Leukoderma is an auto-immune disorder, and over 5 crore people are under its grip in India. It is neither contagious nor life-threatening. The incidence of Leukoderma is 1-2 per cent of the population worldwide.

Apart from Lukoskin, Dr. Pandey has developed drugs for treatment of eczema and toothache as well as an anti-radiation cream, most of which are already being sold in the market following transfer of technology (ToT).



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