



12.03.2021

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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS ①: PSC on Education recommendations on Mid-day Meal Scheme

NEWS ②: Floating Solar Power Plant developed by the NTPC Limited

NEWS ③: Commemorative 'Dandi March' flagged off by PM.

NEWS ④: Science and Engineering Board set up a portal called PRISM.

NEWS ⑤: BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues meeting

NEWS ⑥: Bamiyan Buddhas were brought back to life

NEWS ⑦: European Parliament declared EU as "LGBTIQ Freedom Zone"

NEWS ⑧: China approved its 14th five-year plan

NEWS ⑨: Paytm launched "Smart PoS" & "Soundbox 2.0".

NEWS ⑩: Koneru Humpy, chess player won the 2nd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year award.

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Mid-day Meal Scheme

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education has recommended that all government schools start providing free breakfast in the coming academic year.
- The National Education Policy identifies "providing food and nutrition" as one of the key long-term thrust areas. The Midday meal scheme was launched in 1995.

Floating Solar Power Plant

- India's biggest floating solar power plant by generation capacity is being developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited at Ramagundam of Telangana.
- Floating Solar Power Plant refers to the deployment of photovoltaic panels on the surface of water bodies.

"Mera Ration Mobile App"

- The central government has launched the "Mera Ration Mobile App".
- This app was launched in order to facilitate the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' system. The app was developed by the National Informatics Centre.

'Dandi March'

- The Prime Minister has flagged off a commemorative 'Dandi March' (on 12th March) to launch the celebrations of the 75th year of Independence - 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The Dandi March, also known as the Salt March and the Dandi Satyagraha was an act of nonviolent civil disobedience led by Gandhi.

Project Information System & Management

- The Science and Engineering Board has set up a portal called Project Information System & Management (PRISM) that offers real time information on the various research projects supported by it.
- The portal is expected to work as a comprehensive tool to help forge stronger scientist-scientist, and science-society connections.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

14th five-year plan

- China has formally approved its 14th five-year plan for 2021-2025.
- The draft was passed by the National People's Congress. The draft outline was passed by the National People's Congress.

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Autocratisation Report

- India has been classified as an “electoral autocracy” in the annual report named **Autocratisation Goes Viral of Sweden-based Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute**.
- India was previously classified as an electoral democracy, however the latest report classified it as **electoral autocracy**.

BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues

- The **BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues** held their **first meeting** under the Chair ship of **India**.
- The meeting was held under the Theme –“**BRICS @15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus**”.

Bamiyan Buddhas

- **Bamiyan Buddhas** were brought back to life with the help of **3D projection** in the event held in the **Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan**.
- The event called “**A Night with Buddha**” was held on the **anniversary of annihilation**. Bamiyan Buddhas were two **6th-century monumental statues of Gautama Buddha**.

“LGBTIQ Freedom Zone”

- The **European Parliament** has declared whole of the **European Union** as “**LGBTIQ Freedom Zone**”.
- This symbolic resolution was passed in the answer to local authorities in Poland who were labeling themselves as “**LGBT ideology-free zones**”.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

“Soundbox 2.0”

- **Paytm**, launched “**Smart PoS**” a new application for **accepting contactless payments through smartphones**.
- **Paytm** also launched the **second version of its Internet of Things** based instant voice conformation device, “**Soundbox 2.0**”.

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Mt. Sinabung

- **Mt. Sinabung**, an **active volcano** on **Indonesia’s Sumatra island** has **erupted**.
- **Mt. Sinabung (2,600-metre)** is located in **Karo regency, North Sumatra**. The volcano was dormant for **400 years** before exploding in 2010.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year

- **Koneru Humpy**, **chess player** won the **2nd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year**.
- The award was given **based on the public vote** in which **Koneru Humpy** won against sprinter **Dutee Chand**, airgun shooter **Manu Bhaker**, wrestler **Vinesh Phogat**, and hockey captain **Rani Rampal**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Thomas Bach

- Executive Board of the **International Olympic Committee** re-elected **Thomas Bach** for an additional term of **4 years** as the **President of ICO until 2025**.
- **Thomas Bach** of **Germany** won the **team gold medal at the 1976 Summer Olympics** held in **Montreal, Canada**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

“Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women”

- **Susmita Mukherjee** have authored her **2nd book** titled “**Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women**”.
- The book is a collection of **11 short stories** that portray the **lives of women** from various social backgrounds.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

- The **National Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Awareness Day** is annually observed across India on **10th March** to create nationwide.
- India observed the **World’s First National GDM Awareness Day** from **10th March 2019**.

SPORTS

Mithali Raj

- The Indian women’s cricketer **Mithali Raj** has become the **first Indian woman cricketer** to complete **10,000 international runs** in all the cricket formats.
- She also become the **second woman cricketer at the international level** to complete 10000 runs.

OBITUARY

Hamed Bakayoko

- **Hamed Bakayoko**, **Prime Minister of Ivory Coast** and **Minister of Defence** passed away at the age of **56** in a hospital in **Germany** due to **cancer**.
- **Patrick Achi** has been appointed as the **interim Prime Minister of Ivory Coast**.