

13.02.21

## SANKALP



- Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”) is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank.
- It aims to improve short term skill training qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening institutions, bring in better market connectivity and inclusion of marginalised sections of the society.
- SANKALP was launched on 19th January 2018 and has a tenure till March 2023.
- The outcomes in the project are measured through the Results Framework, and Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) agreed between MSDE and World Bank.

## 11th edition of ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav to be inaugurated tomorrow at Cooch Behar



- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav will be celebrated from 14th to 28th February, 2021 in West Bengal
- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, the flagship festival of this Ministry organized since 2015 with the active participation of Seven Zonal Culture Centres has been playing a pivotal role to take the vibrant culture of India out to the masses instead of confining to auditoria and galleries.
- It has been instrumental in showcasing, folk and tribal art, dance, music, cuisines & culture of one state in other states reinforcing the cherished goal of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” and at the same time providing an effective platform to the artists and artisans to support their livelihood.
- Ten editions of RSM have been held till date since November, 2015 in various states and cities such as Delhi, Varanasi, Bengaluru, Tawang, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tehri and Madhya Pradesh.
- The RSM will reconnect the people, especially the youth, with their indigenous culture, its multi-faceted nature, magnificence, opulence and historical importance in the context of India as a Nation over the millennia.
- This RSM which is being organized in West Bengal will enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.

## World Radio Day being celebrated across globe today



- World Radio Day (WRD) is being celebrated across the Globe today.
- The day was proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011 and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as an International Day.
- According to UNESCO, radio is a powerful medium for celebrating humanity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse.
- Radio has the ability to reach out to the widest audience, in the process having the ability to shape a society's experience of diversity and providing a platform for everyone to be represented and heard.
- The theme of World Radio Day 2021, "New World, New Radio", will highlight the services rendered by the radio medium throughout the crisis.

## Robotic Spa' facility inaugurated at Visakhapatnam railway station



- Waltair Division, in its efforts to enhance the passenger amenities at Railway stations, has commissioned another innovative facility called Robotic Spa under Non-fare revenue here today at Visakhapatnam railway station.
- The first of its kind facility at Railway station in East Coast Railway
- The Robotic Spa comprising of Relaxing Chair, Foot massager and Fish pedicure spa gives a pleasant experience to the Rail Customers waiting at Visakhapatnam railway station.
- The motto behind such innovative model is to facilitate the esteemed rail customers to spend quality time while waiting for trains.

## Indian film 'Bittu' shortlisted in Oscar's Live Action Short film category



- Short film 'Bittu' is shortlisted in top 10 films under Live Action Short film category for 93rd Oscar Awards. Indian filmmakers Shreya and Karishma dev Dube are producer and directors of this film.
- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recently announced shortlists in nine categories for the 93rd Academy Awards.
- For the short film category, it has received 174 films out of which academy has shortlisted 10 films. 'Bittu' is one of the shortlisted film.
- It is a story of two school-going girls. We have already won a silver medal in the student academy award 2020 for this film.

## Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India



- The programme of "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)" was launched in 2010-11

To address the constraints limiting the productivity of "rice based cropping systems" in eastern India comprising seven (7) States namely;

- Assam,
- Bihar,
- Chhattisgarh,
- Jharkhand,
- Odisha,
- Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal)
- West Bengal.

The programme is now a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

### Objectives

- To increase production & productivity of rice and wheat by adopting latest crop production technologies;
- To promote cultivation in rice fallow area to increase cropping intensity and income of the farmers;
- To create water harvesting structures and efficient utilization of water potential; and
- To promote post harvest technology and marketing support.

## Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization



- The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) was introduced in April 2014 with an aim to have inclusive growth of farm mechanisation to boost productivity.

- The scheme is implemented in all the states, to promote the usage of farm mechanization and increase the ratio of farm power to cultivable unit area up to 2.5 kW/ha.
- SMAM will have Central Sector Schemes, Government of India contributes 75% and states contribute 25%.
- Mission Objectives

The objectives of the Scheme are-

- Increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low.
- Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centres' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small landholding and high cost of individual ownership.
- Creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments.
- Creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities.
- Ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

## Meghraj: GI Cloud



- Ministry of Shipping has revamped its website recently and the new website is based on open source technology and is deployed on NIC cloud Meghraj

What is Meghraj Cloud?

- In order to utilise and harness the benefits of Cloud Computing, Government of India has embarked upon an ambitious initiative – “GI Cloud” which has been named as “MeghRaj”.
- More about Meghraj
- The focus of this initiative is to accelerate delivery of e-services in the country while optimizing ICT spending of the Government.
- This will ensure optimum utilization of the infrastructure and speed up the development and deployment of eGov applications.

- The architectural vision of GI Cloud encompasses a set of discrete cloud computing environments spread across multiple locations, built on existing or new (augmented) infrastructure, following a set of common protocols, guidelines and standards issued by the Government of India.
- Two Policy reports viz., “GI Cloud Strategic Direction Paper” and “GI Cloud Adoption and Implementation Roadmap” were prepared by Meity in this direction

## Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat



- The ‘Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat’ (PBBB) is a sub-programme of erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is continued under the new integrated scheme Samagra Shiksha to ensure quality at the foundational years of schooling.

### Objectives of PBBB

- To enable children to become motivated, independent and engaged readers and writers with comprehension possessing sustainable and lasting reading and writing skills and achieve learning levels appropriate to the class of study.
- To make the children understand the reasoning in the domains of number, measurement and shapes; and enable them to become independent in problem solving by way of numeracy and spatial understanding skills.
- To associate reading and writing with the experience of joy and real life situations.
- To recognize social perspective of home- school transition and the role of children’s literature in the process of building independent and engaged readers and writers

## Grand Anicut Canal System



- Recently, the Prime Minister laid foundation stone for the extension and modernisation of the Grand Anicut Canal System

### About the Grand Anicut/Kallanai Dam

- Construction: The dam was constructed by King Karikala Chola of the Chola Dynasty in between the 100 BC- 100 century AD.
- The dam is located on the River Kaveri, approximately 20km from the city of Tiruchirapalli.
- The purpose of the dam was to divert the waters of the Kaveri across the fertile Thanjavur delta region for irrigation by canals.
- The dam provides water for irrigating 400,000ha of land along the Delta Region.
- The structure measures 329m in length, 20m in width and 5.4m in height.

- Improvements were made to the dam in the 19th century by Arthur Cottons, a British general and irrigation engineer.
- It is the fourth oldest water diversion or water-regulator structures in the world and the oldest in India which is still in use Unique Design of the dam
- The Grand Anicut is a simple check dam constructed across the direction of flow of the Kaveri river in order to divert water into the fertile delta of Tamil Nadu.
- Its unique structure majorly involves several large unhewn stones extending across the Kaveri, stuck in the Cauvery river to divert the flow of current to the fertile delta
- Before the modifications made by the British, the original Kallanai dam had some unique design features which worked well for both the environment and residents.
- These features include the curved shape of the masonry section, an irregular descent, and a sloping crest.
- These features reshaped the water current flowing towards the dam smoothly and it had a good sedimentation process.

## BBC World News banned in China



- China has banned BBC World News on Friday from broadcasting in the country, according to a statement from China's National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA).
- In an apparent retaliatory move, the announcement comes one week after British media regulator Ofcom withdrew broadcasting license for state-owned China Global Television Network (CGTN) in the United Kingdom.

## More than 100 improved & high-yielding species of pulses developed in 5 years: Govt



- Union Government today said that more than one hundred improved and high-yielding species of pulses have been developed in five years.
- India is focusing on improving varieties of seeds, bringing new areas under pulses cultivation and market, which will help in increasing the profit of the farmers.
- India is the biggest producer and consumer of pulses in the world and it has almost achieved self-sufficiency in pulses.

## Minimum wages will apply to all categories of workers, proposes FM Sitharaman in budget speech



- Minimum wages will apply to all categories of workers, and they will all be covered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation.
- The government will collect relevant information on the unorganized labour force, especially for migrant workers.
- The data on migrant workers collected through the portal will help formulate health, housing, skill, insurance and food schemes for them.
- The One Nation One Ration Card plan is under implementation by 32 states and Union Territories, reaching about 69 crore beneficiaries
- A total of 86 per cent beneficiaries have been covered. The remaining four states and UTs will be integrated in the next few months.
- The government also proposes to conclude a process that began 20 years ago, with the implementation of the four labour codes.
- For the first time globally, social security benefits will extend to gig and platform workers.
- Women will be allowed to work in all categories and also in the night-shifts with adequate protection.
- At the same time, compliance burden on employers will be reduced with single registration and licensing, and online returns.

## India has 1% of world's vehicles, accounts for 11% accidents: World Bank



- India has one percent of the total vehicles around the world but accounts for 11% of the global road accidents, World Bank's report titled 'Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities:
- The Burden on Indian Society' stated. The report states that 75% of low-income households in India reported a decrease in their income if there was a road accident in the family.

## Lok Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill



- The Lok Sabha on Saturday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by a voice vote.
- The bill seeks to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of civil services officers with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre. The bill was already passed by Rajya Sabha on February 8.

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