

Daily News Decode

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HRMN 99



- Shri Hariman Sharma, a progressive farmer, hailing from Paniala village of Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh, who developed this innovative apple variety – HRMN 99.
- This has spread to plain, tropical, and subtropical areas in various parts of India, where the temperature is as high as 40 -45 °C during summer.
- Commercial cultivation of this apple variety has been initiated in Manipur, Jammu, low lying areas of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka Chhattisgarh, and Telangana, and fruit setting has been expanded to 23 states & UTs so far.
- Hariman Sharma has also been conferred a National Award in 2017 during the 9th National Biennial Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge awards by then President of India.

YUVA



- The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education launched YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors, an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age).
- The launch of YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with PM's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.
- YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in National Movement, and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner.
- The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education as the Implementing Agency will ensure phase-wise execution of the Scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.
- The books prepared under this scheme will be published by National Book Trust, India; and will also be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

- A total of 75 authors will be selected through an All India Contest to be conducted through <https://www.mygov.in/> from 1 June - 31 July 2021.
- The winners will be announced on 15 August 2021.
- The young authors will be trained by eminent authors/mentors.
- Under the mentorship, the manuscripts will be readied by 15 Dec. 2021 for publication.
- The published books will be launched on 12 January 2022 on the occasion of National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas).
- A consolidated scholarship of Rs.50,000 per month for a period of six months per author will be paid under the Mentorship Scheme

VILLAGE RICE



- In a major boost to India's non-basmati rice exports potential, two consignments 4.5 MT of patented 'village rice' sourced from Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu by a start-up Udaya Agro Farm was exported today to Ghana & Yemen via air & sea routes.
- Enriched with protein, fibre, and a variety of minerals, 'village rice' is sourced directly from farmers of Thanjavur, also known as rice bowl of Tamil Nadu.
- In March, 2021, the first consignment of 'red rice' from Assam was exported to the USA.
- Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The rice variety is referred as 'Bao-dhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food.

DRONES



- Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted permission of "No-Permission-No-Takeoff" (NPNT) compliant drone operations at 166 additional green zones to facilitate, smoothen, and promote drone operations in the country.
- The approved sites allow drone usage up to 400 ft Above Ground Level (AGL).
- These zones are in addition to the Sixty-Six green zone sites approved earlier.
- The list of the approved green zone sites can be accessed from the Digital Sky Platform (<https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in>).
- As per DGCA, under "NPNT or 'No Permission – No Take-off' compliance, every Remotely Piloted Aircraft (except Nano) has to obtain valid permission through the Digital Sky platform before operating in India.

- The framework mandates users to register on the online portal that acts as the national unmanned traffic management system for remotely piloted aircraft.
- Flying in these approved 'green-zones' will require only intimation of the time and location of the flights via the Digital Sky portal or the app.
- Drone flights in the green zone sites shall be compliant with the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 dated 12th March 2021 and other relevant orders/ guidelines issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

OPV SAJAG



- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval commissioned Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag and dedicated it to the nation for safeguarding the maritime interests on May 29, 2021. OPV Sajag is constructed by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited.
- The concept of forming ICG came into being post 1971 war, when it was assessed that maritime borders are equally vital as land borders.
- The blueprint for a multi-dimension Coast Guard was conceived by the visionary Rustamji Committee even as the United Nations Convention of the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) was being negotiated and India's assets off Mumbai high were growing.
- The ICG was created through an Act of Parliament in 1978.

CONRAD SANGMA GOM



- Union Finance Ministry has constituted a Group of Ministers, GoM to look into the matter of concessions and exemptions from GST to COVID relief materials.
- Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma has been named as the Convenor of the GoM.
- The GoM is constituted of total eight members including Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitinbhai Patel, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Ajit Pawar, Transport Minister of Goa Mauvin Godinho and State Finance Ministers of Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The 43rd GST Council which met on Friday recommended constitution of a GoM to examine into the needs for further relief to COVID-19 related individual items.

Floating jetty at Old Goa



- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways in the presence of Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant inaugurated the second floating jetty at Old Goa
- The Government of India has approved setting up of two Concrete floating jetties on River Mondovi (NW-68) to connect Old Goa and Panjim. This is the second floating jetty constructed on River Mondovi (NW-68).
- Earlier, the first jetty located at Captain of Ports, Panjim Goa was inaugurated by Minister of Ports Shipping & Waterways in presence of Chief Minister of Goa on 21st February 2020 at Panjim.
- Concrete floating jetties have many advantages over the fixed jetties. – Their price is approximately 1/5th of the price of fixed jetty.
- Similarly they are quicker to build and install, easier to use.
- The designed life of floating jetty is up to 50 years. Also, being floating structures they don't need CRZ clearances.
- They can be increased in size or reduced as per changes in users' requirement or the changes in jetty site's hydrographic profile.

46-yr-old blind man from China climbs Mt Everest on 1st attempt, creates history



- Blind Chinese mountaineer, Zhang Hong, on Monday scaled Mount Everest on his first attempt.
- The 46-year-old is the first blind Asian and the third in the world to achieve the feat.
- "No matter if you're disabled or normal, as long as you have a strong mind, you can always complete a thing that other people say you can't," Zhang said.

May 31 Anti-Tobacco Day



- Anti-Tobacco Day or World No Tobacco Day is observed on 31 May every year across the globe to make people aware and educate them about the harmful effects of tobacco on health which causes cardiovascular diseases, cancer, tooth decay, staining of teeth etc.

World Set To Miss Environment-Related Sustainable Development Goals – UN Report



- Despite progress in key environmental areas such as clean water, sanitation, clean energy, forest management and waste, countries are still living unsustainably and are on course to miss the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to the Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs report issued by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to coincide with the International Day for Biological Diversity.
- The report found that some environmental areas – such as biodiversity loss and climate change – have continued to deteriorate.
- The 2030 Agenda emanates from the 2015 UN Resolution that sets clear targets for a sustainable future, with internationally agreed goals in 17 areas such as poverty, hunger, health, climate action, clean energy and responsible consumption, among others.
- The Measuring Progress report calls for improved data and indicators to understand how to ensure development progresses within planetary boundaries.
- The report reviews data and information about the environmental aspects of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their progress around the world.
- The publication is based on global and regional performances as assessed through the SDG indicators that have a direct relation with environmental issues.
- The report identified a gap in the diversity and use of environmental data and statistics to inform government policy and decision-making, particularly big environmental data produced by remote sensing, in situ sensors and artificial intelligence technologies, as well as data collated through environmental–economic accounting activities.

Kondapalli Fort



- Declare Kondapalli Fort precincts as protected heritage site - AP Lokayukta tells state archeology wing
- Kondapalli is a town in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It is located 4 km away from Ibrahimpatnam.
- It is famous for its Kondapally Toys. Kondapalli Fort is a common place for tourists to visit and was used as a military fortification for the British Empire.
- This historical fort also known as Kondapalli Quilla was built by Prolaya Vema Reddy of Reddi Kingdom during the 14th century CE.
- It was initially built as a leisure place and business center and later served as a military training base for the British rulers.
- According to some other historians it was built in 1360 CE by Anna Vema Reddy after he captured Kondapalli from Mudigonda Chalukyas, the fort has been home to several dynasties, from the Reddi rulers to the Nizam Nawabs, and then the East India Company
- The main entrance gate is called the 'Dargha Darwaja' built with single block of granite.
- Its name is derived from the tomb or dargha of Gulab Shah, who was killed in battle here.
- Besides Darhgha Darwaza, another entrance gate called the Golconda Darwaza is located on the other end of the hill, which leads to Jaggaiahpet village.
- The fortified wall has towers and battlements

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