

NATIONAL

PM Modi Unveils Logo, Theme, Website, App for India's G20 Presidency

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 8th November, unveiled the logo, theme, mobile app and website of India's G20 Presidency. The logo draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag - saffron, white and green, and blue. It juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus, India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges. The theme of India's G20 Presidency - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth One Family One Future" - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life - human, animal, plant, and micro-organisms - and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe. The website of India's G20 Presidency www.g20.in will seamlessly migrate to the G20 Presidency website www.g20.org on 1 December 2022, the day India takes over the G20 Presidency. In addition to substantive information about G20 and logistics arrangements, the website would also be used to build and serve as a repository of information on G20. The website includes a section for citizens to submit their suggestions. In addition to the website, a mobile app "G20 India" has been released on both Android and iOS platforms.



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UIDAI Urges Aadhaar Card Holders to Keep Documents Updated

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has urged Aadhaar card holders to update their documents if they have not done so in the last ten years and more. According to gazette notification issued by Ministry of Electronics and IT, the update would ensure continued accuracy of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository. Keeping the documents in Aadhaar updated helps in ease of living, better service delivery, and enables accurate authentication.



Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of TV Channels Revised

The Centre has revised the guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of Television channels in India. In the new guidelines, rules and procedures have been simplified to promote ease of doing business. Now, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) entities can also seek permission for operating TV channels. Companies would be allowed to uplink foreign channels from Indian teleports which would create employment opportunities and make India a teleport hub for other countries. Furthermore, a new provision has been added to encourage TV channels to broadcast content related to public service and national interests including agriculture, women empowerment and education.

Centre Formulates Action Plan to Promote Exports of Millet

The Centre has formulated an action plan to promote exports of millets. The action plan envisages participation of millet exporters, farmers, and traders in 16 International Trade Expos and Buyer-Seller Meets across the globe. For this, Indian missions abroad would be roped in for the branding and publicity of Indian millets. The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. India is one of the leading producers of millets in the world with an estimated share of around 41 percent in global production.



Indian Railways Completes Electrification of 82% of Broad Gauge Network

Indian Railways has completed the electrification over 82 percent of its complete Broad Gauge network. Out of over 65,000 Route Kilometers (RKM) of the network, more than 53,000 RKM have been electrified till October 2022. Indian Railways has embarked upon an ambitious plan of electrification of its complete Broad Gauge network which will result in better fuel energy usage, reduced fuel expenditure and saving of foreign exchange.

Pro Rata Pension Facility Extended to JCOs Permanently Absorbed in PSU's

The Defence Ministry has extended the benefit of pro-rata pension to Junior Commissioned Officers who joined the Public Sector Undertakings on permanent absorption after ten years of qualifying service in the armed forces. Earlier this benefit was limited to the Commissioned Officers only. The provisions will be applicable to those Junior Commissioned Officers who are absorbed and appointed in Central Public Sector Enterprises, Central Public Sector Undertaking on or after 6th March 1985 or Central Autonomous bodies on or after 31st March 1987.

Atal Innovation Mission Launches Women Centric Challenges under ANIC Program

The second edition of Atal Innovation Mission's Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) seeks to encourage innovations in the sphere of finding solutions to challenges faced by women the country. These include promoting women's hygiene through innovation, innovations to improve women's safety, professional networking opportunities for women, innovations that make working mothers' life better, and easing the life of rural women. ANIC aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance through a grant-based mechanism of up to Rs 1 crore.



India's First Biological Data Centre Established in Faridabad

India's first national repository for life science data, the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), has been inaugurated at Faridabad, Haryana. As per the BIOTECH-PRIDE guidelines of the Government of India, IBDC is mandated to archive all life science data generated from publicly-funded research in India. Supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), IBDC been established at the Regional Centre of Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad, with a data disaster recovery site at National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhubaneswar. The repository has a data storage capacity of about 4 petabytes and houses the 'Brahm' High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility.

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China Offers USD 9 Billion Bailout Package to Pakistan

China has offered a USD 9 billion bailout package to Pakistan and pledged more support for the cash-strapped nation, saying that it has done its "utmost" to stabilise the financial situation of its all-weather ally and will continue to do so. Pakistan owes international debt of around USD 10.7 billion from wealthy western nation, under Paris Club. The Paris Club is a group of officials from major creditor nations whose role is to find coordinated and sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan's total non-Paris Club bilateral debt currently stands at about USD 27 billion, of which Chinese debt is about USD 23 billion.

ECONOMY

Finance Ministry Approves Sovereign Green Bonds Framework

Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has approved the final Sovereign Green Bonds framework of India. Green bonds are financial instruments that generate proceeds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects. This approval will further strengthen India's commitment towards its NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) targets, adopted under the Paris Agreement. It will help in attracting global and domestic investments in eligible green projects.



Centre Allows International Trade Settlements in Indian Rupees for Export Promotion Schemes

The Centre has allowed International Trade Settlements in Indian Rupees for export promotion schemes under the Foreign Trade Policy. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, suitable amendments have been made in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and Handbook of Procedures to allow international trade settlement in Indian Rupees including, invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in Indian Rupees. Changes have been introduced for grant of exports benefits, incentives, fulfilment of export obligation under FTP for export realisations in Indian Rupees as per the Reserve Bank of India guidelines.

SPORTS

Fit India School Week Kicks Off with PV Sindhu Launching Mascots 'Toofan & Toofani'

Schools across India are celebrating fitness and sports in various forms under the 'Fit India School Week' initiative. The celebrations include essay writing, debate, quiz, poster making competition, various activities involving indigenous games; Khelo India physical fitness assessment of students; Yoga and meditation among other activities. The fourth edition of the initiative was launched on 15th November by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs with double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu launching the mascots 'Toofan and Toofani'. Apart from reaffirming the importance of fitness and sports amongst the school fraternity, the initiative also aims to identify exceptional sporting talent among school students and provide them opportunities for career progression in the field of sports.



News Digest

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(Source: AIR/PIB)