



Ex Desert Knight 2021

NATIONAL NEWS

'Chintan Baithak' of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Kutch, Gujarat concluded on 23 January 2021

- Chintan Baithak is an extensive brainstorming session was chaired by Shri Manuskh Mandaviya, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- It was held from 21st January to 23rd January, 2021 in The Tent City- Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat.
- The following initiatives were discussed:
 - Coastal routes for urban transportation covering the entire coastline of India
 - Various technologies like AI, Big Data, Geo Fencing, IOT based truck platooning, GIS based cargo tracking etc. were discussed to simplify and to convert Major Ports into 'Smart Ports' and further 'Intelligent Ports' as envisioned in Maritime India Vision-2030.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India- Bangladesh hold Joint Steering Committee meeting on power sector

- Nineteenth meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on India Bangladesh cooperation in the energy sector was held in Dhaka on January 24, 2021.
- The steering committee took stock of the progress of implementation of the decisions taken during the last meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and Joint Steering Committee (JSC).
- India and Bangladesh have set up the institutional mechanism of JSC and JWG for reviewing and enhancing bilateral cooperation in the power sector between the two countries.
- The last meetings were held in March 2020 in Udaipur in India.

Ex Desert Knight 2021

- The Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force participated in Ex Desert Knight 2021 at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- Ex Desert Knight 2021 is the bilateral Air exercise between India and France. The 2021 is the first edition of the exercise
- Rafale aircraft from both sides along with Su-30 MKI and Mirage 2000 aircraft of the IAF undertook complex missions including Large Force Engagements.

- Both Air Forces exercised in realistic settings with an aim to enhance operational capabilities and interoperability.
- The exercise provided an opportunity to share best practices and evolve operational concepts; particularly for effective combat employment of the Rafale fleet.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar- 2021

- The Government of India has been awarding the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to the children with exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments, in the fields of innovation, scholastics, sports, arts & culture, social service and bravery.
- 32 children have been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2021.
- 7 awards have been given in the field of Art & Culture, 9 awards have been given for Innovation and 5 for scholastic achievements. 7 children have won in Sports category, 3 children have been felicitated for Bravery and one child has been honoured for her efforts in the field of Social Service.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021

- To recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of Disaster Management, Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.
- The award winners are:
 - Institutional category: Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society
 - Individual category: Dr. Rajendra Kumar Bhandari

ANNIVERSARY & ORBITUARY

125th Birth Anniversary Year of Netaji

- President of India Unveils A Portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to Mark the Beginning of a Year-Long Celebrations to Commemorate 125th Birth Anniversary Year of Netaji
- Government announces 23rd January to be celebrated as "PARAKRAM DIWAS" every year to inspire people of the country, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did, and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic fervour.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Girl Child Day

- The National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on 24th January. The day is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The objective behind celebrating the National Girl Child Day is to provide all support and opportunities to the girls of the country. It also aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girl's education, and their health and nutrition.
- Shrishti Goswami, a 19-year-old girl, was designated as one-day Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on the occasion of National Girl Child day.



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