Indian Footwear Sizing System

NATIONAL NEWS

PM launches Infrastructure Projects in Kerala

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched several infrastructure projects in Kerala on 19th February, 2021.
- One of the important projects is the 2,000-MW Pugalur-Thrissur high voltage direct current (HVDC) power transmission corridor.
- The Pugalur-Thrissur line is Kerala's first HVDC inter-connection with the national grid and the country's first system to use the voltage source converter technology.
- Also, he launched the following projects via video conferencing:
    - 50-MW solar park in Kasaragod
    - 75-mld (million litres a day) water treatment plant at Aruvikkara, Thiruvananthapuram
    - Two Smart City Mission initiatives 1) the 37-km Smart Road project, 2) the Integrated Command and Control Centre at the City Corporation at an estimated cost of ₹427crore.

Indian Footwear Sizing System

- The CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute has launched a pan India foot scan survey to collect data of foot size.
- The move has launched to prevent confusing from international foot standards like – American (US), French (EU), Mondopoint (Japanese), English (UK).
- The data collected will be used to define the Indian Footwear Size Standards.
- The project will be supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade.
- India is the 2nd largest producer of footwear in the world after China.

Anti-Tank Missile Test Success

- The helicopter launched Nag Anti-Tank guided missile named "Helina" and the Air Force variant "Dhruvastra" were tested successfully in the deserts of Rajasthan.
- The missile systems were developed by DRDO.

BUSINESS NEWS

MoU between UP government and IKEA

- Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IKEA on Friday (February 19, 2021).
- The MoU allows IKEA to invest a sum of ₹5500 crore in UP in the next five years.
- IKEA is to set up its largest outlet in India in Noida.
- IKEA is a Swedish multinational conglomerate that designs and sells ready-to-assemble furniture, kitchen appliances and home accessories, among other useful goods and occasionally home services.
- IKEA has its headquarters in Netherlands, established in the year 1983.

SPORTS NEWS

Ankita claims maiden WTA 250 doubles title

- Ankita Raina, partnering Russia's Kamilla Rakhimova, captured her maiden WTA 250 doubles title, in the final of the Phillip Island Trophy tennis tournament held in Melbourne, Australia on Friday (19.02.2021).
- They won by beating Anna Blinkova and Anastasia Potapova of Russia.
- Ankita Raina is the first woman from India to win the WTA championship after Sania Mirza.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairperson of NCST

- The Government of India has appointed Harish Chauhan as the Director of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
- The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and the members of NCST will be appointed by the President of India for a tenure of three years.
- The Chairperson holds the rank of Union Cabinet Minister.
- The Headquarters of NCST is located in New Delhi.
- NCST is a constitutional body established in 2004.

ORBITUARY

Veteran Music Director Isaac Thomas Passes away

- The Veteran Music Director Isaac Thomas Kottukapally passed away at the age of 72 on 18th February, 2021.
- He was born in 1948.
- He has won the National Award the background score of the Malayalam movie Adaminte Makan Abu released in 2010.
- He has also worked in several movies in Kannada, Punjabi and Hindi.

MISCELLENOUS NEWS

New Asian cooking record

- Nine-year-old Hayan Abdulla made 172 dishes in just one hour in Kozhikode
- This Class 3 student of Sherwood Hall Senior Secondary School in Chennai cooked 172 dishes at Feroke, Kozhikode, recently, setting a new record gaining entry to both India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records.

ONE-LINE FACTS

- NASA’s Perseverance became the ninth spacecraft to successfully land on Mars.