KALA KUMBH - Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition.

NATIONAL NEWS

Soil Health Card Day is observed today.

- The Soil Health Card(SHC) Day is being observed today.
- To recognize the day **Soil Health Card Scheme** was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19, 2015 at **Suratgarh, Rajasthan.**
- The SHC scheme was initiated to address nutritional deficiencies during fertilization practices for which a soil health card is being issued to the farmers under this scheme.

IDSA renamed to Manohar Parrikar Institute.

- The Government of India decided to rename **The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)** as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- This move is to honour the **former Raksha Mantri and the Padma Bhushan awardee**, Mr. Manohar Parrikar.

HRD Ministry to celebrate Matribhasha Diwas.

- Ministry of Human Resource Development is to celebrate the **Matribhasha Diwas** falling on 21st February 2020.
- The main event to be held in **New Delhi** having the Vice President of India, **M. Venkaiah Naidu** as the Chief Guest.
- The theme of the event is **'Celebrating our Multilingual Heritage'** reflecting the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat campaign.
- Union Minister of Human Resource Development: **Ramesh Pokhriyal**.

KALA KUMBH - Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition.

- The Ministry of Textiles is organising **"Kala Kumbh"** - Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India.
- The exhibitions are planned in major cities like **Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai**.
- The event was sponsored by **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts** (EPCH).
- The GI tag is used on handicrafts which correlate with a specific geographical location or origin.
- Union Minister of Textiles: **Smriti Irani.**

Railway Minister is to lay foundation for the development of Satellite Terminal.

- **Union Minister for Railways Mr. Piyush Goyal** will be laying foundation for the development of **Satellite Terminal at Charlapalli Railway Station, in Telangana**.
- He also initiates the electrification of **Yerragunta-Nandyal section**.
- He will dedicate doubling **electrification of Guntakal-Kalluru section** via remote video link and a free high speed WiFi facility at **427 Railway Stations** in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bangladesh-Nepal to sign Free Trade Agreement.

- To encourage the trade commitment between Bangladesh and Nepal, the two countries agreed to sign Free Trade Agreement between them.
- **Commerce Minister of Bangladesh Tipu Munshi** said a committee is to be formed to work on the initial works of the agreement.
- Bangladesh has also agreed to allow Nepal to use its **Saidpur airport**, in the northernmost district of **Nilphamari** nearby nepal.

Ashraf Ghani becomes the Afghan President for the 2nd term.

- The **Independent Election Commission** in Afghanistan has announced that **Ashraf Ghani** wins the 2nd term as the country's President.
- Ashraf Ghani secured **50.64% of votes** in the election that took place on 28th of September last year, while his counterpart and the country's Chief Executive **Abdullah Abdullah** has secured **39.52%** of votes.

FATF recommends to have Pakistan in "Grey List".

- The **Financial Action Task Force(FATF)** an intergovernmental organization in its **International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG)** meeting announced to continue to have Pakistan on the "Grey List".
- **Pakistan** was already placed on the 'Grey List' by the FATF in **June 2018.**

OBITUARY

Tapas Paul, famous Bengali film actor passes away.

- The famous Bengali Actor and the **former Trinamool congress MP** Tapas Paul passed away in Mumbai.
- He has been elected in Lok Sabha for 2 times from **Krishnanagar Constituency in Nadia District, West Bengal.**

Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal passes away.

- Popular veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal passed away due to age-related problems.
- She was popularly called as **"Kaveriamma"** after her extraordinary performance in Shah Rukh Khan movie **"Swades".**

V.L. Dutt passes away.

- The **Executive Chairman of KCP group**, Mr. V.L. Dutt has passed away in Chennai.
- Under his chairmanship the KCP group has boosted its turnover to about **$250 million**.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Jeff Bezos launches $10 billion Earth Fund to battle climate change.

- Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has launched a new fund which he calls it as **"Earth Fund"** to fight against the climate change.
- This funding worth **$10 billion is to fund scientists, activists, NGOs** taking any efforts towards preserving the nature.

SEZ continues to lead in Exports.

- **The Special Economic Zones, (SEZ)** continues to lead the way in export sector of the country.
- SEZ has recorded **100-billion-dollar worth** of exports so far in spite of the unstable Global Economy.
- **Petrochemicals** constitute a major segment of SEZ exports.

EESL-BSNL signs MoU to setup charging stations.

- The state-owned **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd(EESL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with BSNL for installing charging stations for electric vehicles.
- EESL will set up a public Electric Vehicle charging stations at **1000 BSNL sites** all over the country.
- EESL will hold the entire investment for the programme and also will look after the **operation and maintenance services.**
- Whereas BSNL will provide the **required power connections** for the installation processes.

SPORTS NEWS

Amit Dahiya banned for four years by NADA.

- **Javelin thrower Amit Dahiya** was banned for four years for **deceiving the sample collections** and attempting to **cheat the officials** in the 2nd National Javelin Throw Open Championship 2019.
- **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** issued the charge of notice to Amit Dahiya according to the **Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP)**.

2020 Tokyo Olympics Motto Announced.

- The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games has officially announced the Motto for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- The Motto is **"UNITED BY EMOTION".**

20th Laureus Awards 2020.

- The 20th Laureus Award ceremony was held at **Berlin, in Germany**.
- The Laureus World Sports Awards, honours individuals and teams from the world of sports for their achievements all over the year.
- Laureus Award was organised in the year **1999** by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation founding patrons Daimler and Richemont.
- **WINNERS LISTS:**

World Best Team of the Year	Men's Rugby Team of South Africa
World Best Sportsman of the Year	Lewis Hamilton(Formula One Champion) and Lionel Messi(Football Superstar)
World Best Sportswoman of the Year	Simone Biles(Gymnastics)
World Best Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability	Oksana Masters(Rower and Cross-country Skier)
World Best Action Sportsperson of the Year	Chloe Kim(Snowboarding)
Best Sporting Moment	Sachin Tendulkar being carried on the shoulders of his team mates following India's world cup triumph in 2011
Lifetime Achievement Award	Dirk Nowitzki(Basketball Player)
World Breakthrough of the Year	Egan Bernal(Cyclist)
World Comeback of the Year	Sophia Flörsch(Racing driver)
Laureus Academy Exceptional Achievement Award	Spanish Basketball Federation
Laureus Sport for Good Award	South Bronx United