PM Modi to inaugurate submarine Optical Fibre Cable connecting Chennai and Port Blair

NATIONAL NEWS

PM Modi to inaugurate submarine Optical Fibre Cable connecting Chennai and Port Blair

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Chennai and Port Blair today virtually.
- The submarine cable will also connect **Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat**.
- For which the foundation stone laid on **30th December 2018** at Port Blair.
- This move is to develop the **mobile and telecom services** to Andaman and Nicobar islands effectively.
- Enhanced telecom and Broadband connectivity will boost tourism and employment generation in the Islands and will increase the standard of living.
- The project is assisted by the Government of India through the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** under the Department of Telecommunications in Ministry of Communications.
- **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** is to execute the project.
- **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)** will provide the technical assistance.

Fact: Capital of Andaman and Nicobar – **Port Blair**

Lieutenant Governor - **Admiral (ret.) Devendra Kumar Joshi**

PM launches Rs 1 Lakh Crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched one lakh crore rupees agriculture infrastructure fund for assisting them in **post-harvest management and in the marketing** of the agricultural produce.
- He also released the 6th instalment of **PM-Kisan Scheme**, transferred **17,100 crore rupees** to more than 8.5 crore farmers under the PM-Kisan direct income assistance scheme.
- The fund was launched with **1,128 crore rupees** of new loans disbursed to more than **2,200 cooperative societies.**
- Under the infrastructure scheme, banks and financial institutions will provide one lakh crore in loans to cooperative societies, farmer producer companies, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups and infrastructure providers.
- The scheme will enable start-ups to scale up their operations and India to build a global presence in organic and fortified food.

Delhi Airport develops 'Air Suvidha' portal for all international arriving passengers across India

- **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** has developed AIR SUVIDHA, a first-of-its-kind portal for all international arriving passengers.
- The portal allows international arriving passengers to fill a mandatory self-declaration form and eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.
- This is to make the passenger's journey more convenient and comfortable in a contactless way.
- The online forms have been developed in collaboration with various state governments, **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).**

Fact: Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare – **Dr Harsh Vardhan**

Union Minister of External Affairs - **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**

Flipkart signs MoU with the U.P. Government under ODOP scheme

- Indian e-commerce company Flipkart has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Uttar Pradesh's **One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme.**
- The partnership will enable the under-served communities to highlight their specialised products and crafts in the e-commerce platform.
- As part of the MoU, artisans and weavers under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme will be brought into the '**Flipkart Samarth**' initiative.

Fact: Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh – **Yogi Adityanath**

Governor of Uttar Pradesh – **Anandiben Patel**

Meghalaya Cabinet Approves Policy on Reservation of Seats for Women in Village Employment Councils

- Chief Minister of Meghalaya informed the cabinet's approval for the passage of the "**Policy on Reservation of seats for Women in Village Employment Councils (VECs)".**
- Policy on Reservation of seats for Women in Village Employment Councils - the policy of reserving **50% seats for women** in the village level community institutions.
- This policy ensures the empowerment of Women by establishing a forum for women to exercise their leadership and freedom.
- The VECs are a political organisation established to implement the works of Mahatma Gandhi **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).**

Fact: Chief Minister of Meghalaya - **Conrad Kongkal Sangma**

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi takes oath as Chairman of UPSC

- Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- He has joined the Commission as a member in the year **2015.**
- He served as Director of the **National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Tribal Day being observed today

- International Day of the World Tribal peoples is observed every year on August 10th **since 1994.**
- The day is aimed at **promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population**.
- The date recognizes the first meeting of the **United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.**
- As the year **2019** being observed as the **Year of Indegenous Languages**, this year the World Tribal Day celebrations are focussed on **preservation and documentation of tribal languages.**

OBITUARY

Nobel Laureate John Hume passed away

- **Northern Ireland politician**, Nobel Laureate John Hume has died at the age of 83 following a long period of illness.
- Hume was one of the highest-profile politicians in Northern Ireland for **more than 30 years**.
- He was a founding member of the **Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)** in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.

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