Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ Launches World's Most Affordable COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit Corosure

NATIONAL NEWS

INCOIS, Hyderabad observes Swachhata Pakhwada

- The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, Hyderabad recognised institution under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has concluded Swachhata Pakhwada.
- This is a part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission** launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Swachhata Pakhwada**, was observed mainly with the objective to eradicate open defecation, efficient management of solid and liquid waste, encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation etc.,
- INCOIS is to provide free ocean information services to the nation by offering 3 primary services namely,

    The Tsunami Early Warning Service,

    Ocean State Forecast Service and

    Potential Fishing Zone Advisory Service.

Fact: Chairman of INCOIS – **Dr. M. Rajeevan**

Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ Launches World's Most Affordable COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit Corosure

- **Union Human Resource Development Minister**, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has e-launched the world’s most affordable **Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)** based COVID-19 diagnostic kit.
- This diagnostic kit was developed by **IIT Delhi** and approved by the **ICMR and DCGI** in New Delhi.
- The Union Minister also released the **PRAGYATA Guidelines on Digital Education** virtually which was prepared by the Department of School Education & Literacy of the Ministry of HRD

Sustainable Growth Pillar India Energy Modeling Forum Launched: India-US partnership

- Sustainable Growth Pillar is a significant gathering of the India–US Strategic Energy Partnership co-chaired by **NITI Aayog and USAID**.
- The SG pillar’s key focus is on **energy data management, energy modelling and collaboration on low carbon technologies.**

- During the gathering, an **"India Energy Modeling Forum"** was launched on July 2nd 2020.

AAI Signs MoU with BEL for Co-operation in Civil Aviation industry

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** to collaborate and support the emerging global opportunities in the airport business, including those in the **Asia Pacific region**.
- This MoU will provide for the synergy of capabilities of both the organisations in their particular field.

Fact: Headquarters of AAI - **New Delhi, India**

Poba Reserve Forest in Assam upgraded to wildlife sanctuary

- The major **Biodiversity Hotspot**, Poba Reserve Forest in **Dhemaji district** of Assam is going to be upgraded to a Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Chief Minister of Assam announced this during a meeting with the chief officials at Dhemaji district.

Fact: Chief Minister of Assam - **Sarbananda Sonowal**

Governor of Assam - **Professor Jagdish Mukhi**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India joins Chile and FAO Co-Hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables

- India and Chile joined the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nation (UN) and co-hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.
- This was launched during the event of 2020 High-level Political forum – **"On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables".**
- The aim of the event is to discuss the key roles of fruits and vegetables in health and in sustainable production systems with the relevant stakeholders.
- The UN designated 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables to acknowledge the nutritional and health benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables.

Fact: Headquarters of FAO – **Rome, Italy**.

APPOINTMENTS

ADB Appoints Ashok Lavasa as its New Vice-President

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Ashok Lasava as its new Vice-President and he will take charge after Diwakar Gupta, whose term will end on 31 August 2020.
- Ashok Lasava is currently serving as one of the Election Commissioners of India.

Fact: Headquarters of ADB – **Metro Manila, Philippines**

OBITUARY

Former Goa health minister passed away at 68

- Former Health Minister **Suresh Amonka** has passed away due to COVID-19 infection.
- He served as the Minister of Health, Labour & Employment, and Factories and Boilers in the First Manohar Parrikar cabinet.

Fact: Chief Minister of Goa - **Pramod Sawant**.