

Indonesian Independence Day

Indonesian Independence Day is celebrated on 17 August every year. This day is celebrated as the declaration of independence from Dutch colonization in 1945.

World Photography Day

World Photography Day is observed on 19 August annually to raise awareness about the importance of photography.

World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is observed annually on 19 August around the world to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service. This day also honour the work of women in crises throughout the world. Theme 2019 #WomenHumanitarians

India gets its first national essential diagnostics

India has got its **first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)** finalised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which aims to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that do not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD). It is a complete list of diagnostic tests, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD) for all levels of health care – **village level, primary, secondary and tertiary care**. The current system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices. India has become the first country to compile such a list that would provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require

President inaugurates bunker museum at Maharashtra Raj Bhavan

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated an underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan Mumbai. The thematic underground bunker museum spread over an area of 15,000 sq.ft. will be opened for the general public through prior online booking later during the year. The Bunker Museum has Virtual Reality Booths in which visitors can time-travel to the 19th century when the bunker was constructed to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships. The President also inaugurated the Presidential Guest House named Jal Kiran at Raj Bhavan which will serve as the accommodation for the President and the Prime Minister during their visits to Mumbai. He also laid the foundation stone of reconstruction of Maharashtra Governor's Office-cumResidence known as Jal Bhushan.

Centre launches San-Sadhan Hackathon for Divyang accessible toilets

With an aim to have functional, accessible and well-maintained toilets for the disabled, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), under Swachh Bharat Mission, launched SanSadhan Hackathon. Under San-Sadhan Hackathon, startups, student innovators, technology enthusiasts, academicians and industry experts have been invited by the Central government to create composite and affordable toilet solutions for Divyang or physically challenged people.

Nine-day national tribal festival, Aadi Mahotsav, begins at Leh in Ladakh

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda today inaugurated a nine-day National Tribal Festival, Aadi Mahotsav in Polo Grounds of Leh. This is the first mega event arranged by the Centre after the announcement of Union Territory status for Ladakh region which has 97 per cent tribal population. Aadi Mahotsav would provide an opportunity to Ladakhi Tribal artisans to come and get themselves empanelled with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India to expand their market base. Aadi Mahotsav is jointly organized by Tribal Affairs Ministry and TRIFED with a theme of A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce.

Narendra Modi cements Bhutan ties with RuPay launch

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering held wide ranging talks in Thimpu Saturday. They also discussed steps to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors and signed 10 MoUs to infuse new energy in India-Bhutan ties. Modi inaugurated Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant and also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation. **The two countries signed 10 memoranda of understanding in space research, aviation, IT, power and education.** Modi also launched **RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong**, which functions as a monastic and administrative centre and is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan. Bhutan is the second country **this (RuPay Card) will be launched in after Singapore.** This will be done in two phases — in the first phase Indian banks will issue RuPay cards which can be used by Indian travellers in Bhutan. The next phase will be where the banks of Bhutan will be empowered to issue RuPay cards to Bhutanese citizens to use in India.

Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as 'Atal Chowk'

Lucknow city's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha has been renamed as the 'Atal Chowk', in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Hazratganj Chauraha in Lucknow is located in the heart of the city near its major shopping area 'Hazratganj'

28th BASIC Ministerial Meeting 2019 on Climate Change held in Sao Paulo, Brazil



The 28th session of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China) Ministerial meeting 2019 on Climate Change was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar represented India for this meeting. This comes ahead of United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from 2 – 13 December 2019. BASIC Group could play an important role in making Paris Agreement accepted by all the countries in its true letter and spirit.

Four products, including Kerela's Tirur betel and Mizoram's Puanchei, get GI tag

PalaniPanchamirtham from Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu State, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram and Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala are the latest additions to the list of registered GI.

Tawlhlohpuan, a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving & intricate designs that are made by hand. Tawlhloh, in Mizo language, means 'to stand firm or not to move backward.

Mizo Puanchei is a colourful Mizo shawl and is considered as the most colourful among the Mizo textiles. It is an essential possession for every Mizo lady and an important marriage outfit in the state. It is also the most commonly used costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies. The weavers insert the designs and motifs by using supplementary yarns while weaving to create this beautiful and alluring textile.

Kerala's Tirur betel vine is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District. It is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties. Even though it is commonly used for making pan masala for chewing, it has many medicinal, industrial and cultural usages and is considered as a remedy for bad breath and digestive disorders.

IIT Madras develops multimodal robot with human-like grasp

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) researchers have developed a multimodal robotic system with good grasping, manipulation and locomotion abilities for use in industrial and field applications. Called 'GraspMan,' the system comprises a pair of graspers that are capable of holding objects securely and manipulate it much like the human hand. Two such graspers, equipped with the robotic platform provides behavioural adaptation, which is the capability to change the locomotion behaviour to adapt to the environment.

Rajiv Dogra authors novel titled “Second Night”

Former diplomat Rajiv Dogra has penned a novel titled “Second Night”. Second Night is a story of a woman determined to escape and a man who has vowed to find her. This is the third book written by **Rajiv Dogra** the other two being – “**Durand’s Curse**” and “**Where Borders Bleed: An Insider’s Account of Indo-Pak Relations**”. Dogra has served as India’s Ambassador to Italy and Romania, the Permanent Representative to the United Nations Agencies in Rome and Consul General in Karachi.

Iqbal Chand Malhotra and Maroof Raza Pens Book Titled ‘Kashmir’s Untold Story: Declassified’

A new book titled ‘Kashmir’s Untold Story: Declassified’, which reveals amazing insights about the history of Jammu and Kashmir is soon to be released. The book has been written by filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defence analyst Maroof Raza. Published by Bloomsbury, the book will hit stands on September 18.

India win gold at Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team championship in Kazakhstan

India have won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title. The team comprised Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Tamil Nadu’s Pranav Rethin. Manas and Rethin won their singles matches. Manas and Arnav, however, lost their doubles encounter. 12-year-old Manas remained unbeaten in the entire tournament.

Hima Das, Mohammad Anas win gold at Athleticky Mitink Reiter event

Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won a gold each in 300m races at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic. While Hima won the gold in women's event yesterday, Mohammad Anas claimed the yellow metal in men's category. This was Hima's sixth gold in 2019 in European races since last month. India’s Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in the same event.

3 Time Oscar-Winning Animator Richard Williams Passes away

Richard Williams, the three-time Oscar-winning animator best known to the world for Who Framed Roger Rabbit, and to the animation industry for “The Animators Survival Kit,” his seminal instructional book, DVD and app set, passed away at the age of 86. “The Return Of The Pink Panther” and “The Pink Panther Strikes Again” are some of his famous works.