



Cross & Climb, Rohtak



Current Affairs:09/10.01.2022

Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates India's first open rock museum in Hyderabad

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad, on January 06, 2022. The Open Rock Museum displays around 35 varieties of rocks from different parts of India. The ages of these rocks range from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history. Some of these rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth, up to 175 kms from the surface of the earth. This Museum will help in educating and enlightening the people about several lesser-known facts.

KVIC launches Country's first 'Mobile Honey Processing Van' at Ghaziabad

India's first Mobile Honey Processing Van has been launched at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on January 07, 2022 by KVIC. The Van was inaugurated by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It has been designed in-house by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary training centre, Panjokehra. The cost of developing the unit is around Rs 15 lakh. It can process about 300 kg of honey in 8 hours. The van also has a testing laboratory to instantly examine the quality of honey. Mobile Honey Processing Van

MEA inks pact with TCS for Phase II of Passport Seva Programme

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has signed an agreement with Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) for the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme (PSP-V2.0). TCS will be the service provider for the Passport Seva Project, which it has been for over 10 years. The PSP-V2.0 envisages rolling out chip-enabled e-passports, increasing data security and ensuring the next level of customer experience with the use of biometrics, artificial intelligence, advanced data analytics and auto-response.

NSO projects Indian economy to grow 9.2% in FY22

The National Statistical Office (NSO) has estimated India's GDP to grow at 9.2 percent in the current fiscal, 2021-22. NSO released its first advance estimates of economic output on January 07, 2022. The GDP estimate for 2020-21 fiscal was projected at a contraction of 7.3 percent by NSO. In terms of figures, real GDP in 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 147.54 lakh crore against the provisional estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 at Rs 135.13 lakh crore. Nominal GDP for 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 232.15 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 at Rs 197.46 lakh crore. Fiscal deficit target likely to be achieved is 6.8%

India participates in US-led six nations Exercise Sea Dragon 22

Six Indo-Pacific nations are taking part in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon 22 which began on January 05, 2022 at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam in the Western Pacific. The six nations navies that are participating in the exercise are the Quad nations (United States, Australia, India and Japan), Canada and South Korea. The Sea Dragon is a US led multi-national exercise that focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training and excellence to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. Exercise Sea Dragon 22

OPEC elects Kuwait's Haitham Al-Ghais as new secretary general

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has voted to appoint Haitham Al-Ghais as its new secretary general. Haitham Al-Ghais, a Kuwaiti candidate, will take charge from August 01, 2022, for a period of three years. He will replace Nigeria's Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, who is serving the post since August 01, 2016.

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Al-Ghais currently serves as deputy managing director for International Marketing at KPC. He was Kuwait's OPEC Governor from 2017 to June 2021.

Book titled 'Mamata: Beyond 2021' to release on January 24, 2022

A new book titled 'Mamata Beyond 2021', based on West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee will be released on January 24, 2022. The book has been written by Jayanta Ghosal, a political Journalist. It has been translated by Arunava Sinha, a fiction and non-fiction translator. The book will be published by HarperCollins India. The book narrates how Mamata worked tirelessly for the state's poor and disadvantaged and was successfully able to portray herself as the 'daughter of Bengal'.

Sidney Poitier, first black actor to win Best Actor Oscars Award passes away at 94

Veteran Bahamian-American actor Sidney Poitier who created history by becoming the first Black man to win the best actor award at the Oscars, has passed away. He was 94. Poitier won the Academy Award for best lead performance in 1964 for his film Lilies of the Field. Sidney Poitier, first black actor to win Best Actor Oscars Award passes away at 94

First-ever Startup India Innovation Week to be held from January 10 to 16, 2022

The first-ever Startup India Innovation Week is planned to be held from January 10 to 16, 2022 through virtual platform, as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence. The week-long innovation celebration is being organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The programme will showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. States/UTs and various departments of Government of India will take part in the programme to address key aspects of the startup ecosystem through interactive sessions, workshops, and presentations.

Startup India Innovation Week

PM declares December 26 to be observed as 'Veer Baal Diwas' annually

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has declared that starting from the year 2022, December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Baal Diwas' every year.

The day will be commemorated as a tribute to the courage of the 4 Sahibzades (the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji), who attained martyrdom in the 17th century.

The announced was made by PM Modi on January 09, 2022, on occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, or the birth anniversary of the 10th guru of Sikhs and the founder of the Khalsa community.

26 December marks the day on which Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji (younger pair of Sahibzade) attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall, at the tender age of 6 and 9 years.

Sahibzada Ajit Singh Ji and Sahibzada Jujhar Singh Ji (older pair of Sahibzade) attained martyrdom on December 21, 1705, fighting the enemy in battle at Chamkaur Sahib at the young age of 18 and 14 years.

NASA successfully completes deployment of James Webb Space Telescope

The NASA team successfully completed the deployment of 21-foot, gold-coated primary mirror panel of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) on January 08, 2022. This milestone achievement marks the complete structural deployment of the observatory, making it ready to study cosmic history. JWST was launched on December 25, 2021 in an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana. The Webb mission will explore every phase of cosmic history, ranging from within our solar system to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe. The JWST is developed by NASA in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). JWST is named after James E. Webb, administrator of NASA from 1961 to 1968.

JWST will be a successor of Hubble Space Telescope.

Forex reserves decline by USD 1.466 bn to USD 633.614 bn: RBI data

As per the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the foreign currency reserves of India declined by \$1.466 billion to \$633.614 billion, in the last week of 2021, ended December 31, 2021.

Gold reserves rose by USD 14 million to USD 39.405 billion.

India's forex touched a life-time high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 03, 2021.

Forex reserves include foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs and the country's reserve position with the IMF.

India's Real GDP projected to grow at around 9.5% in FY22: SBI Ecowrap

The economic research team of the State Bank of India (SBI) released its Ecowrap report on January 08, 2022. In the report, SBI researchers have revised upwards the real GDP of India to around 9.5 percent in 2021-22 (FY22) on a year-on-year (YoY). The report believes that though rising Covid infections could impact mobility, yet economic activity is not expected to get much affected. India's Real GDP projected to grow at around 9.5% in FY22: SBI Ecowrap

Reliance acquires controlling stake of 73.37% in New York's Mandarin Oriental hotel for around \$270 mn

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has announced the acquisition of controlling stake in Mandarin Oriental New York, a premium luxury hotel in midtown Manhattan. RIL through its wholly owned arm Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Limited has acquired the entire share capital of Cayman Islands-based Columbus Centre Corporation (Cayman), for an equity value of approximately \$98.15 million (Rs 735 crore). Cayman is the parent company of Mandarin Oriental hotel. It had an indirect ownership of 73.37 percent stake in the hotel. Reliance will also take over the hotel's debt in excess of \$115 million to take the entire deal value to around \$270. The transaction is anticipated to close by the end of March 2022.

Centre extends Navrang Saini's term as interim chief of IBBI for three months

The Centre has extended the tenure of Navrang Saini as interim Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for three more months till March 05, 2022.

Mr. Saini, who is a Whole Time Member of IBBI, was assigned additional charge of Chairperson in addition to his existing duties in October 2021 for three months till January 13, 2022.

The post of full-time Chairperson has been lying vacant after M.S. Sahoo retired upon completing a five-year tenure on September 30, 2021.

Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India by Dharendra K. Jha

A new book titled Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India, has been released on January 04, 2022. The book has been authored by a Delhi-based journalist Dharendra K. Jha under Vintage Books publication. It narrates Godse's relationship with the organizations that influenced his world view and the gradual hardening of his resolve, and the fateful decisions that eventually led to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: 09 January

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)/(Non-Resident Indian Day) is observed by the Republic of India on 09 January to mark the favors and contributions made by Non Resident Indians towards the welfare and development of the nation. India is celebrating its 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in 2022. As a part of the celebration, the Ministry of External Affairs will address a virtual youth PBD conference on the theme 'the role of the Indian diaspora.'

The conference will cover various aspects with regard to innovation and new technologies by the overseas Indians residing in countries worldwide.

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World Hindi Day: 10 January

The World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 since 2006 to promote the language at the global stage. The day marks the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was inaugurated on January 10, 1975 by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi. However, the celebration of first World Hindi Day was commenced on 10 January 2006 by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. In India the National Hindi Day is celebrated on September 14 every year.