

Rohit Sharma lays foundation stone for international cricket stadium and training centre in Hyderabad

Star opening batsman Rohit Sharma laid down the foundation stone for an international cricket stadium and training centre at Heartfulness Institute on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The cricket stadium has been named after Rohit Sharma and this facility will provide the youngsters at the institute to perfect their cricketing skills.

The cricketer met the spiritual master of the institute, Kamlesh Patel (also known as Daaji) at the global headquarters in Kanha Shantivanam, Chegur, Hyderabad.

First-of-its kind turtle rehab centre comes up in Bihar

A first-of-its-kind rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles will be inaugurated in Bihar's Bhagalpur forest division in January 2020. The rehab centre, spread over half a hectare, will be able to shelter 500 turtles at a time.

This centre will play a significant role in treating these animals and their proper upkeep before being returned to their natural habitat.

The size of turtles found in eastern Bihar is good as well. A turtle weighing up to 15 kilograms can be found.

Delhi gets first smog tower to combat air pollution

Delhi's first smog tower will start working at Lajpat Nagar central market.

The 20-foot-tall tower is fitted with exhaust fans to suck in polluted air and can remove up to 80% of the particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM10).

The smog towers were to be installed on the lines of China, which has experimented with this technology.

A separate pilot project has been proposed to consider the efficacy of smog towers and this is being undertaken by the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-Bombay) in collaboration with IIT-Delhi and the University of Minnesota.

Women Science Congress begins in Bengaluru

The Women Science Congress was inaugurated at the ongoing Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru.

DRDO Aeronautical Systems Director General Tessy Thomas who is known as Missile Woman of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

India ranks 34th in Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index

Government is committed to make policies and programmes for the development and promotion of tourism and the year 2019 witnessed several steps in this direction.

Reducing E-visa fees, decreasing GST rates on hotel room booking and opening 120 new peaks for mountaineering are among the major highlights of Tourism Ministry in 2019.

Along with these several steps taken under Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD Scheme and various other events of **Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat** were also undertaken during the year.

India's rank in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index of World Economic Forum has moved to **34th position from 65th rank in 2013. Foreign Tourist Arrivals also registered a growth of 3.2 percent last year.**



ISRO inks pact with NITK to set up Regional Academic Centre for Space

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set up a Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) at National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) at Surathkal in Mangaluru

It is to carry out advanced joint research and development (R&D) activities in the area of space technology applications.

Indian Blind Sports Association organizes sports events from Jan 6

Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) is organizing week-long sportsevents for the blind from 6 to 11 January, 2020 in the premises of The BlindRelief Association, Delhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, near the Oberoi Hotel, NewDelhi.

Over 400 participants, including 85 female blind sports persons from 7states, namely, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Telangana will be taking part in the following events.

Irfan Pathan announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. Irfan, who has been out of favour from the Indian team for few years now, made his Team India debut at the age of 19 in 2003.

Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold in men's 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting C'ship

Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has won the men's 10 metres air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship in Bhopal . The 17-year-old from Uttar Pradesh shot a classy 246.4 to finish on top.

Second-placed Sarabjot Singh of Haryana was well behind with a score of 243.9, while world number two Abhishek Verma settled for bronze in a high-quality final.