

Current Affairs: 29.12.2021

‘INNOVATIONS FOR YOU’; ‘THE INGENIOUS TINKERERS’

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) NITI Aayog released the second edition of ‘Innovations for You’ and another compendium titled ‘The Ingenious Tinkerers’.



About:

The second edition of ‘Innovations for You’ is a compendium of innovations focused on agriculture featuring 70 start-ups supported by Atal incubation Centers (AICs) of AIM. ‘The Ingenious Tinkerers’ is a compendium on the innovations on technology featuring 41 innovations from Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) of India. ‘The Ingenious Tinkerers’ is a compilation of the top innovations created by young student innovators

who participated in the ATL Marathon - which invites school students to address a problem that they see or face on a day-to-day basis.

NORTH EASTERN REGION

Recent Initiatives launched for North Eastern Region.



About:

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) in collaboration with NITI Aayog, and with technical support from UNDP, released the North Eastern Region District SDG Index and Dashboard 2021-22. The index measures the performance of the District of the eight NE States. This is the first time, a District wise index is being prepared in the country. The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) is a new centrally sponsored scheme with a special focus on NE Region and A&N islands. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has approved a revival package of Rs. 77.45 crore for

revival of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC). NEDFi has introduced Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme with the objective to develop the petty artisans of the NE Region.

POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST



A positive indigenisation list of sub-systems/assemblies/sub-assemblies/components has been notified by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, as part of the efforts to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing and minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

About:

The list contains 2,500 imported items which have already been indigenised and 351 imported items which will be indigenised in next three years. This Atmanirbhar initiative will save foreign exchange approximately equivalent to Rs. 3,000 cr every year. They will only be procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list. Two positive indigenisation lists of weapons/platforms/ systems/ammunitions etc have already been notified by the Department of Military Affairs, in order to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing. The positive indigenisation list is an intrinsic part of the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020. For a product to be considered as an indigenous system, items on the positive indigenisation list must not only use technologies designed and developed by the Indian defence industry or the DRDO but also meet the specified requirement of sourcing indigenous content of 50 per cent.

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



QUANTUM LABORATORY AT MHOW (MP)

The Indian Army is making steady, yet significant strides in the field of emerging technology domains.

About:-

The Indian Army, with support from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) has recently established the Quantum Lab at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (MP) to spearhead research and training in this key developing field. Indian Army has also established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre at the same institution with over 140 deployments in forward areas and active support of industry and academia. Training on cyber warfare is being imparted through a state of art cyber range, and cyber security labs. Research undertaken by Indian Army in the field of Quantum Technology will help leapfrog into next generation communication and transform the current system of cryptography in the Indian Armed Forces to Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC). Key thrust areas are Quantum Key Distribution, Quantum Communication, Quantum Computing and Post Quantum Cryptography.

NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

India has welcomed Egypt as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank that was established by the BRICS countries six years ago.



About:

Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay joined in September 2021. Membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies. The New Development Bank aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies, and developing countries. The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-

South Africa) set up the bank with an aim to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies. The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China. The first regional office of the NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa. The second regional office was established in 2019 in São Paulo, Brazil, followed by Moscow, Russia. The NDB said it has so far approved about 80 projects in all of its member countries, totalling a portfolio of USD 30 billion. Projects in areas such as transport, water and sanitation, clean energy, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure and urban development are within the scope of the bank.

ATAL RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS (ARIIA)

Seven Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, are among the top 10 central institutions in promotion and support of innovation and entrepreneurship development, according to Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) announced.

About:

The top rank has been bagged by the IIT, Madras followed by the IITs in Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur and Roorkee. The IISc has bagged the sixth position in the ranking followed by the IITs in Hyderabad and Kharagpur, the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Calicut, and the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Uttar Pradesh. The ARIIA is an initiative of the Union Education Ministry to rank systematically all major higher education institutions in India on indicators related to innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship development among students and faculty members. The ARIIA evaluates institutions on parameters such as patent filed and granted, number of registered students and faculty start-ups, fund generation by incubated start-ups, specialised infrastructure created by institutions to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. ARIIA-2021 ranking has been announced in various categories which include Centrally funded technical institutions (IITs, NITs and so on), State universities, State standalone technical colleges, private universities, private standalone technical colleges, non-technical government and private universities and institutions.

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SANKALP SMARAK

In order to preserve this important event in history, a Sankalp Smarak was dedicated to the nation by Lt Gen Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), exactly 78 years after Netaji's arrival on 29 Dec 2021.



About:-

The Smarak is a tribute not only to the resolve of the soldiers of the Indian National Army but also reminds us of the values enshrined by Netaji himself, "Nishtha, Kartavya aur Balidan" or "Commitment, Duty and Sacrifice" that continue to underscore the ethos of the Indian Armed Forces. On 30 December 1943, a national flag was hoisted for the first time on Indian soil, at Port Blair. It is also significant that Netaji escaped British surveillance from Kolkata on 16 Jan 1941 and stepped back on Indian soil after nearly three years, at Port Blair Aerodrome on 29 Dec 1943 and unfurled a National flag the next day. Netaji's visit to the islands as the Head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind and Supreme Commander of Indian National Army marked a symbolic fulfilment of his promise that the Indian National Army would stand on Indian soil by the end of 1943. This historic visit also marked a declaration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the "first liberated territory of India".

PANDU SHIP REPAIR FACILITY

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways met the top officials of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Cochin Shipyard Limited & IIT, Madras to review the progress on the Pandu Ship repair facility in Guwahati.



About:

The announcement of the new ship repair facility was made on 26th August, 2021. The minister said that the technical work is being completed as the construction of the facility is slated to commence from May, 2022. The project is aimed to be completed within two years; i.e. by 2024. The design and implementation of this project is being done jointly by IWAI and Cochin Shipyard Limited. The technical support is being provided by IIT, Madras. The facility - also referred as 'Slipway' - is going to be developed on 3.67 acre of land which is provided by Government of Assam.

Important Info :

- The minister further said the work has already started on the National Waterway 2 - the Brahmaputra - as well as National Waterway 6 - the Barak which will help in facilitating cargo traffic, passenger traffic as well as tourist jetties for economic growth of the region.