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LITERACY

One lakh Class 3 students across the country are participating in a foundational learning study this week, meant to set a baseline for the Centre's mission to improve literacy and numeracy in the early school years.

About:

The study, being conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), aims to set the benchmarks for reading with comprehension in 22 Indian languages, the Education Ministry said. About 10,000 schools and one lakh students are expected to take part in the study being conducted from March 23 to 26. One of the major themes of the National Education Policy, 2020 was the understanding that "the ability to read and write, and perform basic operations with numbers, is a necessary foundation and an indispensable prerequisite for all future schooling and lifelong learning". Non-governmental surveys, including the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), have shown that the majority of children in Class 3 in rural schools across the country do not have these basic skills.

Last year, the Education Ministry launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN-BHARAT) mission to ensure universal literacy and numeracy for Class 3 children within five years.

Ministry of Jal Shakti launches Sujalam 2.0 Campaign

Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the **Sujalam 2.0** campaign for **greywater management** on the occasion of World Water Day, 2022 (22 March 2022). It was launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti, **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**. **Theme:** The theme for this year for Sujalam 2.0 campaign is '**Groundwater: making the invisible visible**'. **Objective of Sujalam 2.0:** to manage greywater through people's participation. Under the campaign, we plan to mobilize communities, our institutions like panchayats, schools, anganwadi to undertake greywater management.

Nagaland becomes first paperless Assembly by implementing National e-Vidhan Application programme

Nagaland has become the first State Assembly in the country to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless**. The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the 60 members' assembly amid the ongoing Budget session. NeVA is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and to conduct Legislative Business of the House in a Paperless manner. **The expenses for implementing NeVA is funded by the Centre and the state government on a 90:10 sharing basis.**

Kerala Becomes First State To Introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming

Kerala is all set to become the first in the country to introduce Carbon-neutral farming for better soil health. For this, the State government has set aside Rs. 6 crores in the 2022-23 Budget. In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva a carbon-neutral farm. In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.

Classical wind music instrument narasinghapettai nagaswaram of Tamil Nadu gets GI tag

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



The Narasinghapettai nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument traditionally made by artisans based at a village in Tamil

Nadu, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under 'musical instruments of class 15'.

The unique feature of the nagaswaram is its production process – it is handmade in Narasingapettai village in Thanjavur, unlike the other machine-made ones.

OECD projects India's GDP for FY23 at 8.1% and for FY24 at 5.5%

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has projected the India's real gross domestic product (GDP) as below:

For 2022-23 (FY23)= 8.1%

For 2023-24 (FY24)= 5.5%

The GDP was released in Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India of OECD

Kotak, Axis acquire 7.84% stake each in ONDC

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank have acquired 7.84% stake each in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). Before this, SBI (7.84%) and PNB (9.5%) have also acquired a stake in ONDC. ONDC was incorporated in India on December 30, 2021. It aims for creating an open public digital infrastructure to develop and transform the Indian digital commerce ecosystem for both goods and services. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is being managed by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Pushkar Singh Dhami takes oath as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for second term

Pushkar Singh Dhami of BJP took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for the second term on March 23, 2022. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Parade Ground in Dehradun, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari among others. Pushkar Singh Dhami was appointed as the Chief Minister for the first time in 2021, becoming the youngest Chief Minister of Uttarakhand at the age of 45. The 2022 Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly elections were held for 70 seats, in which BJP won 47 seats.

Book titled "Unfilled Barrels: India's oil story" authored by Richa Mishra to be out soon

Book titled "Unfilled Barrels: India's oil story" authored by Richa Mishra will be released on March 28, 2022. Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine.

The book highlights the key role played by Keshav Dev Malaviya, who was the petroleum minister in the 1970s with a degree in oil technology, and the emergence of other stakeholders from public sector enterprises, including ONGC, to the fiercely competitive private players like Cairn Energy, and Mukesh Ambani's RIL.

World tennis No.1 Ashleigh Barty announces retirement at the age of 25

Australian female tennis player Ashleigh Barty has announced retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years. She has won three Grand Slam singles titles — the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open 2022. Apart from playing tennis, she has also played semi-professional cricket during her break from tennis between 2014-2016.

Former President of Bangladesh, Shahabuddin Ahmed, passes away

The former president of Bangladesh and chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has passed away. He was 92. He served as the President of Bangladesh from 1996 to 2001. Apart from this, he was the Chief Justice of Bangladesh from 1990 to 1995.

World Tuberculosis Day 2022: 24 March

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World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on **24 March** to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.

The theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2022 is '**Invest to End TB. Save Lives**'. It was on this day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.

International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims: 24 March

United Nations has recognised **March 24** to be observed as the **International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** every year. The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all. The day proclaimed by the **United Nations in December 2010**, to say no to all forms of violence, injustice and oppression against humanity. 24 March was chosen in memory of **Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero**, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.