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Venkaiah Naidu unveils foundation stone of Innovation and Development Centre at JNCASR, Bengaluru



The Vice President of India Shri M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of **Innovation and Development Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru** on August 16, 2021. The JNCASR Innovation and Development Centre will be developed into a facility where laboratory inventions will be taken forward for scale-up and technology transfer, and in turn help in meeting the missions of “Make in India” and “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”. Scientists will be provided with state-of-the-art processing and prototyping tools to enable translation of inventions. JNCASR is established by the Department of Science and Technology at Jakkur, Bangalore.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates world’s second-largest refurbished gene bank in New Delhi



The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the **world’s second-largest National Gene Bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi** on August 16, 2021. The refurbished state-of-the-art National Gene Bank provides the facility for germplasm, to secure the heritage of seeds for years in minus 20 degree Celsius temperature. The new facility will help in the conservation of diversity of indigenous crops in the country, as well as benefit the farmers by making them self-reliant and providing a source of increasing their income. A National Gene Bank is a facility to preserve the seeds of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) for future generations.

AIIMS Delhi becomes first Indian hospital to house fire station inside premises



The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in New Delhi has become the **first hospital of India to house a fire station inside the hospital premises**, to meet any emergency. For this, AIIMS has collaborated with Delhi Fire Service (DFS). AIIMS will provide the infrastructure for the fire station and manpower, etc. will be managed by DFS.

Chhattisgarh becomes first state to recognise Community Forest Resource rights in an urban area



The **Chhattisgarh** government has become the **first state to recognise the Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) in an urban area and in core area of a tiger reserve.** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel bestowed CFRR rights certificate upon residents of Dhamtari

district for 4,127 hectares of forests, and over 5,544 hectares of forest within the core area of the tiger reserve area, on August 09, 2021.

The CFR rights have been recognised under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. This will allow the ward sabhas and gram sabhas to protect, conserve, regenerate and manage the entire forest area falling within their traditional boundary. This means as a community they would have grazing and harvesting rights in the nearby forest.

President Ram Nath Kovind confers 144 Gallantry awards in 2021



President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 144 Gallantry awards for armed forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2021. Besides, President Kovind also approved 28 Mention-in-Despatches to the army

personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations.

The 144 Gallantry awards include:

- Ashok Chakra – 1
- Kirti Chakra – 1
- Shaurya Chakras – 15
- Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry) – 4
- Sena Medals (Gallantry) – 116
- Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) – 5
- Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) – 2

Former U-19 World Cup winning India captain Unmukt Chand announces retirement to play for USA T20 League



Former India U-19 World Cup winning captain Unmukt Chand, has announced his retirement from playing any form of cricket in India. The 28-year-old, Delhi-based player has decided to end his cricket career in India, since he wants to play in the United States T20 League and the BCCI does not allow its registered players to compete in foreign T20 leagues. Chand is a right-handed

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



batsman and off-break bowler, under whose captaincy, India won the 2012 U-19 World Cup against Australia. Chand has played in 67 First-Class matches, 120 List A matches, and 77 T20s, during his cricket career in India. In IPL he represented Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals and in domestic cricket he had played for Delhi and Uttarakhand.

Pune-based Harshit Raja becomes India's 69th Chess Grandmaster



The **20-year-old Chess player Harshit Raja from Pune, Maharashtra has become the 69th Grandmaster of India in Chess.** Harshit achieved the feat of becoming the GM on August 03, 2021, at Biel Masters Open 2021 where he drew his game against Dennis Wagner to get his final GM norm with one round to spare.

Grandmaster (GM) title is awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE, and is the highest title a chess player can attain.