

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 18-03-2020

MP CM: Gwalior Chambal Expressway will be Named Shri Atal Bihari **Vajpayee Chambal Progressway**

Addressing the gathering on the 2nd death anniversary of the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, announced that the Gwalior Chambal Expressway will be named as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progressway. Chouhan also stated that a grand statue of Vajpayee will be set up in Bhopal.

Key People:

VD Sharma, the state BJP president and Lok Sabha Member(Khajuraho), Suhas Bhagat, State general secretary of Madhya Pradesh paid the floral tribute along with the CM at the BJP party office.

Gwalior Chambal Expressway:

i. The Gwalior Chambal Expressway is a 6 lane expressway connecting Madhya Pradesh with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, through the ravines of Chambal region. ii. The expressway will go parallel to the Chambal river via Shivpuri, Bhind, Morena to Kota (Rajasthan).

Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

i.Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first BJP member to become the Prime Minister of India.

ii.He served as the prime minister in 1996, from 1998 to 1999 and a term of five years from 1999 to 2004.

iii.Under his leadership the 1998 nuclear tests were conducted in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Note:

In honour of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 25th December is celebrated as Good **Governance Day.**

UNESCO sites in Madhya Pradesh:

- Rock shelters of bhimbetka
- Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi
- Khajuraho Group of Monuments

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Indian Railways Constructing World's Tallest Pier Bridge Across River Ijai in Manipur

As a part of 111 kilometre-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal line project, Indian Railways' North East Frontier Railway zone is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge, having height of 141 metres, across river Ijai in Manipur with an



outlay of Rs 280 crore. After completion, it will surpass the existing height record of 139 meters of the Mala - Rijeka Viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.

The 703 meters long bridge is located at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in

Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal, Manipur.

The project will be completed in March 2022.

Key Points:

-The project will have a total of 45 tunnels and tunnel number 12 will have a total length of 10.280 kilometres, making it the longest tunnel in the North East. -After the completion, the line will help provide railway connectivity from Manipur to the rest of the country.

-The piers of the bridge are constructed using hydraulic augers, the tall piers needed specially designed "slip-form technique" to ensure efficient and continual construction.

-The steel girders used in the construction of the bridge are pre-fabricated in a workshop, transported in segments and erected at the site by Cantilever launching scheme.

M/o SJ&E Launched 'Nasha-Mukt Bharat' Campaign; National Institute of Social Defence Building Inaugurated in New Delhi

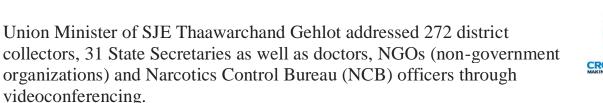
On August 15, 2020, the State Governments and the 272 District Collectors



launched a seven-month-long anti-drugs campaign namely "Nasha Mukt Bharat" or "Drug-Free India" by the Ministry of Social Justice and **Empowerment** (SJE) which will run till March 31, 2021.

ii.In order to give impetus to this launch,

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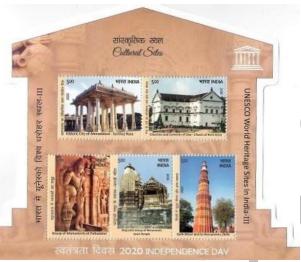




iii.Notably, the financial allocation of Rs. 43 crore in 2017 has been enhanced to Rs. 260 crore in 2020 to curb drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

India Post Issued 5 Commemorative Postage Stamps and 1 Miniature Sheet on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India-III

India Post has issued 5 Commemorative Postage Stamps namely: Historic City of Ahmedabad- Sarkhej Roza, Churches and Convents of Goa- Church of Bom Jesus, Group of Monuments at Pattadakal, Khajuraho Group of Monuments Javeri



Temple and Qutb Minar its Monuments, Delhi. It also issued 1 miniature sheet consisting of all the above stamps on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India-III.

Note:

Group of Monuments at Pattadakal-Karnataka

Khajuraho Group of Monuments Javeri Temple- Madhya Pradesh

Key Points

i. The Sarkhej Roza, is not a part of the inscribed 'Historic Metropolis Of Ahmedabad' which obtained the tag of India's 1st UNESCO World Heritage Metropolis in July 2017.

ii. The leaflet issued by India Submit with the stamps phrases the Sarkhej Roza as one of many outstanding landmarks of the Historic Metropolis of Ahmedabad for its wealthy historical past and reverence

Google Partners with CWC of India for Flood Forecasting Initiatives

Google in association with the Central Water Commission(CWC) of India launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India for the past several months.

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Flood Forecasting Initiatives:

Highlights:

across India.

i. The initiative enables the users with Android Smartphones with location service to receive the alerts and notification on the real time water level measurements. **ii.** This initiative also allows the users to enter queries on flood affected areas and access information on the current situations of the region.

measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges

iii. This also provides visual overviews of the information like, rise and fall in water level in the next day with description on the current situation with specific guidance.

iv.A colour coded map of the flooded regions which provides a larger and detailed view in Google maps with zoom facility to get a better understanding of the water levels.

AIFF and SAI Jointly Launched "E-pathshala" a Web Platform to Promote Football

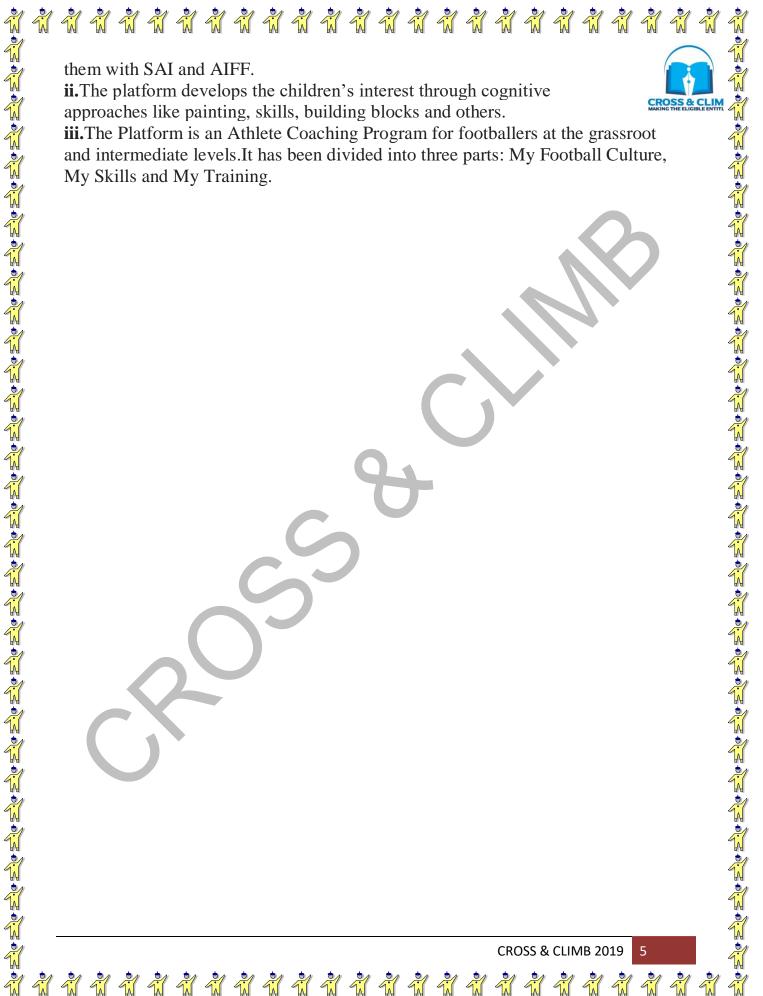


On the occasion of 74th Independence Day, The All India Football Federation(AIFF) and the Sports Authority of India(SAI), jointly launched the E-Pathshala, a web platform to recognise creativity of the children and to develop their interest in football.

E-Pathshala:

i.E-Pathshala is designed to engage the footballers across the nation and connect

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them with SAI and AIFF.

ii. The platform develops the children's interest through cognitive approaches like painting, skills, building blocks and others.

iii. The Platform is an Athlete Coaching Program for footballers at the grassroot and intermediate levels. It has been divided into three parts: My Football Culture, My Skills and My Training.

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