

Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers

The Green Strategic Partnership between the Governments of India and Denmark has fostered significant collaboration leading to the establishment of the Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) in Varanasi.

Key Points

- ❖ **Tripartite initiative:** The alliance is a unique tripartite initiative between the Government of India (Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation), the Indian Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU), and Government of Denmark, to bring excellence in small river rejuvenation and management.
- ❖ **Aim:** The SLCR aims to leverage the expertise of both nations to rejuvenate the river Varuna using sustainable approaches.
- ❖ **Its objectives include** creating a collaborative platform for government bodies, knowledge institutions and local communities to share insights and develop solutions for clean river water.
- ❖ **The Indo-Danish Joint Steering Committee (JSC)** is the highest forum for SLCR which provides strategic guidance and reviews progress. The Project Review Committee (PRC), with members from National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG), Central Water Commission (CWC), Central GroundWater Board (CGWB), IIT-BHU and Denmark's Urban Sector Counsellor, will oversee quality control at project level.



The Varuna River is a minor tributary of the Ganges River in Uttar Pradesh, India. It originates at Phulpur in the Prayagraj district and merges into the Ganges near Sarai Mohana in the Varanasi district.

ISDra2TnpB- Tool

Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Penn State University has created a Miniature Editing Tool.

Key Points

- ❖ The new genome editing tool is significantly **smaller than conventional tools**.
- ❖ This tool could enhance **crop traits**, **reduce susceptibility to pests**, and **improve resilience against extreme weather**.
- ❖ This compact size allows it to be easily delivered into plant cells.
- ❖ The tool leverages **CRISPR-Cas9 technology**, which acts like molecular scissors, cutting the DNA at specific locations to introduce beneficial traits.

Genome editing is a technique used to modify a cell's DNA precisely and efficiently. **CRISPR-Cas9** is a **revolutionary genome editing technology** that allows precise modification of DNA sequences within cells.

INSPIRE Awards

With over 40,000 nominations from Uttar Pradesh alone, there has been overwhelming response from the state for participation in the INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) Awards-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge).

More on News

This year, UP leads the way by registering the highest number of nominations in the country.

Key Points

- ❖ It is a flagship initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- ❖ **Aim:** The INSPIRE Awards aim to cultivate a scientific mindset and encourage young minds to explore science and technology.

- ❖ **Age category:** These awards honour and reward exceptional ideas from students nationwide in classes 6 to 10, aged 10 to 15 years. Schools can submit up to five ideas or innovations; nominations are open until September 15.
- ❖ **UP Commitment:** Uttar Pradesh has once again demonstrated its commitment to fostering innovation and scientific curiosity among young minds, securing the top position in the country with over 40,000 nominations for the prestigious INSPIRE Awards. This remarkable achievement results from the collective efforts of the state government, educational institutions, and educators.
- ❖ The state government's proactive approach has encouraged students to explore and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as evidenced by the overwhelming number of nominations from Uttar Pradesh.

Short News


- ❖ The Greater Noida authority has decided to set up a skill centre to train and employ thousands of youths in the city. For this, it has tied up with the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) that will help in skilling the youth, mostly from villages, and help provide them jobs.
 - The Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM), in collaboration with NSDC, will set up a skilling project as soon as an understanding has been reached for this project.

Species In News


Mithun (<i>Bos frontalis</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Assam has recorded the mithun (<i>Bos frontalis</i>) for the first time, generations after the semi-wild gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribals in the state's hill district of Dima Hasao. ❖ Mithun is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland and found also in the hills of Mizoram and Manipur. It is primarily reared for its meat.
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- ❖ As per the 20th livestock census held in 2019, Mithun are found in four states, viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland.

Person In News- Obituary

Peter Lundgren	<p>Former Swedish tennis player Peter Lundgren, who also coached Roger Federer early in the Swiss player's career, has passed away at the age of 59,</p>	
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Person In News- Historic

Shivaram Hari Rajguru	<p>He was the great freedom fighter. He was born on 24 August 1908. He was an Indian independence activist from Maharashtra, known mainly for his involvement in the assassination of a British police officer named John Saunders.</p> <p>He was an active member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).</p> <p>On 23rd March 1931, he was hanged by the British government along with his associates Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev Thapar.</p>	
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Important News- Other States

Bihar	<p>The country's largest zoo will be built at Raniganj in Araria district (Bihar) at a cost of Rs 1500 Crore.</p>
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Ladakh	<p>The Centre announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The new Districts will be: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.</p> <p>Currently Ladakh has two districts, Leh and Kargil, each governed by its autonomous district council.</p>
Maharashtra	<p>Maharashtra became the first state to adopt the Unified Pension Scheme.</p>

Miscellaneous

- ❖ India became the top buyer of Russian Oil, surpassing China. India imported a record 2.07 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil in July, surpassing China's 1.76 million bpd.
- ❖ IndiGo is evaluating introducing the gender-neutral option of honorific 'Mx' for internal candidates as part of larger efforts to boost inclusivity.
- ❖ Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has lowered India's growth forecast by 20 basis points each for this year and the next, citing a contraction in central government expenditure. The bank now expects the nation's economy to expand at 6.7% in calendar 2024, and 6.4% in 2025. The current year's downgrade is due to contraction in government expenditure during the April-June quarter.

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