

National

PM Modi lays foundation for Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Delhi

About News:-



- ❖ On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone for the new Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI) building in Rohini, New Delhi.
- ❖ The state-of-the-art facility, spanning 2.92 acres and built at a cost of ₹187 crore, is poised to become a global hub for Ayurvedic research and healthcare.
- ❖ "India has immense potential to become the world's health and wellness capital," the Prime Minister said, adding that the world will soon embrace "Heal in India" alongside "Make in India." He noted that the project aligns with the government's focus on accessible healthcare, benefiting even the most underserved communities.

A state-of-the-art facility for holistic healing

- ❖ The new CARI campus will feature a 100-bed research hospital and facilities for advanced clinical research, education, and treatment. Divided into four blocks—Administrative, Outpatient Department (OPD), Inpatient Department (IPD), and Treatment, the institute will offer specialized clinics for geriatrics, pediatrics, ENT, arthritis, preventive cardiology, and eye care.
- ❖ It will also integrate traditional therapies like Panchakarma, Kshara Sutra, and leech therapy with modern diagnostic tools.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav, praised the Prime Minister's visionary leadership during the ceremony, highlighting the transformative potential of the new facility to advance Ayurvedic research and elevate healthcare standards.

- ❖ Yogender Chandolia, currently serving as a Member of Parliament from North West Delhi, lauded the government for the dual milestones of the new metro line inauguration and the CARI foundation stone laying. He described the developments as a "gift" to the people of Delhi, underscoring the long-term benefits of the institute to the city's residents.

Advancing ayurvedic research

- ❖ Since its establishment in 1979, CARI has been at the forefront of Ayurvedic clinical research, particularly in preventive cardiology and non-communicable diseases. Having operated from rented premises for decades, the institute's new campus will elevate its capacity for cutting-edge research, treatment, and skill development.
- ❖ Equipped with NABH and NABL accreditations, the institute aims to set new benchmarks in quality healthcare. It also offers a Panchakarma Technician Training Course, empowering youth with valuable skills and contributing to the growth of the traditional medicine sector.
- ❖ The CARI project is expected to be completed within 30 months.

State

India's first organic fisheries cluster launched in Sikkim

About News:-



- ❖ Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation for 50 projects worth ₹50 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in Guwahati, Assam.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The projects, announced during the North Eastern Region State Meet-2025, span various North Eastern Region (NER) states, except for Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.
- ❖ As part of the event, the minister launched India's first organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District, Sikkim, under the PMMSY initiative. This development is intended to promote organic fisheries and aquaculture in alignment with Sikkim's organic farming practices, aiming to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly production.
- ❖ The cluster will incorporate ecological fish farming methods, avoiding harmful chemicals and promoting minimal environmental pollution. This approach supports sustainable production, mitigates ecosystem damage, and aligns with market trends favoring organic products. Key fish species, including amur carp, will form part of this initiative. NABARD will support the cluster by funding infrastructure, building capacities, and forming fisheries-based Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs).
- ❖ The PMMSY implements a cluster-based approach designed to enhance competitiveness, create economies of scale, and strengthen fisheries' value chains across India. This model brings together enterprises from production to export, fostering cooperation and addressing value chain gaps to create business opportunities and livelihoods.
- ❖ Under this framework, production and processing clusters will be developed in key areas such as freshwater aquaculture, brackish-water fisheries, ornamental fisheries, and organic fisheries, addressing region-specific needs.
- ❖ The North Eastern Region is prioritized as a key area for fisheries development. The region's freshwater resources and aquatic biodiversity support efforts to increase inland fish production and boost economic development. Investments of ₹2,114 crore have been made in the NER through initiatives such as the PMMSY, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund, and the Blue Revolution Scheme.

- ❖ These initiatives have led to an increase in inland fish production from 4.03 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 6.41 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, reflecting annual growth in the sector. Current efforts include the establishment of aquaculture parks, hatcheries, and fish processing units, and the promotion of technologies such as Biofloc systems and recirculatory aquaculture systems (RAS).
- ❖ The newly announced projects in the NER, with a central investment of ₹38.63 crore, aim to generate over 4,500 employment opportunities, both direct and indirect, in the region. These steps are part of India's broader strategy to sustain its position as the world's second-largest fish producer and a major contributor to global aquaculture and shrimp exports.
- ❖ Since 2015, the Government of India has invested ₹38,572 crore in fisheries initiatives to expand infrastructure, improve productivity, and drive sustainable development. These efforts have positioned the fisheries sector as an integral part of the country's economy and a contributor to its Blue Economy vision.

Economic

FIU-IND and IRDAI sign MoU for enhanced coordination and information exchange

About News:-

- ❖ The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of continued coordinated efforts in the effective implementation of requirements of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Rules framed thereunder, in New Delhi, today (07 Jan 2024).
- ❖ The MoU was signed by Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Director, FIU-IND, and Shri Satyajit Tripathy, Member (Distribution), IRDAI.



According to the MoU, FIU-IND and IRDAI will cooperate in the areas of mutual interest, including the following:

- ❖ Appointment of a nodal officer and an alternate nodal officer by each party to the MoU.
- ❖ Sharing of relevant intelligence and information, available in their respective databases.
- ❖ Laying down the procedure and manner in which the regulated entities/reporting entities report to FIU-IND under the PML Rules.
- ❖ Conducting outreach and training for regulated entities /reporting entities.
- ❖ Upgradation of AML/CFT skills in the regulated entities/reporting entities regulated by IRDAI.
- ❖ Assessment of Anti-Money Laundering / Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) risks and vulnerabilities in the insurance sector.
- ❖ Identification of red flag indicators for Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) in the insurance sector.
- ❖ Supervising and monitoring the compliance of regulated entities/reporting

Entities With Their Obligations Under Pmla, Pml Rules, And Irdai Guidelines.

- ❖ Compliance with each other's obligations under the relevant international standards.
- ❖ Conduct of quarterly meeting to discuss the above in addition to typologies/trends in AML/CFT crimes, cases where sanctions have been imposed, etc.

Appointment

Air Commodore Debakinandan Sahu Takes Over As Air Officer Commanding

About News:-



- ❖ Air Commodore Debakinandan Sahu took over the command of Base Repair Depot, Tughlakabad on 06 Jan 25 from Air Commodore Rishi Seth.
- ❖ The handing over/taking over took place with an impressive ceremonial parade by the depot personnel.
- ❖ Air Commodore Debakinandan Sahu was commissioned into the Aeronautical Engineering stream of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 30th May 1994.
- ❖ He brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise. He is an alumni of the Air Force Technical College (AFTC), Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), and College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad.
- ❖ He possesses a large spectrum of technical expertise in the field of aviation and Guided Weapon Missile systems.
- ❖ The Air Officer has held numerous key appointments throughout his distinguished career. These include the Chief Engineering Officer of a premier Air Force Base and staff appointments at Operational Command Headquarters and Air Headquarters.
- ❖ In recognition of his distinguished service, Air Commodore Sahu was awarded the Vishisth Seva Medal by the President of India on 26th January 2023.

Science & Technology

NASA Unveiled New Mars Design "Mars Chopper" Successor of Ingenuity Helicopter

About News:-

- ❖ In January 2025, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled the design of a new Mars drone named "Mars Chopper" for advanced exploration of the planet Mars.
- ❖ It is a successor of the 'Ingenuity helicopter' that roamed over the surface of Mars for over 3 years after landing on its surface alongside the Perseverance Rover in 2020.
- ❖ Ingenuity Helicopter, a small helicopter which weighs 1.8 kilogram (kg).



- ❖ It was initially designed to perform up to 5 experimental test flights over 30 days but operated for almost 3 years performing 72 flights and flying 30 times farther than planned.

About Mars Chopper:

- ❖ It is produced by the Southern California (the United States of America, USA)-based Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in partnership with the California-based Ames Research Center(ARC).
- ❖ It is a drone-like vehicle that is about the size of a Support Utility Vehicle (SUV) with 6 rotors. Each rotor has 6 blades, which are smaller in size compared to the blades of Ingenuity but allow for increased lift.
- ❖ It is bulkier than its predecessor and has more payload capacity to carry scientific instruments such as imaging and analysis kits.
- ❖ It can carry a maximum of 5 kg of equipment enables one to perform more complex tasks and can fly longer distances which is up to 3 kilometers(kms).

Defence

Two Fast Patrol Vessels constructed by GSL for the Indian Coast Guard were launched in the presence of the Secretary (Defence Production) in Goa

About News:-



- ❖ Two Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) - Amulya and Akshay - indigenously designed and constructed by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were launched in the presence of Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar in Goa on January 05, 2025.

- ❖ The two FPVs are the third and fourth vessels of the fleet of eight FPVs being constructed by GSL for ICG, underscoring the shipyard's pivotal role in realising the vision of Aatmanirbharta in defence production.

Key Points:-

- ❖ The first two FPVs of the same series - Adamya and Akshar - were launched in October 2024. The contract was concluded in March 2022 for Rs 473 crore.
- ❖ With over 60% indigenous content, these state-of-the-art FPVs are designed in-house by GSL to meet ICG's specific operational needs.
- ❖ With a length of 52 meters and a displacement of 320 tonnes, these vessels will strengthen ICG in protecting offshore assets and island territories.
- ❖ Its primary role will be fisheries protection and monitoring island territories, exclusively economic zones, and coastal patrol.
- ❖ Vessels shall also perform anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search & rescue operations.
- ❖ For the first time in GSL's history, the vessels are being launched simultaneously using the shipyard's state-of-the-art ship-lift system, a transformative feat that underscores GSL's modernisation efforts.
- ❖ Also, this is the first time in India that a Fast Patrol Vessel is being built with a controllable pitch propeller.
- ❖ This project is also a substantial contributor to local economic prosperity, driving employment and growth within the ecosystem of MSMEs and local industries supporting GSL.

Sport

KKFI Unveils Trophies and Mascots for the 1st ever Kho Kho World Cup 2025

About News:-



- ❖ On January 03, 2024, the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies and mascots for the 1st-ever Kho Kho World Cup scheduled from January 13-19, 2025. This event, supported by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), will be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi).

Key Points:-

- ❖ The tournament will feature 21 men's and 20 women's teams from 24 countries across 6 continents, showcasing global talent.
- ❖ The mascots, 'Tejas' and 'Tara', are dynamic gazelles that represent the spirit of the tournament.
- ❖ Tejas, symbolising brilliance and energy, and Tara, representing guidance and aspiration, were depicted in vibrant blue and orange sporting attire adorned with traditional Indian motifs.
- ❖ The tournament will feature 2 magnificent trophies, a blue trophy for the men's championship and a green trophy for the women's championship.
- ❖ The blue trophy symbolizes trust, determination, and universal appeal, while the green trophy represents growth and vitality.

Obituary

Former Greek Prime Minister Simitis dies aged 88

About News:-



- ❖ Former Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who ushered the country into the European Union's single currency in 2001, died on Sunday aged 88 at his summer house in the Peloponnese.

Key Points:-

- ❖ Simitis, a law professor and a reformist, assumed leadership of the PASOK socialist party in 1996 and was prime minister until 2004.
- ❖ Simitis had been vacationing at his summer residence close to Athens in the Peloponnese in recent days. He was transferred unconscious to the hospital early in the morning where his death was confirmed, the director of the Corinth hospital told local media.
- ❖ During his government, Simitis reduced the budget deficit and public debt to make Athens qualify for eurozone membership.
- ❖ In 2012, three years after the Greek debt crisis erupted, he published a book criticising the handling of the crisis by Greek politicians and the EU.
- ❖ In that book, called "Derailment", he also accused the European Commission of turning a blind eye to overspending by his conservative successor.

Important Day

World Day of War Orphans – 06 Jan 2025

About News:-

- ❖ World Day for War Orphans, observed annually on January 6, was established to raise awareness about the struggles faced by children orphaned due to wars and conflicts.
- ❖ While the exact origin is not widely documented, the day highlights the impact of war on the most vulnerable populations—children—drawing attention to their need for care, education, and protection.
- ❖ It emphasizes global efforts to ensure these children are not forgotten.



World Day of War Orphans History

- ❖ Children who lose their parents in sudden, violent events like war are forced to live with a surviving relative or into the foster care system, where they must deal with horrible living conditions including starvation and disease. It's impossible to fathom the emotional and mental strain they experience.
- ❖ About half of the casualties in wars over the past few centuries were civilians, a percentage that gradually rose until 2001. According to UNICEF, there were "almost 140 million orphans worldwide" as of 2015. Of those, 61 million lived in Asia, 52 million in Africa, 10 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7.3 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- ❖ SOS Enfants en Detresse, a French charity that aims to restore a sense of normalcy to the lives of children indirectly impacted by war and conflict, established World Day for War Orphans. Every year on January 6, awareness-raising events are held to help people better comprehend orphaned children's suffering.

