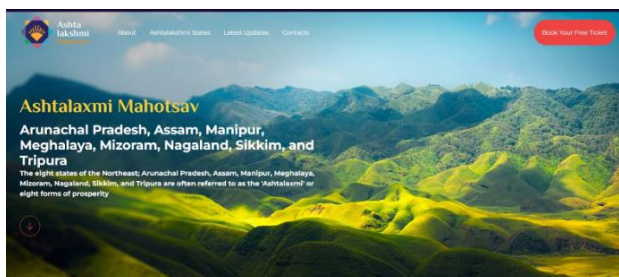


16 September 2024

Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav

In a significant step towards celebrating the rich cultural and economic heritage of Northeast India, **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), launched the official website for the much-anticipated **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav**.



Key Points

- ❖ The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav, to be held from December 6th to 8th, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- ❖ The festival draws inspiration from the eight Northeastern states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—collectively known as the "Ashtalakshmi," representing eight forms of prosperity.
- ❖ The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav will not only showcase the cultural richness of the Northeast but also serve as a catalyst for economic development, creating new opportunities for

artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs from the region,

- ❖ The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav promises to be a vibrant blend of fashion, culture, and business.
- ❖ The event will feature pavilions dedicated to Northeast India's celebrated Muga and Eri Silk, live demonstrations of artisanal crafts, and a special focus on the region's Geographical Indication (GI) products.

Maharaja Vikramaditya Award

An award will be instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the judicial sector in the name of Maharaja Vikramaditya. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was discussing the outline of Vikram Utsav-2025 with ministers and senior officials at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance, Bhopal



Key Points

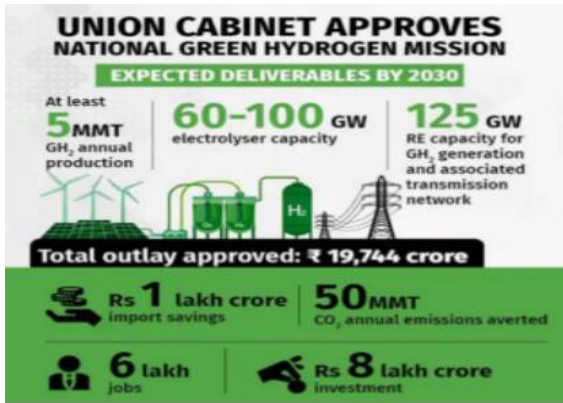
- ❖ Vikramotsav will be organized from 26 February 2025 to 05 June 2025 (from Mahashivratri to Ganga Dussehra).
- ❖ Vikramotsav-2024 was selected for the award as Asia's longest-running

event (Biggest Event Award) by a private organization in Kolkata.

- ❖ This year, many programs were organized under Vikram Utsav for almost 100 days from Mahashivratri to Ganga Dussehra.

PM addresses the second International Conference on Green Hydrogen

Recently, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the International Conference on Green Hydrogen via video message.



Key Points

- ❖ The Government of India has organized an International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2024) on 11-13 September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ❖ Purpose: To discuss the recent advances and upcoming technologies across the entire Green Hydrogen value chain.
- ❖ Participants: Global scientific community and industry experts.
- ❖ National Green Hydrogen Mission:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission in Jan 2023.
- Budget Outlay: Rs. 19,744 crore, for various components.
- Aims: To make India a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives. Sets export targets from 2027 onwards
- Implementation: Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

About Green Hydrogen:

- ❖ It is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable energy (like Solar and wind) and has a lower carbon footprint.
- ❖ Electricity splits water into hydrogen and oxygen.
- ❖ By Products: Water, Water Vapor.

Zorawar

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the Indian Light Tank, Zorawar.



Key Points

- ❖ It is a highly versatile platform capable of deployment in high-altitude areas.
- ❖ During the field trials conducted in desert terrain, the Light Tank demonstrated exceptional performance, efficiently meeting all the intended objectives.
- ❖ In the initial phase, the tank's firing performance was rigorously evaluated, achieving the required accuracy on designated targets.
- ❖ Zorawar has been successfully developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment. Numerous Indian industries, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), contributed to the development of various sub-systems, showcasing the strength of Indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities within the country.

Defence Research and Development Organisation

- ❖ The government of India formed the DRDO in 1958 by combining three organizations:
- ❖ The Directorate of Technical Development
- ❖ The Technical Development
- ❖ Defence Science Organization

- ❖ Project Indigo in 1960, was the first project of DRDO which was discontinued without any success.

Port Blair To Be Renamed As 'Sri Vijaya Puram'

The government has decided to rename Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Sri Vijaya Puram.



- ❖ Port Blair is the gateway to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It was named after Archibald Blair, a naval surveyor and lieutenant in the Bombay Marine.
- ❖ Blair was the first officer to conduct a detailed survey of the Andaman Islands.
- ❖ The decision to rename the capital of Andaman and Nicobar with an Indian name comes nearly six years after the Centre renamed three islands in the Union Territory to honor a freedom fighter.
- ❖ Ross Island became Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island was renamed Shaheed Dweep, and Havelock Island became Swaraj Dweep.

- ❖ It is also the place that hosted the first unfurling of the Tiranga by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and also the cellular jail in which Veer Savarkar and other freedom fighters struggle for an independent nation.
- ❖ Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is located on the east coast of South Andaman.

About Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- ❖ It is a group of islands located in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands were formed as a result of plate tectonics (due to the collision between the Indian Plate and the Burma Plate).
- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a southward extension of the Arakan Yoma Range (Myanmar).
- ❖ Saddle Peak (752 m) is the highest peak in North Andaman.
- ❖ Barren and Narcondam Islands are islands formed as a result of volcanic processes.

Short News

- ❖ Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) recently launched Saarthi, a reference application designed to assist businesses in creating their own customized buyer-side apps, co-developed with Bhashini.
- ❖ Shri Goyal launched the Department of Commerce's Jan Sunwai Portal, designed to streamline communication between stakeholders and authorities, providing a direct and transparent channel for addressing trade and industry-related issues.
- ❖ The Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the efficiency and accountability of food grain procurement and distribution.
- ❖ Ahead of the 30th World Ozone Day, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change today organized a dialogue on the theme Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Action.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 7th National Security Strategies Conference 2024 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has notified the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as a public financial institution under Company law.
- ❖ Dronacharya award-winning table tennis coach Jayanta Pushilal passed away in Kolkata.



- ❖ Mexico becomes the first country to approve the popular election of judges.
- ❖ Prashanti Ram, an Indian-origin lecturer at Nanyang Technological University (University in Singapore), won the Singapore Literary Award

for English Fiction for her short story 'Nine Yard Saree' and it was her first work which was published in the year 2023.



Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. What is the new name decided by the government for Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

- (a) Swaraj Dweep
- (b) Sri Vijaya Puram.
- (c) Sri Vijeet Puram
- (d) Shaheed Dweep

Answer- (b)

2. What is "Zorawar," for which the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted preliminary automotive trials?

- (a) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- (b) Fighter Jet
- (c) Missile System
- (d) Indian Light Tank

Answer- (d)