



13.03.2021

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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS ①: Convergence of the ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat in 4 states launched

NEWS ②: India Energy Office was inaugurated in Moscow

NEWS ③: Prime Minister addressed the fourth Global Ayurveda Festival

NEWS ④: "Hearth" festival celebrated across the Jammu & Kashmir

NEWS ⑤: "Kalanamak Rice Festival" organized by UP government.

NEWS ⑥: 'Free Cancellation Travel Insurance' by Edelweiss Group

NEWS ⑦: Sangay volcano of Ecuador was erupted

NEWS ⑧: Google has honoured 'India's Satellite Man' Udupi Ramachandra Rao

NEWS ⑨: Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou has won the 2020 Ibrahim Prize

NEWS ⑩: Sahitya Akademi Award 2020 announced by National Academy of Letters

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Convergence of the ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat

- Minister of State for Labor & Employment **Santosh Gangwar** launched the convergence of the ESI Scheme with Ayushman Bharat in 4 States – Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra.
- Its objective is to ensure easy access to medical care.

'India Energy Office'

- India Energy Office** was inaugurated by Tarun Kapoor, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at **Russia's landmark Federation Tower in Moscow**.
- IEO will promote mutual investment in the Energy Sector between Indian & Russian companies.

"Shlokas" of Srimad Bhagavadgita

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a Manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on 'Shlokas' of **Srimad Bhagavadgita**.
- PM prided on India's culture to share its knowledge, thus Bhagavad Gita is translated into many Indian & International Languages.

Global Ayurveda Festival

- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** addressed the **fourth Global Ayurveda Festival**.
- Under the event, **International Ayurveda Seminar** will be organised under the theme "Strengthening Host Defence System – Ayurveda A Potential Promise".

STATE AFFAIRS

"Hearth" festival

- Maha Shivaratri festival**, locally known as "Hearth" festival is celebrated across the **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- Pandit Community across J&K celebrated the festival with religious offerings "Watak Nath Pooja". The festival marks the wedding of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati.

"Kalanamak Rice Festival"

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government will be organising a three-day "Kalanamak Rice Festival". This festival is being organised after grand success of "Strawberry Festival in Jhansi" and "Jaggery Festival in Lucknow".
- The rice is a **geographical indication (GI)** tagged rice from Uttar Pradesh.

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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

'Free Cancellation Travel Insurance'

- **Edelweiss General Insurance** in partnership with **InterMiles** launched **Edelweiss Group Domestic Travel Insurance**.
- Customers booking tickets on InterMiles to travel anywhere in India can use this policy by paying a nominal amount at the time of booking.

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Sangay volcano

- The **Sangay volcano** of Ecuador was **erupted** and it ejected the **clouds of ash**.
- The Sangay volcano is one among the **highest active volcanoes across the world**. This is the most active volcano in the Ecuador.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Udupi Ramachandra Rao

- **Google** has honoured 'India's Satellite Man' **Udupi Ramachandra Rao** with **doodle** on his **89th birth anniversary**, who was an **Indian space scientist and chairman of the ISRO** between **1984-94**, supervised the **1975 launch of India's first satellite "Aryabhata."**

Ibrahim Prize 2020

- **Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou** has won the **2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership**, who is the **sixth recipient**.
- The prize was introduced by **Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim's foundation** in 2006, which is awarded on criteria of **good governance, democratic election and respect of terms limits**.

Bihari Puraskar

- **Mohankrishna Bohara** will be awarded the **30th Bihari Puraskar Award** for his Book 'Taslina: Sangharsh aur Sahitya'.
- The Bihari Puraskar is one of the **three literary awards** instituted by the **KK Birla Foundation** in 1991.

"Sahitya Akademi Award 2020"

- The **National Academy of Letters** have announced the names for the **"Sahitya Akademi Award 2020"**.
- **Arundhathi Subramaniam** have won the award for her poetry collection called **"When God is a Traveller"** in **English**.
- **Veerappa Moily** has been named for his epic poetry called **"Sri Bahubali Ahimsa Digvijayam"** in **Kannada language**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

GP Samanta

- **GP Samanta**, an advisor in Reserve Bank of India, was appointed as the **4th Chief Statistician of India** for a term of 2 years.
- Samanta replaces **Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji**, a 1986 batch IAS officer who has been the **CSI** since September 2020.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

'Hunchprose'

- The **Indian poet, art critic Ranjit Hoskote** released his recent **8th poetry collection** titled **'Hunchprose'** in **English**.
- The poems are about the **turbulent times we live in and celebrate every aspect of humanity and being human**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Kidney Day

- **World Kidney Day** is annually observed across the globe on the **2nd Thursday of March**.
- The theme of **World kidney Day 2021** is **"Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere – Living Well with Kidney Disease"**.