

Paryatan Parv 2019

The Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar; Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the nationwide "Paryatan Parv 2019"

Details -

The three components of Paryatan Parv, are -

- **Dekho Apna Desh:** To encourage Indians to visit their own country. In the run up to the parv, several activities have been organised across the Country like Photography contest covering tourism attractions and experiences, promotion on Social Media, Tourism related Quiz, Essay, Debate and Painting Competitions for Students. General public engagement for the event will be promoted through the MyGov platform.
- **Tourism for All:** Tourism Events at sites across all States in the country are being organised. The activities at these sites will include illumination in and around the Sites, Cultural Programmes of Dance, Music, Theatre, Story Telling, Sensitisation Programmes for Stakeholders around the Sites, Tourism Exhibitions, Showcasing Culture, Cuisine and Handicrafts / Handlooms, Guided Heritage Walks, etc.
- **Tourism & Governance:** Interactive Sessions & Workshops with Stakeholders on varied themes have been organised across the Country as a part of the Paryatan parv activities.

Exercise Ekuverin

Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise Ekuverin between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force was recently organised.

Details -

The 14 days Joint Exercise is held alternatively in India and Maldives focuses on enhancing interoperability between the two forces for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate.

Nomadic Elephant 2019

14th edition of Indo–Mongolian joint military training, Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV was held recently.

Details -

Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under United Nations mandate. The Joint Exercise will enhance defence co-operation and military relations between the two nations.

Exercise KAZIND

The 4th edition of annual military exercise **KAZIND 2019** between India and Kazakhstan army commenced recently at Pithoragarh.

Details -

The aim of exercise is joint training of troops in **Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operations** in both Jungle and Mountainous terrain. Exercise KAZIND 2019 can be termed as a facade of long standing strategic ties between India and Kazakhstan.

PRAKASH Portal

The Union Ministry of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy has launched PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony) portal recently.

Details -

The Portal is designed to help in mapping and monitoring the entire coal supply chain for power plants, viz –

- Coal Stock at supply end (mines),
- coal quantities/ rakes planned,
- coal quantity in transit and
- coal availability at power generating station.

Benefits -

The portal makes available the following information on a single platform -

- **Coal company** will be able to track stocks and the coal requirement at power stations for effective production planning
- **Indian Railways** will plan to place the rakes as per actual coal available at siding and stock available at power stations.
- **Power stations** can plan future schedule by knowing rakes in pipe line and expected time to Reach.

- Stock at power generating station
- Ministry of Power /Ministry of Coal/ CEA/ POSOCO can review overall availability of coal at thermal power plants in different regions.

eDantseva

e-DantSeva contains information about the National Oral Health Program, detailed list of all the dental facility and colleges, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material and a unique feature called the 'Symptom Checker', which provides information on symptoms of dental/oral health problems, ways to prevent these, the treatment modes, and also directs the user to find their nearest available dental facility (public and private sectors both). The website also provides GPRS route/images/satellite images of the facility for easier access to the general population.

DHRUV Programme

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched a unique initiative, the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme-DHRUV, which will act as a turning point in the lives of extraordinarily talented students, from the premises of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Headquarters at Bengaluru.

Details -

- The new Programme DHRUV 'will act as a platform to explore the talent of outshining and meritorious students, and help them achieve excellence in their specific areas of interest may it be science, performing arts, creative writing, etc.
- The Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme has been started to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge.

mHariyali

The app is aimed to encourage Public engagement in planting trees and other such Green drives.

Details -

- People can now upload information/photos of any plantation done by them, which is linked to app and will be displayed on the website www.epgc.gov.in.

- The App provides for automatic geo-tagging of plants. This app will also enable nodal officers to periodically monitor the plantation. The App is user friendly and works on any android mobile phone.

Indo-Japan DHARMA GUARDIAN 2019

Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018.

Details -

- Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of global terrorism.
- The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) which in turn will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

Danx-19

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19), a large scale joint services exercise from 14 Oct to 18 Oct 19.

Details -

- Spanning over a period of five days, components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard carried out mobilisation and field manoeuvres to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.
- In addition to internal forces from ANC, accretional forces from Mainland comprising ships and aircraft, Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), also participated in this edition.

India ranks 63 in Ease of Doing Business

The World Bank released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2020) today on 24th October 2019. **India has recorded a jump of 14 positions** against its rank of 77 in 2019 **to be placed**

now at 63rd rank among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank. **India has improved its rank by 79 positions in the last five years [2014-19].**

Details -

- The Doing Business assessment provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies on ten parameters affecting a business through its life cycle.
- The DBR ranks countries on the basis of Distance to Frontier (DTF), a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. This year, India's DTF score improved to 71.0 from 67.23 in the previous year.
- India has improved its rank in 7 out of 10 indicators and has moved closer to international best practices (Distance to Frontier score). Significant improvements have been registered in 'Resolving Insolvency', 'Dealing with Construction Permits', 'Registering Property', 'Trading across Boards' and 'Paying Taxes' indicators.

Chenani Nashari Tunnel renamed

Union Government has announced the renaming of Chenani Nashari Tunnel on NH 44 in Jammu & Kashmir as Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel.

Details -

This 9 km tunnel is the longest such state of the art tunnel in the country, connecting Udhampur to Ramban in Jammu. Constructed at a cost of Rs 2500 crore, it cuts down 31 km of travel distance and reduces the travel time between the two points by about two hours, in addition to substantial savings in fuel cost.