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Hunar Haat

Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.

The USTTAD scheme aims at preserving & promoting the rich heritage of the traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities.

Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities.

Aimed at promoting and supporting artisans from Minority communities and providing them domestic as well as international markets for displaying and selling their products.

Former CJI wants cyber space as part of school curriculum

Cyber space and cyber crime, its control, impact and all other aspects should be made part of school and college syllabi to make students aware of the field, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Dipak Misra said on Saturday.

Human intelligence always have primacy and the educated should not be scared of using artificial intelligence, Misra told reporters on the sidelines of
the 4th Edition of Indian Cyber Congress held at Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, where he was the chief guest.

Besides, the agency investigating cyber crimes should have a special wing, with specialised training and other resources, he said. Earlier, addressing the Congress, Misra said India ranked 23rd among 165 Nations in cyber security index and still there was a lot of space to grow in future.

Additional Director General of Police, Crime against Women and Children, Tamil Nadu, M.Ravi said cyber crime is the biggest challenge for any country other than terrorism.

According to him, steps are being taken to establish cyber park police stations and there may also be the possibility of cyber courts.

**PM denies existence of detention camps in the country**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dismissed the existence of any detention camps and accused the opposition of playing vote bank politics by spreading such misinformation. He appealed to the youth not to fall prey to such rumours trying to divide the country.

Referring to various developmental schemes launched by the NDA government, Mr Modi said, beneficiaries were not asked about their caste or religion. In this context, he said, 70 lakh people were benefited under the Central health scheme Ayushman Bharat.

He said, over 40 lakh residents in the national capital have seen a new ray of hope following the regularization of the unauthorized colonies. The Prime
Minister said, eight crore cooking gas connections have been provided to the poor under Ujjwala scheme.

Mr Modi condemned the attacks on the police during the protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act. He said, whenever there is a crisis or difficulty, the police never asks a person their religion. He said, after independence 33 thousand policemen have died while ensuring peace and safety.

The rally was organised to thank Prime Minister as a gesture of gratitude for the Centre's role in regularizing the 1731 unauthorised colonies in the national capital housing over 40 lakh people. He accused opposition parties of giving only lip service on the issue of regularization of unauthorised colonies.

**Despite decline in GDP growth rate, FPI’s surge in 2019**

In spite of a decline in the GDP growth rate, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) seem to have flocked to the Indian capital market in a big way in 2019 with a net inflow of over 1.3 lakh crore rupees, including 97,250 crore rupees in equities, the highest in last six years.

As the year draws to a close, the debt market has seen a net inflow of nearly 27,000 crore rupees by FPIs, while a further amount of 9,000 crore rupees found its way to the hybrid instruments, shows the capital market data compiled by depositories.

Experts believe the positive trend may continue in 2020 as well, but downside risks might arise in the form of the US-China trade war and any further deterioration in the domestic credit market conditions.
Meanwhile, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth 10,000 crore rupees under a special Open Market Operation (OMO).

Such exercises are done by the central bank when the proceeds from the sale of short-term securities are used to buy long-term government securities or bonds in a bid to bring down interest rates on long-term securities.

**India signs agreement with ADB to upgrade state roads**

Asian Development Bank, ADB and Government of India today signed a 490 million dollars loan for public-private partnership, PPP project to upgrade about one thousand six hundred kilometres of state highways and major district roads from single-lane to two-lane widths in Madhya Pradesh.

An additional 286 million dollars investment will be mobilised through private sector participation under the PPP modality.

Mr Khare said, state highways and major district roads provide a crucial link between rural roads and national highways and up-gradation of these roads under the project will improve rural and peri-urban connectivity in the state and improve access to markets and better services.

Mr Yokoyama said that the project continues ADB’s engagement with the state’s road sector since 2002 and it will open a new partnership by introducing PPP through the hybrid-annuity model, thereby leveraging government financing and improving the sustainability of capital investments.

The Hybrid-Annuitiy Model is a mix of engineering, procurement, construction, and build-operate-transfer. This passes the responsibility of design,
implementation, and operation and maintenance obligations to the private sector while attracting some private sector financing.

India, China to reach agreement on boundary question

Special Representatives of India and China met in New Delhi today and held constructive talks with focus on taking forward the India-China Closer Developmental Partnership.

External Affairs Ministry said that both the Special Representatives emphasized the importance of approaching the Boundary Question from the strategic perspective of India-China relations.

They resolved to intensify their efforts to achieve a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the India-China boundary question. They agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question serves the fundamental interests of both countries.

There was a consensus that both sides should respect each other’s sensitivities and concerns in order to build mutual trust, as this was important for the future development of the bilateral relations.

Both sides agreed that it is important to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas for the overall development of the bilateral relationship, pending final settlement of the boundary question.

They recognized the importance of existing Confidence Building Measures to promote exchanges and communication between the border personnel and to ensure predictability in border management as well as strategic communication.
Manuel Cruz appointed as Cuba’s first PM in 40 years

In Cuba, President Miguel Diaz-Canel has appointed Manuel Marrero Cruz as the country’s first prime minister in more than 40 years.

It was reinstated under the rules of a new constitution for the communist-run island passed earlier this year.

Marrero, who has served as tourism minister for 16 years and is an architect by trade, helped boost Cuba’s economy by making tourism one of the engines of growth. The post of prime minister was scrapped in 1976 by the then-revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

On the other hand, critics say any such changes are purely cosmetic as the Cuban Communist Party and the military remain the only two real decision-making institutions in the country.

Mission Shat Pratishat

The Mission Shat Pratishat was launched in September by the Punjab education department with the aim to further improve the results of government schools, as compared to the previous year.
The objective is to achieve 100 per cent result in classes 5, 8, 10, and 12 of government schools.

The department has coined a slogan: “Asambhav Nu Sambhav Banaiye, Shatpratishat Natija Liyaiye’ (Make impossible possible and secure 100 per cent results).

West African Nations Rename Common Currency- eco:

Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco.

CFA franc was their currency so far. The CFA franc was initially pegged to French franc and has been linked to euro for about two decades.

The 8 West African countries namely- Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau currently use CFA France as their currency. All these countries, except Guinea-Bissau, are former French colonies.
Chilai-Kalan

Context: The 40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir, known in the local parlance as ‘Chillai-Kalan’, has begun with the upper reaches of the valley receiving snowfall.

These 40 days are when the chances of snowfall are the highest and the maximum temperature drops considerably.

Winter solstice 2019

Context: Winter Solstice this year falls on December 22.

What is Winter Solstice?

The winter solstice happens every year when the Sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees. In other words, it is when the North Pole is tilted farthest away from the Sun, delivering the fewest hours of sunlight of the year.
The Sun is directly overhead of the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere during the December solstice and is closer to the horizon than at any other time in the year.

The day after the winter solstice marks the beginning of lengthening days, leading up to the summer solstice in June.

**What does ‘solstice’ mean?**

The term ‘solstice’ derives from the Latin word ‘solstitium’, meaning ‘Sun standing still’. On this day the Sun seems to stand still at the Tropic of Capricorn and then reverses its direction as it reaches its southernmost position as seen from the Earth. Some prefer the more Teutonic term ‘sunturn’ to describe the event.