INDIA'S LATEST NEWS

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- Delhi gets its first plasma bank for Covid-19 treatment;
- SDMC signs MoU to generate power from waste at Okhla landfill site;
- IIT Madras launches world's first online BSc degree in Programming and Data Science;
- Environment Minister inaugurates Urban Forest in Delhi.

MISSION'S ACTIVITIES

70 Years Anniversary
Indonesia & India
Diplomatic Relations 1950 - 2020

150 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

29 June - 5 July 2020
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on July 2, 2020 inaugurated the national capital’s first plasma bank at state-run Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) for treatment of Covid-19 patients. He said those aged between 18 and 60 and weighing not less than 50 kg can donate their plasma for COVID-19 patients. Under plasma therapy, antibodies from the blood of a person who has recovered from Covid-19 are taken and transfused into a coronavirus infected patient to boost the immune system to fight the infection. Plasma is the almost-clear liquid left behind after red and white blood cells and platelets are removed from the blood. The services of the plasma bank can be availed by patients admitted in both government and private hospitals.

Source: Hindustan Times

SDMC signs MoU to generate power from waste at Okhla landfill site

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to set up a pilot project for ‘Waste to Wealth Plant’ at its Okhla landfill site. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Power RK Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, SDMC Mayor Anamika and SDMC Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti through video conferencing. The Commissioner said that the project will address the problem of disposal of municipal solid waste. Under this project, the plant will process 50 tonnes per day of Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) segregated from municipal solid waste to produce Syn Gas. This Syn gas will be utilised to generate about 1MW electricity. For this project, SDMC will provide one acre land in Okhla landfill site on lease to Indian Oil for setting up the plant. The south corporation will purchase the power generated from the plant at a mutually agreed rate which will save an amount of Rs. 26 million.

Source: Hindustan Times
Environment Minister inaugurates Urban Forest in Delhi

Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar on July 02, 2020 inaugurated the urban forest at the Comptroller and Auditor General’s (CAG) Office Park at 10 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in New Delhi. The Minister said that the office of CAG has created an example to be followed by other offices in Delhi and this Urban Forest will become a new attraction for people of Delhi. This would be a dense urban forest with multiple tree layers including 12000 saplings of 59 indigenous species in another year or so. The objective of coming up with the urban forest is to reduce high air pollution levels particularly at the ITO Crossing. The unique design of the urban forest consists of recreational, artistic and meditation zones, the winding pathways, watchtower, gazebo, and sitting spaces. The species selected for the urban forest are part of Delhi’s potential natural vegetation and are best suited to the region’s terrain, climate and soil. With minimal maintenance, including watering and de-weeding, the urban forest will be self-sustainable in two years, it added. The urban dense forest ecosystem has been created in an area that is little over 1 acre in size. It has an ecosystem which has the capacity to restore habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and micro fauna. These are essential for pollination of crops and fruits and to help maintain a balanced ecosystem.

Source: The Hindu Business Line
MISSION ACTIVITIES
Soak rice in water for 3 hours
Mix jaggery with water and heat it up for a few minutes till the jaggery melts. Strain the syrup keep it aside.
Drain the water from the rice and grind it with the jaggery syrup to a fine paste. Add water if needed.
Add the banana to the rice and jaggery paste and pulse it once or twice till the banana is mixed well with the paste and pour the mixture in a bowl.
Check for the consistency. It should be slightly thicker than the dosa batter.
Add the cardamom powder and the grated coconut to the batter and mix well.
Set the batter aside for at least 2 hours for fermentation.
While frying, add the baking soda to the batter and mix well.
Heat appam pan, add a tsp of ghee / oil in each hole. Pour a spoon full of the batter in each hole. When cooked on one side, carefully flip to other side, add oil / ghee if required.
Cook until both sides are dark brown. It’s ready to be served.

About Ney Appam:
A delicious sweet, rice-based fried dish from the south Indian cuisine, nei appam derives its name where nei means ghee and appam means pancake and the recipe is exactly that. Here the appam is made with a mix of banana, coconut, jaggery and raw soaked rice. A perfect sweet dish to prepare on special occasions and festivals.

Source: food.ndtv
Alappuzha: Referred to as the Venice of the East, Alappuzha has always enjoyed an important place in the maritime history of Kerala. Today, it is famous for its boat races, backwater holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry. Alappuzha Beach is a popular picnic spot. The pier, which extends out to the sea here, is over 137 years old. Entertainment facilities at the Vijaya Beach Park add to the attraction of the beach. There is also an old lighthouse nearby which greatly intrigues all visitors. Another delightful experience while in Alappuzha is the houseboat cruise. The houseboats you find in the backwaters of Alappuzha are in fact a reworked version of the Kettuvallams of olden times. Kettuvallam is a Malayalam word, ‘Kettu’, refers to dwelling structures and ‘Vallom’ means boat. In the olden days, kettuvallam or boat with thatched roof that covers over wooden hulls was used to carry tons of rice and spices. Of late, houseboats come equipped with all the comforts of a good hotel room including furnished bedrooms, modern toilets, cozy living rooms, a kitchen and even a balcony for angling. An uninterrupted view of life in the backwaters can be enjoyed while staying in a houseboat.

Getting there
Nearest railway station: Alappuzha
Nearest airport: Cochin International Airport, about 85 km from Alappuzha town.

Source: https://www.keralatourism.org/
Kadambrayar Boating Centre: Kadambrayar Boating Centre is a charming picnic spot in a typical Kerala village, which is now an ecotourism village. Situated in Kizhakkambalam Grama Panchayat in Ernakulam district, there are myriad boating options available here, as well as a number of activities that will enchant all its visitors. Close to Wonderla amusement park, Kadambrayar is a whimsical blend of emerald waters, verdant fields and swaying coconut trees. Travellers looking for a tranquil experience will surely find here, as the serene atmosphere and the soothing water lulls your senses. Boating timing: 06:00 hrs.- 18:00 hrs.

Boating fee:
- Speed boat, 1 trip (1 hour) maximum 7 adults: Rs. 700/-
- Pedal boat, 1 hour (maximum 3 persons): Rs. 100/-
- Coracle Boat (Kutta Vanchi), half an hour (maximum 3 persons): Rs. 100/-

Source: https://www.keralatourism.org/