

31 May - 6 June 2021

INDIA'S LATEST **NEWS**





NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- BRICS foreign ministers hold virtual
- Covaxin trial on children starts at AIIMS, Delhi;
- NITI Aayog releases Sustainable Development Index;
- IFFCO begins commercial production of nano urea liquid;
- Three new caves discovered in the Trirashmi Buddhist cave complex of Nashik:
- India's DAC clears RFP to build six new conventional submarine.

MISSION'S ACTIVITIES



As a part of India@75 celebrations, a new section - Personality of the week is being introduced. This section will showcase the contribution of great pioneers from India, who have played remarkable role in development of modern India and making India what it is today. Through this section, we intend to pay homage to the legacy of our nation builders - historical, political, social leaders, freedom fighters, scientists, and many more contributors - famous as well as hidden in the pages of Indian history.



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BRICS foreign ministers hold virtual meeting

India hosted the BRICS meeting in its capacity as the chair of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) on June 1, 2021. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted the key principles guiding the five-nation grouping and referred to international law and the UN Charter that recognises the sovereign equality of all states, and respects their territorial integrity. In his address at a virtual ministerial meeting of the BRICS, EAM said that desired change can be achieved only by conducting policies in accordance with these principles. He added that the BRICS has come a long way from the first time its foreign ministers met in New York in 2006 but the principles that guide the grouping remained consistent over the years. The meeting was attended by Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and Minister of international relations of South Africa Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor and Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos Alberto Franco. Source: tribuneindia.com

Covaxin trial on children starts at AHMS, Delhi

India's drug regulator had granted permission for conducting the Phase 2/3 clinical trial of Covaxin in the age group 2 to 18 years. The trial on children had already started at AIIMS Patna to see if the Bharat Biotech jab- Covaxin is suitable for children. AIIMS Delhi and Meditrina Institute of Medical Sciences Nagpur are two other institutes that were roped in to conduct the trials. In states of Karnataka and Maharashtra, a spike in paediatric COVID cases has been noticed, making the trials the need of the hour. The Centre has cautioned that though the virus has not affected children seriously till now, its impact can increase among them if there is a change in virus behaviour or epidemiology dynamics. Source: thehindu.com

NITI Aayog releases Sustainable Development Index

The NITI Aayog released the 3rd Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets. India's overall SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) score has increased from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21. In the index, Kerala has retained the top rank with a score of 75 followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at second spot with score of 74. Chandigarh retained top spot among UTs with a score of 79. It is followed by Delhi with score 68. Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were worst performers. In terms of score improvement, Mizoram, Haryana and Uttarakhand are the top gainers in 2020-21 who have gained 12, 10 and 8 points, respectively as compared to index of 2019-2020. Source: niti.gov.in

IFFCO begins commercial production of nano urea liquid

India's leading fertiliser cooperative major IFFCO has started commercial production of nano urea liquid and dispatched the first consignment to Uttar Pradesh for use of farmers. This is a patented technology of IFFCO developed at its Nano Biotechnology Research Center, Gujarat. The nano urea is touted to be a giant step towards sustainable agriculture and food systems with a step towards precision and smart farming. According to IFFCO, the process of construction of nano urea plants at Kalol (in Gujarat) and Aonla and Phulpur (in Uttar Pradesh) has already been initiated. This has the potential to revolutionise the entire agriculture sector across the world, IFFCO noted.

Source: livemint.com

Three new caves discovered in the Trirashmi Buddhist cave complex of Nashik

Three new Buddhist caves have been documented in Nashik hill, in Maharashtra- the same area where two centuries ago, the Trirashmi Buddhist caves were discovered. Complex of the cave was documented in 1823 by Captain James Delamaine. It is believed that these caves could be dwellings of Buddhist monks, and while their antiquity has not yet been determined, the archaeologists are of the opinion that these caves date back to before the Trirashmi caves. These caves have images of Buddha & Bodhisattvas and sculptures with designs of Indo-Greek architecture. These caves are a group of 25 caves, carved out of Tri-Rashmi Hill between 2nd century BC and 6th century AD. Vihara and the Chaitya are the main caves among 25 caves. It is an ASI protected site and a famous tourist destination. Source: financialexpress.com

India's DAC clears RFP to build six new conventional submarine

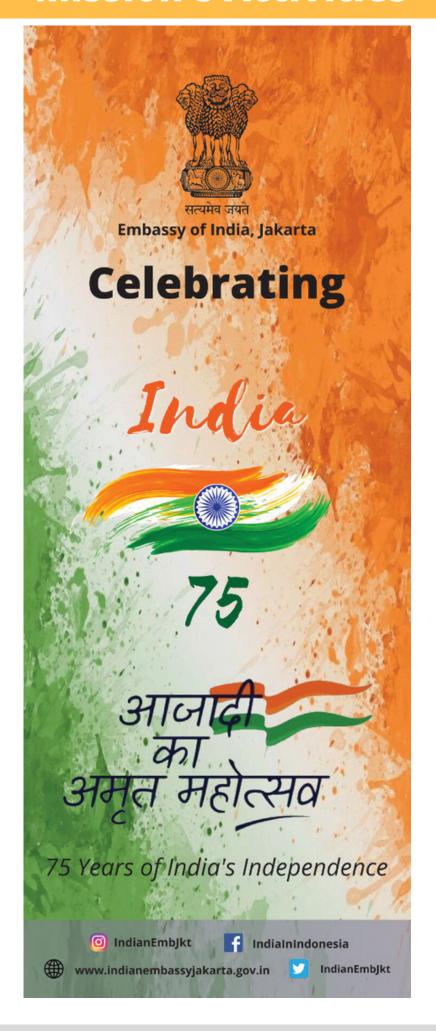
The Indian Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has cleared a major project to build six new conventional submarines for the Indian Navy at a cost of about approximately \$5.88bn (Rs430bn). The council approved issue of request for proposal (RFP) for submarine construction under the navy's Project P 75 (I). These submarines will be constructed under the MoD's strategic partnership (SP) model that seeks to strengthen the government's 'Make in India' initiative. This initiative has been introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India self-reliant and increase domestic defence manufacturing in the country. Under the SP model, an Indian Strategic Partner will tie up with foreign original equipment manufacturer to establish production facilities in the country for indigenously manufacturing defence systems. Source: naval-technology.com



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Mission's Activities





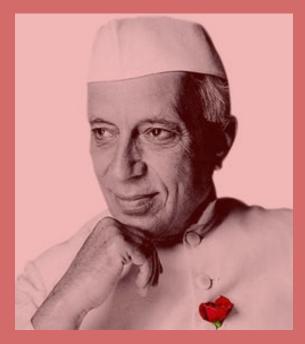
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Personality of the week

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru (14.11.1889- 27.05.1964)



An eminent leader of the Indian independence movement, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru became the first Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister of independent India in 1947. Jawaharlal Nehru was born on 14 November 1889 in Allahabad in British India. His father, Motilal Nehru, a barrister and political leader served twice as President of the Indian National Congress, in 1919 and 1928. Nehru studied Natural Science and Law from United Kingdom, and came back to India in 1912 to practise as an advocate, but his lack of interest in practicing law and his involvement in nationalist politics gradually replaced his legal practice.

He became a prominent leader the freedom movement in 1920s and in 1929, he called for complete independence from the British Raj. The first big national involvement of Nehru came at the onset of the Non-Cooperation movement in 1920. He led the movement in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) and was arrested on charges of anti-governmental activities in 1921, and was released a few months later. Nehru was one of the first nationalist leaders to realise the sufferings of the people in the states ruled by Indian princes. The nationalist movement had been confined to the territories under direct British rule. He helped to make the struggle of the people in the princely states a part of the nationalist movement for independence.

Nehru played a leading role in the development of the internationalist outlook of the Indian independence struggle. He sought foreign allies for India and forged links with movements for independence and democracy all over the world. He pioneered the policy of non-alignment and cofounded the Non-Aligned Movement of nations along with Indonesia, Egypt, Yugoslavia, and Ghana to profess neutrality between the rival blocs of nations led by the US and the USSR.

He is widely regarded as the founder of the modern Indian state. He imported and imparted modern values and ways of thinking, adapting it to the Indian conditions. Pt. Nehru stressed on anti-colonialism and development of nation through democracy, universal education, the modern scientific and technological developments, industrialization, socialism, and nonalignment and non interference principle in the matter of foreign policy. For his unforgettable contribution in the independence and creation of a modern India, Pt. Nehru was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour in 1955.

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FLAVOR'S OF INDIA CHICKEN SUKKA

Recipe Servings: 2

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cook Time: 1 hour

Total Cook Time: 1 hr 15 mins Difficulty Level: Medium

Ingredients of Chicken Sukka:

- 1 Kg Chicken (small pieces)
- 1 Onion (thin slices)
- 2 Cardamom
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp oil
- For Coconut masala:
- 2 tbsp coriander
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp mustard
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 4 Cloves
- 1 Cinnamon stick
- 10 Bedki chillies
- 6 Kashmiri chilies
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- 1 Onion
- 4-5 Garlic flakes
- 1 small ginger
- 1 tsp salt

How to make Chicken Sukka:

- Roast both chilies in a pan and keep aside;
- In the same pan roast, coriander, cumin, mustard, pepper, cloves, cinnamon, onion, ginger & garlic.
 Grind all the masala items together (fried stuff, salt, tamarind & turmeric) with little water to make a smooth coconut paste;
- Now heat oil in a vessel and fry onions till golden brown;
- Add chicken, salt and elachi to cook for 10 minutes;
- Add ground masala and bring one boil. Add scrapped coconut and boil again;
- Taste and check if you need to add more salt;
- Serve hot. You may temper the dish with some amount of ghee.

About Chicken Sukka:

A Mangalorean special semi dry chicken recipe, made using fresh chicken, host of masalas and grated fresh coconut cooked to perfection. It is a dry dish that can make any dinner party menu look exotic.

Source: food.ndtv



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FORTS OF RAJASTHAN (5)



JAIGARH FORT

About 15 kilometres from Jaipur, Jaigarh Fort was built by Sawai Jai Singh II sometime in the early 18th century amidst the arid, rocky and thorn-scrub covered hills. Despite its ancient construction, it still retains most of its imposing citadel appearance. Visitors can see the world's largest cannon – Jaiban, at the fort.

Source: http://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/



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JALORE FORT

The main attraction of the city is the Jalore fort. It is an impressive piece of architecture and is believed to have been constructed between the 8th and 10th centuries, the fort is perched atop a steep hill at a height of about 336 metres and offers exquisite views of the city below. The highlights of the fort are its high fortified walls and bastions with cannons mounted upon them. The fort has four massive gates but is only accessible from one side, after a two-mile long serpentine ascent.

Source: http://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/





Embassy of India

Gama Tower, Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said

Kav. C22, Kuningan, Jakarta 12940

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