INDIA'S LATEST NEWS

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- New data relay satellites to keep Gaganyaan crew in touch with Earth
- PM dedicates 5 DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories to the Nation.
- India's Forex reserves touch all time high of 457.468 billion.
- Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy becomes women’s World Rapid champion.

MISSION'S ACTIVITIES
NEW DATA RELAY SATELLITES TO KEEP GAGANYAAN CREW IN TOUCH WITH EARTH

Astronauts can be fully and continuously in touch with mission control throughout their travel India plans to ring in its own era of space-to-space tracking and communication of its space assets this year by putting up a new satellite series called the Indian Data Relay Satellite System. The IDRSS is planned to track and be constantly in touch with Indian satellites, in particular those in low-earth orbits which have limited coverage of earth. In the coming years, it will be vital to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), whose roadmap is dotted with advanced LEO missions such as space docking, space station, as well as distant expeditions to moon, Mars and Venus. It will also be useful in monitoring launches, according to K. Sivan, ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space. The first beneficiary would be the prospective crew members of the Gaganyaan mission of 2022 who can be fully and continuously in touch with mission control throughout their travel.

Source: The Hindu

PM DEDICATES 5 DRDO YOUNG SCIENTISTS LABORATORIES TO THE NATION

Prime Minister dedicated to the nation 5 Young Scientists Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in Bengaluru on 2.1.2020. DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) are located in five cities viz, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Each lab will work on a key advanced technology of importance to the development of futuristic defence systems viz, Artificial intelligence, Quantum technologies, Cognitive technologies, Asymmetric technologies and Smart materials. The establishment of the five DRDO Young Scientist Labs lays down the foundation for research and development of futuristic technologies. It will be a big leap forward for DRDO from the goal of making India self reliant to future ready in defence technologies.

Source: Press Information Bureau
INDIAN GRANDMASTER KONERU HUMPY BECOMES WOMEN’S WORLD RAPID CHAMPION

India’s Koneru Humpy outwitted China’s Lei Tingjie in a dramatic Armageddon battle to win the Women’s World Rapid Chess Championship in Moscow, Russia. While Humpy was crowned the world women’s rapid champion, Norway’s Magnus Carlsen claimed the men’s title in the space of a few minutes at the same venue on Saturday. “Humpy collected nine points each in 12 rounds to be tied with Tingjie. The duo then played an Armageddon game to break the deadlock.

Source: The Pioneer

INDIA’S FOREX RESERVES TOUCH ALL TIME HIGH OF 457.468 BILLION

India’s foreign exchange reserves swelled by 2.520 billion USD to touch a record high of 457.468 billion USD in the week that ended on 27th December 2019. An RBI press release has informed that foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves rose by 2.203 billion USD to 424.936 billion USD. In the previous week, the reserves had surged by 456 million USD to end at 454.948 billion USD. Gold reserves increased by 260 million USD to end at 27.392 billion USD.

Source: New Services Division, All India Radio
Ambassador of India called on Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia H.E. Mr. Mahendra Siregar on 3 January at @kemlu_RI and discussed ways to further strengthen Economic Diplomacy between India and Indonesia.
How to Make Malabari Fish Curry:

1. Grind the coconut and turmeric powder with some water to form a fine paste.
2. Combine the tamarind extract, red chilli powder, ginger, salt and green chillies in a pan. Add the ground coconut paste and mix well. Place the pan over medium flame.
3. Simmer for two minutes. Add fish and salt. Cook for a few minutes till the mixture starts to harden.
4. Fry the tempering ingredients in coconut oil and add to the fish. Add the onions and stir gently. Remove after a minute. Serve hot with rice.

About Malabari Fish Curry:
Assorted with a blend of spices and fresh vegetables, Malabari fish curry comes straight from the lush green areas of India, this dish will be a perfect fit for a seafood lover’s appetite. Try this recipe to relish the taste of Wayanad, Kerala.

Source: food.ndtv
The mausoleum of the great Mughal Emperor Akbar was built by his son Jahangir. The impressive structure was built under his close supervision and was completed in 1613. The entrances are most impressive and present a confluence of Persian and Hindu architectural styles and motifs. The chattris crowning the gateways are Hindu in conception, while the large central Iwan and the wide lateral niches derive from the Persian style. The red sandstone, which was favoured by Akbar, contrasts beautifully with the fine mosaic of white marble and coloured stones. Emperor Akbar was an enlightened man and ruler. He was a Muslim, but did not impose his faith on his subjects. He was extremely secular in his personal outlook. He forged matrimonial ties with the Rajput rulers. Some of his closest confidants and advisors belonged to faiths other than his own. At the new capital which he built at Fatehpur Sikri, he began a series of theosophical discussions, in a special house of worship. Here, he welcomed Christians, Hindus, Parsis, Jainas and others and created a universal faith, Din-i-Ilahi. Fatehpur Sikri was one of the most cosmopolitan places in the world at that time.
Amber Fort: Just 11 km outside Jaipur, lies the magnificent Amber Fort (Amer Fort), sitting atop a hill, and rising like a sentinel guarding the city. Commissioned in 1592 by Maharaja Man Singh I, the fort is a fine blend of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles, and boasts a grand palace, temples and several ornate gates. Built entirely of red sandstone with white marble work, the UNESCO World Heritage Site is a picture of opulence and grandeur, set against a stark desert backdrop and rolling hills. One can either walk up the wide winding uphill road to reach the main gate of the fort or hire a cab. As you get closer to the massive gate, you realise why it was considered almost impregnable by the enemy, when the royal family used to reside here, before they shifted the capital to Jaipur. As you enter, you cross the Suraj Pol (sun gate), which leads to the main courtyard called Jaleb Chowk. Diagonally opposite is the Chand Pol (moon gate). From Jaleb Chowk, a flight of stairs leads up to the small Siladevi Temple, whose doors feature relief work in silver. The main palace is up next. It includes the Diwan-e-Am (hall for a private audience with the king) with carved columns and latticed galleries, the king’s apartments, the gate Ganesh Pol with beautiful arches, and Jai Mandir or Sheesh Mahal. Stand at one of the many arched windows of the palace and take in the rolling shrub land stretching up to the horizon and the scenic Maota Lake at the foot of the fort. Even after centuries, it’s easy to imagine yourself as a Rajput king, who would stand here and survey his kingdom. Sheesh Mahal or the mirrored palace is one of the most popular attractions here that draws the largest number of tourists. It is breathtaking with fine marble work and cut-glass and mirror inlaid designs on ceilings and walls. It is said that at night, as earthen lamps flickered inside the hall, the numerous mirrors reflected the light, creating the atmosphere of a star-lit sky. Hire a guide or an audio guide to know more about the legends of the fort. In the evening, watch history come alive in a spectacular sound and light show.

Source: Incredible India
Chittorgarh Fort: One of the most glorious symbols of the indomitable Rajput spirit is the Chittorgarh Fort. Set atop a 180-m-high hill and spread over an area of 240 hectare, it presents a formidable sight. Legend has it that the fort was constructed by Bhima, one of the Pandavas from the epic Mahabharata. It is an imposing structure that rings with the stories and tragedies of the past and the tales of extraordinary men and women. A one-kilometre road winding through foothills leads to the fort and takes visitors through seven gates before reaching Rampol (gate of Ram), one of the entry gates still in use. While going from the second to the third gate, one can see two cenotaphs (chattris) that have been built in honour of Jaimal and Kalla, who laid down their lives during the siege by Mughal emperor Akbar in 1568. The main gate of the fort is Surajpol (sun gate). The fort has some of the most magnificent monuments, which include the Vijaya Stambha, the Kriti Stambha, Rana Kumbha’s palace, Rani Padmini’s palace, a temple dedicated to Meera Bai and many others. It also houses a number of Jain temples. From the top of the fort, catch a spectacular sight of the Chittorgarh city sprawled at the base of the fort.

Source: Incredible India