

Current Affairs

08th February, 2024

Today's Important News

Country's first digital National Museum of
Epigraphy in Hyderabad



1. Country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy in Hyderabad

- The country's first digital National Museum of Epigraphy is all set to be established in one of the wings of Salar Jung Museum in the city. Over one lakh ancient inscriptions will be exhibited at the digital museum. ASI officials will lay foundation stone to the epigraphy museum near the western block of Salar Jung Museum.
- In 2023, the central govt announced the establishment of Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (BharatSHRI), with the digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions to be set up in the epigraphy museum.



2. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches EDCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the EdCIL Vidyanjali Scholarship Programme on 6th February 2024 in New Delhi. Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Shri K. Sanjay Murthy; Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Executive Director, EdCIL, Dr. Chandrashekhar; and other dignitaries were also present at the event.



- He commended the efforts of students of NVS and mentioned that nearly 14,000 students have succeeded in getting admission to reputed institutes including IITs, NITs, etc. without joining any coaching centres. Many students come from marginalised families. He also added that 70 students are being bestowed upon the scholarship amounting to Rs. 5 crore.

3. Government launches 'Bharat Rice' at subsidised rates for consumers

- India's food minister Piyush Goyal launched 'Bharat rice' at a subsidised rate of Rs 29 per kg to provide relief amid a 15 per cent rise in retail prices of the grain in the last one year. The subsidised rice will be available in 5 kg and 10 kg packs.
- Loans extended through Exim Bank of India to certain countries, particularly African nations, have been classified as "doubtful debt" in the financial year 2023-24. This indicates the involvement of the Indian government in backing these loans.



4. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates ONGC's sea survival centre in Goa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated ONGC's sea survival centre in Goa. It aims to advance the Indian sea survival training ecosystem to global standards as a one-of-a-kind Integrated Sea Survival Training Centre. It is expected to train 10,000-15,000 personnel annually.
- Personnel will be trained in simulated and controlled harsh weather conditions. The centre will help trainees deal with real-life disasters and enhance their sea survival skills. The Modi government is making efforts to achieve Atma Nirbharta in India's energy requirements.



Foot Note:

About Goa:

Capital: Panaji

Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

5. LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Appoints Ravi Kumar Jha as MD & CEO

- LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management announced the appointment of Ravi Kumar Jha as its Management Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

- Jha, with a distinguished career and prior association with LIC, comes with a track record of over 30 years in handling diverse positions and he was serving as Executive Director – Corporate Strategy till December 2023. His previous roles include Executive Director Corporate Strategy – LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management and various positions at LIC of India.



6. Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi to take over as Army Vice Chief effective February 15

- In a strategic move within the Indian Army, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has been appointed as the new Army Vice Chief, effective February 15. This transition signifies a seamless succession plan as Lt Gen Dwivedi steps into the role, succeeding Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, who is set to assume command at the Northern Army Command in Udhampur.
- Lt Gen. Dwivedi boasts a distinguished career within the Indian Army, having previously served in key positions including Deputy Chief and Director General of Infantry at the Army Headquarters. His operational experience in the Northern Command, particularly during the ongoing India-China military standoff, positions him well for his new role as Army Vice Chief. With expertise in command and strategic roles, Lt Gen. Dwivedi brings a wealth of experience to his appointment.



7. Rajendra Prasad Gupta Appointed as Rajasthan's New Advocate General

- Rajasthan has welcomed Senior Advocate Rajendra Prasad Gupta as its new Advocate General, following the approval of his appointment by Governor Kalraj Mishra. This appointment marks a significant transition in the state's legal leadership, filling the vacancy left after the change of government in December. Rajendra Prasad Gupta steps into the role previously held by MS Singhvi, embarking on a new chapter as the 19th Advocate General of Rajasthan.
- Born on June 4, 1962, in the village of Reed, Parbatsar tehsil of Nagaur district, Rajendra Prasad Gupta's educational and professional journey is both inspiring and commendable. Completing his school education in his village, Gupta pursued higher education in commerce, graduating in 1981, and followed it up with an LLB from Rajasthan University in 1985.



8. Justice Vijay Bishnoi sworn in as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court

- Justice Vijay Bishnoi has recently been sworn in as the Chief Justice of the esteemed Gauhati High Court, marking a significant milestone in his illustrious legal career. The ceremony, graced by dignitaries including the Assam Governor and Chief Minister, commemorated Justice Bishnoi's ascension to this esteemed position.
- The oath-taking ceremony, held at Raj Bhavan, witnessed the Assam Governor, Gulab Chand Kataria, administering the oath of office to Justice Vijay Bishnoi. The presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary, and other esteemed guests added grandeur to the occasion.



9. Veteran Journalist and Sahitya Akademi winner Farooq Nazki dies at 83

- The death of the veteran Kashmiri poet and broadcaster Mir Mohammad Farooq Nazki at 83 in Jammu on February 6 ended a glorious period of literature in the Kashmir Valley. With his passing away Kashmir's literary scene is poorer as many literary giants of the Kashmiri language left the world in quick succession in the last seven years.
- Farooq Nazki's uncle, Prof. Rashid Nazki, a poet, author of several books, and the first Ph.D. in the Kashmiri language and literature, died in January 2016. In his last years, he lived through grief and physical disability after losing his wife and two sons in a blast caused by a grenade thrown at his house in Bandipora by terrorists in 1992.



10. 2026 FIFA World Cup final to be played in New Jersey

- The 2026 World Cup final will be played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, U.S., on July 19. Seventy-eight of 104 matches of the first World Cup held in three nations will be played in the U.S., with 13 games each in Mexico and Canada.
- FIFA announced a Miami television studio, allocating the opener of the 39-day tournament spread across three North American nations to Mexico City's Estadio Azteca on June 11 and the finale to the home of the NFL's New York Jets and Giants.



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