

IMPORTANT DAYS

February 28 - National Science Day

- February 28 is observed as National Science Day to mark the discovery of Raman effect by Physicist C V Raman on 28th February, 1928. The objective is to spread the message of importance of science and its application among the people. **Theme - 'Science for the People and the People for Science'.**

NATIONAL

Andhra Pradesh

New Railway zone

- Southern Coast Railway will be a new zone of the Indian Railways. This new 18th railway zone of the country will be headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway.
- The Indian Railways' operations are currently divided into 17 zones, which are further sub-divided into divisions, each having a divisional headquarter. There are a total of 73 divisions at present.
- In 2002-2003, seven new zones and eight new divisions were created.

Bihar

Foundation stone for projects worth Rs 9,726 cr

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth 9,726 crore rupees in Bihar. These include highway projects worth 6,900 crore rupees.

New Delhi**MSP for Minor Forest Produce**

- Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram will launch Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce and Value Addition Component of Van Dhan scheme in New Delhi. The Ministry also expanded the coverage of the Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce Scheme to 50 Minor Forest Produce.
- The MSP has also been raised between 30 per cent and 40 per cent in case of each of the Commodities.

Uttar Pradesh**Foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine**

- AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik will lay foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine, NIUM at Ghaziabad. Once established, the 200-bedded hospital will be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in North India.

INTERNATIONAL**US, UK and France moved fresh proposal in UNSC**

- The US, the UK and France have moved a fresh proposal in the UN Security Council (UNSC) to designate Pakistan-based terror group JeM's chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. The listing will subject him to global travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo.

US House of Representatives votes to remove wall emergency declaration

- The US House of Representatives has voted to revoke President Donald Trump's emergency declaration over building the US-Mexico border wall.

SCIENCE**Alternative pathway for removing the greenhouse gas from our atmosphere**

- Scientists have turned carbon dioxide back into coal in a world-first breakthrough which could lead to cleaner air.
- The research team, led by RMIT University in Australia, developed the new technique which they say offers an "alternative pathway" for safely and permanently removing the greenhouse gas from our atmosphere.
- Current technology for carbon capture and storage focuses on compressing CO₂ into a liquid form, transporting it to a suitable site and injecting it underground.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**RBI, Bank of Japan sign Bilateral Swap Arrangement**

- Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA). The BSA provides for India to access 75 billion US dollars whereas the earlier BSA had provided for 50 billion dollars.
- India can access the agreed amount of 75 billion dollars for its domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**Diplomats of India-Latin America and Caribbean Strategic (LAC) Economic Cooperation**

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, interacted with diplomats of India-Latin America and Caribbean Strategic (LAC) Economic Cooperation in New Delhi.

TECH-SOP 2019

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) organized a programme on Technology Support and Outreach (TECH-SOP 2019) in New Delhi. It is an initiative to bridge the gap between the technological innovations and MSMEs so that they can harness the technologies and grow in the global value chain.

SCHEMES**Scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector**

- Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, launched a comprehensive scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector under PowerTex India in New Delhi.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS**Agreement between India and Brunei Darussalam**

- The Government of Republic of India and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed an Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes (TIEA) here in New Delhi. The Agreement enables exchange of information, including banking and ownership information between the two countries for tax purposes.

Centre releases over Rs 1600 cr to 4 States

- The Centre has released over 1600 crore rupees to Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Jharkhand and Rajasthan from the National Disaster Response Fund. Over 1200 crore rupees have been sanctioned to Rajasthan and over 272 crore rupees to Jharkhand as drought relief assistance.
- Cyclone-hit Andhra Pradesh has been given around 83 crore rupees while flood-hit Manipur will get over 42 crore rupees.

AWARDS**‘Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation’ – 2018**

- The ‘Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation’ for the year 2018 have been awarded to 101 Police personnel belonging to 25 States/UT/ Central Investigating Agencies.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes

- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is the most coveted national recognition bestowed upon young scientists and engineers to honour their research and developmental work in India.
- It was first instituted in 1957 to honour the eminent scientist Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar who was also the founder Director and the chief architect of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR.
- It is awarded annually for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth, Atmosphere, Engineering Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Medical Sciences and Physical Sciences.

SPORTS**India Vs Australia T20 Series**

- India lose T-20 series against Australia 2-0 after losing the second T20 match by seven wickets.

Women's Cup football

- India lost to Uzbekistan 0-1 in their opening match of the Turkish Women's Cup football in Alanya, Turkey.

ISSF World Cup

- Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker claimed a gold medal for India in 10-metre air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

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