

International Affairs

With 35 sites in UNESCO's World Heritage list, India has the sixth highest number of culturally and historically important places in the world.

This comes after UNESCO recently added three Indian sites, including the Nalanda University, to the list.

Top 5 Countries ahead of India are,

Italy (51)

China (50)

Spain (45)

France (42)

Germany (41)

India and Malaysia have agreed to "proactively" engage in combating the "menace" of ISIS activities.

At a delegation level meeting between the two countries, Home Minister Rajnath Singh stressed on strong intelligence sharing to stop the propagation of ISIS ideology.

The two sides also discussed issues like Extradition Treaty and the circulation of fake Indian currency notes.

National Affairs

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012, was passed in the Rajya Sabha today.

Amending the Child Labour Act, 1986, the Bill seeks to prohibit the employment of children below 14 years in "all" occupations and increases the penalty for violations from 6 months to 2 years.

The bill will now be discussed in the Lok Sabha.

India's first paperless court was inaugurated at the Hyderabad High Court by Justice Madan B Lokur, who heads the Supreme Court's e-Committee.

The paperless court, which began functioning yesterday, uses digitised case records to allow "better access to justice for public".

'Amudham Thaippal Maiyam' (ATM), a bank which offers mother's milk, has been opened in Puducherry.

The initiative by Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research aims to provide nourishment to save premature babies born in the hospital as 30% of 1,500 babies born there per month are of low birth weight.

Judges at the Calcutta High Court have unanimously "declined to accept" the Centre's recent proposal to rename the court to 'Kolkata HC.

The judges cited the court's "long history and tradition associated with the existing name" as the reason for the denial.

The Parliament has passed the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016 to provide statutory status to the existing Regional Centre for Biotechnology in Faridabad, Haryana.

The Bill seeks to provide legislative backing to the Regional Centre and also confers upon it the status of an institution of national importance.

The Indian Railways has initiated process to launch the Terrain Imaging for Diesel Drivers- Infrared Enhanced Optical and Radar Assisted (Tri-NETRA) system to avoid train accidents.

The system will be installed on locomotives for enhancing the vision of Locomotive Pilots in inclement weather.

Business & Economy

Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) CEO Jiji Mammen today announced that the government has set a target for banks to disburse Rs.1.8 lakh crore as loans under the MUDRA scheme during 2016-17.

Note : The banks disbursed Rs.25,000 crore in the June quarter.

In line with the announcements under the Indradhanush initiative and the Budget, the Centre has allocated Rs.22,915 crore for the capitalisation of 13 public sector banks for the year 2016-17.

This will provide liquidity support and allow banks to raise capital from markets.

The amount released is 75% of that collected for each bank and the remaining will be performance-linked.

Places in News

Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park has been designated as India's first "Mixed" site on the UNESCO World Heritage List, by fulfilling the criteria under both Natural and Cultural heritage.

Important Points to Note :

Earlier, Chandigarh's Capitol Complex and Nalanda University were also added to the list.

With this, India now has 35 sites on the World Heritage List, including seven natural and 27 cultural sites.

People in News

Tamil Nadu's Sri Ram S emerged the national topper of the 2016 Chartered Accountants final examination as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India declared the results yesterday.

Securing 76.63% marks, Sri Ram cleared the exam in his first attempt.

Andhra Pradesh's KNVV Uendra (76.25%) and Gujarat's Yash Manojkumar Goyal (74.88%) were ranked second and third respectively.

New Appointments

The World Bank (WB) today confirmed New York University's economics professor Paul Romer as its next Chief Economist.

Romer will take the post in September and replace Kaushik Basu, an ex-Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian government.

Senior IAS officer Guruprasad Mohapatra was appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in for another term as Australia's Prime Minister after a narrow election victory with budget repair and a public vote on same sex marriage among his top priorities.

Deaths

Ghazal maestro and playback singer Mubarak Begum Shaikh (80) passed away.

She was known for songs including 'Woh Na Aayenge Palat Kar' from the 1955 film 'Devdas' and 'Kabhi Tanhaiyon Mein' from the 1961 film 'Hamari Yaad Aayegi'.

She sang for over 110 films in her career of over four decades.

Sports

The Pakistan Cricket Board has started a 'Misbah Push-Up Challenge', after Pakistani captain Misbah-ul-Haq celebrated his century at Lord's with 10 push-ups last week.

The challenge requires people to post videos of themselves doing ten push-ups with the hashtag #PushUpChallenge.

WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) recommends banning Russia from Olympics and Paralympics after evidence is found of a four-year state-sponsored doping programme

Sarathi Banking Academy