

Krishi Unnati Mela 2017



Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) every year has been organising Krishi Vigyan Mela (Agriculture Science Fair) to display and popularise the latest advancement in agricultural research and technology development among farmers

and end users since 1972.

- It continues to be a highly important annual event for receiving feedback from the farming community, which helps in deciding the Institute's future research strategy.
- Thousands of farmers and visitors from across the country are participating in the mela every year.
- This year Krishi Unnati Mela 2017 will be organised from 15-17 March at the campus of IARI, New Delhi in jointly by ICAR and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- The mela will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Sh. Radha Mohan Singh on 15th March, 2017.
- A large number of farmers and other visitors are expected to participate in the mela.

'International Vision Zero Conference' on Occupational, Safety and Health



Three days International Conference on the VISION ZERO and its relevance to Occupational Safety and Health, is being held from 15th to 17th, March 2017 in New Delhi.

- It is organized by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with International Social Security Association - Manufacturing, Construction and Mining.
- The concept of 'Vision Zero' is fast gaining international acceptance and is expected to leverage the efforts of the Government of India to

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raise the occupational safety and health standards in the country so as to improve the occupational safety and health situation.

- The participants attending the conference from various sectors across a wide variety of industries are expected to be benefitted by the common platform provided by the conference through sharing of best practices both nationally and internationally.
- On the other hand, the international community will get an appraisal of the occupational safety and health status in India thereby exposing the Indian industrial occupational safety and health scenario to the international community.

Inter-state River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 introduced in Lok Sabha



Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti introduced Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Lok Sabha today. Introducing the Bill the Minister called it a

“Revolutionary step” towards the resolution of Inter- State River Water Disputes.

- Giving details of the Bill the Minister said the Bill proposes a Single Standing Tribunal (with multiple benches) instead of existing multiple tribunals, which shall consist of one Chairperson, one Vice-Chairperson and not more than six other Members.
- While the term of office of the Chairperson is five year or till he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier, the term of office of Vice Chairperson and other member of tribunal shall be coterminous with the adjudication of the water dispute.
- Sushri Bharti said the Bill also provides for the appointment of Assessors to provide technical support to the tribunal.
- They shall be appointed from amongst experts serving in the Central Water engineering Service not below the rank of Chief Engineer.
- The total time period for adjudication of dispute has been fixed at maximum of four and half years.
- The decision of the Tribunal shall be final and binding with no requirement of publication in the official Gazette.

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Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar (2016)



Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar for the year 2016 will be awarded in Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi at 11.00 AM on the 15th March 2017 during the inaugural function of Krishi Unnati Mela – 2017.

- Year 2016 is the birth centenary year of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Ji, pioneer of Antyodaya.
- “Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar” has been launched on this occasion by Government of India.
- The total sum of this award is Rs. 50 lakhs in which there is a provision of one award of Rs. 25.00 lakh at national level and 11 awards of Rs. 2.25 lakh at regional level every year will be awarded.
- The decision of winners of this award has been taken by the selection committee on the basis of nominations received from all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country.

All cash withdrawal limits removed by RBI



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday let go of the last indicator of the two months of demonetisation.

- The central bank has officially removed all the limits on cash withdrawal from customer bank accounts that were first put in place on 8 November, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Rs500 and Rs1,000 would stop being legal tender, in an address to the nation.
- While the RBI removed the limits on withdrawals from automated teller machines (ATMs) on 1 February, it was still within the overall limit of Rs24,000 a week from savings bank accounts.
- In case of current accounts, the weekly withdrawal limit was earlier set at Rs50,000.
- The 50-day demonetisation period for residents to deposit their old currency notes ended on 30 December.

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- However, the central bank is yet to declare the total number of notes that were removed from the system and how many new notes were pumped in.
- According to initial estimates, about 86% of the value of total cash in circulation had to be removed after the demonetisation announcement.
- Representatives from the RBI and the government have repeatedly stated that there is no shortage of currency notes in India.

US Senate confirms Indian-American Seema Verma for top health care post



President Donald Trump's pick to run Medicare and Medicaid, Indian-American Seema Verma, won confirmation on Monday from a divided Senate as lawmakers braced for another epic battle over the government's role in health care and society's responsibility toward the vulnerable.

- An Indiana health care consultant and a protégé of Vice President Mike Pence, Verma was approved by a 55-43 vote, largely along party lines.
- She'll head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a \$1 trillion agency that oversees health insurance programs for more than 130 million people, from elderly nursing home residents to newborns.
- It's part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Verma, a first-generation American whose parents emigrated from India, takes over at CMS as a House Republican health care bill backed by Trump would make sweeping changes to the agency.

PERSONS

SSP Chawrasia defends Indian Open title, only second Indian to do so



Defending champion SSP Chawrasia claimed his second consecutive Indian Open title after racing to victory at 10 under DLF Golf Course in Gurgaon on Sunday.

- Five-time Asian Tour winner Chawrasia became only the second Indian to win the Indian Open in two successive years after Jyoti Randhawa.
- Another Indian, Anirban Lahiri finished tied sixth in the competition.
- On Saturday, Chawrasia, Eddie Pepperell and Carlos Pigem shared the lead at 6 under and the first two had completed 11 holes when play was suspended due to darkness.
- More than four hours of play had been lost due to threat of lightning on the first two days.
- He became the third player to win back-to-back Indian Open. Jyoti Randhawa did that in 2006 and 2007 while Japan's Kenji Hosoishi had won it way back in 1967 and 1968.
- This is also the third year in succession that an Indian had won this title at home after Lahiri clinched victory in 2015.
- This year, Lahiri finished tied fifth after he struck five birdies against four bogeys to turn in a one-under card.

ISRO's 'Lost' Chandrayaan-1 Found Orbiting Moon: NASA



India's first unmanned mission to the moon- Chandrayaan 1- which was believed lost, is still orbiting the moon, say NASA scientists.

- The Chandrayaan-1, which cost \$79 million, was launched in 2008 to map the moon's surface and look for precious resources.
- It was assigned a two-year mission.

SPORTS**SPACE SCIENCE**

- Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) lost contact with Chandrayaan-1.
- Now, scientists at NASA have successfully located the spacecraft still circling some 200 kilometres above the lunar surface.
- Finding the spacecraft required some "detective work because the last contact with the spacecraft was on August 29, 2009," said Marina Brozovic, a radar scientist in California.
- The Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft is very small, a cube about 1.5 meters on each side - about the size of a Maruti 800.

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