

## Central Government has established Banana Research Centre in Gorole (Vaishali)



Union Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that Bihar and particularly Vaishali district is very suitable for the cultivation of bananas and large scale production of banana can change the fate of farmers.

- The Minister made this statement today on the occasion of the laying the foundation stone of the Banana Research Centre at Gorole, Vaishali, Bihar Centre.
- Shri Singh stated that Rajendra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pusa has got the status of Central Agriculture University only in October, 2016.
- After that the Government has established this Banana Research Centre to fulfil the aspirations of the banana growers of Vaishali. Banana Research Centre, Vaishali falls under Garole area and because of the ecological conditions of Garole, it has been selected for the establishment of this centre.
- He further stated that this centre will work in the areas of finding reasons of less production in banana, enhancement in acreage for cultivation, suitable utilization of the various parts of the plants, different products, marketing and value addition.
- Shri Singh said that Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University has already started the research work for doubling the income from banana cultivation.
- With starting this centre the research work will get more momentum. He was hopeful that with the cooperation of the researchers of this centre and with the participation of farmers, it would help to bring a new era of banana cultivation in Bihar and surrounding states like it happened in Maharashtra.

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## Lok Sabha Passes the Admiralty Bill,2016



The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Lok Sabha yesterday.

- The Bill aims to establish a legal framework to consolidate the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, arrest of vessels and related issues.
- It also aims to replace archaic laws which are hindering efficient governance. The Bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India and this jurisdiction extends upto territorial waters.
- Introduced during the winter session of Parliament, the Bill came up for discussion in the Lok Sabha yesterday.
- The Minister of State ( RT&H, S, C&F), Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, presented an overview of the Bill in the House, highlighting the need for repealing five obsolete British statutes on admiralty jurisdiction in civil matters, which are 126 to 177 years old.
- The Bill provides for prioritization of maritime claims and maritime liens while providing protection to owners, charterers, operators, crew members and seafarers at the same time.
- During the course of discussion, thirteen members presented their views and raised various questions which were replied to by Shri Mandaviya. The Bill was then passed by the House

## Warm Send off to Special Athletes Participating in World Winter Games 2017



A warm send off function was organized here today for the special athletes, their coaches and officials going to participate in the World Winter Games to be held from 14th - 25th March 2017 in Austria.

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- Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel and Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar were present on the occasion.
- In his speech, Shri Vijay Goel said his ministry is providing financial assistance to “Special Olympics Bharat” for organizing national championship, coaching and training.
- He said for participation in upcoming World Winter Games, the government has incurred an expenditure of about Rs 1.5 crore to the contingent consisting of 90 athletes, 23 coaches and 3 officials.
- Wishing best wishes to the contingent, Shri Goel said that these athletes have proved that by devotion and determination a person can achieve anything during his life.
- He expressed the hope that many of these special athletes will become a sporting star and bring glory to the nation.

## **Bangladesh Army DGMS calls upon Indian Counterparts**



India has been on the fore front in training the doctors and paramedical staff of Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan and Bangladesh through the highly respected Indian Armed Forces Medical Services.

- Maj Gen SM Motahar Hossain, DGMS (Bangladesh Army) called upon Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Unni, DG AFMS & Lt Gen Velu Nair, DGMS (Army) today and expressed gratitude for the unflinching support and continuous cooperation of Indian Armed Forces including in treating the patients being referred to India.
- Visiting DGMS sought expert technical advice on medical matters through telemedicine and in other sophisticated fields of surgery & organ transplant to which the hosts expressed willingness.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

## Ministry of Railways and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) signed Letters of Intent(LOI) on Environment Initiatives



In the august presence of Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Ministry of Railways signed a LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to formalise the joint cooperation in the area of environmental conservation today i.e. 9th March 2017 at Rail Bhavan.

- Minister of State for Railways, Shri Rajen Gohain specially graced the occasion. Chairman, Railway Board, Shri A. K. Mital, Member (Rolling Stock), Railway Board, Shri Ravindra Gupta, other Railway Board Members and senior officials were also present on the occasion.
- Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director UNEP (and Under Secretary General, UN) from Head office, Nairobi, Kenya was also present.
- Representatives of Indian Railways and UNEP signed and exchanged Letters of Intent for exploring the opportunity and Developing a Joint cooperation mechanism in the field of Environment & Sustainability
- Collaborate in Formulating Specific Roadmap for achieving 20% reduction in Water consumption at Railway establishments.
- Collaborate in the development of a Draft action plan for establishing waste management centres at major stations on Indian Railways.
- Collaborate in the development of a Draft action plan for Indian Railways on sustainable public procurement for green technology.
- Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu said that Indian Railways welcomes this partnership.
- The priority in Railways is to reduce the carbon footprints which will help public at large. After this partnership, opportunities are large to work for environment conservation in collaboration with UNEP.
- Railway is already taking several green initiatives and is going to produce 1000 MW solar energy. This joint cooperation will help Indian Railways in its green objectives.

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## Vote counting delivers historic win for BJP, Akhilesh resigns



The counting of votes for the 403 seats in Uttar Pradesh (UP) assembly elections 2017 saw a historic landslide verdict in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies in 403-member UP Assembly.

- Out of the results declared for 351 seats, BJP has so far bagged 268 seats, Apna

Dal (Soneylal) won 8 seats, while Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party grabbed 4 seats. BJP is still leading in 43 seats and Apna Dal (S) is ahead in 1 seat.

- The assembly polls are being seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and his reforms, particularly demonetisation.
- Exit poll results on Thursday were indecisive for Uttar Pradesh and predicted a triangular contest between Modi's BJP, Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance and Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was forecast in Uttar Pradesh.
- Four of the six polls predicted Modi's will emerge the single largest party but may fall short of gaining the 202 seats need to govern in its own right in the 403-member assembly.
- Two other polls, including the one that forecast Modi winning a majority in the 2014 national elections, expect Modi's party to sweep to power in a decisive victory.

## PM releases commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today released a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India.

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- Speaking on the occasion, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, the Prime Minister appreciated Swami Paramahansa Yogananda, and said that the path shown by him is not about Mukti, but about 'Antaryatra.'
- He said that though Swami Paramahansa Yogananda left the shores of India to spread his message, he always remained connected with India.
- The Prime Minister said India's spirituality is its strength, and it is unfortunate that some people link even spirituality with religion, whereas the two are very different.

