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General Studies-1

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

Ministry of Culture is organising the 9th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, in Tehri, Uttarakhand from 25th May to 27th May, 2018.

Tehri Lake Festival where one can explore the water sports, organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism every year, will be subsumed within the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav.

This year the much-awaited 3 days water sports and cultural event is scheduled from 25th – 27th May 2018 at Tehri Lake, Uttarakhand.

Details of Programme:

The essential thrust of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) is to present rich diversity and uniqueness of Indian culture and to promote the cultural inter-linkages amongst the states to strengthen National integration and also to bid the artists of other parts of the country with the people of Uttarakhand in a single thread of culture.

The Mahotsav was envisioned to preserve, promote and popularize the heritage and cultural diversity of Indian culture and reconnect the new generation with Indian culture.

The gastronomic culture of several other states will also be showcased through a food festival. Chefs of traditional delicacies from different regions of the country will treat the visitors to an unparalleled culinary experience.

The paired state for Uttarakhand under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix is Karnataka, and while troupes from all over the country will be performing, special emphasis is being given to Karnataka.

The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav would showcase all the aspects of Indian Culture in different areas and aspects.



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Artists from states like Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu Kashmir, Assam and Punjab will showcase India's cultural heritage through performances of arts, Folk Music, Dance and cuisines.

The stage will also provide a platform to local Tehri folk artists to showcase their talent. Artists of international level stature will mesmerize the audience during the festival. Some of the special performances that would be performed are

General studies-2'

SamagraShiksha'

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the **SamagraShiksha'** - an integrated Scheme for school education extending support to States from pre-school to senior secondary levels for the first time in New Delhi today.

About the Scheme:

The Scheme is a paradigm shift in the conceptual design of school education by treating 'school' holistically as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels.

It focuses on improving quality of education at all levels by integrating the two T's – Teachers and Technology.

He elaborated that 'Samagra' means a holistic approach to treat education as a whole and the Scheme is very aptly named as it sees school education holistically without segmenting it into various levels of education.

Every school will get sports equipment under the SamagraShiksha, at the cost of Rs. 5000 for Primary, Rs. 10,000 for Upper Primary & up to Rs. 25,000 for SSC & HSC schools to inculcate & emphasize relevance of sports to realise the dream of "*Khelega India Khilega India*".



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The scheme will build on the grade-wise, subject-wise Learning Outcomes and the largest National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted in 2017-18 to strategize district level interventions for improving quality of education.

This approach would help to shift the focus of student learning from content to competencies.

The Scheme envisages active participation of all stakeholders especially the parents/guardians, School Management Committee (SMC) members, community and the state functionaries towards the efforts to ensure quality education to children.

“DIKSHA”- the national digital platform for teachers would put high quality teaching learning resources for ready use of teachers.

The Scheme will support ‘Operation Digital Board’ in all secondary schools over a period of 5 years, so as to enhance the use of digital technology through smart classrooms, digital boards and DTH channels. The Digital initiatives like ShaalaKosh, Shagun, ShaalaSaarthi will be strengthened.

Shri Prakash Javadekar also unveiled the brochure and website of the Samagra Shiksha Scheme.

The brochure gives an insight into the major features of the Scheme and how the Scheme focuses on improving quality of education, enhancing the Learning Outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.

The Website provides details about the Scheme for information of the States/UTs, teachers, children, institutions and public at large.

It details out the interventions for which financial support is provided under the Scheme to States and UTs.



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General Studies-3

CSIR bags the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has been awarded the Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018 in the Government Research Organizations Category. This award yet again recognizes CSIR as the top innovator.

The citation reads as "CSIR is a pioneer of India's intellectual property movement and a leader in terms of sheer volume of patents published during the analysis period.

About the award:

Every year, Clarivate Analytics – formerly the IP & Science division of Thomson Reuters - recognizes the most innovative companies in India according to patent-related metrics that get to the essence of what it means to be truly innovative.

This analysis is done using proprietary Clarivate Analytics data and tools. The evaluation is strictly driven by metrics for both patent volume (patents published) as well as patent quality (grant success rate, extent of globalization, and citations).

About CSIR

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), a contemporary R&D organization, is known for its cutting edge R&D knowledge base in diverse science & technology areas.

CSIR has a dynamic network of 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.

CSIR's R&D expertise and experience is embodied in about 4600 active scientists supported by about 8000 scientific and technical personnel.



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CSIR covers a wide spectrum of science and technology – from radio and space physics, oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology.

It provides significant technological intervention in many areas with regard to societal efforts which include environment, health, drinking water, food, housing, energy, farm and non-farm sectors.

Further, CSIR's role in scientific human resource development is noteworthy. According to the SCImago Institutions Ranking World Report 2017, CSIR has been ranked 9th in the world amongst the 1207 government institutions, with an overall global ranking of 75 in the world, covering 5250 institutions

Yamuna Action Plan

Why in News?

Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari instructed senior Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials to speed up all the projects of YAP-III Projects while chairing a review meeting yesterday in New Delhi.

About YAP:

The **Yamuna Action Plan** (YAP) is a bilateral project between the Government of India and Japan.

It is one of the largest river restoration projects in India.

The government of Japan, via the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), has provided financial aid of 17.7 billion to carry out the project, which is being executed by the National River Conservation Directorate, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the Government of India.