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"Innovate India Platform"

Shri. R Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission and Shri. Arvind Gupta CEO, MyGov today launched the "#InnovateIndia Platform", a collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov, a citizen centric platform of the Government of India.

About the Platform:

The #InnovateIndia portal will serve as the common point for all the innovation happening across the nation.

InnovateIndia MyGov-AIM portal creates the much-needed innovations platform for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level.

Those searching for a critical innovation can leverage the portal advantageously for the benefit of the economy as well as national social needs."

Features of this platform are:

1. The platform is open to all Indian citizens
2. The users can View, comment, share, and rate the innovations crowdsourced on the #InnovateIndia platform
3. View the leaderboard which is calculated based on the votes on each innovation.
4. Citizens can share their/organizations/someone else's innovation on the platform by login to the MyGov website
5. These innovations can also be shared on various social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter

Benefits:

India has been a very innovation-oriented society, but our challenge has been a structured approach to innovation, capturing them and building an ecosystem to take them global.

The current government initiative to capture and support innovation from ground up, is aimed at creating a structured ecosystem to encourage, enhance and develop India's innovative character", said Shri Arvind Gupta, CEO MyGov.



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With the launch of the platform Indians will be able to upload and rate their/organizations innovation on the platform.

Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme

Government of India has approved a new scheme namely Mahila Shakti Kendra for implementation during 2017-18 upto 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation.

About the Scheme:

The Scheme is implemented with cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between centre and states except for North East and Special Category States where the ratio is 90:10.

The scheme is envisaged to work at various levels and at the national level (domain based knowledge support) and state level (State Resource Centre for Women) technical support to the respective governments on issues related to women is provided.

Community engagement through College Student Volunteers is envisioned in 115 aspirational districts as part of the Block Level initiatives.

Student volunteers are to play an instrumental role in awareness generation regarding various important government schemes/ programmes as well as social issues.

District Level Centre for Women (DLCW) has also been envisaged for 640 districts to be covered in phased manner.

These centres to serve as a link between village, block and state level in facilitating women centric schemes and also give foothold for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme at the district level.

Vast improvement in Human Development Indicators pertaining to Scheduled Tribes

Data pertaining to decennial census, large scale sample surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and various other surveys conducted by different Ministries / Departments of Government of India, reveal that over the years there has been vast improvement in the human development indicators pertaining to Scheduled Tribes (STs).



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Major Improvements:

For example, literacy rate for STs has improved from 47.1% in 2001 to 59% in 2011.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for ST students at Senior Secondary (classes XI-XII) level has increased from 35.4% in 2013-14 to 43.1% in 2015-16.

During 2015, 64.1% and 68.9% ST students have completed Class Xth and XIIth, respectively, through various State and Central Examination Boards including Open Boards.

In respect of Scheduled Tribes, Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 62.1 (2005-06) to 44.4 (2015-16), Under Five Mortality Rate has declined from 95.7 (2005-06) to 57.2 (2015-16), and Institutional Delivery has increased from 17.7% in 2005-06 to 68.0% in 2015-16.

What is HDI?

The **Human Development Index (HDI)** is a composite statistic (composite index) of [life expectancy](#), [education](#), and [per capita income](#) indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of [human development](#).

A country scores higher HDI when the [lifespan](#) is higher, the [education](#) level is higher, and the [GDP per capita](#) is higher.

The HDI was developed by Pakistani economist [Mahbub ul Haq](#) and Indian economist [Amartya Sen](#) which was further used to measure the country's development by the United Nations Development Program([UNDP](#))

Para-Athletics under Khelo India Scheme

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore has said that the Khelo India Scheme has a dedicated vertical, namely, "Promotion of Sports among persons with disabilities" for supporting athletes with disabilities including sportspersons for Para-athletics.

About Khelo India scheme:

The importance of sports and fitness in one's life is invaluable. Playing sports inculcates team spirit, develops strategic & analytical thinking, leadership skills, goal setting and risk taking.



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A fit and healthy individual leads to an equally healthy society and strong nation.

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

General Studies- 3

National Waterways Projects in the North East

The Minister of State for Shipping and Finance Shri Pon Radhakrishnan in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today informed that 20 National Waterways out of 111 are in North Eastern Region (NER). NW-2 (river Brahmaputra) from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) is operational for transport and cruise and cargo vessels are moving on it.

About National Waterways:

There are 111 officially notified [Inland National Waterways \(NWs\) in India](#) identified for the purposes of inland water transport, as per The National Waterways Act, 2016.

Out of the 111 NWs, 106 were created in 2016. The NW network covers around 20,275.5 km. NW-1, 2, & 3 are already operational.

Cargo as well as passenger / cruise vessels are plying on these waterways. Detailed Project Report(DPR) for development of NW-4 & 5 was completed in 2010.

The DPR of NW 5 was updated in 2014. For the newly declared 106 NWs, techno-economic feasibility studies have been initiated



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Advances in Superconductivity

For the first time, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru have been able to achieve superconductivity at ambient temperature and pressure.

A large number of materials have been found to undergo normal to superconducting transitions.

But such transitions require extremely low temperature and/or extremely high pressure.

Achieving this transition at ambient temperature and pressure therefore gains great significance

What is a Superconductor?

A material is said to exhibit superconductivity when it is able to conduct electric current with practically zero resistance. So unlike the conventionally used materials such as copper and steel, a superconductor can carry a current indefinitely without losing any energy.

Surprising result

The results look robust and interesting. At the same time, it is a surprising result as a mixture of two metals — silver and gold — shows superconductivity.

It's a remarkable achievement.

Meissner effect

The team did observe the Meissner effect though the effect is relatively low.

Meissner effect is where the magnetic fields are completely expelled by the superconducting state and is a crucial evidence for superconductivity.



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General Theory of relativity:

Why in News?

A consortium of astronomers said on Thursday they had for the first time confirmed a prediction of Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity by observing the gravitational effects of a supermassive black hole on a star zipping by it.

Einstein's Prediction:

The German-born theoretical physicist had posited that large gravitational forces could stretch light, much like the compression and stretching of sound waves we perceive with the change of pitch of a passing train.

Researchers from the GRAVITY consortium led by the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics realised that they had a "perfect laboratory" to test Einstein's theory with the black hole, Sagittarius A*, in the centre of the Milky Way.

Black holes are so dense that their gravitational pull can trap even light, and the supermassive Sagittarius A* has mass four million times that of our sun, making it the biggest in our galaxy.

First observation

The results are perfectly in line with the theory of general relativity" and are "a major breakthrough towards better understanding the effects of intense gravitational fields," said the research team.

This is the first time observers have been able to measure such an effect.

More than 100 years after he published his paper setting out the equations of general relativity, Einstein has been proved right once more — in a much more extreme laboratory than he could have possibly imagined," said the ESO in a statement.

Practical utility

Astronomers already use another effect predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity — that a black hole can bend passing light.



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Called gravitational lensing, researchers have used it to peer behind black holes.

Astronomers hope they can make practical use of the latest confirmation of Einstein's theory to track shifts in S2's trajectory due to gravity, which could yield information on mass distribution around the black hole.