

Daily Current Affairs

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Fulbright Nehru Fellowship Applications

- The **United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF)** has announced the opening of its annual competition for **Fulbright-Nehru** and other Fulbright fellowships for Indian citizens.
- Funded by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, and the **U.S. Department of State**, such exchanges have helped bring the people of India and the United States closer together through opportunities that enrich fellows' academic, research, teaching, and professional capacity.
- Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said that USIEF is now accepting applications from Indian citizens for the academic year 2025-26.



International Centre Of Excellence For Dams

- To equip **national institutions with expertise** at par with global institutions and empower '**Make in India**' in **dam safety**, the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore for the Establishment of an International Centre of Excellence for Dams (ICED).

- ICED will act as a **technological arm of the Ministry** to provide specialised technical support in investigations, modelling, research and innovations, and technical support services for the Indian and overseas dam owners.



- The Ministry will provide a grant of **118.05 crore rupees for the procurement** of goods, and machinery for the establishment of new laboratories as well as strengthening of existing laboratories, initiation of research activities, and construction and modernisation of infrastructure for setting up and functioning of ICED.
- ICED will give the **right impetus towards building an Atmanirbhar Bharat** and will also provide a window of opportunity for disseminating knowledge and expertise in the dam safety area to many underdeveloped and developing nations in future.
- **IISc Bangalore** will work with specific objectives to provide novel solutions for assuring the safety of ageing and new dams through advanced research and technology development.
- It will train dam engineers with the **'state of the art' theoretical and practical knowledge** through the M. Tech. course programme as well as through workshops and training programs. Additionally, the institute will enable quick and efficient solutions to various challenges in dam safety for the agreed core areas.

Kerala Welcomes 'Iris'

- Kerala school has introduced **Iris, a humanoid teacher**, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology.
- Developed in collaboration with **Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited**, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible.
- **Located in Thiruvananthapuram**, KTCT Higher Secondary School, under the aegis of Kaduvayil Thangal Charitable Trust, has become the first educational institution in Kerala to employ an AI-powered teacher.



- This initiative stems from the **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) project** by NITI Aayog, launched in 2021 to enhance extracurricular activities in schools across India.
- Iris is designed to be more than just a **robotic presence in the classroom**; it is a generative AI entity capable of conducting interactive learning sessions. With the ability to communicate in three languages, Iris can tackle a wide array of questions, making it a versatile and invaluable educational tool. The humanoid boasts a range of features aimed at revolutionizing the way students interact with educational content.
- These include: Iris can interact in **three different languages**, offering a more inclusive and accessible learning experience for students of diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- Equipped with voice assistant capabilities, Iris can guide students through lessons, answer queries, and engage in educational dialogues.
- Iris comes with **manipulation capabilities and is mobile**, thanks to its wheeled base, allowing it to navigate classroom spaces effectively.



- At its core, Iris integrates robotics with **generative AI**, powered by a dedicated Intel processor and a coprocessor. This setup enables the humanoid to perform a wide range of teaching tasks.
- An Android app **interface allows users to interact** with Iris effortlessly, facilitating a customized learning experience that can adapt to the individual needs of students.

“Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna”

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu unveiled the “**Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna**,” a scheme designed to provide financial support to women aged between **18 to 60 years**.
- Under this scheme, eligible women will receive a **monthly stipend of ₹1,500**, amounting to an annual expenditure of ₹800 crore. The initiative aims to cover over five lakh women, offering them much-needed financial assistance.

इंदिरा गांधी प्यारी बहना सुख सम्मान निधि

इन महिलाओं को
हर महीने —
1500 रुपए
| देगी सरकार

₹

केवल इन महिलाओ को मिलेंगे 1500 रुपए

- One of the highlights of the scheme is its **focus on empowering young women**. Chief Minister Sukhu emphasized that all girls above 18 years of age would receive ₹18,000 per annum under the initiative.
- This ambitious endeavor not only provides financial aid but also signifies a commitment to **uplifting and supporting the women** of Himachal Pradesh.
- Chief Minister Sukhu expressed his satisfaction with the government's efforts to combat corruption and ensure the effective implementation of the scheme. By delivering on their promises, the government aims to build trust among the people and fulfill its electoral mandates.
- The introduction of the "Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna" marks a significant milestone in the state's journey towards inclusive development and women's empowerment.

Sansad Khel Mahakumbh

- Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched the third phase of **Sansad Khel Mahakumbh at Luhnu Cricket Ground in Bilaspur** district in Himachal Pradesh.



- Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Modi government at the Center has taken several steps to promote sports, as a result of which Indian players have performed better at international level.

- Mr Thakur said that about **45 thousand youth had participated in the second** phase of Sansad Khel Mahakumbh and this program has proved effective in keeping the youth away from drugs and making them aware about sports.

Google To Restore All Delisted Indian Apps

- **Technology conglomerate Google** has agreed to restore all the recently delisted Indian apps from its app market, Play Store.
- Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed this after having a meeting with **representatives from Google and the affected app developers** over the issue.



- Mr Vaishnaw said that after very constructive discussions, both parties have agreed to re-instate the apps.
- He assured that both Google and the start-up companies will come to a long-term resolution in the coming months.
- **Recently, Google had delisted over a hundred apps** by prominent Indian tech companies including Shaadi.com, Bharat Matrimony and Info Edge. The US-based conglomerate said that it had removed the apps from Play Store for not complying with its app billing policy for an extended period of time.

South Eastern Coalfield Limited's Gevra Mine

- **South Eastern Coalfield Limited's (SECL) Gevra mine, located in Chhattisgarh,** is on the verge of becoming the largest coal mine in Asia.
- The mine recently received environmental clearance to enhance its production capacity to **70 million tons per annum**, up from the existing 52.5 million tons. This expansion marks a pivotal moment not only for SECL but also for the nation's energy sector, as India moves to bolster its coal production capabilities.



- The **Ministry of Coal, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, played a crucial role in fast-tracking the environmental clearance process.
- This expedited approval underscores the strategic importance of the Gevra mine as one of the mega projects under SECL's umbrella, aiming to meet the **escalating energy demands of the country**.
- This ambition reflects India's broader objective to enhance its coal mining efficiency and productivity, aligning with global best practices.



- **Gevra, one of SECL's flagship projects**, has been a cornerstone in India's coal mining industry for over four decades, contributing significantly to the nation's energy security. With an impressive annual production of 52.5 million tons in the fiscal year 2022-23, Gevra has already established itself as the country's largest coal mine. The mine spans approximately 10 kilometers in length and 4 kilometers in breadth.
- In its operations, **Gevra employs eco-friendly, blast-free mining technologies** such as Surface Miner and Ripper Mining. Additionally, it utilizes some of the

highest capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM), including 42 cubic meter shovels and 240-ton dumpers for overburden removal.

- The mine is also **equipped with first-mile connectivity features**, including a conveyor belt, silos, and a Rapid Loading System, facilitating swift and environmentally friendly coal evacuation.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Iris Seen In News Is

- A. Humanoid Teacher
- B. Telescope
- C. Satellite
- D. Space Robot

ANSWER: A

2. “Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna” Women Will Be Given

- A. Rupees 1200
- B. Rupees 1300
- C. Rupees 1400
- D. Rupees 1500

ANSWER: D

3. Sansad Khel Mahakumbh 3.0 Is Organised In

- A. Chattisgarh
- B. Kerala
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: C

4. South Eastern Coalfield Limited’s Gevra Mine Located In

- A. Chattisgarh
- B. Kerala
- C. Punjab
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A

5. What is 'MH 60R Seahawk', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Nuclear-powered submarine
- B. Maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter
- C. Amphibious assault ship
- D. Stealth Attack Craft

ANSWER: B

6. ADITI Scheme Is Associated With Which Sector

- A. Defence sector
- B. Health sector
- C. Education Sector
- D. Financial sector

ANSWER: A

7. Yars Missile Is An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Developed By Which Country

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Israel
- D. India

ANSWER: A

8. Which Ministry Honored With The Award For Best Performance In Accounts During The Financial Year 2023-24

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

ANSWER: C

9. Indiramma Housing Scheme, Is Associated With Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: D

10. Which Country Became 1st Country To Include Right To Abortion In Its Constitution

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Poland
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: B

11. B Sai Praneeth Who Recently Announced His Retirement, Is Associated With Which Sports

- A. Cricket
- B. Hockey
- C. Football
- D. Badminton

ANSWER: D

12. Which Institute Hosted 'All India Research Scholars' Summit 2024

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIM Ahmedabad
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Bombay

ANSWER: A

13. Which State Recently Passed A Bill Aimed At Curbing Illegal Immigration

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. Bihar

ANSWER: C

14. What Is 'Juice Jacking', Recently Seen In The News

- A. Cyber attack
- B. Drugs
- C. Asteroid
- D. Invasive weed

ANSWER: A

15. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project A Bi National Hydropower Project Between Which Two Countries

- A. India and Bhutan
- B. India and Nepal
- C. India and Bangladesh
- D. India and Afghanistan

ANSWER: B

16. NICDC Signed An Mou With Which Institution To Enhance The Development Of Greenfield Smart Cities

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Roorkee

ANSWER: A

17. Which Indian Received An Honorary Knighthood From United Kingdom's King Charles III

- A. Rajan Bharti Mittal
- B. Sunil Bharti Mittal
- C. Sushil Kumar Sayal
- D. Akhil Gupta

ANSWER: B

18. Who Has Been Appointed As Director General Of The National Security Guard

- A. Anup Kumar Singh
- B. Sudhir Pratap Singh
- C. Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- D. Subhash Joshi

ANSWER: C

19. Which Company Collaborated With MAHAGENCO To Develop Renewable Energy Parks In Maharashtra

- A. Tata Group
- B. Reliance Industries Limited
- C. NTPC Green Energy Limited
- D. ITC Limited

ANSWER: C

20. What Symbol Represents Birth Of Gautama Buddha

- A. Bodh tree
- B. Lotus
- C. Horse
- D. Wheel

ANSWER: B