

All-round display takes Maharashtra to the top in medals tally



Ahmedabad: Hosts Maharashtra moved into the lead in the medal tally as they amassed 11 gold on Thursday and held a two-gold advantage over Delhi as the battle intensified at the Khelo India Youth Games.

Delhi were a close second with 13 gold and Haryana, who topped the Khelo India School Games a year ago are currently third with 12 gold.

Maharashtra, who with a huge contingent that is determined to take the honours, has so far won a

total of 57 medals, with 19 silver and 23 bronze also. Delhi have 13 gold, 10 silver and 13 bronze and a total of 36 medals, while Haryana have 12 gold, 10 silver and 18 bronze for a total of 40 medals.

Maharashtra's haul was mainly from Gymnastics (five) and Swimming (three) while their athletes won two and weightlifters took one gold. Haryana had a massive haul of nine gold from wrestling, of which women won seven, and their only other gold came in Judo. (19-10)

Punjab, Haryana enter KIYG U-17 hockey semi-finals



Ahmedabad: Punjab and Haryana recorded big wins to enter the boys Under-17 semi-finals of the Khelo India Youth Games hockey tournament at the Mahindra Hockey Stadium here on Thursday. Completing the line-up in this section were Uttar Pradesh and Odisha who also had easy closing pool engagements.

In Pool B, Punjab thrashed Jharkhand 9-4 and Haryana overpowered Chandigarh 4-

0. In Pool A Uttar Pradesh put it across Maharashtra 5-3 and Odisha downed Delhi 3-1.

Simranjot Singh with three goals led the way for Punjab who were ahead 5-1 at half time. The other goal scorers were Ajaypal Singh (2) Arshdeep Singh (Jr), Prabhsimranjeet Singh, Aryan Wallia and Arshdeep Singh, while Prem Karketta (2) Shet Topno, Bilsan Kindo (one each) scored for the for the losing side. (19-10)

FTA HSRP Pvt. Ltd. inaugurates FREE Mobile Van Services at Gandhinagar RTO



Ahmedabad: Following the directives of Transport Commissioner Office to offer Free of Cost fitment and replacement services of HSRP Plates wherein there is problem in Black colour fading, FTA HSRP Pvt/ Ltd. today inaugurated a Mobile Van Service at Gandhinagar RTO. Mr. D. M. Patel - Office in Charge at RTO, and Mr. Ritesh - Official of FTA HSRP

Pvt Ltd. were present on the occasion along with the FTA HSRP fitment team.

Free set of HSRP Plates in a bike whose black colour had faded was replaced free of cost and on the spot by the FTA HSRP team by using the equipment and kit which was present inside the Mobile Van. The replaced HSRP plate was duly inspected and approved the RTO officials. (19-8)

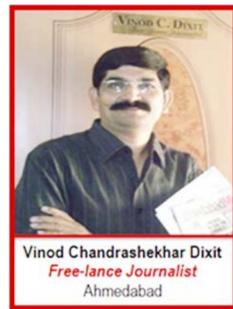
Sony YAY! toons Honey and Bunny make MakarSankranti special

Ahmedabad: Recently, Honey and Bunny from Sony YAY!, the kid's entertainment channel from Sony Pictures Networks India, visited Navrang School for celebrating the biggest and most colorful festival in Gujarat - MakarSankranti! The channel hosted a kite-decorating session with kids and parents in the school, capturing the true essence of the festival - kites and togetherness. To add to the fun, they were divided into two groups - Team Honey and Team Bunny for an interesting kite flying competition. As Honey and Bunny cheered for



their teams, the day, truly, was all about having fun together. Kids and parents were also seen sharing their fun tips on how to fly kites. The adorable characters were danced, cheered and enjoyed endlessly with the kids, parents, and teachers. (19-8)

"Our country requires a hero, be a hero, stand firm like a rock." - Celebrating National Youth Day



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12th January is celebrated as the National Youth Day every year since 1985 which has been an indelible part of India's tradition. Incidentally, this was also the day when Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest social reformers, thinkers, and philosophers of India, was born. He was the pioneer in leading the youth to meaningful protests through associations. The philosophy, ideas, and teachings of Swami Vivekananda can justifiably be called national assets from traditional and cultural points of view. At the same time, the youth are the future of our country. He belonged to the 19th century, yet his message and his life are more relevant today than in the past and perhaps, will be more relevant in future because persons like Swami Vivekananda do not cease to exist with their physical death.

He said "My faith is in the younger generation, the modern generation, out of them will become my workers they will work out the whole problem. They will spread my message from centre to centre until we cover the



whole of India." He had to arise and awake a Nation which 'felt like a slave, under the shadow of the British and the west. It would be difficult to name any freedom fighter that time and afterward also, who were not influenced by the thoughts, ideals, and patriotism of Swamiji. Actually, if we analyze critically we will find that development of oneness, unity and the role of Indian became clear to everybody only after the speeches and works of Swami Vivekananda. In many places during his lecture session he said "Our country requires a hero, be a hero, stand firm like a rock. Be brave, be brave Man dies but once". Youths are everything, they have the capability to do anything out of the box, the only thing they need is the direction or a mentor for the future of our country. Today the youth need

safe spaces where they can come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs and interests, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves. The youth is considered to be the best asset of any country and investment in the human resource promises astonishing returns.

Swami Vivekananda's teachings and Philosophy is very much relevant today. The number of problems that the nation is facing today can be solved through his teachings. Swamiji's life and speeches are capable enough to develop in anybody the patriotic feelings and in return, the person is bound to contribute in the Nation Building. His call to the nation is: "Arise, awake; wake up yourself, and awaken others. Achieve the consummation of life before you pass off. Arise,

awake, and stop not till the goal is reached."

I would like to conclude with one of his quotation "My hope of the future lies in the youths of character, intelligent, renouncing all for the service of others, and obedient - good to themselves and the country at large". Our elders need to understand that a little space and trust shown in them will open the doors of the opportunities for the youngsters.

Swami Vivekananda taught us the essence of nationalism in his bold writings. He wrote: "Our sacred motherland is the land of religion and philosophy- the birthplace of the spiritual giants-the land of renunciation, where and where alone, from the most ancient to the most modern times, there has been the highest ideal of life open to man."

Cabinet approves MoU on Maritime issues between India and Denmark

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Maritime issues between India and Denmark. The MoU is proposed to be signed during the upcoming visit of the WIP from Denmark to India in January, 2019.

Signing of the MoU will pave way for both countries for exploration of areas for bilateral collaboration: facilitating cross-border cooperation and investments

between the maritime sectors of India and Denmark enabling both the countries to exchange expertise, publications, information, data and statistics to improve mutual capabilities for ensuring quality shipping; cooperation in the field of green maritime technology and shipbuilding, granting the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) the status of Recognized Organization (RO), cooperation in the fields of maritime training and education research and

development for sustained cooperation in the field of merchant shipping and maritime transport related matters and It will also further extend and deepen the cooperation on the opportunities of mutual benefits to both the countries, at both bilateral and international level.

Denmark is one of the important trading partners with India. Major Danish exports to India include medicinal/ pharmaceutical goods, power generation

machinery industrial machinery, metal ores, organic chemicals, etc. Major Indian exports to Denmark include apparels, textiles/ fabrics/ yarns, road vehicles and components, metal goods, iron and steel, footwear and travel goods. In order to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries and to ensure cooperation and coordination in the maritime sector, it is proposed to enter into a bilateral MoU with Denmark.

Cabinet approves Signing of the TOR provide tax assistance to Swaziland

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Signing of Terms of Reference (TOR) governing the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to provide tax assistance to Swaziland (now known as Eswatini) under the Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme between India and Eswatini.

An Indian Expert has been mutually selected by the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini under the TIWB programme.

The Terms of Reference will formalize the conditions of the engagement of the designated Indian Expert to provide tax assistance to Swaziland (now known as Eswatini) under the Tax Inspectors Without Borders Programme between India and Eswatini.

The engagement of the Indian Expert under the TIWB programme will give impetus to India's support in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries.

The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme which is jointly launched by UNDP and OECD is intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity and to share this knowledge with other countries. The TIWB Programme aims to strengthen tax administrations of developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors, and through the sharing of general audit practices and

dissemination of knowledge products with them. The TIWB Programme complements the efforts of the international community to strengthen cooperation on tax matters and contribute to domestic tax mobilisation efforts of developing countries. India has been supportive in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries. India being a global leader in this respect has a very important role to play in South-South Cooperation in tax matters.

Cabinet approves Bilateral Swap Arrangement between India and Japan

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for entering into an Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan and authorizing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to sign the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement between the RBI and the Bank of Japan for a maximum amount of USD 75 billion.

The swap arrangement is an agreement between India and Japan to essentially

exchange and re-exchange a maximum amount of USD 75 Billion for domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments for meeting short-term deficiency in foreign exchange. The BSA is a very good example of mutual cooperation between India and Japan for strategic objective of assisting each other in times of difficulty and for restoring international confidence. This facility will enable the agreed amount of

Capital being available to India on tap for use. Also, with this arrangement in place, prospects of Indian companies would improve in tapping foreign capital as there would be greater confidence in stability of country's exchange rate. Availability of such swap line to tide over difficulties arising out of Balance of Payment (BOP) would deter speculative attacks on the domestic currency and greatly enhance the RBI's ability to manage exchange

rate volatility. The arrangement is another milestone in mutual economic cooperation and special strategic and global partnership between India and Japan. The swap arrangement is an agreement between India and Japan to essentially exchange and re-exchange a maximum amount of USD 75 Billion for domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments for meeting short-term deficiency in foreign exchange.

Committee headed by Shri M.P. Bezbaruah to submit report within 6 months

Government has notified the High Level Committee (HLC) for implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord. Committee has been given a broad mandate. It is headed by Shri M.P. Bezbaruah and includes eminent Assamese persons from different fields. The Committee will submit its report within 6 months from the date of notification. The State Government of Assam will provide necessary

administrative and logistic support to the Committee.

The Committee will examine the effectiveness of actions taken since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

The Committee will hold discussions with various stakeholders including social organizations, legal and constitutional experts, eminent persons from the field of art.

Shalby bags 'Best Hospital for Medical Tourism of Gujarat' Award



AHMEDABAD, 2019 - Shalby Hospitals, the Ahmedabad-based world-renowned center for joint replacements, has bagged the "Best Hospital for Medical Tourism of Gujarat Award" at Tourism Awards 2019 conferred by the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. The annual award honors institutions and individuals which have set a benchmark for others in the tourism industry of Gujarat by offering

their expertise and knowledge in the field of medical science.

The award was presented by Shri Kaushikbhai J. Patel, Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Government of Gujarat, and Shri Amit Thaker, Director, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited, and received by Dr. Bharat Gajjar, Director, Outpatient Department, and Amar Matlani, Associate Vice President, International Business, Shalby Hospitals. -

PM and U.S. President Donald J. Trump exchange greetings in the New Year

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Donald J. Trump of the United States exchanged New Year greetings in a telephonic conversation last evening.

They expressed satisfaction at the progress in India-U.S. strategic partnership in 2018. They appreciated developments such as the launch of the new 2+2 Dialogue mechanism

and the first-ever Trilateral Summit of India, the U.S. and Japan.

The two leaders took positive note of growing bilateral cooperation in defence, counter-terrorism and energy and coordination on regional and global issues. They agreed to continue to work together for further strengthening India-U.S. bilateral relations in 2019.

Prime Minister of Norway calls on the President

Ms Erna Solberg, the Prime Minister of Norway, called on the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (January 8, 2019).

Welcoming the Norwegian Prime Minister to India, the President said that India and Norway share warm and friendly relations. As two vibrant democracies, with deep respect for the rule of law, cultural diversity and human rights, we are natural partners. The President said

that India-Norway bilateral trade has been growing but there is potential for expansion. Energy, IT, health and technology sectors present opportunities. Norwegian capability in shipping, port management, fishing, defence and energy is globally known. India seeks Norwegian partnerships in these areas to support its own programmes such as Make in India, Smart Cities, Clean India, Start-up India and the Sagarmala project.

Bridging the Urban-Rural Gap in Agriculture

The Government is implementing several programmes that aim at bringing about overall improvement in the quality of life of the rural people and bridging the urban rural gap through creation of employment opportunities strengthening of livelihood opportunities creation of rural infrastructure; provision of other basic amenities etc. These programmes, inter alia, include: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for wage employment, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission for livelihoods promotion through self-employment, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana for rural housing, National Rurban Mission to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme to generate self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth, National Social Assistance Programme for

enhancing the incomes of rural poor and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for rural roads.

The focus of the Government on agricultural sector with programmes for irrigation, insurance, soil health, market, credit and farm infrastructure together with its announced policy on Minimum Support Price is also likely to boost farm and rural incomes. The shift of approach in policy planning from production centric to income centric and the launch of various schemes accordingly.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana for rural housing, National Rurban Mission to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, This Information was given by the Minister of State for Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Lok Sabha today. The focus of the Government on agricultural sector with programmes for irrigation, insurance, soil health, market, credit and farm infrastructure together with its announced policy on Minimum Support Price is also likely to boost farm and rural incomes.