



Pet lovers getting their pets vaccinated at a Free camp organized by Indian Immunologicals Limited on World Zoonosis Day in Ahmedabad. (16)

Unicharm spreads the message of baby hygiene on its 10th anniversary in India with Namaste Poko Chan initiative

Rajkot, Japan based leading hygiene products company, Unicharm India has announced that it has brought a positive impact in the lives of people in 300+ locations across Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow and Kolkata, through Namaste Poko Chan programme, run by its baby hygiene products brand MamyPoko. Marking its 10th year in India, the company now plans to take the initiative to other parts of the country in its commitment to promote baby hygiene. Namaste Poko Chan events are aimed at slum areas of cities and rural parts of the country where the MamyPoko team works closely with local health workers to improve the domestic environment of homes with babies.

initiative is MamyPoko's flagship programme aimed at promoting baby hygiene and care amongst families, especially mothers. At the event, parents are educated about the importance of good sleep for infants alongside necessity of a sanitary environment for child-rearing using a disposable diaper. The campaign has already witnessed an overwhelming response and participation from different cities including Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow and Kolkata, and the company plans to take it to deeper pockets of India. The initiative is in lines with the government's focus on promoting hygiene in India and has already encouraged various participants to adopt best hygiene practices for their infants. (1-7)

Chief Minister Mr. Vijaybhai Rupani held 55 meetings, including meetings with Israeli PM, Agri-Minister



Ahmedabad, During recently concluded his six-day long visit to Israel, Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Vijaybhai Rupani held a series of fruitful meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his agricultural minister Uri Yehuda Ariel to have detail deliberations with them on issues like agro farming, desalination plants and other technologies. As an outcome of these meetings, Gujarat has signed as many as 16 MoUs with Israel on issues pertaining to agriculture, water management - start-up innovation - smart city and other sectors. These MoUs included three MoUs signed for the water management. During his visit, to have first-hand information Mr. Rupani and his accompanying high level delegation had visited desalination plants, agro-farming and others. For the successful implementation of these MoUs and proper planning of them, a high power committee has been formulated. Besides Chief Minister, this committee included Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Nitin Patel,

Education Minister Mr. Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, Agriculture Minister Mr. R.C Faldou, Energy Minister Mr. Saurabh Patel, Revenue Minister Mr. Kaushik Patel, Minister of State for Home Department Mr. Pradeepsinh Jadeja, Minister of State for Water Supplies Mr. Parbat Patel, Minister of State for Agriculture Mr. Jaydrathsinh Parmar, Chief Secretary Dr. J.N Singh, Additional Chief Secretaries namely Mr. M.S Dagur, Mr. Arvind Agrawal, Mr. Sanjay Prasad, Chief Principal Secretary to the CM Mr. K. Kailashnathan, Principal Secretary to CM Mr. M.K Das, Additional Secretary of Water Supplies Department Mr. J. P Gupta, Secretary to CM Mr. Ashwini Kumar; in addition to Secretary for Home Department Mr. Manoj Agrawal, and Secretary of Animal Husbandry Department Mr. Mohammad Shaahid, Director of Agriculture Mr. Bharat Modi, and Director of Horticulture Mr. Vaghasiya. A sub-group would be made operational under the chairmanship of Mr. J. P. Gupta, principal secretary

(water supply) for the follow-up and monitoring of the water management. A MoU has been signed with Israel's Mekorot Company, which is the national water company of Israel, for strengthening water distribution and water management system in Gujarat. The Chief Minister had also visited the IDE Group, which is an Israeli water desalination company, and invited it to set up desalination and waste water treatment plants in Gujarat. Mr. Rupani and his delegation also visited the world's biggest desalination plant, which is called Sorek. It is located about 15 km away from Israel's capital city, Tel Aviv. The plant is built at a cost of 400 million US \$ and made operational since 2013. The plant is producing 660 M.L.D. of drinking water per day from salty seawaters.

The Chief Minister and visiting Gujarat delegation also studied the advance technologies with a view to set up 10-odd desalination plants on seashore of Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch regions to resolve the water scarcity problems of the state. Mr. Rupani also visited the Shafdan wastewater treatment plant, located in Dan region near Tel Aviv. Israel is using 85% of waste water. This technology could be very useful for Gujarat too! As the desalination plants are using maximum electricity, the Chief Minister had also invited the Israeli companies to jointly installed solar parks in Gujarat for producing solar energy. Chief Minister's visit would be fruitful in giving water security to Gujarat till 2050.

Save water, Save life, Save the world



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Water is the base on which our life is built and is one of the most valuable resource of nature. It is an endless creation by God so people don't take care. Can we imagine a day without clean water? No, not a single day of our life can go forward without water. In spite of having 70% of water on earth but only 1% of water is fresh & useable and other 97% of water is salty, 2% of water is in form of ice in the glaciers & icebergs. Human beings are destroying the environment by wasting this 1% of clean water by various ways. Day by day, it is becoming clear that water is going to be the biggest casualty of the modern development process. But, what happens post World Water Day is worrisome. It is ironic that nature's gift to humans is available only for money these days. We are forced to buy clean drinking

water after having polluted every known source. Nowadays mineral or purified water is billion dollar business. People are ready to spend Rs 20 for a water bottle as we know it's not easy to get pure or clean water. Increasing population and rapid urbanization has led to over-use of water resources leading to water pollution and scarcity. Rain, rivers and wells have been man's traditional sources of fresh water. Global warming upsets natural patterns of rainfall. Rivers are slowly killed at their sources by steady destruction of forests and the construction of big dams, and overdevelopment of groundwater. Frantically using of water is a bad sign for the world. We use water to wash away our dirt, but in turn we forget to clean the water. We leap to blame nature whenever there is a flood or a water scarcity. On

the other side experts feel that bad management of water resources has encouraged unsustainable ways of using water. Unless water is used equitably, and in a non-partisan manner, playing with it may prove to be more risky than playing with fire. A growing population and a consumptive lifestyle add to the depression. Development cannot be reversed. But technology could be reoriented to serve the dual purpose of conserving water and regulating its use. We have to pay attention to the importance of fresh water and be able to maintain the management of fresh water resources. Don't we think leaving aside global solutions; something should be done at the national and regional levels? Let's join our hands in saving water as much as possible. Let our motto be "Save water, save life, save the world".

"SAVE US" calls out TREES to students of EUROSCHOOL



Ahmedabad : 'Trees are the kindest things we grow'. This has been rightly said as the needs of all the living beings are fulfilled by them. But their depleting number has become a serious issue. To make students aware of this issue and taking initiative towards it, EuroSchool, Ahmedabad celebrated "Tree Plantation Day". Students of class 1 to 8 enthusiastically participated in the activity of planting trees within the school premises. Students also prepared plea-cards with slogans on "Save Trees" and it was put up on trees all over the school premises,

symbolizing the trees asking for help. Principal Ms. Guriender Kaur encouraged students to preserve trees which play a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance. Being an important part for "PROJECT GREEN" of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) laid down by the United Nations (UN), in which many other schools of the city will also be incorporated soon, she added that it is the responsibility of each citizen tree to not only grow trees but also taking care and protecting them. Concluding the program, she made the students pledge 'Green School, Clean School'. (1-7)

China to keep on path of reform, opening markets: Li

SOFIA : China will stick to the path of opening its markets and other reforms that has lifted its growth, Premier Li Keqiang said on Saturday, a day after the Washington and Beijing slapped tariffs on \$34 billion worth of each others' imports. China will open its door wider to foreign products as free trade needs to be firmly upheld to ensure sustained global economic growth, Li told a summit of eastern European leaders in Sofia. "For foreign products which meet Chinese consumer needs, we would

open the door wider... We would lower overall import tariffs to the Chinese market," he said through an interpreter, without going into details. Li said economic reform had played a critical role in China's growth, and that the fundamentals underpinning it remained unchanged. "Opening up has been a key driver of China's reform agenda so we will continue to open wider to the world, including widening market access for foreign investors," he said. Beijing earlier accused Washington of triggering the

"largest-scale trade war". U.S. duties on a range of Chinese imported goods took effect on Friday and were immediately countered by measures from China. Neither side gave any sign of willingness to start talks aimed at a reaching a truce, though Li said on Friday that a trade war was never a solution and no one would gain from it. He spoke on Saturday to central and eastern European leaders at an annual "16+1" gathering aimed at a boosting business ties and investments.

At least 27 killed, 47 missing as torrential rain pounds Japan

TOKYO : At least 47 people were missing and five were in a critical condition as torrential rain that has killed 27 people pounds western and central Japan, public broadcaster NHK said on Saturday, with more than 1.6 million people evacuated from their homes. Japan's Meteorological Agency issued special weather warnings across four prefectures in the west of Japan's main island of Honshu, urging vigilance against landslides, rising rivers and strong winds amid what it called "historic" rains. In Motoyama, a town on Shikoku island about 600 km from Tokyo, 583 millimetres (23 inches) of rain fell between Friday and Saturday mornings, the Meteorological Agency said.



The agency said that although a weather front had settled between western and eastern Japan, there was a risk that heavy rains would continue as warm air flowed towards the front. Already-saturated areas faced more rain on Sunday, it said. Among the dead were a man who fell from a bridge into a river in the western city of Hiroshima, and a 77-year-old man in Takashima, about 56 kilometres east of Kyoto, who was swept into a canal as he worked to remove debris, NHK said. Five other people in Ehime, Hiroshima and Yamaguchi prefectures were in critical condition after being injured in landslides, the broadcaster said. By Saturday morning, more than 1.6 million people had been ordered to evacuate their homes for fear of flooding and further landslides, with 3.1 million more advised to leave, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said around 48,000 police, firefighters and

members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces were responding to appeals for help. The weather also disrupted industry. Some automakers halted production as the rain and flooding disrupted supply chains and risked workers' safety, Kyodo news agency reported. Mitsubishi Motors Corp (7211.T) halted operations at one plant because it could not get parts, Kyodo said. Mazda Motor Corp (7261.T) stopped production lines at two plants so employees would not have to travel in hazardous conditions. Reuters could not reach the firms for comment outside business hours.

Thai rescuers resume search for 23 from sunken tourist boat

BANGKOK: Despite fading hopes, rescuers in Thailand resumed a search on Saturday for 23 survivors after a boat carrying Chinese tourists sank off the island of Phuket in rough weather, while authorities began to investigate the boat's operator. The death toll from one of the worst transport accidents in Thailand's recent history reached 33, authorities have said, with 49 of the 105 passengers on the sunken Phoenix rescued, although 37 are still in hospital, some with severe injuries. "We will take any chance in the search for life," Tourism Minister Weerasak Kowsurat said at the search site on Friday, following comments by a Marine Department official that there was probably "no chance" of finding more survivors. "Safety and service have to be placed above revenue," Weerasak added.

Some Thais and tour operators have questioned why the boat was at sea during bad weather. Thai junta number two Prawit Wongsuwan has ordered an investigation into why it appeared to have ignored a weather warning, while police said they would seek to charge the captain and owner with negligence. The Phoenix, which was carrying 93 Chinese along with 12 Thai crew and tour guides, sank after being hit by five-metre (16-ft) -high waves in a storm on Thursday evening off Phuket, whose beaches and nightlife draw tourists. Thailand is in the middle of its rainy season, which usually runs from May to mid-October and often generates high winds and flash storms

in coastal areas. Tourism is a key driver of growth in Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, making up 12 percent of gross domestic product, and the most foreign visitors come from China. Many of the dead from the disaster were found drifting face down, wearing life jackets, near where it sank. The dead and injured were taken to a hospital on Phuket's east coast, where relatives began to gather, with more expected over the weekend. Officials have asked for Chinese interpreters to assist. Thai officials on Saturday ordered boats not involved in the search to stay at anchor while it lasts. Accidents on the scale of this week's disaster were "not good" for Thailand, said tourist police official Surachate Hakparrn, adding, "We have to be more stringent." Thailand is already in the global spotlight with a multinational rescue operation to save 12 schoolboys and their soccer coach trapped for days in a mountain cave in its north.

Both sides seek to 'clarify' as Pompeo holds more North Korea talks

SEOUL/TOKYO: U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held a second day of talks in North Korea on Saturday attempting to agree details on how to dismantle the country's nuclear programme, and both sides said they had things to "clarify" from the previous day. After spending his first night in the North Korean capital in three visits so far this year, Pompeo left the government guest house where he spent the night to make a secure phone call and update U.S. President Donald Trump on the talks. Pompeo then sat down again with Kim Yong Chol, the top North Korean party official and former spy agency chief with whom he played a key role in arranging the summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on June 12. Kim Yong Chol said at the start of the meeting the two had had "very serious

discussion on very important matters yesterday". He joked that, as a result, Pompeo "might have not slept well last night" at the prestigious Paekhwon, or 100 Flowers Garden, guest house. According to a pool report from U.S. reporters travelling with him, Pompeo replied: "Director Kim, I slept just fine. We did have a good set of conversations yesterday. I appreciate that and I look forward to our continued conversations today as well." Pompeo reiterated that Trump was "committed to a brighter future for North Korea". "So the work that we do, the path toward complete denuclearisation, building a relationship between our two countries, is vital for a brighter North Korea and the success that our two presidents demand of us," Pompeo said. Kim agreed that the work was important. "There are things that I have to clarify," he said.

Tapi River Cleaning Programme for development of Surat city, other habitats

Ahmedabad, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani gave in-principle approval for the Rs. 922.18-crore Tapi River Cleaning Phase-2 Programme as a permanent solution for the development of Surat city and other habitats under SUDA up to Kankrapar barrage. As per the DPR, the cost is shared in the ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State/Local Bodies to treat 59 MLD untreated water coming from State Government area, 302 MLD from SUDA and 299 MLD from SMC, totalling 660 MLD. The project will improve quality of life of people living along the banks of the river with modern sewage drainage system in place. It is estimated to be completed in 4-5 years.

sewage treatment plants. It extends from ONGC Bridge in Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) limits to Kamrej under SUDA up to Kankrapar barrage. As per the DPR, the cost is shared in the ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State/Local Bodies to treat 59 MLD untreated water coming from State Government area, 302 MLD from SUDA and 299 MLD from SMC, totalling 660 MLD. The project will improve quality of life of people living along the banks of the river with modern sewage drainage system in place. It is estimated to be completed in 4-5 years.

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