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Govt plans 'lab on boat' for analysing Brahmaputra river

- ❖ A new project of the Department of Biotechnology aims at starting a lab on boat on Brahmaputra river for biological analysis of the river system. The ambitious project also proposes to have multiple mobile laboratories on the river and its tributaries along with providing access to local research institutions. The first laboratory under the Brahmaputra Biodiversity Biology Boat (B4) initiative will cover Pasighat, Dibrugarh, Neemati, Tejpur and Guwahati in Assam. The nearly 3,800 kms long river, one of the longest in the world, traverses three countries China, India and Bangladesh to empty itself in the Bay of Bengal. Its origin is in the Angsi glacier. It flows southwest through the Assam Valley as Brahmaputra and south through Bangladesh as the Jamuna (not to be mistaken with Yamuna of India). In the vast Ganges Delta, it merges with the Padma, the popular name of the river Ganges in Bangladesh, and finally the Meghna and from here it is known as Meghna before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

Pralay Sahyam exercise at Hyderabad:

- ❖ It is Multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to create public awareness about man-made and natural climate change and urban disasters including flooding. Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad hosts this exercise.

Banaj Devi to receive Sarala award for 'Kathapua'

- ❖ Noted Odia poet and short story writer Banaj Devi will be honoured with the 38th edition of prestigious Sarala award for her short story compilation "Kathapua". The annual Sarala Puraskar, recognised as one of the foremost literary awards of the state, comprises a cash award of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation. Besides Banaj Devi, two more prominent personalities of Odisha will be honoured for their valuable contribution in the field of music and art. While Pandet Guru Dr Ghasiram Mishra will be awarded 'Ila Panda Sangeet Samman', Dr Durga Prasad Das will receive 'Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman'. Sarala Puraskar is given away every year by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).

The Shersah of Kargil- The biography of Captain Vikram Batra authored by Deepak Surana

- ❖ The book titled "The Shersah of Kargil" is a biography of Kargil war hero Late Captain Vikram Batra, who was posthumously awarded Param veer Chakra (PVC) – the highest gallantry award of India. The book written by Deepak Surana is an inspiring story of the young captain Vikram Batra, which defines the various dimensions of Captain Batra's life. The Sher Shah of Kargil: Biography of Kargil War Hero Vikram Batra" is a motivational story of young Captain Vikram Batra who was killed in the Kargil war by Deepak Surana. This book highlights the various aspects of life of Captain Vikram Batra, the victor of Param Vir Chakra.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurates “Hunar Haat” in Puducherry

- ❖ On 24th September 2017, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Puducherry Chief Minister Mr. V. Narayanasamy inaugurated “Hunar Haat” at Puducherry. The ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs at Craft Bazaar, Gandhi Thidal Beach, Goubert Avenue in Puducherry, from 24th to 30th September, 2017. This provides an opportunity for artisans to display and sell their products. Master artisans from 16 states showcase their traditional talent in “Hunar Haat”.

Saudi Arabia allows women into stadium for first time

- ❖ Saudi Arabia has invited women to a sports stadium for the first time to attend the kingdom’s 87th National Day celebrations with their families. This marks a shift from previous celebrations in the kingdom where women are effectively barred from sports arenas. Saudi Arabia has strict restrictions for women, including barring them from driving.

Mary Kom 1st Indian to represent world boxing at IOC Forum

- ❖ Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be selected as the International Boxing Association’s (AIBA) representative for the IOC Athletes’ Forum to be held in November, 2017. The IOC (International Olympic Committee) Athlete’s Forum is to be held from 11th November to 13th November 2017 in Lausanne, Switzerland. This forum is held once in every 2 years. Mary Kom is the first Indian to be chosen as a representative of AIBA in IOC Athletes’ Forum. The forum conducts discussions to make future plans and strategies for sports persons participating in the Olympic Games. Athletes’ decisions are considered as most important in the IOC Forum.

National Open Athletics to begin in Chennai

- ❖ The country's top track and field athletes will be seen in action in the four-day 57th National Open Athletics Championships 2017, beginning at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on 25 September. Around 1200 athletes from various states and departments/public sector undertakings would be taking part in the meet. The focus would be on Govindan Lakshmanan, who recently won a gold in Asian Indoor Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan and javelin thrower Davinder Singh Kang, who qualified for the final round at the World Championships in London recently.

Ministry of petroleum and natural gas launched Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat:

- ❖ Union minister for petroleum Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat' from Mota Ishanpur village in Gujarat. Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat will aim at spreading awareness among the LPG users about how to properly use the clean fuel and its many benefits. The program provides platform to discuss benefits of use of clean fuel compared to traditional fuels like wood. One lakh LPG Panchayat (to be held across the country) will deal with the issue of safe use of LPG as well as its various benefits, like environment, health, and how it empowers women