

16th July 2021

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates and dedicates PRASHAD projects in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated various development projects in Varanasi which includes Tourist Facilitation Centre under the Project “Development of Varanasi Under PRASHAD Scheme – Phase II” and operation of Cruise Boat from Assi Ghat to RajGhat under the Project “Development of River Cruise in Varanasi under PRASHAD Scheme”.

The ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive’ (PRASHAD) is a Central Sector Scheme fully financed by the Government of India launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations. The scheme aimed at infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities like Information/ Interpretation Centers, ATM/ Money exchange, eco-friendly modes of transport, area Lighting and illumination with renewable sources of energy, parking, drinking water, toilets, cloak room, waiting rooms, first aid centers, craft bazars /haats/ souvenir shops/ cafeteria, rain shelters, Telecom facilities, internet connectivity etc.

Defence Minister launches Artificial Intelligence powered grievance management application

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application in New Delhi on July 15, 2021, developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of IIT-Kanpur. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh graced the occasion.

This is the first AI based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government. The AI tool developed as part of the initiative has capability to understand the content of the complaint based on the contents therein. As a result, it can identify repeat complaints or spam automatically. Based on the meaning of the complaint, it can categorise complaints of different categories even when key words normally used for such search are not present in the complaint. It enables geographical analysis of complaints in a category including analysis of whether the complaint was adequately addressed or not by the concerned office. Easy user-friendly search enables user to formulate his own queries/categories depending on management requirements and seek performance results based on the query. Given that lakhs of complaints are received on CPGRAMS portal of DARPG, this application will have great use in understanding the nature of complaints, geographies from where they emanate and policy changes which can be introduced to create systemic improvements to address these grievances.

United Arab Emirates becomes first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel, at Tel Aviv

The United Arab Emirates has become the first Gulf state to open an embassy in Israel. UAE's envoy hailed the trade and investment opportunities that closer ties would bring at a flag-raising ceremony, which was also attended by Israel's president. The opening of the UAE embassy, which is situated in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, followed the inauguration of Israel's embassy in the UAE last month.

World Youth Skills Day celebrated on July 15; theme: 'Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic'

On 15 July, World Youth Skills Day is celebrated to recognise the fact that if youth acquire skills, it will enhance their ability to make informed choices regarding employment. In addition to this, they can also gain access to changing labour markets.

The day was adopted through a UN General Assembly resolution passed on 18 December, 2014. Since then, the day has been celebrated by several member countries. The first World Youth Skills Day was celebrated on 15 July, 2015.

The theme for this year is 'Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic', which aims to celebrate the resilience and creativity of youth throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

National Plastic Surgery Day to be celebrated as World Plastic Surgery Day

National Plastic Surgery Day will now be celebrated as World Plastic Surgery Day. The announcement was made in a statement released by the Association of Plastic Surgeons in India (APSI).

The decision comes after the current President of the APSI, Dr Rakesh Khazanchi, spoke about the National Plastic Surgery Day's success in India at the World Council of Leaders. It is a meeting of the Presidents of Plastic Surgery Associations of various countries, organised by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. Appreciating the concept, all presidents agreed to celebrate July 15 as World Plastic Surgery Day.