

27th August, 2021

Centre announces Drone Rules-2021

The Centre has announced Drone Rules-2021 which reduced the Yellow Zone from 45 kilometres to 12 kilometres from the airport perimeter. No permission is required for operating a drone in Green Zones and upto 200 feet in the area between eight and twelve kilometres from the airport perimeter.

As per the rules, the coverage of drones has been increased from 300 to 500 kilograms to include heavy payload-carrying drones and drone taxis. The number of permissions has been reduced from twenty-five to five. No security clearance will be required before any registration or licence issuance. The government has also reduced fees for permissions to nominal levels. The maximum penalty has also been reduced to one lakh rupees.

This will, however, not apply to penalties in respect of violation of other laws. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade will regulate the import of drones. No pilot licence will be required for operating nano drones and micro drones for non-commercial use. All drone training and examination will be carried out by an authorised drone school.

AIR correspondent reports that drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Promotion Council to be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.

Anurag Thakur inaugurates, addresses first IBSA Youth Summit through video conferencing

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated and addressed the first India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Youth Summit through video conferencing.

The theme of the Summit this year is Youth in Governance, Youth Development Programme, Youth Development Index and Health of Youth-Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Youth

Nine new judges appointed to SC, total strength moves up to 33

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed nine judges to the Supreme Court, taking its total strength to 33 judges, one short of full strength.

Sources told that the judges are likely to be sworn-in on August 31 by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana.

The government's nod to appoint nine judges comes a week after the Supreme Court collegium, ending a nearly two-year-long impasse, sent its recommendations. The list has three women, and includes Justice B V Nagarathna, who could become the first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027.

Maharashtra govt launches special mission for COVID-19 widows

The Maharashtra government has launched a special mission for women from poor families who have lost their husbands to coronavirus infection which aims to provide a bunch of services under one roof.

The new programme - Mission Vatsalya- has been designed for widows, especially from rural areas who come from poor backgrounds and deprived sections. A bunch of 18 benefits, schemes, and services will

be provided to these widows under one roof,' Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Yashomati Thakur said on Wednesday.

This includes several schemes like the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Gharkul Yojana for these women. Staff of the WCD Department, child development project officers, local unit officers and Anganwadi workers are visiting homes of such women and providing them with these services

In the last 18 months, 15,095 women lost their husbands due to COVID-19 infection, the minister said. The department has reached out to about 10,500 women.

MoE's Innovation Cell, AICTE and BPR&D launched MANTHAN- 2021

Shri Neeraj Sinha, Additional Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) jointly launched MANTHAN-2021. Manthan- 2021 is organized by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.

During the launch program Sh. Neeraj Sinha said that for MANTHAN 2021, BPR&D has released 20 challenge statements which offer unique opportunity to all our youngsters to think out-of-the-box and develop innovative concepts for solving some of the daunting problems faced by our security agencies. If we like some ideas, then we will work very closely with those teams and support their implementation, he added.

Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW)

Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW) was held online from August 23 to 27, 2021 by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) was the only civic body from India that was invited at the panel discussion on the topic "Zero Liquid Discharge Cities".

According to City municipal commissioner, Banchhanidhi Pani, by 2030 city would be able to reusing 100% of sewage water after treatment.

The Stockholm World Water Week was held under the theme: 'Building Resilience Faster'.

Tourism Minister inaugurates mega-tourism event "Ladakh: New Start, New Goals" in Leh

Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated a mega-tourism event "Ladakh: New Start, New Goals" in Leh virtually from Delhi on Thursday. Centre and Union Territory Ladakh are organizing a 3-Day mega-event from 26th to 28th of this month. Our correspondent reported that the Minister appealed to all the pilots of the tourism industry to promote Ladakh as a domestic and international tourist destination.

Three-day event is organized to promote Ladakh as a tourist destination with focus on aspects of adventure, culture and responsible tourism. While inaugurating the Ladakh New Start, New Goals, Kishan Reddy listed various government initiatives like Dekho Apna Desh, to promote tourism in Ladakh and boost local economy with sustainability.

First edition of North Eastern Region District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 released

The first edition of the North Eastern Region District SDG Index Report and Dashboard 2021-22 was released in New Delhi on Thursday. It is a collaborative effort by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region DoNER with technical support from UNDP. NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Dr Rajiv Kumar, Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region G.Kishan Reddy and Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region B L Verma launched the report.

Dr Rajiv Kumar stated that the North Eastern Region District SDG Index is an important milestone in India's SDG journey aimed at leaving no one behind. He said, it will strengthen SDG localization by putting the districts especially in the 8 Northeastern States at the forefront of SDG adoption, implementation and monitoring.

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