

October 24th news:

National:

All Women-Crew Sailboat Of Indian Navy INSV Tarini Reaches Australia

Sailboat INSV Tarini, with an all-women crew, on the 23rd of October entered Fremantle Port in Australia during its maiden voyage to circumnavigate the globe. This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The vessel is skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi, and the crew comprises Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal and P Swathi, and Lieutenants S Vijaya Devi, B Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.

Flagged off by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 10th, the vessel has covered 4,800 nautical miles from Goa, crossing the Equator on September 17th and the Tropic of Capricorn on October 6th. The vessel would return to Goa in April, 2018

Economy:

India's First Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities

The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in Smart Cities, in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). It is launched under skill India Mission. The ministers also laid the foundation for a Skill Development Centre at MotiBagh and a Centre of Excellence at DharamMarg, New Delhi.

What Are Smart Cities :

The first question is what is meant by a 'smart city'. The answer is, there is no universally accepted definition of a smart city. It means different things to different people. The conceptualisation of Smart City, therefore, varies from city to city and country to country, depending on the level of development, willingness to change and reform, resources and aspirations of the city residents. A smart city would have a different connotation in India than, say, in Europe. Even in India, there is no one way of defining a smart city.

Some definitional boundaries are required to guide cities in the Mission. In the imagination of any city dweller in India, the picture of a smart city contains a wish list of infrastructure and services that describes his or her level of aspiration. To provide for the aspirations and needs of the citizens, urban planners ideally aim at developing the entire urban eco-system, which is represented by the four pillars of comprehensive development-institutional, physical, social and economic infrastructure. This can be a long term goal and cities can work towards developing such comprehensive infrastructure incrementally, adding on layers of 'smartness'.

Awards:

Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan: The playback singers **Alka Yagnik** and Udit Narayan and music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri and Anu Malik are selected for the Madhya Pradesh government's National Lata Mangeshkar Award.

Lata Mangeshkar Award

The Lata Mangeshkar Award is a national-level award instituted to honour work in the field of music. Various state governments of India present awards with this name. The state Government of Madhya Pradesh started this award in 1984. The award consists of a certificate of merit and a cash prize. There is also a Lata Mangeshkar Award issued by the Maharashtra Government starting from 1992. This is also officially known as "Lata Mangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement". Another award is given by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

Persons in news:

Dineshwar Sharma: The Centre has appointed former Director of Intelligence Bureau, IB, Dineshwar Sharma as its representative to hold dialogue on Kashmir issue. Mr. Sharma, a 1979-batch (retired) officer of the Indian Police Service, served as the IB director between December, 2014 and 2016.

About IB

The IB is used to garner intelligence from within India and also execute counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism tasks. The Bureau comprises employees from law enforcement agencies, mostly from the Indian Police Service (IPS) or the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and the military. However, the Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB) has always been an IPS officer. In addition to domestic intelligence responsibilities, the IB is particularly tasked with intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmat Singh Ji Committee (also known as the North and North-East Border Committee), a task entrusted to the military intelligence organisations prior to independence in 1947. All spheres of human activity within India and in the neighborhood are allocated to the charter of duties of the Intelligence Bureau.

Rakesh Asthana: Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana was appointed the special director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. (CBI). Asthana, a 1984-batch IPS officer, had been serving in the Central Bureau of Investigation as additional director.