

Nestled in the forests with a population less than 100, Lalbazar was a nondescript village until not too long ago. Today, it is not only an art hub but also moving towards becoming a centre for dokra, a metalcraft popular in Bengal, all thanks to a Kolkata artist who made the place his second home four years ago. "Two places are famous in West Bengal for dokra work — Bikna in Bankura and Dariyapur in Bardhaman.

INS Mormugao has officially joined the Indian Navy's fleet, marking a significant milestone for indigenous military expedition. The warship 'Yard 12705', named after the Goan port city of Mormugao, is the second of the four Visakhapatnam class destroyers being built under Project 15B. INS Mormugao's firepower comprises BrahMos surface to surface missiles (SSM), Barak 8 surface to air (SAM) missiles and a 76mm super rapid gun mount.

The ship is armed with RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launchers and 533mm torpedo launchers. It is also equipped to carry and operate multi-role helicopters. The addition of a technologically advanced stealth warship to the naval inventory provides a strategic advantage to India and adds to the combat capabilities of the armed forces.

The Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the implementation of a 2016 order of the Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising. The order calls for recovering ₹97.14 crore plus interest from the ruling Party for "political advertisements". The party however, has been defending its spending on advertisements stating that it is for the public knowledge of different government schemes and various awareness campaigns. A three member body, the CCRGA was formed by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in April, 2016, to regulate the content of Central and State government advertisements in all media platforms.

Four neighbouring States are occupying a total of 82,751.85127 hectares of land belonging to Assam, show data presented in the Assembly. Nagaland topped the list of encroachers by grabbing 59,490.21 hectares, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (16,144.00117 hectares), Mizoram (3,675.78 hectares) and Meghalaya (3,441.8601 hectares).

3.78 lakh, the number of candidates who were selected for Central government jobs by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Railway Recruitment Board (RRBs) in the last five years. The government has issued instructions to all departments for the timely filling up of vacant posts.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday assured people living on the extremities of protected forests spread across 115 densely populated panchayats that they would not lose their land or

THREE MORE SITES FROM INDIA ADDED TO UNESCO'S TENTATIVE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

1. Gujarat's Vadnagar town, iconic Sun Temple at Modhera, and rock cut sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura have been added to the list. UNESCO tentative list is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination. India now has 52 sites on tentative list.
2. **Vadnagar town (Gujarat)**-Vadnagar is a municipality under Mehsana district of Gujarat. It is a multi-layered and multi-cultural mercantile settlement with its history stretching back to nearly 8th Century BCE. It is an L-shaped town with Sharmishtha Lake located on its north-eastern edge. At Vadnagar, two major ancient trade routes crossed each other. One of them joined central India with Sindh and further northwest regions while another connected port towns on Gujarat coast to northern India. It has hinterland port, centre for industries of shells and beads, religious centre/temple town etc. It is the hometown of PM Narendra Modi.
3. **Sun Temple at Modhera and its adjoining monuments (Gujarat)**- Located on left bank of the river Pushpavati, a tributary of river Rupan in Mehsana district of Gujarat. Built in Maru-gurjara architectural style of 11th century (under patronage of Solanki dynasty). It consists of main temple shrine (garbhagriha), a hall (gadhmandapa), an outer hall or assembly hall (Sabhamandapa or rangamandapa) and a sacred pool (Kunda), which is now called Ramakunda. Built with bright yellow sandstone. Sculptures features include life-sized figures belonging to three groups of deities: Adityas, Lokapalas, and Devis.
4. **Rock cut sculptures and Reliefs of Unakoti, Unakoti Range**-It is in north-eastern region of Tripura. 'Unakoti' literally translates as "one less than a crore". It provides evidence of ancient Saiva worship in Tripura from 8th-9th centuries CE. Famous for its colossal rock cut panels depicting Hindu deities. Images found at Unakoti can be classified into rock-cut images and loose sculptures. Famous figures and sculptures include Unkotiswara Kala Bhairav, Gangadhara, depictions of Boddhisattavas, chaturmukhalinga and one Eka-mukalinga etc. Streamlet at Unakoti forms three kundas, a big part of the annual Ashokashtomi Mela.

SMART CITIES MISSION (SCM), MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS WON PLATINUM ICON IN DIGITAL INDIA AWARDS (DIA) 2022

1. DIA honours innovative digital solutions by government entities in realising Digital India vision. These are conducted by National Informatics Centre under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
2. **Award was given for Data Smart Cities:** Empowering Cities through Data initiative of SCM. Data Smart Cities (DSC) initiative, launched under National Urban Digital Mission, aims to harness power of data for better governance in India's 100 Smart Cities. It uses a three-pronged approach – People, Process, Platforms – to imbibe a culture of data awareness and data usage in city functioning.
3. **Benefits of DSC**-Will help City administrators in making better policies leading to greater efficiency in service delivery and resource allocation. Solving complex problems such as congestion, sanitation etc. through Citizen Empowerment. Promotion of Multidisciplinary Research on Civic issues. Enhanced transparency and accountability by making reliable data available through data platforms.
4. **Initiatives taken to promote DSC**-Smart Cities on Open Data Portal for sharing cities' data on common platform. India Urban Data Exchange platform for exchange of data. Assessment & Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive & Future-ready urban India (AMPLIFI).

CENTRE SOUNDS COVID ALERT, ASKS STATES TO TRACK POSITIVE SAMPLES

1. Union Health Ministry has directed all states and UTs to ramp up genome sequencing as sudden surge in COVID cases in countries like Japan, USA, China etc. pose a threat of another wave of COVID pandemic. Genome sequencing means deciphering the exact order of base pairs in an individual.
2. **A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA.** It includes all chromosomes, which houses DNA, and genes (specific sections of DNA). Genome sequencing to track variants will be done through Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network.
3. It is a consortium of National Laboratories to monitor the genomic variations in SARS-CoV-2 (virus that causes COVID-19) aiding understanding of how virus spreads and evolves, provides information

livelihood to the Supreme Court -suggested one -kilometre buffer zone around ecologically sensitive localities (ESZ).

34.8 percentage, the growth in India's auto components industry to ₹2.65 lakh crore in the first-half of 2022-23, riding on domestic demand, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) informed. During this period, exports of components grew by 8.6% to ₹79.03 lakh crore, while imports climbed up to ₹79.8 lakh crore.

\$1.8 billion, the military aid to be sent by the U.S. to Ukraine in a massive package that will for the first time include a Patriot missile battery and precision-guided bombs for their fighter jets, according to U.S. officials. The package will include about \$1 billion in weapons from Pentagon stocks and \$800 million in funding through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

4.8 million, the record number of immigration applications processed in Canada, till the end of November 2022, the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed. In a statement, the IRCC informed how immigration helped build the country and remained key to the country's success.

The Union Territories (UT) of J&K and Ladakh have started preparations for the G-20 meetings, as India is set to host 43 heads of delegations in September next year. "One G-20 meeting is being held in Srinagar. We have requested that one meeting is also held in Jammu," J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said at a press conference in Jammu on Wednesday.

Almost two weeks since its capture and relocation to the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR), the elephant PM2 is acclimatising to the new habitat and has exhibited key behavioural changes indicating that negative interactions with humans could be a thing of the past, officials said. Since its release into the Congress Mattam in the MTR, PM2 has spent the last 12 days exploring the place. Radio signals and direct sightings indicate its exploration of Thengumarahada, Mangalapatti, Chemmanatham, Moyar, Theppakadu and even Bandipur.

to aid public health response etc. It is jointly initiated by Union Health Ministry of Health, and Department of Biotechnology with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research and Indian Council of Medical Research.

FIFTH SCORPENE-CLASS SUBMARINE VAGIR DELIVERED TO NAVY

1. Six Scorpene submarines are being built indigenously under Project-75 by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) under technology transfer from Naval Group of France. Other 5 are: Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, Vela, Vagsheer. These submarines have capability of operating in a wide range of Naval combat including anti-warship and anti-submarine operations, intelligence gathering and surveillance and naval mine laying. Classification of major submarines.
2. **Submersible ship Ballistic Nuclear (SSBNs)**-Serve as an undetectable launch platform for intercontinental missiles-Designed specifically for stealth and precise delivery of nuclear warheads. INS Arihant is India's SSBN.
3. **Nuclear-Power attack Submarines (SSNs)**-It is a nuclear-powered attack submarine armed with non-nuclear weapons. Designed to engage in mine warfare, seek out and destroy enemy ships, and support battle group operations. Only six countries currently have nuclear-powered submarines- UK, US, China, Russia, India and France.
4. **Diesel-electric attack submarines (SSKs)**-They have diesel engines. Battery capacity constrain amount of time a diesel sub can stay underwater, leading to frequent resurfacing. India's SSKs include Shishumar Class (from Germany); Kilo Class or Sindhughosh Class (from Russia); Kalvari Class Scorpene submarines.

DEFENCE, SPACE AGENCIES RELEASE 99% OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ) PROHIBITED AREAS FOR OIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION (E&P)

1. Prohibited for security reasons, decision came as part of prioritising energy security of India. It will reduce the 'no go' areas of around 2.37 million sq km of India's EEZ from 42% to just 1%. Under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), EEZ is the area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, generally extending 200 nautical miles from shore.
2. Within this area coastal nations claim and exercise sovereign rights to explore and exploit, and the responsibility to conserve and manage, both living and non-living resources. With a 7,516 km long coastline, India has the 12th largest EEZ in the world.
3. **Significance of opening of EEZ for E&P**-Out of 3.4 million sq km of sedimentary basins of India, 51% is offshore, of which 40% lies in prohibited areas. It limits survey and exploration activities in EEZ, leading to lower discoveries and production. With India being one of the largest energy consumers, it will help in increasing oil and gas production, reduced import dependence etc.

SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX(SPI)

1. SPI, by Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative, was released by Economic Advisory Council- Prime Minister. SPI assesses states and districts based on 12 components across three critical dimensions of social progress: Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity.
2. **Key highlights of SPI**-Best-performing States/UTs are Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Goa. Top three performing districts are Shimla, Solan in Himachal Pradesh, and Aizawl in Mizoram. Globally, India is ranked 110th on SPI in 2022.



"The Quantity of answers written outside the examination hall translates into the quality of answers written inside the examination hall."

DR. KHAN
(KSG)