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US Sanctions Russia Ship Over Nord Stream 2 Gas Pipeline



The US informed German officials of its plans to impose sanctions on the Russian pipe-laying vessel 'Fortuna' over its involvement in the construction of the Russian-led Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany.

- The Baltic Sea pipeline is reported to be more than 90% complete.
- Construction was suspended in late 2019 after the US imposed sanctions. Russia resumed work on the pipeline in December 2020.
- Nord Stream 2 is a gas pipeline project.
- Its purpose is to bring Russian gas under the Baltic Sea direct to Germany.

Yoweri Museveni wins sixth term as Uganda's President

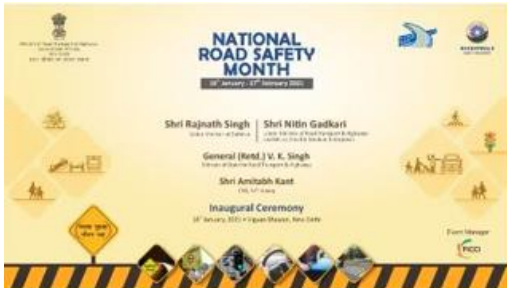


Uganda's incumbent President Yoweri Museveni has been declared as the winner of the country's presidential election for 2021.

- Museveni secured 58.64 percent of the total votes cast, to win the sixth term as the President.
- The 76-year-old leader has served as the President of the Republic of Uganda since 1986, and is one of Africa's longest-serving presidents.
- Uganda capital: Kampala
- Currency: Ugandan shilling



Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates National Road Safety Month 2021



The first-ever National Road Safety Month (January 18-February 17) was inaugurated by Union Minister for Defence Shri Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME Shri Nitin Gadkari.

- It is the inaugural edition of the National Road Safety Month and is being held in place of National Road Safety Week, which was being observed since past few years.
- The objective of the month-long programme is to build awareness about road safety and reduce road accidents in India.
- It will be held till 17 February 2021.
- During this period, nation-wide activities would be conducted throughout the country in association with State Govt./Union Territory administrations, NHAI, NHIDCL, OEMs and NGOs.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan chairs 148th session of WHO Executive Board



Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally chaired the 148th session of WHO Executive Board, through Video Conference.

- The 148th session of the Executive Board has been organised from 18-26 January 2021.
- The meeting provides a platform to bring together all member states to set the directions and agenda and continue striving for the objective of Health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- Also, the WHO has declared the Year 2021 as the Year of Global Solidarity and Survival.

Kerala launches 'One School, One IAS' Program to impart UPSC Civil Services free coaching for economically weak students



The Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammad Khan officially launched the 'One School One IAS' program recently which aims to provide free coaching for UPSC Civil Services/ IAS Exams for poor meritorious students.

- The programme will be implemented by Vedhik Erudite Foundation with the support of sponsors.
- Under the scheme free coaching will be provided to 10,000 financially weak meritorious students across Kerala for civil services and other competitive examinations.
- This higher education platform will give the students a chance to completely redecorate their future plans and broaden their horizons.

Full team of Election Commission on 3-day visit to Assam to review poll preparedness



The full team of Election Commission of India (ECI) led by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora is on a three-day visit to Assam to review the poll preparedness for the upcoming Assembly elections in the State.

- After their arrival, the team held a meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam and Nodal Security officer.
- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
- Legislature: 126 seats
- Rajya Sabha : 7 seats
- Lok Sabha: 14 seats

TRIFED and IFFDC enter into MoU to work together for tribal livelihood generation



The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together for tribal livelihood generation.

- The two organizations have agreed to partner with each other to organise training programmes for tribal artisans in the area of entrepreneurship skill and business development.
- They will also collaborate further to identify and implement Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and tribal development efforts.
- Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) is a national level cooperative body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- It was established under the Multi-state co-operative societies act 1984 under the former Ministry of Welfare.



PM Modi unanimously chosen as next Chairman of Shree Somnath Trust



Prime Minister Narendra Modi was unanimously chosen as the next Chairman of Shree Somnath Trust.

- Mr Modi was named to the top post during a virtual meeting of Shree Somnath Trust which was attended by the Prime Minister.
- The post of chairman of the trust had fallen vacant following the death of Keshubhai Patel, former chief minister of Gujarat, in October 2020.
- The Somnath temple (also known as the Deo Patan) located in Gujarat.
- It is believed to be the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.



Srinagar's first-ever snowshoe run organised to boost winter sports



A new snowshoe run and interaction programme was held in Srinagar for the first time.

- The programme was held during the heavy snowfall season in the state.
- The event was organised by the Snowshoe Federation of India to boost winter sports in the Kashmir region.
- The game that is usually played in regions of Europe attracted athletes from various parts of Kashmir.

13-day Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sport & Youth festival 2021 begins in Ladakh

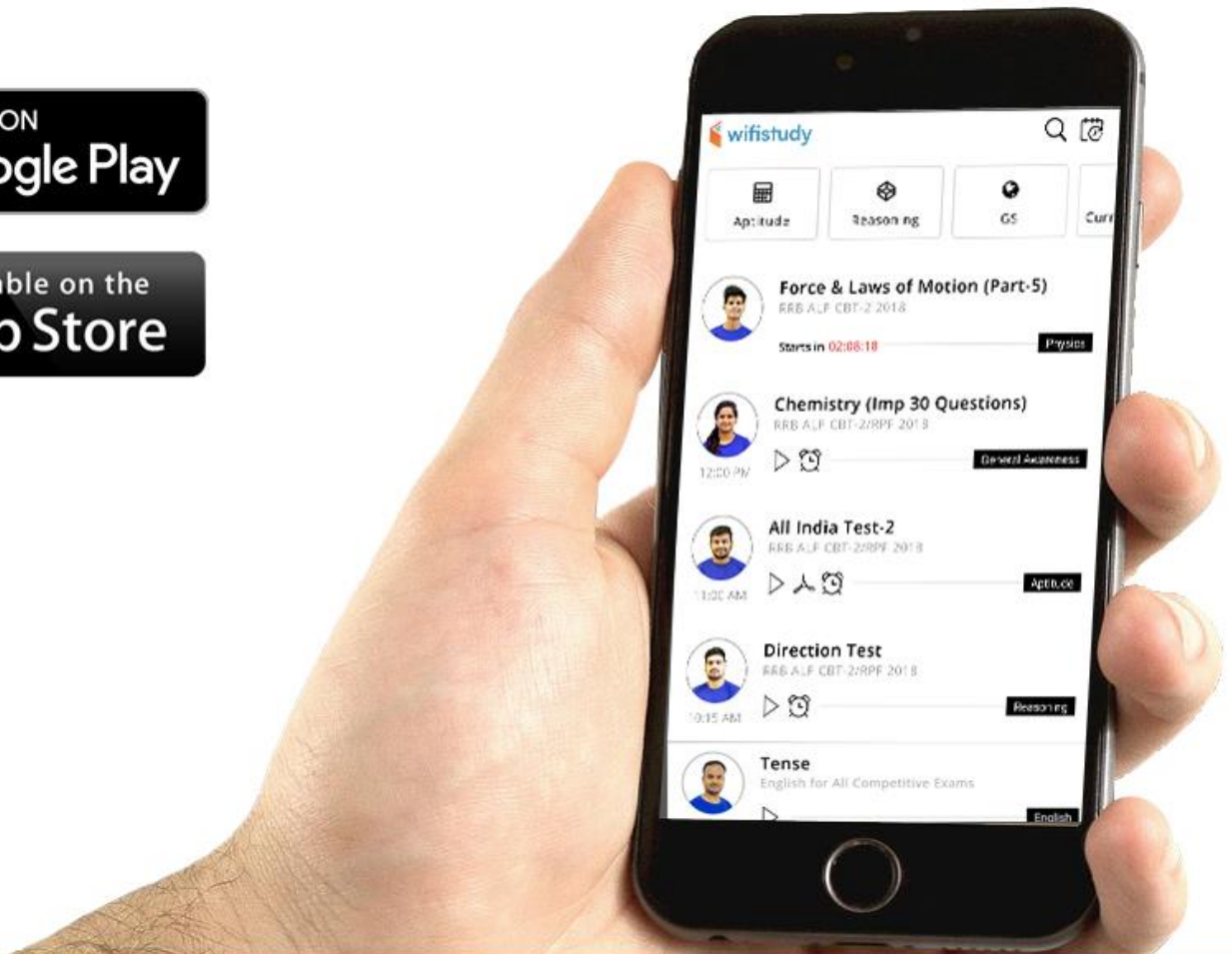


In Ladakh, the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sport & Youth Festival 2021 kicked off on 18th January 2021.

- The 13- Day Zaskar Winter Sports Festival aims to open a new arena in Ladakh for adventure and Nature loving tourists and a boost for local Youth to hone up their skills in winter sports to represent India.
- A series of snow based activities will be held for the next 13 days to promote tourism and economic activities in the Snow bound, picturesque Zaskar.



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