NATIONAL MONTHLY NEWSPAPER ON CURRENT EVENTS

NEWS OF THE MONTH

FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FIT INDIA MOVEMENT 2020

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 24th September 2020, interacted with fitness experts during a nationwide online ‘Fit India Dialogue’ which was organized to celebrate the first anniversary of the ‘Fit India Movement’. The ‘Fit India Movement’ has been useful in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, as building fitness and immunity has now become an important aspect of life.

Fitness experts who shared their knowledge on fitness and health included Virat Kohli (Indian Cricket Captain), Milind Soman (Actor), Devendra Fadnavis (Paralympian Gold Medalist), Rujuta Diwekar (Nutrition Expert), Afsan Ashiq (Girls Football Captain), Swami Shridhyanand Saraswati (Yoga Expert) and Mukul Kanitkar (Educationalist), among others.

The ‘Fit India Movement’ has successfully created awareness about the importance of staying fit through a series of dedicated online programs for citizens on fitness and well-being, all through the Covid-19 pandemic. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had joined hands with the Fit India Mission to give students free Live classes and keep them engaged during the Covid-19 lockdown period. PM Modi recommended ‘Fitness Ki Doze, Adha Ghanta Roz’—every Indian should play some game (like tennis or badminton) or do some fitness activity (like walking, yoga or swimming) for at least half an hour a day. Every Indian could join the Fit India Movement to make India a healthy and fit nation.

CYGNUS SPACECRAFT NAMED AFTER KALPANA CHAWLA

Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defense technology company, decided to name its NG-14 Cygnus capsule ‘SS Kalpana Chawla’, in memory of Late Ms Kalpana Chawla, an Indian-American astronaut, to acknowledge her key contributions to the human spaceflight which were a learning experience for future spacelflight. She was the first Indian-born woman to go to space.

The ‘SS Kalpana Chawla’ capsule was launched on the NG-14 mission on a Northrop Grumman Antares rocket from MARS (Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport), at the Wallops Flight Facility of NASA in Virginia, on 29th September 2020 to the International Space Station (ISS). The Cygnus spacecraft for the NG-14 mission will deliver approximately 3,629 kg of cargo to the space station.

Kalpana Chawla was born on 17th March 1962 in Karnal, Haryana. She passed her senior secondary examination from Tagore Bal Nikatan Senior Secondary School, Karnal with excellent performance. NASA has been selecting two students from her school every year for the ‘NASA Summer Camp’ since 1988 to honour her. She did a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from Punjab Engineering College in 1982. In 2003, Kalpana Chawla was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster when the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas, United States while re-entering the earth’s atmosphere.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS DEVELOP WORLD’S LARGEST ‘SOLAR TREE’ IN BENGAL

Scientists at the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) have installed the world’s largest ‘solar tree’ at its residential complex in Durgapur in West Bengal. One of the main difficulties while installing solar panels on a large scale and for producing huge amounts of renewable energy is the availability of land.

A solar tree is a metal structure resembling a tree that has solar panels, producing solar power, fitted on its metal branches. The solar tree has 35 panels with a capacity of 330 watts per panel. It has been designed to ensure maximum exposure of each solar panel to sunlight and also to create the least amount of shadow area below it.

The solar tree will produce around 12,000-14,000 units of clean and green power in a year. The solar tree has the potential to save 10-12 tons of carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) from being released into the atmosphere every year. Solar trees, because of their design, use less space and hence, can produce more power per unit area. The cost of a solar tree is ₹7.5 lakh. Solar trees could be set up in agricultural farms to run pumps, tractors and tillers as an alternative to diesel. Excess power can be sent to the Energy Grid, providing additional income to farmers.

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Students who wish to publish their drawings and paintings are requested to forward the same to The Editor, THE CORDOVA TODAY, B-41, Sector-65, Noida, UP.
An idea can change your life. We all eagerly wait for one wonderful idea which would prove to be our gateway to success. Let us learn how ideas from our surroundings and day-to-day observations have become big, though they had a small and simple origin.

American scientist, Percy Spencer was working on an arbor into which he in his pocket started melting. The microwaves from the radar melted his chocolate bar. The idea led to the discovery of microwave ovens, which are now used for cooking and reheating previously cooked foods.

Bionic Eye
Monash University (Australia) has developed the world’s first bionic eye through which blind people would be able to see again. The blind person would have to wear a custom-designed headgear that has a camera, a wireless transmitter, vision processor unit and software. It is connected with a set of 2600 tiny chips that are implanted in the brain and receives the signals from the receiver.

Ugo Robot
Mira Robotics has developed a robot that can solve the problems of Japan’s reducing workforce and also as a tool to fight the Covid-19 outbreak. Mira Robot’s Ugo has a pair of height-adjustable robotic arms for tasks on which can be operated remotely through a wireless connection with a laptop. The rent of Ugo robots is around $1,000 (roughly Rs 75,000). Supercomputers are used to perform highly complicated tasks such as weather forecasting, space exploration, test the exploration of natural resources, etc., which require high-performance special calculations.

Fugaku Supercomputer
Fugaku, a Japan-based supercomputer at the RIKEN Center for Computational Science in Kobe, Japan, has been named the world’s fastest computer in the Top500 list released on 22nd June 2020. The cost of this supercomputer is US $1 billion (73.8 billion approx.). Supercomputers are used to perform highly complicated tasks such as weather forecasting, space exploration, test the exploration of natural resources, etc., which require high-performance special calculations.

Astrous
Indian Astronomers, with the help of India’s first multi-wavelength satellite ASTROSAT, discovered AUDF-1, one of the farthest star galaxies, located at a redshift of 8.1. The satellite, being a multi-wavelength imaging telescope, detected extreme ultraviolet light from the galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from the earth.

September 21, 2020
The aviation company Airbus launched three concepts for the commercial zero-emission commercial aircraft. Airbus’ concept for the future would be hydrogen-powered. The hydrogen could be produced by electrolysis of water. The aircraft would be lighter and more efficient in terms of fuel consumption.

Kerala wins the UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award
Kerala wins the UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in recognition of its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.

September 27, 2020
In the latest address of Mann ki Baat, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi discussed and reaffirmed the importance of storytelling. Discussing the rich tradition of storytelling, Prime Minister said that India has nurtured the tradition of Hitopadesh and Panchatantra, which impart wisdom through an imaginary world of animals, birds and fables. He talked about the significance of the custom of storytelling by elder members of the family. He urged people to find ways to connect the new generation of the country with lives of great men and women through stories.

Pieces of Paper
Rahul lived in a big house. He had everything he could ask for. His life was carefree and he lived life to the fullest. He was a kind man, but Rahul did not like him, so he spread rumors about Mari.

One day, there was a burglary in the neighborhood. Because of the rumours, everyone doubted Mari. They spoke against him. Soon, the police arrested Mari.

After a few days of investigation, it was discovered that Mari was innocent.

We're letting you free. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Rahul, I got into trouble because of the rumours spread by you. You must apologize for your out.

They were just commands. They did not harm you. You are free now.
September 28, 2020
- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a vaccine web portal for COVID-19 in order to create awareness among the masses and to share vaccine information. It will have updates on India's efforts towards vaccine development for COVID-19. Currently, three vaccines are undergoing clinical trials for COVID-19 in India.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Shri PD Vaghela as the new Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- Ganga Avalokan, a first-of-its-kind museum on the River Ganga, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It is located at Chandni Ghat, Haridwar, Uttar Pradesh and showcases the biodiversity, rejuvenation and heritage associated with the River Ganga.
- World Heart Day, an initiative by the World Heart Federation, was observed in order to spread awareness about cardiovascular diseases (CVD), including heart diseases and strokes. The day is aimed at drawing people's attention towards heart ailments and associated health issues.
- The prestigious Jnanpith award for Literature was presented to renowned Malayalam poet Shri Akkkath Ananthanambothrin, Jnanpith is India's highest literary award.

International Events

September 07, 2020
The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was held to raise public awareness at the community, individual, government and corporate levels. It attempts to link air quality to climate change and sustainable development goals. It also encourages all to promote solutions that will improve air quality and to share their best practices, success stories and innovations. The resolution to hold the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was adopted in December 2019 during the 74th session of the United Nations Environment Programme.

September 08, 2020
UNICEF announced that it will be leading the procurement and supply of COVID-19 vaccines in an attempt to ensure that all countries have safe, fast, and equitable access to the initial doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. UNICEF will lead efforts to procure vaccines on behalf of the global COVAX Facility.

September 16, 2020
The G20 Environment Ministers Meeting was held virtually under the theme ‘Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century - For All’. India was represented by the Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar. A global initiative on reducing land degradation was launched at the meet. The programme aims to fast track research and development in the field of conserving and restoring coral reefs.
- Yoshihide Suga was elected as the very first Prime Minister of Japan. The longest serving Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, had resigned in August 2020 due to health reasons. India was elected as a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW is a functional commission of the UN’s ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council).

September 21, 2020
International Day of Peace was observed under the theme ‘Shaping Peace Together’. It is also known as World Peace Day. On this day, the UN General Assembly encourages countries to strengthen the ideals of peace by creating an environment of 24 hours of non-violence.

September 26, 2020
World Environmental Health Day was observed globally under the theme ‘Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention’ to throw light on important works being done on an environmental health around the world.

Sports

September 13, 2020
Dominic Thiem from Austria defeated German’s Alexander Zverev to win the 2020 US Open Men’s Singles title. After losing the first two sets of the match, Dominic Thiem made an exceptional comeback and won the next three sets in a match that lasted more than four hours. In the 2020 US Open Women’s Singles, Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka to win the title.

September 19, 2020
The opening match of the 2020 Indian Premier League (IPL), a professional Twenty20 cricket league in India, was played between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Abu Dhabi. UAE. IPL – 2020 is scheduled between 18th September 2020 and 10th November 2020. The opening match of the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) was reportedly watched by 20 crore people.

September 22, 2020
In tennis, the world number one, Novak Djokovic, won a record 36th Masters Title in the Italian Open 2020 Men’s Singles by beating Diego Schwartzman in Rome. In the Italian Open 2020 Women’s Singles, Simona Halep won the title after Karolina Pliskova retired injured.

Domestic

Mansi decided to teach Rahul a lesson. He invited him for lunch. After lunch, as Rahul got up to leave, Mani gave him a sheet of paper.

Rahul: I want you to tear this paper into small pieces and throw the pieces one by one till you reach home.

Mansi: That’s easy. I will do it for you.

Rahul: I want you to collect all the pieces of paper you threw away yesterday.

Mansi: Well, it’s not easy.

Rahul: How can I do this? The wind must have blown them in all directions. It is impossible to get them back.

Mansi: Well, you know how the wind blows, don’t you?

Rahul: Yes. Am I supposed to do this?

Mansi: No. You Madam, truly did you know?

Rahul: Mamta’s paper says, ‘I don’t know’ and you wrote ‘Madam!’

Mansi: I don’t know. I never said it was.

Rahul: Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1-9 without repeating any.

[In the grid with digits already filled partly]

Rahul: Yes, in the same manner negative emotions about someone spread very easily, but it is difficult to reverse them. You must be careful when you talk about someone. Words once said can never be taken back.

Mansi: Rumours spread easily but it is very difficult to reverse them. Think before you speak.

Health and Fitness

Eating fresh fruits and vegetables daily is very important during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen the immune system. The benefits of eating the following fruits which will boost our immune system are:

1. Papaya, red and yellow bell peppers, guava, pineapple, kiwi and mango are rich in Vitamin C — good for developing the immune system.
2. Carrots, spinach, dark leafy green vegetables, peas, broccoli, and cucumber, etc. are rich in Vitamin A — good for developing the immune system.

Yoga: The Healthy Way of Living

In this Downward Facing Dog Pose, Lift your knees, pressing your toes onto the floor. Raise your buttocks towards the ceiling. Straighten your legs by resting your heels on the floor. Lower your head between the upper arms. The benefits are:

- It increases blood flow to the top of the body, including the brain.
- It strengthens the arms, shoulders and feet.

Logical Reasoning

[The Sudoku grid with a solved part]

[The Sudoku grid with a solved part]

ANALOGY (GENERAL INTELLIGENCE)

Identify similar relationships and fill in the blanks.

1. Concept: Theme :: Option A: Concept : Theme, Option B: Theme : Concept.
3. Separate: Combine :: Cease: ................
4. Banned: Band :: Cast: ................
5. Forest: Jungle :: Inspect: ...............
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY 2020

International Literacy Day was observed on 8th September 2020. It focused on ‘Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond’ with emphasis on the role of educators and changing teaching methodologies.

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) survey’s report, Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country. Around 95.2% of the people in the state are literates. Delhi has the second best literacy rate at 88.7%, followed by Uttarakhand at 87.6%, Himachal Pradesh at 86.5% and Assam at 85.9%. Some more key findings of the National Statistical Office survey are - The overall literacy rate in India is 77.7%. The literacy rate in rural areas is 73.5%. The literacy rate in urban areas is 87.7%.

INDIA - WHO’S WHO

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: President
SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Vice President
HON'BLE JUSTICE SHARAD ARVIND BOBDE: Chief Justice of India
SHRI OM BIRIA: Speaker of Lok Sabha

CABINET MINISTERS

SHRI NARENDRA MODI: Prime Minister
SHRI TARAN DHAN Singh: Defence
SHRI AMIT SHAH: Home Affairs
SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GDARKI: Road Transport and Highways, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Chemicals and Fertilizers
SMRITI NIRMA L SHISTHARE: Finance, Corporate Affairs
SHRI RAM VILAS PAWAR: Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Food Processing Industries
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Law and Justice, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology
SHRI THAISWARCHAND GESHI: Social Justice and Empowerment
SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR: External Affairs
SHRI RAM KISHORE NISHANK: Education
SHRI ARJUN MUNDHA: Tribal Affairs
SMRITI ZUBIN IRAN: Women and Child Development
DR HARSH VARDHAN: Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology, Earth Sciences
DR PRakash JAVADEKAR: Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Information and Broadcasting, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
DR PUSHPA GOSAI: Railways, Commerce and Industry
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHA: Petroleum and Natural Gas, Steel
SHRI MUKUL MEHRA: Minority Affairs
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Parliamentary Affairs, Coal, Mines
SHRI MADHAN NATH PANDY: Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
SHRI GHIRIRAJ SINGH: Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Jal Shakti

Q.1 Name the test which helps in the diagnosis of cancer.
Answer: I

Q.2 The Yarrung Tsangpo River (flowing from Tibet), in India, is known by what name?
Answer: Shongtang River

Q.3 Who was the first Chola king to capture Madhuvana?
Answer: Kulothunga Chola

Q.4 Who invented the gold leaf electroscope in 1786?
Answer: Benjamin Franklin

Q.5 Who is the first Indian woman olympic medal winner?
Answer: Anju Bobby George

Q.6 Name the disease caused by the bite of a mad dog.
Answer: Rabies

Q.7 Name the scholar who deciphered the inscriptions of Ashoka on the Pillar of Ashoka.
Answer: James Prinsep

Q.8 When is the World Tourism Day celebrated?
Answer: September 27

Q.9 The motif of ‘Hampi’ with Charot is printed on the reverse of which currency note?
Answer: Rs. 20

Q.10 Who invented the battery?
Answer: Alessandro Volta

Send your entries to us latest by October 15, 2020. Three correct entries will get attractive prizes. The winners will be selected through a draw of lots.

KINDLY USE ALL CAPITALS

Name: 
Age: 
Address: 
Tel. No.: 
Mobile No.: 
School’s Name: 

Send your entries through post/mail to The Editor, The Cordova Today, B-81, Sector 68, Noida (UP) -201301. E-mail: quiz@cordova.co.in

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IN HISTORY

October 1, 1949: The People’s Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as the Chairman.

October 2, 1969: Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in Poindarpur, Gujarat. Gandhi was the leader of the nonviolent independence movement in India.

October 4, 1957: The Space Age began in Russia, when the first satellite, Sputnik 1, was launched, and the United States followed suit on October 5.

October 6, 1986: Harvard University, the oldest university in the USA, was established in Massachusetts.

October 11, 1879: Timeline: Edison tested the electric bulb at his lab in New Jersey, New York, and then improved it to last for 40 hours.

October 12, 2010: Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated.