

GENERAL AWARENESS

Workshop 'Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo' concluded

A workshop 'Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo' was organised in the Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Agartala, the capital of Tripura on 3rd August 2018. Tripura is rich in bamboo diversity and present government has given extra importance to explore and develop bamboo sector.

Japanese team on a two-day tour visited various bamboo utility centres including bamboo wood factory, handicraft production unit, crafts sell centres in the state.

The team from Japan shared their ideas with local bamboo artisans of Tripura and discussed the scope and development of bamboo art.

Japanese team mentioned about a new forum called 'Act East Forum', which was formed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan in September – 2017. The forum was formed to facilitate the cooperation of Japan with the Northeastern region of India through various development projects.

Cooperation with Japan can help the Indian artisans get the machines needed for greater production. With the help of Japan, the bamboo products get huge potential and demand in the global market.

An externally aided project, the phase-II of Tripura JICA is on the cards. Rs.1000 crore soft loan agreement is going to be signed between JICA and Tripura government.

Lok Sabha has unanimously passed (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017

The 123rd constitutional amendment bill passed by Lok Sabha, seeks to grant National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) constitutional status on par with National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCSTs).

The amendment Bill seeks to make NCBC as Constitutional body by inserting new article 338 B in constitution of India. It also mentions the composition, mandate, functions and various officers of NCBC. The Bill mentions that NCBC will comprise of five members appointed by the President.

Article 338 B will give NCBC authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

The Bill also removes power of NCSC (National Commission for Scheduled Castes) to examine matters related to backward classes. Currently, under Constitution NCSC has power to look into complaints and welfare measures with regard to Scheduled Castes (SCs), backward classes (OBCs) and Anglo-Indians.

This amendment Bill inserts article 342 A to empower the President to specify socially and educationally backward classes in various states and union territories. He can do this in consultation with Governor of the concerned state.

A.P. Government set up 'iHub'

Andhra Pradesh government is in the process of setting up 'iHub' (the intelligent hub), a first of its kind global research centre for scientific learning. For this purpose, AP entered a MoU with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) to set up this learning centre.

An initial investment of Rs.245 crore spread over five years declared initially for this purpose. It will have license to operate Global Design University also. The iHub also create the 50,000 future ready skilled manpower, reduce school dropouts and capture the EdTech market.

The state government declared that it recovers cost of establishment of iHub, by providing consultancy services, publications, seminars, hackathons, patents etc.

BRICS Summit – 2018 Johannesburg Declaration adopted

10th BRICS Summit held from 25 – 27 July 2018 at Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. The summit saw the BRICS leaders come together and discuss various international and regional issues of common concern and adopted the 'Johannesburg Declaration' by consensus.

Five nations leaders affirmed their commitment to the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, democracy, inclusiveness and strengthened collaboration. The leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

BRICS welcomed the progress towards finalising the Work Programme under the Paris Agreement. It also declares to move to environmentally sustainable energy systems supportive of the global sustainable development agenda and balanced economic growth.

The leaders reaffirmed their support for the establishment of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (ARP) initiated by India in 2016. The leaders expressed commitment to the continued implementation of the Agenda for BRICS cooperation on population matters.

10th BRICS summit deplored continued terrorist attacks. Presidents of Russia and China reiterated the status and role of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and their support for their aspiration to play a greater role in the UNO.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the fourth industrial revolution presents both opportunities and challenges for the BRICS nations. Besides the BRICS Summit 2018, Indian Prime Minister participated in the BRICS Outreach with leaders from Africa and Outreach with leaders from Global South summit also.

Akshay Venkatesh was conferred with Fields Medal

Fields Medal is awarded to recognise outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement. Indian-born, Australian-raised mathematics genius Akshay Venkatesh is one among the four recipients of the Fields Medal 2018.

Fields Medal is awarded every four years by the International Mathematical Union (IMU). The award consists of gold medal bearing the profile of Archimedes and a cash amount of 15,000 Canadian dollars.

Akshay Venkatesh received the medal for his synthesis of “analytic number theory, homogeneous dynamics, topology and representation theory, which has resolved long-standing problems in areas such as the equidistribution of arithmetic objects”.

The other 3 laureates received the Fields Medal this year are Peter Scholze of Germany , Alessio Figalli of Italy and Caucher Birkar the UK based Iranian.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Akshay Venkatesh, the Indian – Australian was conferred with which prestigious Mathematics medal?
 - 1) Fields Medal
 - 2) Grammy Award
 - 3) Right Livelihood Award
 - 4) Pritzker Prize
 - 5) Thomson Medal
2. International Mathematical Union (IMU) secretariat located in?
 - 1) New York
 - 2) Washington
 - 3) Geneva
 - 4) Berlin
 - 5) Paris

3. Who is the current president of IMU?
1) Mrs.Ingrid Daubech of Belgium
2) Laszlo Lovasz of Hungary
3) Shigefumi Mori of Japan
4) John Macleod Ball of UK
5) Nalini Joshi
4. So far only one Indian acted as the President of IMU (International Mathematical Union) between 1971 – 1974. He is?
1) Srinivasa Ramanujan
2) Harish Chandra
3) Dr.C.R.Rao
4) K. S. Chandrasekharan
5) Dr.Shakuntala Devi
5. International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) held between 1 – 8 August 2018 at...
1) New Delhi
2) Los Angeles
3) Canberra
4) Rio de Janeiro
5) Lima
6. National Mathematics Day celebrated on to remember the birth day of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
1) 23rd December
2) 19th November
3) 14th November
4) 22nd December
5) 5th September
7. Which state declared to set up iHub, the global research centre for scientific learning recently?
1) Karnataka
2) Telengana
3) Andhra Pradesh
4) Maharashtra
5) Odisha
8. UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) is a specialised agency of UNO. Who is the current Director General of UNESCO?
1) Audrey Azoulay of France
2) Miroslav Lajcak of Slovenia
3) Henrietta Holsman Fore of USA
4) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia
5) Yukiya Amano of Japan
9. Where is the head quarters of UNESCO?
1) Washington D C
2) Tokyo
3) Paris
4) Geneva
5) Rome
10. Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) established in?
1) 2009
2) 2017
3) 2012
4) 1969
5) 1947
11. Which nation helps India for the development of Bamboo sector?
1) USA
2) Russia
3) Japan
4) France
5) Australia
12. With an objective to provide strong forward and backward linkages for the producers of Cane and Bamboo of North East Region, where the Bamboo & Cane Development Institute (BCDI) was set up in 1974?
1) Imphal
2) Dispur
3) Agartala
4) Itanagar
5) Aizwal

13. Who is the Chief Minister of Tripura?
- 1) Sarbananda Sonowal
 - 2) Nongthombam Biren Singh
 - 3) Biplab Kumar Deb
 - 4) Conrad Kongkal Sangma
 - 5) Pema Khandu
14. Japan Parliament name is
- 1) Duma
 - 2) Sansad
 - 3) Kneeset
 - 4) Tshogdu
 - 5) Diet
15. JICA stands for
- 1) Japan Integrated Cooperation Agency
 - 2) Japan International Consultation Agency
 - 3) Japan International Consortium Agency
 - 4) Japan Intentional Cooperation Agency
 - 5) Japan International Cooperation Agency
16. "Land of Raising Sun" is?
- 1) China
 - 2) Japan
 - 3) Vietnam
 - 4) USA
 - 5) Philippines
17. To make NCBC as constitutional body, which article to be inserted in the constitution of India?
- 1) Article 348 A
 - 2) Article 341 and 342
 - 3) Article 347
 - 4) Article 348 B
 - 5) Article 338 B
18. Which Article empowers the President to specify socially and educationally backward classes in various states and union territories as per the (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017?
- 1) Article 318 A
 - 2) Article 340 and 350
 - 3) Article 342 A
 - 4) Article 348 A
 - 5) Article 338 A
19. Who is the present chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes?
- 1) Justice Eswarayya
 - 2) Dr. Ram Shankar Katharia
 - 3) Nand Kumar Sai
 - 4) Dr. Rekha Sharma
 - 5) H.L. Datthu
20. BRICS is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The term- BRIC was coined by.....?
- 1) J.M. Keynes
 - 2) Jim O'Neill
 - 3) Friedrich August
 - 4) Milton Friedman
 - 5) Lawrence Robert Klein
21. Who is the president of South Africa hosted 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg?
- 1) Dmitry Medvedev
 - 2) Jacob Zuma
 - 3) Cyril Ramaphosa
 - 4) Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki
 - 5) Pieter Willem Botha

22. The currency of South Africa is.....?

- 1) Rupee 2) Real 3) Ruble 4) Renminbi
5) Rand

23. 11th BRICS annual summit – 2019 to be hosted by.....?

- 1) Brazil 2) Russia 3) India 4) China
5) South Africa

24. 12th BRICS summit 2020 to be hosted by.....?

- 1) Russia 2) India 3) South Africa 4) China
5) Brazil

KEY

1-1; 2-4; 3-3; 4-4; 5-4; 6-4; 7-3; 8-1; 9-3; 10-3; 11-3; 12-3; 13-3; 14-5; 15-5; 16-2; 17-5; 18-3; 19-3; 20-2; 21-3; 22-5; 23-1; 24-1.

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