

West Bengal Current Affairs

September, 2019

1. **India lifted SAFF Under-15 Championship title in Kolkata.** Note: India defeated Nepal 7-0 in the final of the 2019 SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-15 Championship at the Kalyani Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal. Five teams (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India (Host), Nepal and Sri Lanka) from the region has taken part in this tournament.
2. **Former cricketer Madhav Apte passed away at the Breach Candy Hospital Mumbai.** Note: He has played 67 first-class matches (46 Ranji Trophy for Bombay and three for Bengal), scored 3336 runs, with six centuries and 16 half-centuries. Madhav Apte was the first Indian opener to aggregate over 400 runs in a Test series (460 runs against West Indies in 1953).
3. **India's 1st National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub set up in Kolkata.** The Kolkata centre would be the hub for research on antibiotic resistance not only for the country but also for the entire South Asia. The centre was jointly inaugurated by the ICMR, in association with the U.S. Consulate of Kolkata and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
4. **5th India International Science Festival held in Kolkata from 5th to 8th November, 2019.** The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation. The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced this at a curtain raiser Press Conference in New Delhi. IISF is the largest science festival in the world; Focus on youth to inspire and motivate them to learn real science in motion. Real science cannot be learned in classroom atmosphere. IISF provides an opportunity to learn science in action and motion.
About India International Science Festival:
The IISF 2019 is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015. The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai and the fourth IISF was held in Lucknow, which witnessed a Footfall from over 10 lakh people worldwide. India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019, an annual event organised jointly by science & technology- related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), 2019. IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.
5. **Rs 125 crore allotted to IIT-Kharagpur for Centre's SATHI initiative.** IIT Kharagpur has been selected for setting up a Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI), a Department of Science and Technology initiative of the Centre, for which Rs 125 crore has been earmarked over a period of three years. The primary objective of the state-of-the-art, professionally managed science and technology infrastructure facility, will be to extend help to the academic institutes in the neighbouring regions, an IIT KGP statement said here on Tuesday. Research establishments and industries, particularly start-ups and manufacturing units, will also be able to use the sophisticated instruments in a few select areas.



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6. **West Bengal's Midnapore railway station becomes 5000th station with free Wi-Fi.** RailTel, a PSU under the railways, started providing free Wi-Fi from Mumbai Central station in January 2016. In a span of 44 months, RailTel has successfully provided Wi-Fi at 5000 stations across the country, the railways said.
7. **West Bengal assembly passes bill against lynching.** The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019 was tabled in the House on Friday and supported by the opposition Congress and CPI(M).

About the Bill:

- The bill aims to protect the constitutional rights of vulnerable persons and prevent incidents of lynching. It also proposes action against those involved in perpetrating the crime.
 - The legislation also pitches for a jail term, which may vary from three years to life for those involved in assaulting and injuring a victim.
 - In case of death of the victim, persons responsible for the incident would be punished with rigorous life imprisonment and fine up to Rs 5 lakh.
8. **IIT Kharagpur collaborates with Amazon Web Services to develop National Artificial Intelligence resource platform.** Powered by Amazon SageMaker, a cloud machine learning platform, the National Artificial Intelligence Resource Portal (NAIRP) is aimed at making the search for AI learning resources simpler and more accessible to learners, practitioners and researchers in India, an IIT KGP statement said.
The initiative has got funding from the Ministry of Human Resources Development, as part of the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) project which is being spearheaded by the premier institute. With the launch of NAIRP, machine learning practitioners will be able to search quickly and get access to myriads of learning resources.



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