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## 12 National Education Day observed on 11th November

Nov **India > National Education Day**

National Education Day was observed across India on 11th November to mark the birth-anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, first Education minister of Independent India. This year was the 125th birth anniversary of Azad. In 2008, the Government of India had declared that Azad's birth anniversary will be celebrated as the National Education Day. The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the following new initiatives to mark the National Education Day:

1. **Saksham** - a college level scholarship for differently abled, needy and meritorious children.
2. **Pragati** - a scholarship for girl students who are pursuing technical education at college level.
3. **Skill Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMAVAY)** allows multiple pathways between Vocational education - skills, education and job markets.
4. **Know your College Portal** is an application developed for helping a prospective student makes a valued judgment of the college he/she wishes to join.
5. **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** involves higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and provide appropriate solutions for sustainable growth.

## 12 Minorities Affairs ministry launches Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills

Nov **Politics and Government > MANAS**

The Minorities Affairs ministry launched the Maulana Azad National Academy for Skills (MANAS) to impart training to youths following the emphasis laid by PM Narendra Modi on skill development. The programme was launched on a pilot basis on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Two MOUs were also signed on the occasion. One was signed with Health Sector Council for training programmes for 200 girls and boys through Skill Tree Consultant Ltd, the other was inked with the Security Sector Council for a security services training programme for 100 persons. The training programmes will ensure 100 percent employment for trainees. Based on the success of the programme, the ministry will expand MANAS on an all-India basis. To increase coverage of the programme, the ministry has also increased the income eligibility criterion for trainees from Rs 1.03 lakh to Rs 6 lakh (annual) to facilitate provision of training and concessional credit.

## 13 Farhan Akhtar appointed as Un Women's goodwill ambassador for South Asia

Nov **World > UN Women**

Bollywood actor-director Farhan Akhtar has been appointed as the South Asia Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women, the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment. Farhan is the first man to be chosen as a Goodwill Ambassador in the organization's history. He will serve as an advocate for UN Women's newly-launched HeForShe initiative in advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment. The organization chose Farhan for raising voice on the issue of gender equality and violence against women and girls in India through his Men against Rape and Discrimination (MARD) campaign.

## 16 Nov K Srikanth and Saina Nehwal clinch Singles title in China Open Super Series

**Sports > Badminton**

Indian badminton players K Srikanth and Saina Nehwal created history by winning the men's and women's singles title of the \$700,000 China Open Super Series Premier. Srikanth achieved a stunning straight-game victory over two-time Olympic champion and five-time world champion, Lin Dan of China to register his maiden Super Series title. Saina Nehwal, currently World no 5, also played brilliantly to defeat Akane Yamaguchi of Japan

## Others

## 12 Nov Railways identifies 17 areas for FDI

**India > FDI in Railways**

The Railways has identified 17 areas which can be thrown open to 100 percent private and foreign direct investment (FDI). Some of these areas include cleaning up trains, installation of bio-toilets in passenger coaches and setting up of mechanized laundry facilities, construction, maintenance and operation facilities to supply non-conventional sources of energy to the Railways, setting up of technical training institutes, testing facilities and laboratories and providing technological solutions to improve safety. FDI is also being permitted for rail route electrification, signalling system and logistics parks. The government had relaxed the FDI norms permitting 100 per cent investment in rail projects, such as high-speed trains, suburban service, dedicated freight corridors, freight and passenger terminals. Earlier, the government had relaxed the FDI norms permitting 100 per cent investment in rail projects, such as high-speed trains, suburban service, dedicated freight corridors, freight and passenger terminals.

## 12 Nov 22nd APEC Summit held in Beijing China

**World > APEC**

The 22nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit was held in Beijing, China from 9th to 11th November 2014. The theme for this year was "Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership". The Leaders of the 21 APEC member economies concluded their meeting by issuing the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting Declaration - Beijing Agenda for an Integrated, Innovative and Interconnected Asia-Pacific. The next APEC Summit will be held in Philippines in 2015.

## 13 Nov Rohit Sharma scores 264, becomes first man to score 250 in ODI

**Sports > Cricket**

27 year old Indian batsman Rohit Sharma became the first man to hit 250 in a one-day international. Sharma scored 264 in the fourth ODI against Sri Lanka to beat the previous record of 219 made by fellow Indian batsman Virender Sehwag against West Indies in 2011. India scored 404 against Sri Lanka and won the match. Before 2010, no batsman had passed 200. Rohit's effort is the fourth double hundred. They have all have been made by India batsmen in India. Sachin Tendulkar became the first man to reach 200 against South Africa, with Sehwag beating that record a year later. Rohit then made 209 against Australia at Bangalore in November 2013.

## 13 India, US resolve stand-off over food security, clears way for TFA

### Nov **World > Trade Facilitation Agreement**

The United States of America has agreed to support India's proposal on public stockholding related to food security, finally paving the way for signing of a global trade agreement that has been stalled for months. India's proposal will now go for ratification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to facilitate signing of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). India had made its stand clear that I won't sign the TFA until a permanent solution was found on the food subsidy issue. India had asked WTO to amend the norms for calculating agri-subsidies so that the country could continue to procure foodgrains from farmers at minimum support price and sell them to poor at cheaper rates without violating the WTO norms.

## 14 Children's Day observed on November 14th

### Nov **India > Children's Day**

Children's Day (known as Bal Divas in Hindi) was celebrated across India on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The day is observed every year on the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, to showcase his love for children. The day is observed to increase the awareness of people towards the rights, care and education of children.

## 14 National Bal Swachhta Mission launched

### Nov **India > Swachh Bharat Mission**

The National Bal Swachhta Mission was launched in New Delhi by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi. The Bal Swachhta Mission is a part of the nationwide sanitation initiative of 'Swachh Bharat Mission' launched by the Prime Minister on 2nd October, 2014. Speaking at the launch Mrs. Gandhi said that children can play a very important role in achieving a clean India. They can motivate others to keep their homes and surroundings clean. The nationwide Bal Swachhta Mission will have the following six themes:-

1. Clean Anganwadis
2. Clean Surroundings e.g. Playgrounds
3. Clean Self (Personal Hygiene/Child Health)
4. Clean Food
5. Clean Drinking Water
6. Clean Toilets

During the Bal Swachhta Week from 14th to 19th November, one of the above themes would be covered at each Anganwadi Centre in the states. The events will be organized at State, District, Block, and Gram Panchayat level.

## 15 DD National to be re-launched as Desh ka Apna Channel

### Nov **India > DD National**

Public broadcaster Doordarshan is re-launching its national channel DD National as "Desh ka Apna channel" with a host of new content in order to attract more viewers. The channel will launch 8 new shows in prime time and the entire channel will have a new look and feel with new colours - purple and pink. A statement released by Doordarshan said that the channel will focus on themes like traditional family values, nation before self and trustworthiness.

**16 Nov** Novak Djokovic wins ATP World Tour Final after Roger Federer pulls out  
**Sports > Tennis**

World no. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic won a third straight World Tour Finals after Roger Federer withdrew from the final. Federer said that he wasn't match-fit and later revealed that he had hurt his back in the previous match. Djokovic thus becomes the first men's player since Ivan Lendl in 1987 to claim three consecutive year-end titles and his 31-match winning streak indoors remains intact.

**17 Nov** eBay ties up with Odisha State Cooperative Handicraft Corporation  
**Corporate > eBay**

American e-tailer eBay has tied up with Odisha State Cooperative Handicraft Corporation to ensure a steady supply of Odisha handicrafts across the world. Odisha's finely crafted stones and statues such as Konark form of statues and pattachitra (palm-leaf etching) are very popular in USA, Australia, Canada and rest of the world.

**18 Nov** Kisan Vikas Patra to be relaunched today; money to double in 100 months  
**Politics and Government > Kisan Vikas Patra**

The government has re-launched the Kisan Vikas Patra scheme today, hoping to lure small investors away from gold and fraudulent schemes by offering attractive terms. There won't be any upper limit on investments, the minimum denomination being Rs 1,000. Investors will be able to double their money in 100 months. The government has also introduced a number of features to enhance liquidity. The certificates can be used as collateral to avail of loans. Investors can exit the scheme after two years and six months, and every six months thereafter after paying a pre-determined amount. There are no tax benefits in the scheme as of now. However, it will yield an annual rate of nearly 8.7 percent, more than most other small savings instruments. The certificates, which will be initially issued by post offices, can be bought in single or joint names and can be transferred from a person to another multiple times. Investors will also be able to transfer them from one post office to another, and later they could be made available through nationalised banks as well. The popular scheme had been closed in 2011 as part of the government's drive to rationalise small savings schemes.