

News Digest

NATIONAL

16th National Civil Services Day Celebrated on 21st April 2023

President Smt Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar greeted all Civil Servants on Civil Services Day on 21st April. The President commended the Civil Servants for their service to the nation, mentioning that the civil services have upheld the highest values of public administration, as envisaged by Sardar Patel, and forms a framework for good governance. The Vice President complimented all Civil Servants for their tireless efforts in ensuring that developmental benefits reach every citizen of the country. "An officer's accomplishments will not be judged by their personal achievements, but by how people's lives have been transformed through their work", Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said while addressing the civil servants on 21st April. The PM opined that young civil servants will play the most important role for development of a New India during the *Amrit Kaal*. On the occasion, Shri Modi also presented the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.

Cabinet Approves Rs 6003.65 Cr National Quantum Mission

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a cost of Rs 6003.65 crore. The Mission is set to run from 2023-24 to 2030-31 and will focus on seeding, nurturing, and scaling up scientific and industrial R&D, helping India to leverage itself as a leading nation in the area of quantum technology. The Mission would greatly benefit communication, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications. It will provide a huge boost to national priorities like Digital India, Make in India, Skill India and Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



100th G20 Meeting under India's Presidency Concludes Successfully at Varanasi

The 100th G20 meeting under India's G20 Presidency, the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) on "Sustainable Agriculture and Food System for Healthy People and Planet" concluded successfully at Varanasi on 19th April 2023. Members unanimously agreed to launch a Millet Initiative - MAHARISHI - which was proposed by India for research in the field of Millets. MAHARISHI stands for Millets and Other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI). Its secretariat will be housed at Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad with technical support from ICRISAT, One CGIAR Centres and other International organisations. The meeting adopted a Chair's Summary cum Outcome Document focussing on a major area of cooperation in agricultural research and development for food security and nutrition, digital agriculture, resilient agri-food systems and public-private partnership in agricultural R&D.



NMCG Approves 8 New Projects worth Rs 638 Cr

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved eight projects worth around Rs 638 crore. Of them, four projects amounting to around Rs 407 crore have been approved for pollution abatement in the Shami district with an aim to clean River Hindon, which is a tributary of River Yamuna. Ministry of Jal Shakti in a statement said that these projects are part of the comprehensive Hindon Rejuvenation Plan as this river is identified as Priority-I polluted river stretch. As part of preparations for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh in 2025, one project for development of seven ghats has also been approved. For Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, one sewerage management project each was approved at the meeting. In Bihar, a project to construct three Sewage Treatment Plants among other works has been approved at a cost of nearly Rs 77 crore. In Uttarakhnad, the Akhand Param Dham ghat will be constructed at a cost of over Rs 2 crore.

Centre Notifies Rules to Tackle Human-Stray Dogs Conflict

The Centre has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. As per the Rules, Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme for sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs are to be carried out by local bodies, municipalities, municipal corporations and panchayats. The municipal corporations need to implement the ABC and Anti-Rabies Programme jointly. The rules also provide guidelines on how to deal with the human and stray dog conflicts without relocating dogs in an area.

INTERNATIONAL

EAM Jaishankar Discusses Situation in Sudan with UN Secretary-General

External Affairs Minister Shri S Jaishankar met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York and discussed the worsening situation in Sudan on 21st April. He said that the focus should be on achieving a ceasefire through diplo-

matic processes. More than 330 people have been killed so far in the violent power struggle which have been going on between two previously allied leaders of Sudan's ruling military junta. The latest violence was triggered by disagreement over an internationally backed plan to form a new Civilian Government.



India - Thailand Joint Trade Committee Agree to Address Market Access Issues

India and Thailand have agreed to address market access issues and technical barriers through sustained bilateral discussions. The 13th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Trade Committee (JTC) held in New Delhi on 20th April was the first physical meeting of the JTC since it was revived in 2020, following a 17-year hiatus. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the status of bilateral trade and identified new potential products and priority sectors to expand bilateral trade. India specifically asked for easing of restrictions it faces in exporting marine, poultry, and meat products.

67 Million Children Missed Routine Vaccination due to COVID Outbreak: UNICEF

Some 67 million children partially or fully missed routine vaccines globally between 2019 and 2021 because of lockdowns and healthcare disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the United Nations. More than a decade of hard-earned gains in routine childhood immunisation have been eroded, read a new report from the UN's children's agency, UNICEF, adding that getting back on track will be challenging. UNICEF has called on governments to double down on their commitment to increase financing for immunisation with special attention on accelerating catch-up vaccination efforts for those who missed their shots.

ECONOMY

Scheme Launched for Effective Marketing of Northeast Tribal Products

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER) scheme. The scheme has been introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of the North-Eastern Region with the vision of strengthening livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States. The scheme will apply to the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. As part of the scheme, tribal artisans from North Eastern Region will be empanelled by organising 68 Tribal Artisan Melas in various districts of the region.



Domestic Air Passenger Traffic Registers 52% Annual Growth

The domestic air passenger traffic during January to March this year has registered annual growth of over 51%. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the number of passengers carried by domestic airlines during January to March was 375 lakh as against 247 lakh during the same period last year. The report also highlighted a significant decrease in passengers' complaints and an increase in the resolution of complaints from 93% in March 2019 to 99% in March 2023.

SPORTS

Aman Sehrawat Clinches India's First Gold at Asian Wrestling Championships

Shri Aman Sehrawat won India's first gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan by beating his opponent in the men's 57 kg freestyle category on the penultimate day of the competition. He defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 9-4. Aman Sehrawat's victory in Astana ensured the men's freestyle 57kg gold medal stayed with India for the fourth year running. This was Aman Sehrawat's second podium of the year. Last year, Sehrawat was the first Indian wrestler to win gold at the Under-23 world championships in Spain.



Rs 3200 Cr to be Spent on sports facilities in Next 5 years: Sports Minister

Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that under the Khelo India campaign, an amount of about Rs 3,200 crore will be spent on sports facilities during the next 5 years. With this, best facilities will be made available to the players across the country. The Minister inaugurated sports facilities at the SAI National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) at Anu in Hamirpur on 14th April.

(Source: AIR/PIB)