

News Digest

NATIONAL

President Confers Padma Awards 2023

President Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred the Padma Awards for the year 2023, at a Civil Investiture Ceremony - I at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 22nd March 2023. Of the total 106 awards announced this year, the President gave away 54 awards including three Padma Vibhushan, four Padma Bhushan and 47 Padma Shri. The Padma Vibhushan awards were conferred on Shri S M Krishna in the field of Public Affairs, Prof Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumously) in the field of Architecture and Tabla Maestro Shri Zakir Hussain in the field of Art.



PM Launches TB-Mukt Panchayat Scheme on World TB Day

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the 'One World TB Summit' at Varanasi on 24th March 2023, launched various initiatives including the TB-Mukt Panchayat, the official pan-India rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), the family-centric care model for TB and also released India's Annual TB Report 2023. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the National Centre for Disease Control & High Containment Laboratory and inaugurated the site for the Metropolitan Public Health Surveillance Unit in Varanasi. International delegates from over 30 countries were present at the summit. Meanwhile, the PM also laid foundation stone and dedicated development projects worth more than Rs 1780 crores in Varanasi.

Committee to be Formed for Improving National Pension System

The centre has announced the formation of a committee to suggest measures for improvements in the National Pension System. The proposed committee will be chaired by the Finance Secretary. Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha that several representations have been received that the National Pension System needs to be improved; hence, a committee will look into the issue of pension and evolve an approach which addresses the needs of the employees while ensuring fiscal prudence. She said, the approach will be designed for adoption by both Central and State governments.

Congress leader Shri Rahul Gandhi Disqualified from Lok Sabha

Congress leader Shri Rahul Gandhi has been disqualified from the membership of the Lok Sabha. The notification issued by Lok Sabha Secretariat on 24th March 2023 stated that the decision has been taken consequent upon Shri Gandhi's conviction in a criminal defamation case by the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate in Surat, Gujarat. Shri Rahul Gandhi was elected to the Lok Sabha from Wayanad Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

BEL Bags Contract for Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems 'Project Himshakti'

Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Hyderabad for procurement of two Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems 'Project Himshakti' at an overall cost of approximately Rs 3,000 crore. The project is under the Buy (Indian - IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)) category comprising contemporary and niche technologies. 'Project Himshakti' will encourage participation of Indian Electronics and associated industries, including MSMEs, which are sub vendors of BEL. It will generate employment of approximately three lakh man-days over a period of two years. The project is a significant leap forward in developing indigenous capabilities making the country 'Atmanirbhar', in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative of the Government.

Madhya Pradesh Unveils Policy for Connecting Youth with Employment

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has unveiled the State Youth Policy and a Youth Portal with the aim to connect the youth with employment. As per the policy, to participate in the recruitment process for all government posts in the state, the examination fee will have to be paid only once. A separate merit list will be made for admission to MBBS and BDS for the students studying in government schools of the State. 5 percent seats will be reserved in colleges for this purpose. Moreover, under the Mukhya Mantri Yuva Kaushal Earning Scheme, an amount of at least Rs 8,000 will be given to the youth every month on the basis of learning and earning.

IAF Collaborates with Indian Institute of Science for Training and R&D in Latest Technologies

The Air Force Technical College (AFTC), Bengaluru and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance scientific understanding of technologies that can be adopted by the defence sector and undertake research and development activities in mutually beneficial areas. The agreement also aims to facilitate trainee officers of AFTC to access libraries in IISc. Aerospace engineering, artificial intelligence and machine learning, radar and microwave technologies, guided weapon systems, drone technologies, computer science and cyber security, mechanical engineering, electronics and communication engineering and electrical engineering are the areas in which the two organisations will collaborate.

Bureau of Indian Standards Launches Learning Science via Standards

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched the first series of lesson plans under Learning Science via Standards. This is an initiative focused on demonstrating the use of scientific concepts, principles and laws to help students understand their practical applications in manufacturing, functioning and testing of quality characteristics of different products. The lesson plans cover a wide range of subjects including cement, football, gas stoves, helmets, LED bulbs, LPG cylinders, and pulverised fuel ash cement bricks.

NASA, ISRO Jointly Manufacture Dual Frequency Earth Science Satellite

NASA and ISRO have jointly manufactured an earth science satellite named NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) at a cost of about Rs 470 crore excluding launch cost. The satellite will be the first radar imaging satellite to use dual frequencies and will use advanced radar imaging to map the elevation of Earth's land and ice masses 4 to 6 times a month at resolutions of 5 to 10 meters. It is designed to observe and measure some of the planet's most complex natural processes, including ecosystem disturbances, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.



INTERNATIONAL

IMF Approves Sri Lanka's Much-Awaited Bailout Package

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved Sri Lanka's bailout program under an Extended Fund Facility. Following the decision, the IMF announced that Sri Lanka will immediately receive an initial disbursement of US\$ 333 million. The extended fund facility of US\$ 3 billion will be available through tranches over a 4 year period.

Chinese President Visits Moscow, Proposes Measures to End Ukraine Conflict

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Moscow on 20th to 23rd March 2023 for formal talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, on matters of concern including the Ukraine conflict. The Kremlin said the two leaders discussed proposals put forward by China to end more than a year of fighting in Ukraine and issues of further development of comprehensive partnership. The Chinese President also invited Putin to visit China this year. Chinese President Xi Jinping's trip coincided with a surprise visit to Kyiv by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who visited Bucha, a town where Russian forces were accused of committing atrocities during their occupation last year.



ECONOMY

First PM MITRA Park Inaugurated at Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu

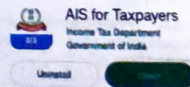
The first PM - MITRA Park (Prime Minister's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) has been inaugurated at Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu. This will not only boost the local economy and will prove beneficial for the youth of the State but will also enable Tamil Nadu to have a greater share in the man-made fibre and technical textiles market globally thus boosting India's efforts to be a global hub for textiles. A first of its kind, the textile park spreads across 1056 acres and will provide at least 1 lakh direct employment and 2 lakh indirect employment opportunities.

PM Unveils Bharat 6G Vision Document and 6G R&D Test Bed

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has unveiled Bharat 6G Vision Document and launched 6G Research and Development Test Bed. The PM unveiled the document while inaugurating the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Office and Innovation Centre in India during an event in New Delhi. Highlighting that India's telecom and digital model is smooth, secure, transparent and trusted, he said this decade is India's tech-ade. The new ITU Area Office will help in creating the right environment for 6G.

Income Tax Dept Launches Mobile App AIS for Taxpayers

The Income Tax Department has launched a free of cost Mobile app namely AIS for taxpayers. It will facilitate the taxpayers to view various information related to TDS, interest, share transactions, tax payments, Income Tax refunds and GST Data among others. The taxpayers will also have the option and the facility to provide feedback on the information displayed in the app.



DigiClaim Launched for PMFBY Claim Disbursal

Ministry of Agriculture has launched the National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module 'DigiClaim' under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). With the launch of the module, funds will be disbursed electronically, which will ease the insurance claim disbursement process to the farmers of six states which are currently onboard the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The automated claim settlement process will be an ongoing activity to provide farmers with a sustainable financial flow and support, according to Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

SPORTS

India Clinches Men's and Women's Titles of Asian Kho Kho Championship

Host India clinched both the men's and women's titles of the Asian Kho Kho Championship held at Tamulpur in Assam. In the women's category, Indian Eves defeated Nepal by an inning and 33 points. The men's team too continued their brilliant form and defeated Nepal by an inning and six points. India remained unbeaten in both categories throughout the tournament. A total of nine countries participated in the event.

(Source: AIR/PB)