

News Digest

NATIONAL

PM lays Foundation Stone and Dedicates to Nation Several Railway Projects Worth More than Rs. 8000 Crores in Odisha



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation, several railway projects worth more than Rs. 8000 crores in Odisha via video conferencing on May 18. The projects include flagging off the Vande Bharat Express between Puri and Howrah, laying the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Puri and Cuttack railway stations, dedication of 100% electrification of the rail network in Odisha, doubling of the Sambalpur- Titlagarh rail line, a new broad gauge rail line between Angul - Sukinda; the third line connecting Manoharpur - Rourkela - Jharsuguda - Jamga and a new broad-gauge line between Bichhupali - Jhartarba. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that the people of Odisha and West Bengal are being presented the Vande Bharat Express which is a symbol of modern and aspirational India. "India's speed and progress can be seen whenever a Vande Bharat Train runs from one place to another", the Prime Minister said as he noted that this pace can now be witnessed in the states of Odisha and West Bengal.

Cabinet Reshuffle: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Gets Additional Portfolio of Law

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal has been appointed as the new Minister of State independent charge in the Ministry of Law and Justice, in addition to his existing portfolios. Shri Kiren Rijiju, the former Law and Justice Minister, will now head the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel has been assigned as Minister of State in the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, having previously served as Minister of State in the Law and Justice Ministry.

Defence Production Crosses Rs. 1 lakh Crore Mark for the First Time

As a result of the consistent efforts of Ministry of Defence, the value of defence production in Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 has crossed the figure of Rs one lakh crore for the first time ever. The value currently stands Rs 1,06,800 crore and it will go further up once the data is received from the remaining private defence industries. The current value of defence production in FY 2022-23 is a rise of more than 12 per cent over FY 2021-22, when the figure was Rs. 95,000 crore.

ECONOMY

PM Emphasises on Transparency in Recruitments



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually distributed 71,000 appointment letters while emphasising on employment generation during the recently concluded Rozgar Mela held across 45 locations nationwide. In his virtual address, the PM said that the government prioritises transparency and fairness in recruitment. The newly recruited individuals will join various positions across government departments. Training through *Karmayogi Prarambh* will be provided to new appointees. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join various positions/posts under Government of India like Train Manager, Station Master, Sr. Commercial cum Ticket Clerk, Inspector, Sub Inspectors, Constable, Stenographer, Junior Accountant, Postal Assistant, Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant, Sr Draughtsman, JE/Supervisor, Assistant Professor, Teacher, Librarian, Nurse, Probationary Officers, PA, MTS, among others.

Govt to Set Up 1,100 New Farmer Producer Organisations in Cooperative Sector

In order to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi", a decision has been taken to form one thousand one hundred New Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in the Cooperative Sector. The Ministry of Cooperation in a statement said, these additional 1100 FPOs have been allocated to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under FPOs' Scheme. Under the FPO Scheme, financial assistance of 33 lakh rupees is provided to each FPO. Further, financial assis-



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tance of 25 lakh rupees per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organisations. The Ministry said, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies which are primarily engaged in short-term credit and distribution of seeds and fertilisers will now be able to undertake other economic activities as well including high income generating activities like bee-keeping and mushroom cultivation. This initiative will ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce by providing them necessary market linkages.

US- India to Encourage Private and Government Stakeholders to Utilise the Innovation Ecosystems and Promote Defence Start-Ups



Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Dr Colin Kahl co-chaired the 17th meeting of India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington DC on May 17. The Ministry of Defence in a statement said, the two sides reviewed the progress made in furthering defence industrial cooperation and operationalising the India-

US Major Defence Partnership exercises and the ongoing and future cooperative activities in the Indian Ocean Region. The meeting also discussed promoting co-development and co-production in India including potential areas and projects where Indian and US Defence companies could work together. The two sides agreed to encourage both the private and government stakeholders to utilise the innovation ecosystems and promote Defence start-ups.

INTERNATIONAL

India and European Union Agree to Coordinate their Policies in Strategic Semi-Conductor Sector

India and the European Union will coordinate their policies with regards to the strategic semiconductor sector, with the aim of concluding a Memorandum of Understanding by September 2023. According to joint statement issued after the first India - EU Trade and Technology Council meeting held



in Brussels, the two sides will work towards bridging the digital skills gap, explore Mutual Recognition of certifications and make progress on the promotion of skilled professionals and exchange of talent. They will also enhance cooperation on IT and Telecoms Standardisation with a particular focus on promoting interoperable standards. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, visited Brussels to jointly co-chair the first Ministerial meeting of the India - EU Trade and Technology Council on 16th of this month.

India Launches Operation Karuna to Deliver Relief Aid to Cyclone-hit Myanmar

India launched Operation Karuna in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar. Three naval ships delivered relief material and aid to the affected areas, including food, water, medicines, and tents. The operation was carried out in coordination with the Myanmar government, and the Indian Navy worked closely with local authorities to ensure that the relief reached those in need. Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the efforts of the Indian Navy and expressed solidarity with the people of Myanmar. Operation Karuna demonstrates India's commitment to helping its neighbors in times of crisis.

SPORTS

Shooters Ganemat Sekhon and Gurjoat Singh's to Train in Italy



Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Mission Olympic Cell have approved proposal of Target Olympic Podium scheme shooters Ganemat Sekhon and Gurjoat Singh's proposals to train in Italy under foreign coaches Piero Genga and Ennio Falco respectively. Ganemat, who recently won mixed team

event Gold in the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, is currently ranked India's number one in the Women's Skeet event, would be spending 11 days training in Bari under Italian coach Genga while Gurjoat will head to Capua, to train at TAV Falco for 10 days. They both are preparing for the upcoming ISSF World Championship and Asian Games which is set to take place later this year.

(Source: AIR/PIB)