

News Digest

NATIONAL

Technology Should Be Used as an Instrument of Social Justice: President

President Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the nation's largest court premises, the High Court of Jharkhand, at Ranchi on May, 25. In another engagement, addressing the second convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Namkum, Ranchi, the President said, it is only



through research that new processes, products and designs can be developed that can help find innovative and sustainable solutions to emerging issues. She expressed confidence that higher educational institutions in India would enhance their research capabilities and produce talented students who would be technologically proficient and work for the welfare of citizens through innovations. She emphasised that technology should be used as an instrument of social justice.

Massive Infrastructure Investments Generate Employment Opportunities: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in a video message, addressed over 40,000 newly recruited individuals from various Assam government departments at the appointment letter distribution programme in Guwahati. Likewise, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah distributed appointment letters to new recruits at the Veterinary College Playground in Guwahati. The Prime Minister emphasised the substantial investments are being made in modernising India's infrastructure such as highways, expressways, railway lines, and ports, and that each new project provides employment and self-employment opportunities across various sectors.

Defence Minister Urges Industry Leaders to Propel India as a Technological Leader

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has called upon industry leaders to spearhead innovation and propel India from being an 'imitator' to a 'leader' in futuristic technologies. Addressing the annual session of the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi, the Defence Minister underscored India's current demographic dividend and the government's commitment to harnessing its full potential. He said that given the rapidly evolving security landscape and the global focus on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and genetics, it has become imperative for India not only to keep pace but also to make its mark in these domains.

Collaborative Research Significant in Effectively Mitigating, Responding to Global Health Crisis

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on May 26 addressed the BRICS Health Ministers Meeting 2023 on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva. Emphasising the significance of collaborative research in mitigating and responding effectively to global health crises, Dr. Mandaviya said, the pandemic has highlighted the need for increased collaboration and synergy in the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. He suggested that the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center can play a vital role in providing equitable access to safe, efficacious, and affordable vaccines, alongside sustainable vaccine research and development. Dr. Mandaviya shared India's commitment to eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by 2025. He said, India has implemented comprehensive initiatives focused not only on treatment but also on nutritional assistance through community support. The Health Minister outlined three core agendas for the transformation of the global healthcare landscape: Healthcare Emergency Preparedness, Equitable access to Medical Countermeasures, and Digital Health.

New CBI Director Assumes Office



IPS officer Shri Praveen Sood has taken charge as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He was previously the Director General of Police in Karnataka. With a distinguished career spanning approximately 37 years, Shri Sood has played a key role in enhancing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks & Systems and Interoperable Criminal Justice System networks in

Karnataka. In recognition of his exceptional service, he was awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2011 and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002.

INTERNATIONAL

Saudi Arabia and Canada Reconcile, Restore Full Diplomatic Relations

Saudi Arabia and Canada have reached an agreement to mend their diplomatic ties and appoint new ambassadors, bringing an end to a conflict that began in 2018. The decision to restore relations was made following discussions between Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok. The Saudi Foreign Ministry announced the resolution, highlighting the importance of engaging with Saudi Arabia as a significant global player. The Canadian government stressed the significance of productive engagement with Saudi Arabia, stating that strained relations and empty chairs do not serve the interests of either country

or promote human rights. They also acknowledged Saudi Arabia's assistance in evacuating Canadians in Sudan and their active involvement in seeking a resolution to the conflict in that region.

Indian Handicrafts Steal the Show at INDEX 2023 in Dubai World

Trade Center INDEX Dubai 2023, the prestigious international exhibition celebrating its 30th year, commenced at the Dubai World Trade Center on May 23. This highly acclaimed event showcases the latest trends and innovations in the interior furnishings world. With over 1,000 local and international companies in attendance, including trend-setting start-ups and renowned brands, INDEX Dubai is a buyer's paradise and a gathering of industry influencers. The India Pavilion takes center stage, featuring 29 member exporters of Indian Handicrafts.

ECONOMY

UDAN 5.1 Launched with Focus on Helicopter Routes



The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1, the latest version of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), to improve connectivity in remote areas. The version has been specifically designed for helicopter routes and aims to reduce airfare caps by 25% to make flying more affordable. Union Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia said that the scheme is a testament to two emerging phenomena in Indian civil aviation - first, a deeper democratisation of air travel with a focus on last-mile connectivity, second, a growing appetite for helicopters in aiding tourism.

Centre to Provide 30% Financial Support for Green Shipping Promotion

The Centre has pledged to provide substantial financial support, amounting to 30 percent, for the promotion of Green Shipping. This initiative aims to encourage eco-friendly practices in the shipping industry, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, announced that two prominent ports, namely Deendayal Port at Kandla and Chidambaranar Port at Tuticorin, will lead the development of Green Hydrogen hubs, highlighting the significance of clean energy in the maritime sector.

India is at the Forefront of Energy Transition: Union Minister R. K. Singh

India has advanced significantly in the field of renewable energy. As highlighted by Union Minister R. K. Singh, India had pledged to obtain 40% of its energy requirements from non-fossil fuels by 2030 but instead achieved this by 2021, nine years earlier. The Minister was addressing a plenary session on 'Renewables - Powering the Net Zero Agenda of India' at the CII Annual Session 2023 on May 25. While addressing, the Minister also pointed out that the country's demand is rapidly growing, and by 2030, energy consumption is expected to double. "Net Zero is important, but what is more important is that we ensure enough electricity for our growth," said the Minister.



SPORTS

Prime Minister Inaugurates 3rd Khelo India University Games in Lucknow



Virtually inaugurating the 3rd Khelo India University Games in Lucknow on 25th May 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that the campaign has played a key role in reviving the traditional sports of India and promoting scholarships to encourage such games. Union Minister of Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur observed that the emergence of talented grassroots athletes from across the nation has bolstered India's sporting prowess on the global stage. Over 4750 athletes from more than 200 universities are competing in 21 sporting competitions being held at different venues across Uttar Pradesh. The Games' mascot, named Jeetu, represents the Swamp Deer (Barasingha), the state animal of Uttar Pradesh.

International Jumping Meet: Murali Sreeshankar Secures Gold; Jeswin Aldrin Takes Silver

Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar clinched the gold medal, while compatriot Jeswin Aldrin settled for the silver at the prestigious International Jumping Meeting held in Kallithea, Greece. In an impressive display of athleticism, Sreeshankar successfully defended his title in the Men's long jump event, recording a season-best jump of 8.18 meters. Aldrin, the national record holder, secured the second spot with a commendable effort of 7.85 meters at this World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level competition.

ISSF World Cup: Indian Shooters Ganemat Sekhon and Darshna Rathore Make History

Indian shooters Ganemat Sekhon and Darshna Rathore made history by winning two senior individual medals in the women's skeet event at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup stage held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Ganemat Sekhon secured the silver medal, marking her second-ever individual world cup medal. Making her debut at the senior level, Darshna Rathore clinched the bronze, earning her first-ever individual world cup medal. In the men's skeet event, Mairaj Khan, Gurjoat Khangura, and Anantjeet Singh Naruka represented India but unfortunately fell short of qualifying for the finals.

(Source: AIR/PIB)