

# News Digest

## NATIONAL

### PM Distributes 51,000 Appointment Letters at Rozgar Mela

During the nationwide Rozgar Mela held on September 27, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually distributed approximately 51,000 appointment letters to newly selected government employees. He expressed confidence that their commitment to service would propel the nation toward achieving its ambitious goals. He urged the recruits to utilise technology effectively, contribute to India's growth, and prioritise teamwork while continually learning through the iGOT Karmyogi Portal. The Rozgar Mela was held at 46 locations nationwide.



### PM Launches Rs. 5200 Crore Development Projects in Gujarat for Education and Tribal Empowerment

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of vital school infrastructure projects, water supply initiatives, housing developments, and more across Gujarat. The transformation projects valued at over Rs. 5200 crores were launched in Bodeli and Chhotaudepur and included the 'Mission Schools of Excellence,' 'Vidya Samiksha Kendra 2.0. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of providing essential amenities such as schools, roads, housing, and piped water to ensure dignity for the less privileged, with a focus on empowering women.

### India Maintains 40th Position in Global Innovation Index

India has maintained its 40th position out of 132 economies in the 2023 Global Innovation Index (GII), marking a steady climb from 81st place in 2015. The nation's commitment to innovation in response to the pandemic and the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat have been pivotal. Factors contributing to this progress include India's robust knowledge base, thriving startup ecosystem, and collaborative efforts from government departments, such as Science and Technology, as well as organisations like the Atal Innovation Mission. NITI Aayog has played a vital role in fostering innovation, with a focus on areas like electric vehicles, biotechnology, and alternative energy sources. The GI, which serves as a crucial policy tool for governments globally, helping them assess their innovation-driven growth.

### India's First Lighthouse Festival Illuminates Goa's Historic Sites

The first ever 'Bharatiya Prakash Stambh Utsav' or Indian Lighthouse Festival opened at Fort Aguada in Panjim, Goa, on September 23, 2023. The festival, inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, aims to showcase India's rich maritime heritage by highlighting 75 iconic lighthouses. These light-

houses, once silent sentinels of the coastlines, will now become educational, cultural, and tourist hotspots. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways seeks to leverage the festival to develop these historic sites into world-class tourist destinations through Public- Private-Partnership. The event featured cultural exhibitions, maritime history sessions, classical performances, light and sound shows, and more.

### Ministry of Civil Aviation Initiates Workforce Expansion in DGCA, AERA, and AAI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched a series of initiatives to strengthen and expand the workforce in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), and Airports Authority of India (AAI). DGCA has established 416 new positions to enhance safety in the aviation sector, with 114 of these already filled. AERA has created 10 new posts to improve its regulatory functions, with 5 already occupied. AAI, focusing on air travel safety, has added 796 Air Traffic Controller positions to meet the growing demand for air travel.

### National Policy and Scheme for Pharma-MedTech Innovation Launched

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Health & Family Welfare, launched the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector in India along with the Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP). The initiatives aim to transform India into a high-value player in the global pharmaceutical market while emphasising quality, accessibility, and affordability. The scheme will encourage collaboration between academia, public, and private institutions, fostering innovation and research in priority areas.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference Emphasises Regional Cooperation and Stability



The Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC), Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS), and Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF)-2023, a three-day event organised by the Indian Army in collaboration with the US Army, successfully concluded in New Delhi. Attended by delegates from 30 countries, including Chiefs of Armies and Heads of Delegations, the event served as a platform for the exchange of ideas and discussions on security and mutual interests. During the opening ceremony, Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, emphasised the untapped potential of the Indo-Pacific region, underlining India's commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. The event sought to address critical themes such as sustainable peace and security, cooperation for enhanced interoperability, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

## ECONOMY

### Over 1.40 Lakh Applications Flood in for PM Vishwakarma Scheme in Ten Days



Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane, announced that the PM Vishwakarma scheme has seen an overwhelming response with more than 1.40 lakh applications pouring in within ten days of its launch. The scheme, aimed at uplifting socially and economically underprivileged Vishwakarma artisans, provides training, tool kits, and collateral-free loans, benefiting 18 types of artisans and craftsmen. The success reflects the scheme's crucial role in restoring the identity and boosting the production capacity of traditional artisans.

### Government Approves Rs. 46.74 Crores R&D Projects in Technical Textiles

The Ministry of Textiles has given the green light to 18 research and development projects with a total value of Rs 46.74 Crores, spanning various technical textiles sectors. During the 7th Meeting of the Mission Steering Group (MSG) of the National Technical Textiles Mission, chaired by Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, these projects were approved across segments such as Geotech, Protech, Indutech, Sustainable Textiles, Sportech, Smart E-Textiles, and Meditech. The projects are led by renowned institutions and research bodies, including BTRA, ATIRA, IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur, among others, exemplifying the importance of robust industry-institute collaboration for the indigenous development of technical textiles in India.

## SPORTS

### India Dominates Asian Games 2023 with Multiple Medals

India has been showcasing its sporting prowess at the Asian Games, amassing an impressive medal tally of 32 medals including 8 Gold, 12 Silver and 12 Bronze medals in disciplines as of September 29, 2023. In shooting, Indian athletes have demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork. The Men's 10m air rifle team secured a gold medal, while the Women's 25m pistol team also claimed the top spot on the podium. The Men's 10m air pistol team and the Men's 50m rifle 3 positions team added more gold medals to India's tally. The Women's 50m rifle 3 positions event saw Sift Kaur Samra excelling and clinching yet another gold medal for India. Palak Gulia also contributed to the shooting gold rush by securing the Women's 10m air pistol gold. Cricket enthusiasts rejoiced as the Indian Women's T20 Cricket team triumphed, securing a gold medal in the competition. The Equestrian Dressage Team showcased their expertise and teamwork, securing another gold medal for India.



(Source: AIR/PIB)