

News Digest

NATIONAL

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to Culminate with 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' Campaign

India's two-year-long celebration of 75 years of Independence - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- will culminate with the much-anticipated 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign. This campaign to be held from 09-30 August, aims to pay tribute to the courageous freedom fighters and inspirational men and women who actively participated in the nation's struggle for independence. One of the highlights of the program is the *Amrit Kalash Yatra* in which urns containing soil from every corner of the country will make their way to the National Capital, Delhi. This symbolic gesture aims to unite the essence of India's diversity in one place and create an Amrit Vatika, a garden of immortal memories, representing the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. To facilitate engagement and awareness, a dedicated portal, merimaatimeradesh.gov.in, has been launched.



मेरी माटी, मेरा देश
मिट्टी को नमन, वीरों का वंदन

Government Grants One-Year Extension to Cabinet Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba

The Government of India has approved another extension to Cabinet Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba for a period of one year. The extension will keep Shri Gauba, who is a 1982 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, in the position of Cabinet Secretary beyond the initial term, until at least the 30th of August 2023. This marks the third time that Shri Rajiv Gauba has been granted an extension to serve as Cabinet Secretary, one of the highest-ranking civil service positions in the Indian government.

Study in India Portal Launched for International Students



Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Union Pradhan and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar jointly inaugurated the Study in India (SII) Portal on August 03 in New Delhi. The dedicated website, in line with the National Education Policy, offers comprehensive information about Indian Higher Education Institutions, including details about academic facilities, research support, and other relevant information. Moreover, the portal will streamline the student registration and visa application process, providing an integrated solution for international students. The Portal is expected to foster greater engagement and collaboration between international and domestic students, bolstering India's reputation as an attractive and inclusive destination for higher education.

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Narcotics Control Bureau Busts India's Largest Dark-net LSD Cartel 'Zambada'

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has achieved a major success by busting the country's largest dark-net Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) cartel known as 'Zambada.' The NCB seized a record-breaking 29,013 LSD blots, along with 472 grams of MDMA powder and drug money amounting to Rs. 51,38,000/- from the arrested individuals. Remarkably, this is the second major Indian LSD cartel dismantled by the NCB within a span of three months.

Pharma Companies Given Deadline to Adopt Good Manufacturing Practices

The Centre has issued a directive to pharmaceutical companies with a turnover of more than Rs. 250 crore to implement Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) within the next six months. GMP ensures the production of quality drugs by regulating materials, methods, machines, and processes. Companies with a turnover below Rs. 250 crore have been granted 12 months to adopt GMP. The Union Health Ministry stated that this decision aims to enhance the quality of medicine production in the country. To retain status as a significant exporter of medicines to low and middle-income countries, WHO Good Manufacturing Practices certification is often required. Currently, only around 2,000 units in the MSME category possess this certification. Non-compliance with the adoption of GMP could result in penalties and license suspension.

INTERNATIONAL

Indian-American Engineer Shri Hirsh Vardhan Singh Joins 2024 US Presidential Race

Mr. Hirsh Vardhan Singh, an Indian-American engineer, has entered the race for the 2024 US presidential nomination as a Republican candidate, making him the third Indian-American in contention. Former South Carolina Governor Ms. Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Mr. Vivek Ramaswamy are the other such candidates vying for the



Republican nomination. This is not the first time Mr. Singh has sought public office; he previously ran unsuccessfully for the US Senate in 2020. With a background in the defence and aerospace industry, his current bid marks his fourth attempt at public service.

Morgan Stanley Upgrades India's Markets to 'Overweight' Category

Global brokerage firm Morgan Stanley has upgraded its view on India's markets, shifting from 'equal weight' to 'overweight' - predicting a 'long wave boom' for India's economy'. The rating indicates growing investor confidence in India's economic prospects and bodes well for capex (capital expenditure) and profit prospects. Consequently, Morgan Stanley has downgraded its rating on Chinese stocks to 'equal weight'. The firm's analysis points out that India has now secured the top rank as the most-preferred market among emerging markets, advancing from the sixth spot. This rise in preference for India is attributed to the inflow of foreign investments, macro stability, and a positive earnings outlook.



ECONOMY

Centre Imposes Import Restrictions on Laptops, Tablets & Personal Computers

The Centre has imposed strict restrictions on the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers with effect from August 03, 2023. According to a notification, importers will now require a valid licence for restricted imports to bring in these items. As an exception, the import of one laptop, tablet, and all-in-one personal computer is exempted from the Import Licensing requirement, even if they are purchased from e-commerce portals or received through post or courier. Additionally, there's an exemption for Research and Development, Testing, Repair, and return purposes, where up to 20 items per consignment can be imported. Furthermore, if the item is an essential part of a Capital Good, it will also be exempt from the new import restrictions.

Online Gaming & Casinos to Pay 28% GST from October 1

Effective from October 1 this year, a 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be imposed on casinos and online gaming in India. Union Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman made the announcement after the 51st GST Council Meeting in New Delhi. The tax will be levied on the face value of transactions. The decision comes after the GST Council's recommendation to amend the CGST Act 2017 and IGST Act 2017 to bring clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing, and online gaming.

Port Health Organisation Module Launched on National Logistics Portal (Marine)

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, introduced the Port Health Organisation (PHO) module on the Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine). The digital initiative aims to promote Ease of Doing Business (EODB) while ensuring disease surveillance, health inspections, and quarantine measures to safeguard citizens and port workers. The PHO module also strengthens the safety of port operations, contributing to a secure and efficient maritime ecosystem.

SPORTS

Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation Tournament



The Indian women's hockey team clinched victory in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation - International Tournament in Terrassa. They secured a 3-0 win over hosts Spain, remaining undefeated throughout the tournament. Vandana Katariya, Monika, and Udit scored the goals for India. Earlier, India defeated England 3-0, with Lalremsiam's hat-trick. India finished at the top of the standings

with five points from three matches, while England and Spain followed with four points each.

Indian Athletes Bring Home Nine Golds from Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships

Indian athletes gave stellar performances at the Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships, bagging a total of 14 medals, with an impressive nine golds. The 4x400 meter mixed relay and men's relay teams secured gold medals, while Jisna Mathew and Vithya Ramraj teamed up for a bronze in the women's relay. T Santhosh Kumar emerged victorious in the men's 400 meter hurdles, and javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena received the Best Male Thrower award.



(Source: AIR/PIB)