

# News Digest

## NATIONAL

- **Fifth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue Strengthens Defence and Strategic Ties**



The fifth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was successfully conducted in New Delhi, reaffirming the robust partnership between the two nations. The dialogue aimed at addressing a spectrum of cross-cutting issues, including defence, strategic and security ties, technology collaboration, and people-to-people exchanges. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar led the Indian delegation, while their American counterparts, Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, represented the United States. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a substantial focus on strengthening defence industrial cooperation, with the two sides exploring collaborative avenues for co-developing and co-producing defence systems, aiming to fortify ties in the defence technology domain. Discussions also delved into the progress of the India-US Defence Industrial Ecosystem, INDUS-X, launched earlier this year. Secretary Austin welcomed India's decision to achieve full membership in the Combined Maritime Forces, headquartered in Bahrain, underlining a shared commitment to regional maritime security. Sharing insights into the agenda of the meeting, Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar, stated that the talks were comprehensive and that the two sides exchanged perspectives on key regional issues such as the Indo-Pacific, South Asia, West Asia, and the conflict in Ukraine. The bilateral meeting concluded with the ministers drawing up a comprehensive agenda for future joint work, underscoring the commitment to further strengthen the multifaceted India-US partnership.

- **New Chief Information Commissioner Sworn In**

Shri Heeralal Samariya has assumed the charge as the new Chief Information Commissioner after being sworn in by President Smt. Droupadi Murmu on 06 November. Shri Samariya had previously held the role of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. Chief Information Commissioner Shri Heeralal Samariya administered the oath of office to Information Commissioners Anandi Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari.



- **Defence Ministry Approves Enhanced Maternity Benefits for Women in Armed Forces**

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has given the nod to an extension of rules regarding Maternity, Child Care, and Child Adoption Leaves for women soldiers, sailors, and air warriors in the Armed Forces, bringing them in line with their officer counterparts. The new rules ensure that the granting of such leaves is universally applicable to all women in the military, regardless of their rank. This initiative aligns with the ongoing paradigm shift initiated by the three Services, including soldiers, sailors, and air warriors, to enhance gender inclusivity in the military.

- **I&B Ministry Approves Groundbreaking Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has given the green light to a transformative Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023, enabling the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) to channelise public service campaign messages through Mobile Applications, OTT and Video on Demand space, expanding its reach to Podcasts and Digital Audio platforms. Recognising the influence of Social Media Platforms, the policy streamlines the process for placing government advertisements on these platforms and empowers CBC to empanel Digital Media Agencies to enhance outreach.

- **ANDT and NISST Forge Partnership to Offer Job-Oriented Training Programs with Hybrid Learning Options**

The Advanced Institute of Nondestructive Testing & Training (ANDT) and the National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST), established by the Ministry of Steel, have jointly unveiled comprehensive training and certification programs tailored for students and job aspirants. Aimed at cultivating essential skills for high-demand global industries, the initiative introduces an online entrance examination with registrations commencing on November 5 and concluding on November 30. The examination is scheduled for December 3. Classes are set to commence on January 8 2024, adopting a classroom format for students and a hybrid model (online theory and offline practical) for working professionals. The program, inclusive in its approach, targets candidates with qualifications ranging from 10th to M.Tech.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **New Island Emerges Near Japan's Ogasawara Island Chain Following Undersea Volcano Eruption**

A new island has emerged near Japan's Ogasawara island chain after an undersea volcano erupted late last month. The so far unnamed island is 100 metres in diameter and was formed by phreatomagmatic eruptions, which occur when magma interacts with seawater and produces an explosive burst of steam and ash. Ogasawara Island chain, also known as Bonin Islands, is a volcanic arc comprising more than 30 islands and islets. Some of them are still active. Formation of the new island is a rare phenomenon with the last record of such volcanic activity in 2013. Japan has the most active volcanoes in the world at 111.

- **Colombia Launches National Mission to Recover 200 Tons of Treasure from 1708 Shipwreck**

Colombia has declared a national mission to recover a shipwreck believed to contain a staggering 200 tons of gold, silver, and emeralds. The treasure, estimated to be worth US \$20 billion in current estimate, is set to be exhumed before the end of President Gustavo Petro's term in 2026. The Spanish ship sank off the coast of Cartagena in 1708 during a battle with the British. Termed the "Holy Grail of shipwrecks," a team of navy divers discovered the wreckage in 2015, lying 3100 feet underwater. Images of the treasure were captured in 2022, setting the stage for an ambitious recovery mission.

## ECONOMY

- **MEITY Launches Pan-India Startup Initiative Launchpad for Tech-Entrepreneurs**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has launched the pan-India startup initiative 'Launchpad for Tech-Entrepreneurs towards Accelerated Growth and Pioneering' (LEAP-AHEAD) in New Delhi. The Ministry said the initiative aims to promote investment, mentorship, and global connect for accelerated growth of young entrepreneurs to initiate and scale their ventures. It added that budding startups will also get a three-month intensive training and funding up to Rs 1 crore.



## SPORTS

- **37th National Games Conclude with Grand Ceremony in Goa**

Goa witnessed the spectacular closing ceremony of the 37th National Games 2023 on November 10 at the Shyama Prasad Indoor Stadium. The event was graced by the presence of Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Indian Olympic Association President Smt. P. T. Usha, and Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant. Addressing the audience, Vice President Dhankhar highlighted the crucial role of sports as a platform for showcasing talent and commended the government's efforts to provide top-notch coaching for athletes. Maharashtra clinched the Raja Bhalendra Singh trophy for the overall championship with an impressive tally of 228 medals, including 80 gold. Pranati Naik, Sanyukta Kate, and Shrihari Natraj were honored with the best athlete trophies. The torch for the 38th National Games was passed to Uttarakhand in the formal handover ceremony.



- **India Shines with Seven Medals at Asian Archery Championships in Bangkok**

India concluded its remarkable campaign at the Asian Archery Championships with a total of seven medals, including three gold, a silver, and three bronze. The final day witnessed a stellar performance from the Indian contingent in the compound event, securing five medals. In a thrilling Women's team final, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Gopichand Swami outshone Chinese Taipei, clinching the gold. Kaur added another feather to her cap by winning gold in the women's individual event after a competitive final against compatriot Vennam. The dynamic duo of Swami and Priyansh secured India's second gold of the day by defeating Thailand in the final of the Mixed Team event.



(Source: AIR/PIB)