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# News Digest

## NATIONAL

### Country Celebrates 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

On the occasion of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, a three-day convention was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh from 8th January -10th January 2023. In recognition to the outstanding achievements of non-resident Indians and people of Indian origin in their respective fields, as well as their contributions to the development of India, President Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred on 27 winners the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman - the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians by the Government of India. Referring the theme of this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention - "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal", the President said that in the next 25 years, India is going to embark on an ambitious journey of collective hard-work, sacrifice and intensive development to transform into a self-reliant world leader by 2047, when we would be celebrating the centenary of our independence.

### PM Flags Off World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the World's Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas on 13th January 2023 via video conferencing. MV Ganga Vilas will begin journey from Varanasi and travel around 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh, sailing across 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh. The PM also inaugurated the Tent City at Varanasi, conceptualized on the banks of the River Ganga to provide accommodation facilities to tourists. He also inaugurated the Haldia Multi-Modal Terminal in West Bengal and inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth more than Rs. 1000 Crore during the event.



### UIDAI Issues Guidelines for Offline Verification of Aadhaar Numbers

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has released guidelines for Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) to improve security measures for users and increase trust in using Aadhaar voluntarily for lawful purposes. OVSEs are organisations that conduct offline verification of an Aadhaar number holder for lawful purposes. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has stated that entities have been instructed to perform verification of Aadhaar only after obtaining explicit consent from the Aadhaar number holder. These entities are also required to be respectful towards residents and assure them of the security and confidentiality of their Aadhaar while conducting offline verification. UIDAI has also recommended that OVSEs use the QR code present on Aadhaar letters, e-Aadhaar, m-Aadhaar and Aadhaar PVC cards, instead of accepting Aadhaar in physical or electronic form as proof of identity. UIDAI has also informed OVSEs that they should not collect, use, or store the Aadhaar number of the resident after conducting offline verification of Aadhaar.

### RRR's "Naatu Naatu" Wins Golden Globes - Best Original Song

SS Rajamouli's blockbuster movie RRR has won the Golden Globes - Best Original Song for "Naatu Naatu", one of the two categories it was nominated in. It missed out in the Best Non-English Language Film. The award-winning track is composed by MM Keeravani and sung by Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj. Naatu Naatu beat out competition from songs such as Taylor Swift's "Carolina" and Lady Gaga's "Hold My Hand" to win the award.



### Integrated Food Security Scheme Renamed as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

The Government has renamed the Integrated Food Security Scheme as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY). The new scheme has been implemented starting from 1st January 2023 and will benefit more than 80 Crore people living in poverty. To ensure the welfare of beneficiaries and maintain consistency across the states, PMGKAY will provide free food



grains for the year 2023 to all Primary Household and Antodaya Ann Yojana beneficiaries, as per the entitlements under the National Food Security Act. The Central Government will be spending over Rs. 2 Lakh Crore in 2023 on food subsidies under the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes, to alleviate the financial burden of the poor.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka to Have Hindi Chair to Promote Hindi Language, Indian Culture

The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka has signed an MoU (memorandum of understanding) with Sabaragamuwa University in Sri Lanka to establish a Hindi Chair at the university. The MoU was signed by Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University, Prof. Udaya Rathnayake, as part of India's cultural outreach efforts through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The Hindi Chair aims to familiarise students with India, its history, culture, and to promote the use of Hindi by deputing Indian faculty members. The Indian Mission will award a gold medal to the best-performing student of the Hindi Chair.



## ECONOMY

### Cabinet Clears Rs. 2,600 Cr Incentive Schemes to Promote RuPay Debit Cards, UPI Transactions

The Union Cabinet has approved incentives worth Rs. 2,600 Crore to promote the use of RuPay debit cards and low-value Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions. This initiative is in line with the government's efforts to increase digital payments in India. Under the scheme, acquiring banks will receive incentives for promoting point-of-sale and e-commerce transactions using RuPay debit cards and low-value UPI transactions during the current fiscal year. As a result of various government initiatives, digital payments transactions have seen a year-on-year growth of 59% from Rs. 5,554 Crore in FY21 to Rs. 8,840 Crore in FY22. Similarly, UPI transactions have seen a year-on-year growth of 106% from Rs. 2,233 Crore in FY21 to Rs. 4,597 Crore in FY22. The government believes that this incentive scheme will help in building a robust digital payment ecosystem in the country.

### Cabinet Approves Setting Up of 3 National Level Multi-State Cooperative Societies

Moving towards the goal of Sahakar-se-Samridhhi through the inclusive growth model of cooperatives, the Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a national-level Multi-State Cooperative Export Society. The body will work as an umbrella organisation for the export of surplus goods and services and help unlock the export potential of Indian cooperatives in the global market. The Union Cabinet has also cleared a proposal for setting up of a national-level Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society - a nodal organisation for aggregation, procurement, branding and marketing of organic products. The body will help in unlocking demand and consumption of organic products in domestic and global markets. Furthermore, the Union Cabinet has also approved the setting up of a national-level Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society to help reduce the yield gaps and enhance productivity. The three national cooperative bodies will be set up under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.



## SPORTS

### Anahat Singh Clinches British Junior Open Squash Tournament

Indian squash prodigy Anahat Singh clinched the Girl's Under-15 Squash title at the most prestigious British Junior Open tournament in Birmingham. The 14-year-old defeated Sohaila Hazem of Egypt, 3-1 in the final. Despite the first set being closely contested, she took the lead and won the tournament. The British Junior Open is held in January every year in the UK where the best players from all over the world compete to win the coveted title. After a COVID-induced gap of two years, the tournament was held this year from 4th January to 8th January 2023.



(Source: AIR/PIB)

