

News Digest

NATIONAL

PM Hands Over 71,000 Appointment Letters in Third Tranche of Rozgar Mela

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 20th January 2023, distributed nearly 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in the various Central Government departments and organisations through video conferencing in New Delhi. This was the third tranche of Rozgar Mela. Earlier, the Prime Minister had distributed 71,000 appointment letters in November and 75,000 appointments in October last year. During a virtual interaction with the PM, the new recruits congratulated the Central Government for providing job opportunities and highlighted the importance of *Karmayogi Prarambh* module in developing and upgrading the skills among the new recruits.

EC Announces Single-Phase Poll Schedule for Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura Assemblies

The Election Commission has announced single phase Assembly elections in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura. For the 60-member Tripura Assembly, the polling will be held on 16th February 2023, while for the 60-member Meghalaya and Nagaland Assemblies, voters will go to polls on 27th February 2023. The counting of votes will take place on 2nd March 2023 for all these States.

75th Army Day Celebrations held in Bengaluru

Showcasing the valour and adventurous facets of the Indian Army, 'Shaurya Sandhya' was organised in Bengaluru on the occasion of 75th Army Day on 15th January 2023. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh commended the Armed Forces for ensuring the territorial integrity of the country since independence,



termining their determination in dealing with challenging situations as unwavering. While Shri Rajnath Singh lauded the Armed Forces for adapting to the constantly-evolving times and dealing with the challenges with poise, patience and bravery, he exhorted them to further develop their capabilities and implement the lessons learnt from the ever-evolving global security scenario, including the Ukrainian conflict. He stated that militaries across the world are actively engaged in modernisation and are working on new ideas, technologies and their organisational structure. He urged the Indian Armed Forces to work on their strategies, tactics and policies keeping the future challenges in mind.

PM Addresses First Batch of Agniveers

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated *Agniveers* on being the pioneers of path-breaking *Agnipath* Scheme. Virtually addressing the first batch of *Agniveers*, the PM discussed challenges of new fronts of contactless warfare and observed that technologically-advanced soldiers will play a key role in our armed forces. The PM also discussed how *Agnipath* scheme will also empower women, says that he looks forward to seeing women *Agniveers* in all three forces. He said that in the 21st century, the way wars are fought is changing. Discussing the new fronts of contactless warfare and challenges of cyber warfare, he said technologically-advanced soldiers will play a key role in our armed forces. He added the current generation of youth especially has this potential, and so the *Agniveers* will play a leading role in our armed forces in the times to come.

43 StartUps, Incubators, & Accelerators Conferred National StartUp Awards 2022

The Startup India Innovation week culminated with felicitation of Winners of National StartUp Awards 2022 on National StartUp Day on 16th January 2023. As many as 43 StartUps were presented awards, while two incubators and an accelerator were also felicitated for their contribution in their respective sectors. As many as 2,667 applications were received from StartUps, incubators and accelerators across 31 States and Union Territories. Karnataka led the charts as 18 StartUps based in the state emerged winners, followed by Maharashtra (9 winners) and Delhi (4 winners). The Awards acknowledge StartUps and enablers who have been instrumental in revolutionizing the development story of India and in demonstrating exceptional capabilities not just in terms of financial gains but also for the measurable impact on society.

IGNITED MINDS

National Startup Awards 2022

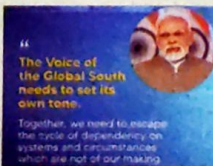
STATE-WISE LIST OF WINNERS



INTERNATIONAL

India Hosts 'Voice of Global South Summit' with Virtual Participation of 120+ Countries

India hosted the first 'Voice of Global South Summit' on 12th January 2023. Addressing the inaugural session, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "We developing countries are also concerned about the increasing fragmentation of the international landscape. These geopolitical tensions distract us from focusing on our development priorities. They cause sharp swings in international prices of food, fuel, ferti-



zers and other commodities. To address this geopolitical fragmentation, we urgently need a fundamental reform of the major international organisations, including the United Nations Security Council and the Bretton Woods Institutions. These reforms should focus on giving voice to the concerns of the developing world, and reflect the realities of the 21st Century. India's G20 Presidency will attempt to voice the views of the Global South on these important issues." The Summit saw the participation of more than 120 developing countries - the largest-ever virtual gathering of the Global South.

India Extends Assurance towards Debt Restructuring of Crisis-Hit Sri Lanka

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar has said India will stand by Sri Lanka in its hour of need to overcome the challenges it currently faces. He added that India has taken proactive steps and extended financial assurances to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) without waiting for the other creditors. He said this during his official visit to Sri Lanka. "With this announcement, India has become the first creditor nation to extend assurance towards restructuring the debt of Sri Lanka as the island nation makes efforts to unlock a bridge financing package from IMF."

UNSC Declares LeT's Abdul Rehman Makki as Global Terrorist

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has listed Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist. Makki is the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. The development comes after India last year slammed China for blocking the proposal to list Makki under the Sanctions Committee. Makki, who has been involved in raising funds, recruiting and radicalizing the youth to plan attacks in India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, has already been listed as a terrorist by India and the United States. Makki has been in various leadership roles within LeT.



68 Killed as Nepal's Yeti Airlines Plane Crashes into River Gorge

68 people lost their lives in a plane crash in Nepal's Pokhara on 15th January 2023. According to reports, the ill-fated Yeti Airlines flight bound for Pokhara from Kathmandu was close to landing when it crashed into a river gorge on the bank of the Seti River. A total of 72 passengers, including four crew members, were onboard at the time of the crash. According to the Nepal Civil Aviation Authority, the passengers include five Indians, 53 Nepalese, four Russians, one Irishman, one Australian, one Argentinian, two Koreans, and one French citizen.

ECONOMY

Network Planning Group Gives Go Ahead to 3 GatiShakti Projects

The Network Planning Group, NPG, constituted under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has examined and recommended three projects for implementation. These three projects include a 4-Lane Accessed Controlled Greenfield Highway as part of the Nagpur-Vijaywada corridor, new rail connectivity projects connecting Barejadi Nandje to Sanand in Gujarat, and Barbil, Barsuan and Nayagrah in Odisha. The 4-lane project will improve connectivity to 21 economic nodes, such as mega food parks, fishing seafood clusters and pharma clusters. The proposed alignment of the highway is also estimated to increase average speed from 40 kmph to 80 kmph, reduce travel time from 17 hours to 8 hours and create 11.9 crore employment opportunities after completion. Regarding the Barejadi Nandje to Sanand railway project, the NPG observed that construction of a 4th line is essential to achieve overall operational efficiency between the Viramgam-Sabaramati-Ahmedabad-Geratpur sections as the Ahmedabad station has been one of the busiest stations on the Western Railway Corridor for freight movement. Meanwhile, the proposed Barbil-Barsuan-Nayagrah Railway line, covering a distance of 181 km, will connect major iron mines in the region and boost steel trade in Eastern India. The proposed alignment will see 15 new stations being built in the vicinity of major mining sights such as Sundergarh and Keonjhar.

Domestic Air Passenger Traffic Grows by 47.05% in 2022 Compared to 2021

Domestic Air passengers' traffic registered an annual growth of 47.05 percent during the last year in comparison to the corresponding period of January to December 2021. In a report, Directorate General of Civil Aviation stated that passengers carried by domestic airlines during January to December 2022 were 1232.45 lakhs as against 838.14 lakhs during the corresponding period of 2021. The DGCA said, a total of 408 passenger related complaints had been received by the scheduled domestic airlines during last month. The major reasons for complaints are flight problems and refunds.



SPORTS

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni Win Bangkok Open Doubles Title

In the finals of the Bangkok Open 2023 on 14th January, top seeds Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni registered a thundering win in the doubles final, with their reputation enhanced, as they recorded a 2-6, 7-6(7), [14-12] victory over Christopher Rungkat and Akira Santillan in the \$80,000 Challenger tennis tournament. The champion team collected 75 ATP points and \$4,645. The runners-up won 50 points and \$2,700. It was the sixth Challenger title as a pair for Yuki and Saketh who had won five last year. With both of them in the top-100 of the world doubles rank, Yuki and Saketh would aim to break into the ATP tournaments and Grand Slam events this season.



(Source: AIR/PIB)