

News Digest

NATIONAL

Amity University
Basant, Kirti - 700128

G-20 Agree on Collectively Finding Solutions to Challenges in Education



The first G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting concluded in Chennai on 02 February 2023 with 80 delegates from 30 countries and international organizations in attendance. The major outcome of the 2-day conclave was consensus on collaboration among Universities across the globe for enhancing technology-enabled learning. Members expressed their willingness to collectively work towards finding long term sustainable solution to similar educational challenges being faced by member countries placed in different geographies. The meet also discussed ways and means to ensure inclusive, equitable, relevant and quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. There would be three supplementary meetings of the educational group before the wide consensus will be arrived in the last meeting scheduled to be held in June this year.

Recruitment to Railway Management Service to be done through CSE 2023

Ministry of Railways in consultation with UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) and DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) has decided that recruitment to Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) will be done through the Civil Services Examination to be conducted by the UPSC for the year 2023.

MoHUA to Develop Waste-to-Wealth Plants in Major Cities

As part of furthering the 'Green Growth' agenda of the Union Budget, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Engineers India Limited to develop waste-to-energy and bio-methanation projects in cities with a population of million plus. The MoHUA has decided to set up large-scale solid waste processing facilities in such cities. There are 59 million plus cities in India like Lucknow, Kanpur, Bareilly, Nasik, Thane, Nagpur, Gwalior, Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore to name a few. For management of organic/wet fraction of municipal solid waste bio-methanation plants have been proposed in these million plus cities. EIL will assist and handhold the cities in developing such projects for larger quantum of waste integrating circularity in waste management. The initiative will result in additional processing capacity of 15,000 TPD (tonnes per day) for bio-methanation and 10,000 TPD for waste-to-energy respectively.



Primary Agriculture Credit Societies to be Revamped as Multi-Purpose Service Providers

The Ministry of Cooperation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited to revamp Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and make them multi-purpose bodies (in line with Common Services Centres) that provide about 20 services including water distribution, storage and Bank Mitra. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah described this agreement as a win-win situation for all as it will not only ensure seamless delivery of essential services but will also increase employment opportunities in rural areas. A provision has been made in this year's Union Budget to create two lakh PACS in the next five years by enabling a multi-purpose PAC in every Panchayat.

INTERNATIONAL

SCO Film Festival Concludes in Mumbai; Marathi Film 'Godavari' Bags Best Film Award

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Film Festival came to a close on 31st January 2023 in Mumbai, with 58 films from 14 countries being showcased in the biggest edition of the festival to date. Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Anurag Thakur expressed optimism that the exchange of ideas will lead to further cooperation, co-production, and co-creation in the field of cinema in the SCO region and noted the significant role of cinema in promoting socio-cultural progress in the



region. Marathi film "Godavari" directed by Nikhil Mahajan was adjudged the best film. Other award winners included Rao Xiaozhi for best director for the Chinese film "Homecoming", Askar Ilyasov for best male actor in "Paralympian", Rano film "Shodiyeva for best female actor in "The Fate of a Woman", and a special Jury award for the Russian film "Don't Bury Me Without Ivan". The jury also awarded special mentions to the Kyrgyz film "The Road to Eden" and the Tajik film "Fortune".

US, India to Collaborate on Semiconductor Development, Defence Production

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval recently visited Washington to co-chair the US meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) with his US counterpart Jake Sullivan at the White House. ICET aims to position the two countries as trusted technology partners by building technology value chains and support the co-development and co-production of items. During the meeting, United States backed the growth of a fabrication ecosystem in India for semiconductors and encouraged joint ventures and partnerships for mature technology nodes and advanced packaging. The two countries have agreed to constitute a task force comprising India's Semiconductor Mission, India Electronics Semiconductor Association and the US Semiconductor Industry Association to conduct a readiness assessment and advance the development of semiconductor ecosystems. India and the US have also agreed to focus on joint production of key defense items of mutual interest by creating a quantum coordination mechanism with participation from industry and academia of both sides. A new Innovation Bridge will connect defence startups in both countries. Meanwhile, the US has committed to a swift review of General Electric's license application to produce jet engines in India for the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft. A public-private dialogue covering 5G, 6G and Open Radio Access Network (ORAN) will be initiated using trusted sources.

ECONOMY

Union Budget 2023-24 Praised as Progressive, Prudent, and Growth Oriented

Industry leaders and investors have welcomed the Union Budget 2023-24, calling it a progressive, prudent, and growth-oriented budget. FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) President Subhrakant Panda noted that the budget will place India as a global leader in growth. CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) President Sanjiv Bajaj dubbed the budget as growth-oriented, citing the 33% increase in public capital expenditure as a job creator. ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry) President Sumant Sinha applauded the budget's impact on the ease of doing business and the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Congress party praised the budget's tax cuts, with MP Karti Chidambaram calling it a welcome step. MP Shashi Tharoor also praised some aspects of the budget but expressed concern over the lack of mentions of MGNREGA, unemployment, and inflation.

Visit India Year 2023 Initiative to Promote Tourism Launched

Minister of Tourism Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched the Visit India Year 2023 initiative and unveiled its logo in a ceremony held on 31st January 2023, marking the start of the country's efforts to promote tourism. The launch comes as India has assumed the presidency of the G20 and aims to showcase its rich cultural heritage to over 100,000 foreign delegates expected to visit in 2023. Shri Reddy stated that each foreign delegate of the G20 will serve as a brand ambassador for India's culture, heritage, and tourist destinations and that his Ministry is working with Indian missions and other stakeholders to create a welcoming environment for foreign visitors.



SPORTS

Indian Women's Cricket Team Claims Maiden U-19 T-20 World Cup Victory

In a stunning show of talent and determination, India's U-19 women's cricket team claimed their first-ever ICC title by defeating England in the final of the U-19 T-20 World Cup. India's dominant performance included a seven-wicket victory, with the team successfully chasing a target of 68 in just 14 overs. India's bowling attack, led by pacer Titus Sadhu and leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, set the tone for the victory with a clinical display that blew away England's batting line-up. The win not only cements India's dominance at the U-19 level but also marks a proud moment for the country as the women's team lift their first-ever World Cup in the sport. Deepthi Sharma was the leading wicket-taker in the Tri series. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a cash reward of Rs 5 crores rupees for the Indian women's team for winning the World Cup.



Germany Clinches FIH Men's Hockey World Cup

Germany defeated defending champions Belgium 5-4 in a thrilling shootout to win the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Germany scored three goals in the second half to overcome a 0-2 halftime deficit and secure their third World Cup title, joining Australia and the Netherlands as three-time champions. The match saw several exciting moments, with Germany displaying their mental strength and never-say-die attitude to come out on top.



(Source: AIR/PIB)