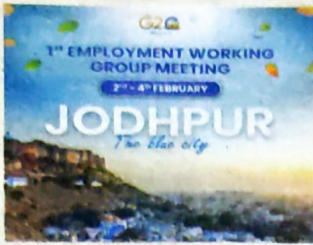


News Digest

NATIONAL

G20 Countries Commit to Addressing Global Skills Gaps at Jodhpur Meeting

The 1st G20 Employment Working Group concluded in Jodhpur with a positive outlook as all member countries showed interest and commitment towards addressing the global skills gaps, gig & platform economy, and sustainable financing of social security. The three-day meeting, led by India's Ministry of Labour and Employment, aimed to address priorities in labour, employment, and social issues for strong, sustainable, and job-rich growth. The meeting covered various topics, including strategies for global skills and qualifications harmonisation, the current and emerging challenges in social protection, and initiatives for enhancing social security in participating countries.



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India Energy Week 2023: Country Showcases its Energy Sector Evolution

India Energy Week 2023 concluded on 8th February in Bengaluru, attracting more than 35 foreign ministers, 500 speakers, 30,000 energy professionals, 8,000 delegates and 700 exhibitors from over 100 countries. The Strategic Conference was successful in bringing together key stakeholders from the integrated energy value chain to share insights on strategies and trends impacting global energy markets, while the Executive Sessions convened leaders at the forefront of business operations to share best practices in pursuing the 'Net-Zero' agenda. The Technical Conference offered engineers and project managers exposure to latest industry expertise. India utilised the event to highlight its initiatives in the energy sector, including efforts to ensure energy security in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's pledge to achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2070. The event also saw the launch of the Global International Biofuel Alliance and several agreements and MoUs, leading to further strengthening of international collaborations and partnerships in the energy sector.



Y20 Inception Meet Prepares Youth Agenda for G20 Summit

The three-day inception meeting of Y20 (Youth 20) engagement group concluded in Guwahati with the launch of the White Paper on five themes that include (i) Future of Work: Industry 4.0 (ii) Innovation and 21st century (iii) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (iv) Peace Building and Reconciliation, (v) Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance, and Health, Wellbeing & Sports. The themes present an opportunity for the youth to contribute to the development agenda of G20. During the meeting, 21 foreign delegates and 200 Indian delegates participated in the main events, which saw invigorating ideation and spirited dialogues, 10,000 youth in around 36 colleges and over 10 lakh students from around 4000 schools participated in the events leading up to the inception meeting.

ISRO's SSLV Poised to Make Small Satellite Launches More Accessible & Cost-Effective

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved another milestone with the successful launch of the second developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D2). The launch took place on 10th February 2023 at 9:18 am from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh and was a complete success, with the precise placement of the Earth Observation Satellite, Janus-1 and Chennai-based SpaceKidz's AzaadiSAT-2 into their intended orbits. According to ISRO, the SSLV is designed with low cost, low turnaround time, and flexibility in mind. With its modular and unified systems, and standard interfaces for production by the industry, the SSLV is poised to make satellite launches more accessible and cost-effective. The successful launch of the SSLV-D2 marks another step forward in India's growing space program, and demonstrates the country's commitment to advancing space technology and exploration.



IEEE C-DOT Launch Certified Telecom Expert Program to Bridge Skills Gap in Telecom

The Ministry of Communications has launched the "IEEE C-DOT Certified Telecom Expert Program (ICCTEP)" with the goal of bridging the skills gap in the telecom industry. The platform will offer certifications in 5G, cyber security, and emerging areas of telecom like 6G and quantum communication. To be jointly executed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the ICCTEP program is tailored to provide quality learning in diverse areas of telecom, with a focus on building skills and accelerating the participation of students, academia, technologists, industry, start-ups, and other stakeholders in developing globally-competitive telecom technologies and solutions.

All Medical Colleges to Have Integrative Medicine Centre: Ayush Minister

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Ayush jointly inaugurated the Integrative Medicine Centre at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi on 6th February 2023. This inauguration marks a significant step in the government's

efforts to propagate wellness and promote integrative medicine in India. Union Minister of Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal stated that the government is working towards setting up a separate wing for integrative medicine in all medical colleges and hospitals and establishing a separate department for integrative medicine in all AIIMS for research purposes.

Khadi Weavers Get Wage Hike

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently took a historic decision to increase the wages for khadi cotton weavers. During its 694th meeting held in Kutch, Gujarat on January 30, 2023, the commission, under the leadership of Shri Manoj Kumar, decided to raise wages from Rs 7.50 per hank to Rs 10 per hank. This increase is expected to boost the monthly income of the artisans by 33% and 10% for weavers. The decision will take effect from April 1, 2023. Shri Manoj Kumar made the announcement while emphasising the importance of supporting the khadi workers at the village level to increase production, thereby boosting the industry and generating more employment opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL

Operation Dost: India Scrambles Medical, Rescue Teams to Quake-Hit Turkiye, Syria

As part of 'Operation Dost' to help earthquake-affected parts of Turkiye and Syria, India has dispatched tons of relief materials and medical supplies. India has also deployed field hospitals and rescue personnel of the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to help people injured due to the devastation caused by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the two countries on 6th February 2023. The massive quake destroyed buildings killing thousands of people, trapped an undetermined number of people, and left millions critically injured and homeless.



Nepal's Apex Court Quashes Writ Demanding Scrapping of 1947 Tripartite Treaty on Gurkha Recruitment

The Supreme Court of Nepal has scrapped the Writ petition demanding cancellation of the 1947 Tripartite Treaty that facilitates recruitment of Nepali citizens in the armed forces of India and the UK. On June 9, 2017, the British Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation filed a petition in the apex court against the Treaty. Padam Limbu, chairman of the organisation, had filed the Writ Petition arguing that it was unequal. Nepal's apex court bench quashed the Writ Petition, but has issued a Mandamus to the government to review the tripartite treaty.

ECONOMY

Connectivity Boost for NE Region with Pawan Hans Helicopter Service

Pawan Hans Ltd. commenced its helicopter services on six routes in the state of Assam on 8th February 2023. These new helicopter services launched under the RCS UDAN scheme will provide connectivity on the "Dibrugarh-Jorhat-Tezpur-Guwahati-Tezpur-Jorhat-Dibrugarh" network. The Helicopter services will also play a key role in promoting Tourism activities in the State. The scheme aims to lend special impetus to providing air connectivity to remote places of the North-Eastern States which have inadequate rail and road connectivity.



India Ranks 5th in Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021

India's national accreditation system, under the Quality Council of India (QCI), has been ranked 5th in the world in the latest Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) for the year 2021. The GQII ranks 184 economies based on their quality infrastructure (QI). The Chairperson of QCI, Jaxay Shah, said that the ranking is a sign of a "New India" and that QCI is committed to making "Made in India" a trusted brand. The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, tweeted that India's ranking in the world's top five accreditation systems is key to growth and innovation.



SPORTS

Ladakh Development Council Conducts U-14 Ice Hockey Training Camp

In the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Under-14 Ice Hockey Training Camp concluded at Khree Sultan Choo Ice Hockey Stadium in Kargil on 9th February 2023. More than 250 players were given basic skills of Ice Skating and Ice Hockey training during the 15-day camp. Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council) Feroz Ahmad Khan said that after the formation of the Union Territory, the sports sector has seen potential growth, particularly in winter sports. Ice Hockey has become one of the most popular sports and has made a name for the newly formed UT all over the country. Two national-level Ice Hockey Rinks are under construction in the district and will be completed by next year. Similar Ice Hockey Rinks will also be developed at a village level. (Source: AIR/PIB)

