

News Digest

NATIONAL

President Approves Padma Awards, Gallantry Awards

On the eve of 74th Republic Day, President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu approved conferment of 106 Padma Awards including 3 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri Awards. 16 of the awardees are women and 7 posthumous awardees. Padma Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz - art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. The President has also approved 412 Gallantry awards and other defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others. These include six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous, 15 Shaurya Chakras, including two posthumous, one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 92 Sena Medals, including four posthumous, one Nau Sena Medal (Gallantry) (posthumous), seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 29 Param Vishist Seva Medals, three Uttam Yuth Seva Medals, one Bar to Abi Vishist Seva Medal, 52 Abi Vishist Seva Medals, 10 Yuth Seva Medals, four Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 36 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), two Bar to Nau Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty) (posthumous), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), including three posthumous, 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), two Bar to Vishist Seva Medal and 126 Vishist Seva Medals.

President Confers Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2023 on 11 Children

President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2023 on 11 children at an award ceremony held in New Delhi on 23rd January 2023. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that some of the award winners have shown such indomitable courage and valour at such a young age that she was not only surprised but also overwhelmed to know about them. Their examples are inspirational for all children and youth. The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar are being conferred upon children in the age group 5 - 18 years, for their excellence in six categories - Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Scholastic, Social Service and Sports. This year, awards were presented in the categories of Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Social Service and Sports.



Indian Navy Gets Fifth 'Make in India' Scorpene Submarine Vagir

In a major boost to Indian Navy's 'Project 75' and 'Make in India' initiative, the fifth stealth 'Scorpene' class Submarine INS Vagir was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 23rd January 2023 at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. Six Scorpene class submarines are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. INS Vagir would form part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet and would be another potent part of the Command's arsenal. The Scorpene class submarines are extremely potent platforms having advanced stealth features and are also equipped with both long range guided torpedoes as well as anti-ship missiles. These submarines have a state of the art SONAR suite and sensor suite permitting outstanding operational capabilities. INS Vagir will give a significant fillip to the Indian Navy's operational might and serve as a potent deterrent for any adversary.



Visakhapatnam Railway Station Gets Highest 'Platinum' Rating for Green Initiatives

Visakhapatnam railway station of East Coast Railway has been awarded the 'Green Railway Station Certification with highest rating of Platinum' by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts thereby reducing the adverse environmental impact. Visakhapatnam secured 82 out of 100 points in six environmental categories. The Environment Directorate of Indian Railways, with the support of the IGBC, has developed the Green Railway Station rating system. It addresses national priorities such as water conservation, handling of waste, energy efficiency, reduced use of fossil fuel, lesser dependence on usage of virgin materials and health and well-being of occupants.

India International Science Festival Concludes in Bhopal

The India International Science Festival (IISF-2022) was held in Bhopal with the theme, 'Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science Technology and Innovation' from 21st -24th January 2023. The four-day festival witnessed 15 important events like the 'Student Science Village' where 2500 students participated and were exposed to new technologies and innovations. In the 'Mega Start-ups Expo', 1500 young scientists brainstormed on emerging technology in all areas including Biotechnology. 'Face-to-Face with New Frontiers in Science' was a platform for

short discussion-based sessions of students/ researchers with people par excellence in various disciplines of science and technology. A show themed 'New Age Technologies' showcased cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, Blockchain, Digital Currency Industry, 4.0, 5G/6G, Quantum Computing, Semiconductor Chip Design, Drone Technologies, Green Energies, Space Technologies, Sensor Technologies, Systems and Synthetic Biology.

India International Science Festival 2022

Marching towards Amrit Kaal

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



INTERNATIONAL

India Issues Notice to Pakistan over Material Breach of Indus Waters Treaty

India has issued a notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). In the notice conveyed on the 25th January 2023 through respective Commissioners for Indus Waters, India has sought to make certain modifications in the treaty while calling on Pakistan to enter into intergovernmental negotiations, within 90 days, and rectify the 'material breach' of the IWT. The action was necessitated as Pakistan has refused to discuss and resolve the issue of India's Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects for the last five years, despite India's efforts.

India, Egypt Vow to Expand Ties with USD 12 B Trade Target, Defence Cooperation

India and Egypt have agreed to expand ties in areas of defence and security, trade and counter-terror cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi held wide-ranging talks on 25th January 2023. The two sides were unanimous in their view that terrorism is the most serious security threat to humanity and that they agreed that concrete measures are needed to end the scourge. The two sides inked five agreements providing for cooperation in areas of culture, IT, cyber security, youth matters and broadcasting. The two sides have decided to take the bilateral trade to USD 12 billion in next five years.



ECONOMY

Ministry of Ayush and ITDC to Jointly Promote Medical Value Travel in India

Ministry of Ayush has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) to work together for the promotion of Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine. According to the MoU, Ministry of Ayush will identify tourist circuits, where there is immense scope to promote Medical Value Travel and provide all the technical knowhow from time to time to ITDC. The ITDC, on its part, will include historical heritage sites of Indian systems of medicine in tourist destinations under "Knowledge Tourism" and may develop films/literature useful to tourists. It will explore establishing Ayurveda and Yoga centre in the hotels run by ITDC. Meanwhile, a Joint Working Group (JWG) co-chaired by representatives from the ministry and ITDC will also identify the best practices adopted by Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand etc. to promote themselves as a preferred destination for Medical Value Travel. According to the report 'The Global Wellness Economy: Looking beyond COVID' by the Global Wellness Institute (GWI), the Global Wellness economy will grow at 9.9% annually. Ayush based healthcare & Wellness economy is estimated to grow to \$70 billion by 2025.



SPORTS

Olympic Council of Asia Opens Doors for Russian, Belarusian Athletes to Asian Games 2023

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has invited athletes of Russia and Belarus to take part in the 2023 Asian Games following the International Olympic Committee's decision to allow the admission of Russian competitors to international tournaments under strict conditions, which includes not supporting the conflict in Ukraine. The next Asian Games is slated to be held in the Chinese city of Hangzhou from 23rd September to 8th October 2023. The OCA said in a statement that it believes in the unifying power of sport and that all athletes, regardless of their nationality or the passport they hold, should be able to compete in sports competitions.



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA

(Source: AIR/PIB)