

News Digest

NATIONAL

Y20 Consultation Meeting Emphasises on Specialised Universities for Specialised Workforce

The sixth and concluding session of the Y20 consultation meeting was held in Symbiosis International University, Pune on the 11th March, on the theme- 'Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation & 21st Century Skills.' Through the discussions, the speakers emphasised that the advent of specialised universities will now result in specialised workforce.

While the Indian diaspora is incredibly blessed with its adaptive features, a little push in terms of skill development in the changing scenario would open new doors for the generations to come. The speakers included the Chair and Track Chair from the Y20 Secretariat, officials from Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and other special invitees, 700 student delegates from Indian and G20 countries of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the USA. Besides the aforementioned countries, participants also included students from Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Togo, Yemen, Afghanistan, Botswana, Gambia, Chad, Lesotho, Nepal, Bhutan among others.

DAC Approves Procurement of Weapons Worth Rs 70,500 Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved proposals worth Rs 70,500 crore for buying different weapon systems for the Indian defence forces. A meeting of the DAC chaired by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was held in New Delhi on 16th March 2023 during which acquisition proposals worth Rs 56,000 crores were approved for the Indian Navy. The proposals pertain to acquisition of indigenous BrahMos missiles, Shakti Electronic Warfare systems and Utility Helicopters-Maritime, among others. The weapons and equipments will enhance the maritime strike capabilities, anti-surface warfare capabilities, and will multiply the operational readiness of the Indian Navy in the domain of search and rescue operations, casualty evacuation and humanitarian assistance disaster relief. The total Acceptance of Necessity granted for Capital Acquisition in the current financial year is over Rs 2.71 lakh crore, out of which 99 per cent of the procurement will be sourced from Indian industries.



'herSTART' Platform to Promote Women Entrepreneurs

Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, announced the launch of a new platform called 'herSTART' during the Bharat Startup Summit and Expo 2023. The platform is designed to encourage and promote women-led startups and entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, that the government will provide a monthly allowance of Rs 20,000 for up to one year to women-led startups. The minister emphasised the importance of startups in India's economy and the increasing role of women in entrepreneurship, stating that at least 36 unicorns and potential unicorns having at least one woman founder or co-founder. The government is committed to creating an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs through initiatives, schemes, networks, and communities.

herSTART ACCELERATOR

Ex Agniveers to Get 10% Reservation in CISF

Union Home Ministry has announced a 10 percent reservation for former Agniveers in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). This announcement comes a few days after the Ministry had announced a similar 10 percent reservation for former Agniveers in the Border Security Force (BSF). As per the notification, the upper age limit for candidates of the first batch of Agniveers shall be relaxed by up to five years, whereas the other batches shall get age relaxation by up to three years.

Application & Approval Processes Simplified for Horticulture Subsidy Scheme

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) has introduced a simplified process for filing and approval of applications under its back-end capital investment subsidy schemes for commercial horticulture and cold chain infrastructure. Under these schemes, subsidy from 35 to 50 percent is provided for various components as per prescribed cost norms. The new system will cut down sanction time from 6 to 8 months to less than 100 days, which will greatly help the farming community. The new scheme design has come under effect from 15th March.



Centre Pushing for Recognition of Tourism Sector as 'Industry' by all States & UTs

The Centre has advised the State governments and Union Territory administrations to grant 'industry' status to Tourism. This would help in pushing hospitality projects in the country. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Tourism Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy said that industry status to the tourism sector would make it more competitive. It would also help reduce the cost of hospitality projects which are capital intensive and also encourage further investment. Only 10 States and one Union Territory have accorded 'industry' status to the Tourism sector so far. They are Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan, Punjab, Goa, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura.

INTERNATIONAL

US Senate Confirms Eric Garcetti as Ambassador to New Delhi

The US Senate confirmed President Joe Biden's nominee Eric Garcetti as ambassador to New Delhi on 15th March 2023. Senators backed Garcetti by 52-42, as seven Republicans joined the majority of Democrats in supporting Garcetti. The position of ambassador to India had been vacant since January 2021.



US Formally Recognises McMahon Line as India-China Boundary

The US has formally recognised the McMahon Line as the international boundary between India's Arunachal Pradesh and China, and rejected Beijing's claim that the northeastern state falls under Chinese territory. A bipartisan resolution in the US Senate acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India and also supported India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Apart from recognising the McMahon Line, the resolution also condemned Chinese provocations in the region, including China's use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, construction of villages in contested areas, publication of maps with Mandarin-language names for cities featuring Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of Beijing's territorial claims over Bhutan. The resolution, titled 'Reaffirming the state of Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and condemning the People's Republic of China's provocations in South Asia' was first introduced in the US senate after one of the biggest clashes that took place in December between Indian and Chinese forces in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

ECONOMY

RBI Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das Conferred Central Banking Awards 2023

Reserve Bank Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das has received the 'Governor of the Year' Award by the international publication Central Banking. Shri Das is at the helm of the Reserve Bank of India, the country's central bank, since December 2018. He has been given the award for steering the financial markets through multiple crises including the pandemic and the inflation attributed to the war in Ukraine.



India's Worker-Population-Ratio Recorded at 52.9% in 2021-22

The unemployment rate in the country is witnessing a declining trend. The unemployment rate was 4.8 per cent in 2019-20, which was subsequently, reduced to 4.1 per cent in 2021-22. This was stated by Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Rameswar Teli in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey, the worker population ratio has increased from 50.9 per cent in 2019-20 to 52.9 per cent in 2021-22, reflecting higher engagement of people in productive activities.

28.64 Crore Unorganised Workers Registered on eShram Portal So Far

The Government has said that 28 crore 64 lakh unorganised workers have been registered on the eShram portal so far. The portal is helping in building a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers in the country. Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Rameswar Teli said this in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha the eShram portal is integrated with National Career Service (NCS) Portal and till date, over 13 Lakhs eShram job seekers have registered on the NCS portal. eShram is also integrated with Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan.

SPORTS

Sampanna Ramesh Shelar Becomes Fastest Indian to Swim Across Palk Strait

Pune based swimmer, Sampanna Ramesh Shelar has become the fastest Indian in the Under-21 group to swim across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu in 5 hours and 30 minutes. The previous record was 8 hours and 26 minutes. His swim commenced at 6.00 am on 16th March 2023 from Talaimannar and he reached Dhanushkodi at 11.26 am completing the distance of 29 kms. He is pursuing Graduation in Physical Education. With this achievement, Shelar is planning to do solo swims across the English & Catalina Channels soon, to eventually complete swimming across the seven oceans popularly known as the Oceans Seven Challenge.



(Source: AIR/PIB)