

News Digest

NATIONAL

President Confers Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, conferred 13 Shaurya Chakras, including six posthumous, to the personnel of Armed Forces during Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on 10th May 2022. The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty. The President also conferred 14 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudd Seva Medals and 24 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals for distinguished service of exceptional order. The complete list of awardees can be viewed on <https://www.pib.gov.in>.

Rajiv Kumar Appointed Chief Election Commissioner of India

Shri Rajiv Kumar has been appointed the Chief Election Commissioner of India. A 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Bihar/Jharkhand cadre, Shri Kumar was appointed an Election Commissioner in September 2020. Prior to that, he was Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).



EC Announces Rajya Sabha Elections for 57 Seats in 15 States

Election Commission has announced poll schedule for Biennial Elections for 57 Rajya Sabha seats in 15 states. These states include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Notification for the election is to be issued on 24th May and the last date of nomination for these seats will be 31st May. Polling will be held on 10th June and counting of votes will be taken up on the same day.

School YUVA Tourism Clubs to Foster Skill & Entrepreneurship in Tourism Sector

Ministry of Tourism has initiated establishing 'YUVA Tourism Clubs' as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued instructions to all CBSE affiliated schools regarding formation of Yuva Tourism Clubs. Union Tourism Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy said the Yuva Tourism clubs that are being set up in various schools will promote national integration and build on the Prime Minister's vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. YUVA Tourism Clubs would enable students to appreciate the importance of travel and tourism, teach and propagate responsible tourism practices, as well as encourage learners to be skilled professionals and entrepreneurs in the hospitality and tourism sector.

IAF Successfully Fires Extended Range Version of Brahmos Missile from Su-30 MKI

The Indian Air Force has successfully fired the extended range version of BrahMos Air Launched Missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The missile achieved a direct hit on the designated target during the test conducted on 12th May in the Bay of Bengal region. With this, the Indian Air Force has achieved the capability to carry out precision strikes from Su-30 MKI aircraft. The extended range capability of the missile coupled with the high performance of the Su-30 MKI aircraft gives the IAF a strategic reach and allows it to dominate the future battle fields.



Santoor Maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma Passes Away

The legendary Santoor maestro and renowned musician Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma passed away in Mumbai on 10th May. He was 84. Born on 13 January 1938 in Jammu and Kashmir, Shiv Kumar started learning vocals and tabla at age 13. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma was awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986, then Padma Shri in 1991, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. Expressing condolences, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said Shiv Kumar Sharma Ji popularised the Santoor at a global level and his music will continue to enthral the coming generations.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Modi Calls for Stronger, More Resilient Global Health Security Architecture

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called for strengthening and reforming the World Health Organization (WHO) to create stronger and more resilient global health security architecture. Participating in the Second Global COVID Virtual Summit at the invitation of US President Joe Biden on 12th May, PM Modi highlighted that as a responsible member of the global community, India would continue to play an active role by sharing its low cost indigenous COVID mitigation technologies, vaccines and therapeutics with other countries. India is working to extend its genomic surveillance consortium. India has used traditional medicine extensively and has laid the foundation for a WHO Center for Traditional Medicine to make this knowledge available to the world.

Ranil Wickremesinghe Takes Over as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Ranil Wickremesinghe has taken over as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa administered the oath of office to the United National Party leader in Colombo on 12th May after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the Prime Minister on 9th May following violent attacks by supporters on peaceful anti-government protesters. His resignation automatically dissolved the Cabinet leaving an administrative vacuum. Mr. Wickremesinghe has been reappointed in an effort to bring stability to the island nation in the midst of a debt crisis that has triggered severe shortages of fuel, food and other essentials. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan government is negotiating a bailout package with the International Monetary Fund.

Late Danish Siddiqui among Four Indians Honoured with Pulitzer Prize

Slain photo journalist Danish Siddiqui is among the four Indians who have been honoured with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize 2022 in the Feature Photography category. Besides Siddiqui, Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, and Amit Dave have won the award. Siddiqui, 38, was on an assignment in war-torn Afghanistan last year when he died. Meanwhile, the Washington Post bagged the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service Journalism for its coverage of the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol.

ECONOMY

MoRD, Amazon Collaborate for Online Marketing of SHG Products

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and Amazon Seller Services Private Limited (Amazon) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sale of products manufactured by Self Help Groups (SHGs). Under the MoU, Amazon & MoRD will jointly enable commercial and social development of women led rural enterprises across identified States/UTs. Amazon will provide Training & Onboarding support to MoRD appointed sellers to list products from SHGs associated with MoRD on Amazon.in.



Varanasi to Get Skill Centre to Prepare Workforce for Overseas Employment

DP World - a UAE based multinational logistics company and the Government of India have agreed to develop a Skill India International Centre at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The MoU was signed between the National Skill Development Council - International (NSDCI) and Hindustan Ports Private Limited, the Indian unit of DP World on 12th May. The Centre would prepare Indian youth for pursuing overseas employment opportunities in logistics, port operations and allied areas.

UNDP to Assist India in Implementing Tech Driven Agriculture Credit, Crop Insurance Schemes

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed an MoU wherein UNDP will provide technical support towards the aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme & Kisan Credit Card - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme. As per the MoU, UNDP will provide responsive, demand-driven technical assistance for effective implementation of agriculture credit and crop insurance, as well as providing capacity development and Information, Education & Communication (IEC) support to existing national and state institutions, keeping in mind the interest of small and marginal farmers, women farmers, sharecroppers, tenant and non-loanee farmers.

SPORTS

Largest Contingent of 8500 Players to Participate in Khelo India Youth Games

The largest ever contingent of 8500 players from across the country would participate in the 4th Khelo India Youth Games. Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Thakur announced on 07th May. Launching the Logo, Anthem, Jersey and Mascot for the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 in Indradhanush Auditorium, Panchkula, Minister Thakur said that the Youth Games and the recently concluded University Games under Khelo India would definitely inspire youth to go for big targets in future.

Asian Games in China Postponed Indefinitely Over Spread of Omicron Variant

The Asian Games 2022 have been postponed indefinitely because of concerns over the spreading Omicron variant in China. The Asian Games was scheduled to be hosted in East China's Hangzhou, a city in Zhejiang, 200 kilometers from COVID-hit Shanghai, in September this year. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has announced that the new dates for the games will be announced at a later date. As China battles a resurgence of COVID-19 cases and large parts of the country are under some form of lockdown, three major sports events - Asian Games, Asian Youth Games and World University Games - to be held in China in second half of 2022, have been postponed casting a shadow on the global sports calendar.

(Source: AIR/PIB)