

# News Digest

## NATIONAL

**Defence Minister Launches Two Indigenous Frontline Warships of Indian Navy**  
Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy - 'Surat' and 'Udaygiri' - at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), Mumbai on 17th May. 'Surat' is the fourth Guided Missile Destroyer of P15B class, while 'Udaygiri' is the second Stealth Frigate of P17A class. Both warships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at MDL, Mumbai. The Defence Minister described the warships as an embodiment of the Government's unwavering commitment to enhance the country's maritime capability, with focus on achieving 'Aatmanirbharta', at a time when the world is witnessing disruption in global supply chain due to COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

**I&B Minister Announces Scheme for Making India Favourite Destination for Foreign Filmmakers**

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Thakur on 18th May inaugurated the India Pavilion at Cannes Film Festival. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Thakur announced two schemes to incentivize shooting of foreign films and foreign co-productions with India. The two schemes viz Incentive Scheme for Audio-Visual Co-production and Incentive Scheme for Shooting of foreign films in India are aimed at unleashing the potential of Indian media and entertainment industry. The Minister said, the Government of India will do whatever it can to make India the content hub of the world and to make India the destination of the world for film production, post-production, and AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic) Sector.



**NITI Aayog Makes Public Data Accessible for All**

NITI Aayog launched the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) for open public use on 13th May. The platform aims to democratize access to public government data by making data accessible, interoperable, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform. It hosts foundational datasets from various government agencies, presents them coherently, and provides tools for analytics and visualization. NDAP follows a use-case based approach to ensure that the datasets hosted on the platform are tailored to the needs of data users from government, academia, journalism, civil society, and the private sector.

**Centre Launches National Emergency Life Support Courses for Healthcare Professionals**

Union Ministry of State for Health and Family Welfare has launched National Emergency Life Support (NELS) courses for doctors, nurses and paramedics. Apart from the training modules, the program also includes developing training infrastructure in all States/UTs to implement the NELS course and creating a cadre of trainers to train doctors, nurses and paramedics working in emergency departments of the hospitals and ambulance services. The Union Minister of State for Health Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar said that till now, health care professionals in the country had to rely on foreign modules and paid courses which were not only expensive but were also limited in scope to a handful of emergencies without considering needs and priorities of our population landscape. "Therefore, realizing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's policy of 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the NELS provides standardized curriculum which is based on Indian context and developed in India", she stated.

**Foodgrain production during 2021-22 is higher by 23.80 million tonnes than previous five years**

Agriculture Ministry has released the third advance estimate of production of major agricultural crops for 2021-22. The production of Foodgrains in the country is estimated at a record 314.51 million tonnes which is higher by 3.77 million tonnes than the production of foodgrain during 2020-21. The production during 2021-22 is higher by 23.80 million tonnes than the previous five years' average production of foodgrains. Record production is estimated for rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, gram, rapeseed, mustard, and sugarcane.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Vice President Visits Abu Dhabi to Condole Demise of Former UAE President Sheikh Khalifa**

Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu visited Abu Dhabi to offer condolences on behalf of the Government of India on the sad demise of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi who passed away on 13th May. Paying rich tributes to the late President, Mr Naidu observed how Sheikh Khalifa showed visionary leadership for the development of the UAE building on the legacy of Sheikh Zayed and greatly strengthening the India-UAE partnership. He took exceptional care of the large Indian expatriate community in the UAE. Mr Naidu said that the sad demise of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan is an irreparable loss for the Indian community in the UAE.

**PM Modi Visits Nepal, Participates in Stone-Laying of Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Lumbini, Nepal on 16th May on the occasion of Vaishakha Buddha Purnima. The Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba and took part in the stone-laying ceremony for the construction of a unique centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage within the Lumbini Monastic Zone which will be built under the auspices of the Lumbini Development Trust with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It will be a modern building, NetZero compliant in terms of energy, water, and waste handling, and will house prayer halls, meditation centers, library, exhibition hall, cafeteria, offices, and other amenities.



## ECONOMY

**The State of Inequality in India Report Released**

The State of Inequality in India Report released recently, emphasises that wealth concentration as a measure of inequality does not reveal the changes in the purchasing capacity of households. Extrapolation of the income data from 2019-20 has shown that a monthly salary of Rs 25,000 is already amongst the top 10% of total incomes earned, pointing towards some levels of income disparity in 2019-20. Among different employment categories, the highest percentage was of self-employed workers (45.78%), followed by regular salaried workers (33.5%) and casual workers (20.71%). The share of self-employed workers also happens to be the highest in the lowest income categories. The country's unemployment rate is 4.8% (2019-20), and the worker population ratio is 46.8%. In the area of health infrastructure, there has been a considerable improvement in increasing the infrastructural capacity with a targeted focus on rural areas. From 1,72,608 total health centres in India in 2005, total health centres in 2020 stand at 1,85,505. According to the report, education and household conditions have improved enormously due to targeted efforts through several social protection schemes, especially in the area of water availability and sanitation that have increased the standard of living.

**Cabinet Approves Amendments to National Policy on Biofuels**

The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels - 2018. The amendments are intended to allow more feedstocks for the production of biofuels, advance the ethanol blending target of 20 percent blending of ethanol in petrol and promote the production of biofuels in the country. Besides, the amended policy also provides for adding new members to the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) and grant permission for the export of biofuels in specific cases. The amendments will pave the way for 'Make in India' drive thereby leading to a reduction in import of petroleum products through the generation of more biofuels. Since many more feed stocks are being allowed for production of biofuels, this will promote the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and give an impetus to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India becoming energy independent by 2047.

## SPORTS

**India Beat Indonesia to Lift Thomas Cup First Time Ever**

Indian Men's Badminton has scripted history by winning the Thomas Cup for the first time ever, dethroning 14 times Champions Indonesia in Bangkok on 15th May. In a heroic effort, India defeated Indonesia 3-0 in the finals of the prestigious team championship. World Championships medallist Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and world number 8 doubles duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy produced memorable performances and won the tie in the first three games itself. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian team on their epic win. Sports Minister Shri Anurag Singh Thakur also congratulated Indian team for winning the Thomas Cup and announced a cash award of Rs One Crore for the team to acknowledge this unparalleled feat.

**Women's World Boxing Championship: Nikhat Zareen bags Gold**

Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen clinched the gold medal at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships after registering a dominating 5-0 victory in Istanbul on 19th May. Nikhat thrashed Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas without breaking a sweat in the 52kg final with judges scoring the bout 30-27, 29-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28 in the Indian's favour. Nikhat became the only fifth Indian woman to secure a gold medal at the World Boxing Championships after record six-time champions Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, and Lekha KC. It was Nikhat, two Indian boxers Manisha Moun in 57 kg and Parveen Hooda in 63 kg categories signed off with bronze medals after their semi-finals finish in the championships.



(Source: AIR/PIB)