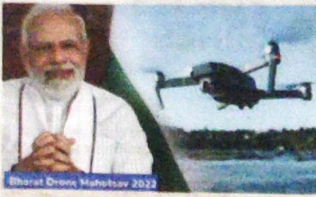


News Digest

NATIONAL

PM Modi Inaugurates Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 on 27th May. He interacted with Kisan drone pilots, witnessed open-air drone demonstrations and interacted with startups in the drone exhibition centre. The Prime Minister also gave away 150 drone pilot certificates. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that the energy and enthusiasm in the drone sector are visible and indicate India's strength and desire to leapfrog into a leading position. "The sector shows great possibilities of a major sector for employment generation", he said. The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of drone technology in the fields of defence, disaster management, agriculture, tourism, film and entertainment. He said that the use of this technology is bound to increase in the coming days.



Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022

PM Inaugurates Several Completed Projects, Lays Foundation Stones for New Projects in Chennai

During his visit to Chennai on 26th May, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation five completed projects worth over Rs 2960 crore including the Madurai-Teni (Railway Gauge Conversion Project), the third railway line between Tambaram - Chengalpattu, the Ennore-Chengalpattu section and the Thiruvallur-Bengaluru section of ETB PNMT natural gas pipeline. The PM also inaugurated 1152 houses constructed as part of the Light House Project - Chennai, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of six projects, being built at a cost of over Rs. 28,540 crore. They included the Bengaluru - Chennai Expressway, the 4-Lane double decker elevated road connecting Chennai Port to Maduravoyal (NH-4), the 94 km long 4 lane Neraluru to Dharmapuri section of NH-844, and the 31 km long 2 lane with paved shoulders of Meensuratti to Chidambaram section of NH-227. These projects will help provide seamless connectivity in the region. The PM also laid the foundation stones for redevelopment of five Railway Stations: Chennai Egmore, Rameswaram, Madurai, Katpadi and Kanyakumari and a Multi Modal Logistic Park at Chennai which will provide seamless intermodal freight movement and also offer multiple functionalities.

Citizens Can Now Access Digilocker Services on Whatsapp

In a major initiative to make Government services accessible, inclusive, transparent and simple, MyGov has announced that citizens will now be able to use the MyGov Helpdesk on WhatsApp to access the Digilocker service. This includes creating and authenticating their Digilocker account, downloading documents such as PAN card, driving license, vehicle registration certificate, among others, all on WhatsApp. Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been working for "Ease of Living" through Digital India. In this context, the MyGov Helpdesk on WhatsApp is a major step to ensure governance and government services at the fingertips of citizens.



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INTERNATIONAL

IPEF Takes Off With India as Partner; Partnership to Solve Supply Chain Issues

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was launched in Tokyo on 23d May by US President Joe Biden with a dozen initial partners, including India. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also participated in the event, and said, "IPEF reflects our collective desire to transform the Indo-Pacific region into an engine of global growth". Apart from USA other partners are Australia, India, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Together, these countries represent 40% of world GDP. The IPEF is seen as a move to counter Chinese influence in the Indo Pacific region and can help India achieve its main interest in the region - an improved supply chain. The US President Joe Biden while launching the framework said that tackling inflation is a top economic priority, and this framework will help lower costs by making its supply chains more resilient in the long term. President Biden said that this will be achieved through IPEF by establishing an early warning system, mapping critical mineral supply chains, improving traceability in key sectors, and coordinating on diversification efforts. Apart from this, IPEF also focuses on clean energy, decarbonization and infrastructure.

Quad Leaders Summit Conclude with Resolve to Uphold Mutual Cooperation, Free and Inclusive Indo Pacific Region

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo, Japan on 24th May, along with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan, President Joe Biden of the United States of America and Prime

Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia. In his opening remarks at the summit, Mr Modi said that Quad has carved out a niche for itself, in such a short span of time, before the world. He added that today, Quad's scope has become vast while stressing that a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific Region is getting encouraged at the Quad level, with mutual cooperation. He called it the shared goal of all Quad countries. The Quad Summit provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made so far on Quad's initiatives and also give guidance for the future. A number of initiatives were announced during the Summit including the Quad Climate Change Action and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP), Quad's Common Statement of Principles on Critical Technology Supply Chains, and the Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). The Leaders reaffirmed their unwavering support for ASEAN's unity and centrality and looked forward to strengthening cooperation with partners in the region. The next Quad Summit will be hosted by Australia in 2023.

India Projects Itself as Reliable Partner, Attractive Investment Destination at World Economic Forum

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, who led the team India at World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos from 23rd-25th May 2022, finished his trip with several high-level engagements aimed at projecting India as a reliable partner, a stable economy and an attractive investment destination. Shri Goyal, accompanied by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, and Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, leveraged the WEF platform to further help reinforce India's position as a crucial stakeholder in shaping the global narrative. Shri Goyal held meetings with leaders of various countries, regional and multilateral institutions wherein he emphasized upon India as a great destination with a number of government interventions including Gati-shakti, Asset Monetization program, Start-Up India, National Infrastructure Pipeline and Investment Corridors offering huge opportunities for lucrative investment.

ECONOMY

ONGC Becomes First Indian Gas Producer to Trade on IGX

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has become the first Exploration and Production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The gas traded was from ONGC Krishna Godavari 98/2 block. The first online trade was made on 23rd May by ONGC Director (Onshore) In-charge Marketing Anurag Sharma on IGX which is India's first automated national-level Gas Exchange. It is a place where both buyers and sellers trade Gas. It aims to promote a robust Gas market in India. It enables competitive discovery of gas prices and maintains market integrity. It operates under the regulatory framework of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). In a statement, ONGC said the quantity sold through the Gas Exchange will be enhanced slowly.



Major Initiatives Announced to Boost Medical Tourism in NE through Traditional Medicinal Practices

The Union Minister for Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal announced major initiatives to boost traditional medicinal practices including Sowa Rigpa, Ayurveda and Naturopathy in the state of Sikkim on 21st May. The Minister announced that an International Yoga & Naturopathy College will be set up in Sikkim which will boost the medical tourism in Northeast India. Underlying the importance of Sowa Rigpa and its further exposure among people for enriching their quality of life, a 30 bedded Sowa Rigpa Hospital is going to be set up in Sikkim. Furthering the Ayush initiatives in the Northeast region, the Union Minister announced setting up of Yoga & Wellness centre at every Gram Panchayat level in the state along with an Ayurveda Medical College under Satellite Institute programme in Sikkim. The Union Minister along with other dignitaries virtually inaugurated the Sowa Rigpa College Building at NIT in Deorali, Gangtok.

SPORTS

Archery World Cup 2022: Indian Men's Compound Team Wins Successive Gold Medals

The Indian men's compound team defeated France to win the gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2022 Stage-Two in Gwangju, South Korea on 21st May. The Indian team came from behind, after trailing in first two sets, to prevail over France by two points in an intense finish to win the gold medal in successive World Cup stages. Fourth-seeded Indian men's team, comprising Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini, and Rajat Chauhan repeated the Stage-One final. They took over with an immaculate finish in the third end sealing a 232-230 win over their sixth-seeded rivals, Adrien Gontier, Jean Philippe Boulch, and Quentin Barar. The same Indian trio had defeated France by one point in the last World Cup final at Antalya in April this year. The team of Abhishek Verma and Avneet Kaur also won the bronze in the mixed event. The Indian Women's compound team of Avneet Kaur, Muskan Kirar, and Priya Gurjar have also won a bronze in the recurve section at the World Cup Stage-Two.



(Source: AIR/PIB)