

News Digest

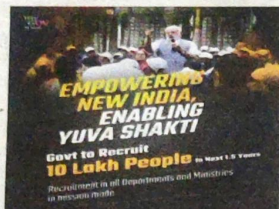
NATIONAL

■ EC Issues Notification for Election of 16th President of India

The Election Commission has issued notification for the election of the 16th President of India. Nominations can be filed by the candidates till 29th June 2022. The voting for the Presidential Election will be held on 18th July and counting will take place on 21st July. The term of office of President Ram Nath Kovind is ending on 24th July. The Presidential election will be held by secret ballot in accordance with system of proportional representation as per the Constitution. The total number of electors will be 4809 including 776 Members of Parliament and 4033 Members of Legislative Assemblies.

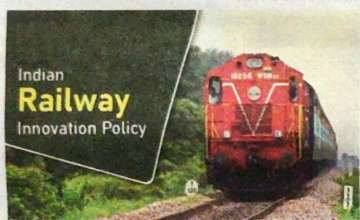
■ PM Instructs Govt to Provide 10 Lakh Jobs in Mission Mode over Next 1.5 Years

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has reviewed the status of Human Resources in all Departments and Ministries. The Prime Minister's Office tweeted on 14th June that he has instructed that recruitment of ten lakh people be done by the Government in a mission mode in the next one and half years.



■ Indian Railway Innovation Policy - "StartUps for Railways" Launched

Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Indian Railway Innovation Policy - "StartUps for Railways" on 13th June. The policy is an important initiative in the integration of technology into railways by encouraging innovation by start-ups and other entities.



Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said the policy will bring scale and efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of very large and untapped startup ecosystem. Out of over 100 problem statements received from different divisions, field offices/zones of Railways, 11 problem statements like rail fracture, headway reduction etc. have been taken up for phase 1 of this program. Railway Minister requested the start-ups to use this opportunity and ensured them of support from Indian Railways in the form of 50 percent capital grant, assured market, scale and ecosystem.

■ Central Assistance of Rs 1043 to Drought Affected Rajasthan, Nagaland

The Union Government has approved additional Central assistance of over Rs 1043 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund to Rajasthan and Nagaland which were affected by drought during 2021-22. The High-Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Home Minister Shri Amit Shah approved around Rs 1004 crore for Rajasthan and Rs 39 crore for Nagaland. This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Funds. During 2021-22, the Central Government released Rs 17,747 crore to 28 states in their SDRFs and Rs 7342 crore to 11 states from the NDRF.

■ First Steel Slag Road Inaugurated in Surat

The country's first highway made by using Steel Slag has been inaugurated in Surat, Gujarat. The six lane highway connects Surat with the port. Inaugurating the highway on 15th June, Union Minister of Steel Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh impressed upon the need to promote circular economy and resource efficiency by converting all waste into wealth. The experience gained from this road shall be utilized for developing detailed



guidelines for widespread usages of steel slag in construction. The Steel Ministry is exploring other options to utilize such materials in road construction, agriculture as a replacement to soil nutrients and fertilizers, ballast for railways and making green cement.

INTERNATIONAL

■ WTO Meet 2022 Concludes with Approval of Crucial Trade Pacts

The World Trade Organization (WTO) approved a series of trade agreements on 17th June after more than five days of tough negotiations. The agreements broadly relate to tackling food insecurity, curbing harmful fishing subsidies and temporarily waiving COVID vaccine patents.



Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, who represented India at the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva, termed the meet as successful saying that India emerged as a credible and strong voice for the developing and least developed countries by proving unequivocally its ability at constructing consensus for the larger good as a global leader. During the negotiations, Shri Piyush Goyal had raised concerns about the "skewed" WTO reforms proposal, imperative need to retain the Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) provisions for the developing world, global inequities in COVID vaccination and public stockholding of food grains.

ECONOMY

■ Cabinet Approves Auction of 5G Spectrum

The Union Cabinet has approved the auction of 5G Spectrum by the Department of Telecommunications, paving way for successful bidders to provide 5G services to the public and enterprises. A total of 72097.85 MHz of spectrum with a validity period of 20

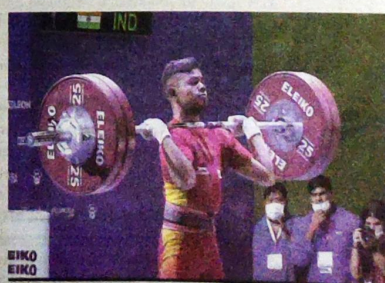


years will be put to auction that will be tentatively held by the end of July, 2022. The auction will be held for spectrum in various Low, Mid and High frequency bands. It is expected that the Mid and High band spectrum will be utilised by Telecom Service Providers to roll-out 5G technology-based services capable of providing speed and capacities which would be about 10 times higher than what is possible through the current 4G services.

SPORTS

■ Weightlifter Saanapathi Gurnaidu Clinches Gold in IWF Youth World Championship

Indian weightlifter Saanapathi Gurnaidu clinched Gold medal in men's 55 kilogram event at the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico on 12th June. Two other Indian weightlifters Vijay Prajapati and Akansha Kishor Vyavhare clinched



silver medals on the opening day of the event. Saanapathi won Gold medal in men's 55 kilogram event with total lift of 230 kilogram, Vijay finished second in the Men's 49 kilogram event with a total lift of 175 kilogram and Akanksha earned her silver medal with a total of 127 kilogram.

(Source: AIR/PIB)