

# News Digest

## NATIONAL

### PM's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Yoga 2021 Announced

The Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga for the year 2021 have been conferred on two individuals and two organizations. The winners in the individual category are Bhikku Sanghasena of Leh, Ladakh and Marcus Vinius Rojo Rodrigues of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The two organizations that bagged the award are The Divine Life Society, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga, United Kingdom. The winners bagged a Trophy, Certificate and a Cash Award each. The value of each Cash Award is Rs. 25 lakh.

### Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Launches Skill Development Initiative NIPUN

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched an innovative project for skill training of construction workers called NIPUN (National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers). The project is being implemented as



part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes. This initiative will enable Nirman workers to be more proficient and skilled while making them adopt future trends in the construction industry by increasing their capabilities and diversifying their skill sets. This would provide construction workers with work opportunities in foreign countries also, according to Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs. The construction industry is poised to become the largest employer by 2022 and needs 45 million additional skilled workers over the next 10 years.

### Employees State Insurance (ESI) Scheme to Cover Entire Country by 2022 End

The government has decided that the Employees' State Insurance, ESI, will be implemented in the entire country by the end of this year. Presently, ESI Scheme is fully implemented in 443 districts and partially implemented in 153 districts, whereas 148 districts are not covered under ESI Scheme. The medical care services will be provided through establishing new Dispensary cum Branch Office in collaboration with Hospitals of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The decision was taken during the 188th meeting of ESI Corporation under the Chairmanship of Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav on 19th June. ESI Corporation has decided to set up 23 new 100 bedded hospitals across the country. Besides these hospitals, five doctors' dispensaries at 62 places will also be opened.

### Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela Held in 10 Districts of Odisha

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela across 10 districts in Odisha on 21st June. Over 100 companies participated in the fair to provide employment opportunities to individuals who had 5th-12th-grade pass certificate, skill training certificate, ITI Diploma, or a graduate degree. The aspiring apprentices were given several choices of trades, including locally relevant job roles such as welder, electrician, beautician, mechanic and more. This program aims to encourage employers to hire apprentices from these targeted districts and assist them in identifying the right job roles while building their potential through robust skill training. In addition, candidates will receive certificates recognized by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), ensuring increased employability, giving them an opportunity to become entrepreneurs in their respective domains.

## INTERNATIONAL

### BRICS Countries Pledge to Safeguard World Peace in Beijing Declaration

The BRICS countries have pledged to safeguard world peace and security in a joint declaration adopted at its 14th summit on 23rd June. As China holds the chairmanship in 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping presided

over the summit in Beijing via video link, with attendance of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and Russian President Vladimir Putin. In the XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, the leaders commit themselves to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and to the peaceful resolution of differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation, and supporting all efforts conducive to peaceful settlement of crises.

### Ruchira Kamboj Appointed Next Permanent Representative of India to the UN

Senior Diplomat Ruchira Kamboj has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. A 1987 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Ruchira Kamboj is presently serving as Ambassador of India to Bhutan. She will succeed TS Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the United Nation, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.



## ECONOMY

### One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme Becomes Operational in Entire Country

Assam has become the 36th State to implement One Nation One Ration Card scheme. With this, One Nation One Ration Card scheme is successfully implemented in all the 36 states and Union Territories making food security portable throughout the country. This scheme is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to seamlessly lift their entitled subsidized foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop of their choice anywhere in the country.

### First Ever National Logistics Excellence Awards Conferred on 12 Winners

The first-ever National Logistics Excellence Awards was held New Delhi on 23rd June. The awards instituted by the Government of India aim to acknowledge the many logistics service providers in the country that have been able to display innovation, diversity and efficiency. Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal along with the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Som Parkash Sharma gave away the awards in 12 categories. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Piyush Goyal said the resilient and efficient supply chains developed by the operators in the logistics sector helped India overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and supported the growth in trade seen over the last two years. Emphasizing that the expansion of infra spending and Gati Shakti will benefit the logistics sector most, Shri Goyal asked the industry to involve start-ups to become more transparent and efficient.



## SPORTS

### PM Modi Launches First Ever Chess Olympiad Torch Rally

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad on 19th June at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi. FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to the Prime Minister, who in turn handed it over to Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand. This torch will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days before the final culmination at Mahabalipuram near Chennai. At every location, chess grandmasters of the state will receive the torch. With this, India has become the first country ever to hold the Chess Olympiad Torch rally instituted by FIDE. The torch rally is part of the Olympic tradition but was never done for the Chess Olympiad.



### Indian Women's Wrestling Team Wins Under-17 Asian Championship

Indian women's Wrestling team has clinched the Under-17 Asian Championship held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. India lifted the title with a total of 235 points from eight golds, one silver and one bronze. Japan had to be content with the runners-up trophy with 143 points and Mongolia finished third with 138 points.

(Source: AIR/PIB)