

News Digest

NATIONAL

Four New Members Nominated to Rajya Sabha

The Centre has announced the nominations of four new members to the Rajya Sabha including former Olympic track and field athlete P.T. Usha, music legend Ilayaraja, noted screenwriter Viswa Vijayendra Prasad, and eminent philanthropist Veerendra Heggade.



Digital India Week 2022 Witnesses Launch of Various New Initiatives

This Digital India Week 2022 was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 4th July to 9th July with the theme 'Catalyzing New India's Techade'. PM Shri Narendra Modi launched multiple digital initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of technology, streamlining service delivery to ensure ease of living and giving a boost to startups. He announced the first cohort of 30 institutions to be supported under the Chips to Startup (C2S) programme. India is working on the target of taking electronics manufacturing to more than US \$300 billion in the next three-four years in order to become a "chip maker" from a "chip taker", the PM said.

India Launches 75-Day Coastal Cleanup Campaign

The Government of India has launched a 75-day long campaign starting 3rd July 2022 to raise awareness about "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar." The campaign that will culminate on International Coastal Cleanup Day on 17th September 2022 coincides with the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 75th year of India's independence. The drive will be carried out at 75 beaches across the country.

Compendium on India's Ayush Initiatives for COVID Launched

NITI Aayog has released a compendium detailing information about various Ayush-based initiatives and practices adopted by the States and Union Territories in India for containing and managing the COVID-19 outbreak. This document aims to aid the fight against COVID-19, other epidemics, and pandemics in future, serve as a crucial knowledge resource for stakeholders, and pave the way for the world by providing a holistic healthcare system model.



Indian Army Recruitment Rally for Agniveers to Commence in August

The Indian Army is set to start recruitment rallies for soldiers under Agniveer scheme from August 2022. As per a zone-wise schedule released by the Army, the rallies will begin from August 12 and go on till December across the country, covering all districts. This will also include rallies to recruit women Agniveers. The army will recruit women Agniveers only in the Corps of Military Police (CMP). The plans are to induct 1,700 women into the CMP in a phased manner.

Govt Invites Suggestions for National Curriculum Framework

The government has invited views of various stakeholders through an online public consultation survey for the formulation of National Curriculum Framework as part of implementation of National Education Policy 2020. Education Ministry said, this survey will be instrumental in collating very useful and crucial inputs for the formulation of National Curriculum Framework and also subsequently designing syllabus, textbooks, and other instructional materials. All stakeholders including students, teachers, principals, parents, educationists, NGOs, and public representatives are invited to participate in this survey being conducted in 23 languages.

Apprentices to Receive Stipend Directly to Their Bank Accounts

Trainees of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) will now directly receive their stipend subsidy in their bank accounts through Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT). Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced on 2nd July. The DBT amount will be equivalent to the government's contribution of 25% of the stipend payable. The NAPS aims to motivate employers to hire apprentices and aid them in discovering the right job roles while maximising their potential through in-depth skill development.

INTERNATIONAL

Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe Shot Dead During Rally

Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe was shot at while delivering a campaign speech in western Japan on 8th July 2022. Japanese Official media reported that two shots were heard. He was delivering the speech in support of a candidate for Upper House election.



India Elected to UNESCO Panel on Intangible Cultural Heritage

India has been elected a member of the Inter-governmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural

Heritage for the 2022-2026 cycle. Culture Minister GK Reddy said this is yet another opportunity for India to reinstate the values of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. The elections for the Inter-governmental Committee took place during the two-day General Assembly of the 2003 Convention held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris which began on the 5th July.

Shri Amitabh Kant Appointed New Sherpa of G-20

India has appointed former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant as the new Sherpa of G-20. With the G-20 presidency coming to India from December this year, a full-time Sherpa is required who would be needed to devote a lot of time to meetings that will be held in different parts of the country, the External Affairs Ministry said. Apart from the Summit which India will host next year, a large number of G-20 events at different levels will be organised across the country during India's Presidency.



ECONOMY

India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project Commissioned

India's largest floating solar power project is now fully operational. NTPC declared commercial operation of the final part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, Telangana with effect from 1st July. The 100-MW Floating Solar project at Ramagundam is endowed with advanced technology as well as environment-friendly features. Constructed with a financial implication of 423 crore rupees, the project spreads over 500 acres of its reservoir.

Make in India Yields Positive Results for Toy Sector, Exports up by 61%

The import of toys has decreased by 70% and export up by 61% in the last three years as Make in India has yielded positive results for the sector. Anil Agrawal, Additional Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade said that PM Shri Narendra Modi had given a clarion call on 'Rebranding the Indian Toy Story' and emphasized on the availability of the right kind of toys for children as a learning resource, designing of toys based on Indian value system. He stressed that toy business has attracted 96 exhibitors with 'Made in India' products manufactured domestically by small, medium and large enterprises.



Hotels, Restaurants Barred from Levying Default Service Charge

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued guidelines barring hotels or restaurants from adding service charge automatically or by default to the food bill. The hotel or restaurant will have to clearly inform the consumer that service charge is voluntary, optional, and at consumer's discretion. The consumer may lodge a complaint against the violator hotel or restaurants on the National Consumer Helpline, NCH by calling 1915 or the NCH mobile app.

FCRA Amended to Allow Transfer of Upto Rs 10 Lakh Without Intimation to Authorities

Union Home Ministry has amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) giving certain relaxations such as allowing relatives to send more money to India freely. The amended rule now allows relatives to send Upto Rs 10 lakh without informing the government. If the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have three months to inform the government against 30-days earlier. The amended rule also gives more time to the organisations to inform the government about opening of bank accounts for utilization of funds received under 'registration' or 'prior permission' category.

SPORTS

India Sends Largest Ever Squad to Commonwealth Games 2022

The Indian squad for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 was sent off by Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur in New Delhi on 7th July. Tokyo 2020 Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia, P.R. Sreejesh, Manpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh and Lovlina Borgohain were some of the star players present at the ceremony from among the 215 member squad. Other prominent athletes present included Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik, sprint stars Dutee Chand and Hima Das, Asian Boxing Championships Gold Medalist Shiva Thapa and boxer Amit Panghal, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Thakur said the Indian CWG squad is strongest ever and all the athletes will make India proud at a global stage yet again. The CWG 2022 is being hosted by Birmingham, England, from 28th July to 8th August 2022.



(Source: AIR/PIB)