

News Digest

NATIONAL

■ Droupadi Murmu Elected as 15th President of India

Ms Droupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India. Returning Officer of the Presidential Election and Rajya Sabha Secretary General P. C. Mody announced the election of Ms Murmu after completion of counting of the votes on 21st July 2022. Ms Murmu bagged 64



per cent of the votes in the poll and opposition candidate Shri Yashwant Sinha got 36 per cent. Born on 20th June 1958, Ms Droupadi Murmu is the youngest President of the country. She is the first President of India who is born after independence. In 1997, Ms Murmu first joined politics and was elected councillor in Rairangpur Notified Area Council of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. She served twice as an MLA from Rairangpur assembly constituency from 2000 to 2009 and once as a Minister for Commerce, Transport, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, Government of Odisha. On 18th May, 2015, Ms Murmu took oath as Governor of Jharkhand and stayed in the post till 12th July 2021. She was the first woman Governor of the state and the first female tribal leader to serve as a Governor in any Indian state.

■ PM Calls Upon Public to Strengthen Har Ghar Tiranga Movement

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called upon people to strengthen the Har Ghar Tiranga Movement as the nation is marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav this year. In a tweet, Mr Modi asked people to hoist the Tricolour or display it in their homes between 13th and 15th August. He said, this movement will deepen our connection with the national flag.

■ India Innovation Index 2021: Karnataka, Manipur, Chandigarh Lead the Way

In the India Innovation Index 2021, Karnataka has topped again in the Major States category, Manipur is leading the North East and Hill States category and Chandigarh is the top performer in the Union Territories and City States category. Releasing the index on 21st July 2022, NITI Aayog pointed out that resilience and crisis-driven innovation have helped India bounce back from the pandemic-induced crisis. The index strengthens the scope of innovation analysis in the country by drawing on the framework of the Global Innovation Index (GII). Through this comprehensive framework, the index evaluates the innovation performance of all the states and union territories in India.

■ NSDC Collaborates with Toyota to Train 18000 Students for Automotive Sector Jobs

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) and Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC) to train 18,000 students in three years, with special focus on rural areas, making them more employable through the company's unique training initiative - Toyota Technical Education Program (T-TEP). These students will be trained across five automotive job roles such as General Technician, Body and Paint Technician, Service Advisor, Sales consultants and Call Center Staff.

■ Indian Students Bag 3 Gold, 16 Silver, 5 Bronze in International Olympiads

Indian students have bagged an impressive number of medals in various international Olympiads in Mathematics, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry. While the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) was held in Norway and Biology Olympiad in Armenia, the other two, hosted by Switzerland and China, were held virtually. Pranjal Srivastava scored a hat trick with his 3rd consecutive Gold medal at the IMO becoming the first Indian to win 3 Gold medals at the IMO. In the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), Deevyanshu Malu won Gold, while Mayank Pandhari won Gold in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

INTERNATIONAL

■ Ranil Wickremesinghe, Dinesh Gunawardena Become Sri Lanka's New President, PM

In Sri Lanka, six-time Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the country's new President on 21st July 2022. Ranil Wickremesinghe, in a closely contested election earlier on 20th July, defeated Dullus Alahaperuma, securing 134 votes against 82 votes secured by Alahaperuma. Meanwhile, on 22nd July, Dinesh Gunawardena took the oath as the Prime Minister.



■ MoU Enhancing Opportunities for Indian Seafarers, Healthcare Workers in UK

India and the UK have signed two MoUs on mutual recognition of educational qualifications including maritime education and a Framework Agreement on health care work force. The first MoU provides for mutual recognition of educational qualifications and duration of study undertaken by students within duly approved and recognized higher education institutions in the two countries. The MoU on maritime education qualification paves way for the two governments to mutually recognize the certificates of maritime education and training, competency and endorsements of seafarers issued by each other. It will prove beneficial for employment of seafarers of both the countries and would make them eligible for employment on ships of either party. India being a seafarer supplying nation with large pool of trained seafarers, it is expected to be significantly benefitted by the MoU. The Framework Agreement on Healthcare Workforce includes cooperation on Nursing & Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), training of healthcare professionals and measures to bridge the skill gap. The agreement will facilitate the recruitment and training of nurses and AHPs from India by UK in a streamlined manner. Given the shortage of nurses in the UK, the agreement will benefit both the sides.

ECONOMY

■ FDI Inflow in R&D Sector Registers 516% Increase

India attracted USD 343.64 million FDI equity inflow in R&D (Research and Development) sector during 2021 (Calendar Year) which is 516% higher as compared to previous 2020 (USD 55.77 million), according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. FDI is permitted under the 100% automatic route in R&D sector. Karnataka is the top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D followed by Telangana and Haryana. Singapore is the top investing country in R&D with 40% share of total FDI Equity followed by Germany (35%) and U.S.A (11%). Further, FDI Equity inflow from several countries like Germany, Mauritius, France, Singapore, Oman and U.S.A. showed an increase of more than 200% as compared to previous year. These trends indicate a robust and growing R&D sector which would benefit the economy by driving innovation, increasing productivity, thereby leading to higher economic growth.

■ New Rule for Work from Home for SEZ Employees Notified

The Union Government has notified a new Work from Home (WFH) policy to be implemented uniformly across all Special Economic Zones in the country. The new Rule 43A under the Work from Home in Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006, was notified by the Department of Commerce on demand from the industry. As per the new notification, WFH may be extended to maximum 50 percent of total employees including contractual employees of the unit. WFH is now allowed for a maximum period of one year. However, it may be further extended for a period of one year at a time by the Development Commissioner at the request of units. Employees of Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology-enabled Services (ITeS) SEZ units, employees who are temporarily incapacitated, employees who are travelling and employees who are working offsite can avail the facility.

SPORTS

■ Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa Wins Paracin Chess Title

Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has won the Paracin Open 'A' chess tournament 2022 in Serbia. The 16-year-old remained unbeaten and finished half a point ahead of the field. Second-seeded, Praggnanandhaa scored 8 points from nine rounds. The teenage prodigy will be part of a strong India 'B' team in the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held near Chennai from July 28.



■ ISSF World Cup: India End Changwon Campaign with Most Medals

India finished yet another ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) World Cup campaign in Changwon, South Korea, by topping the medal tally with a haul of 15 medals, including five gold, six silver and four bronze. Arjun Babuta won gold in the men's 10m air rifle, Shahu Tushar Mane/Mehuli Ghosh won gold in 10m air rifle mixed team, the team of Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija won another gold in men's 10m air rifle team, Aishwary Pratap Singh bagged gold in men's 50m rifle 3P, and Mairaj Ahmad Khan became the first Indian to bag a gold in men's skeet. The next big assignment for the Indian rifle and pistol shooters will be the much-awaited ISSF World Championship scheduled in Cairo in October this year. The shotgun squad, on the other hand, will take part at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup, slated to take place in Osijek, Croatia in September. A good performance by the Indian shooters at the World Championships means they will have a chance to represent India at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. (Source: AIR/PIB)