

News Digest

NATIONAL

■ Lt Gen Anil Chauhan Appointed New Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

The Government has appointed Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Lieutenant General Chauhan will also function as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs. In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East India. For his distinguished and illustrious service in the Army, Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal. The post of Chief of Defence Staff had been lying vacant since death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash on 8th December 2021.



developing and developed nations. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledged the key role India can play in the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some of the most powerful voices, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, French President Emmanuel Macron, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy referred to India in a positive light. Countries like France, Jamaica, and Portugal also heaped praise on India. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov explicitly backed India for a permanent seat. Foreign Minister of Guyana Hugh Hilton Todd also hailed India's growth trajectory observing that it has always been an economy that focuses on human development, putting humans ahead of any other form of development. Countries like Jamaica, Bhutan and Nepal expressed gratitude to India for supplying COVID-19 vaccines under 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative.

■ Sr Advocate R Venkataramani Becomes New Attorney General of India

Senior Advocate R Venkataramani has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India for a period of three years from 1st of October 2022. Shri Venkataramani was born in Pondicherry on April 13, 1950. He enrolled as a lawyer in July 1977 with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and shifted his practice to the Supreme Court in the year 1979. He was designated Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in the year 1997. Shri Venkataramani served as a member of the Law Commission of India in 2010 and 2013.



ECONOMY

■ India Climbs to 40th Rank in Global Innovation Index

India has climbed to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index of World Intellectual Property Organization. This is a huge leap of 41 places in 7 years. In the Global Innovation Index 2022 released on 29th September, Switzerland has emerged as the world's most innovative economy for the 12th consecutive year. It leads globally in innovation outputs, and specifically in patents by origin, software spending, high-tech manufacturing, production, and export complexity. The second position was secured by the US followed by Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands.

■ Make in India Completes 8 Years, Annual FDI Doubles to US\$ 83 billion

'Make in India' has completed 6 years of path-breaking reforms on 25th September 2022. It is Government of India's flagship program that aspires to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure. Launched in 2014, 'Make in India' has achieved substantial accomplishments across 27 sectors including the strategic sectors of manufacturing and services. Since the launch of Make in India, the Centre has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route. FDI inflows in India stood at US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015. In 2021-22, India recorded the highest ever FDI at \$83.6 billion. This FDI has come from 101 countries, and invested across 31 UTs and States and 57 sectors in the country. On the back of economic reforms and 'Ease of Doing Business' in recent years, India is on track to attract US\$ 100 Bn FDI in the current FY. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme across 14 key manufacturing sectors, was launched in 2020-21 as a big boost to 'Make in India' initiative. To strengthen the initiative, several other measures have been taken. They include amendments to laws, liberalization of guidelines and regulations. Burdensome compliances to rules and regulations have been reduced through simplification, rationalisation, decriminalisation, and digitisation, making it easier to do business in India. Additionally, Labour reforms have brought flexibility in hiring and retrenchment. Quality control orders have been introduced to ensure quality in local manufacturing. Steps to promote manufacturing and investments also include reduction in corporate taxes, public procurement orders and Phased Manufacturing Programme. The Government has also launched programme for multimodal connectivity to manufacturing zones in the country, called the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti Master Plan, which will ensure logistical efficiency in business operations through the creation of infrastructure that improves connectivity. With this initiative at the forefront, the businesses in India are aiming that the products that are 'Made in India' are also 'Made for the World,' adhering to global standards of quality.



■ All Women Entitled to Safe, Legal Abortion till 24 Weeks of Pregnancy: SC

The Supreme Court has ruled that a woman's marital status cannot be used to deny her right to abortion, while also ruling that unmarried women have the right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy within 24 weeks. The court said depriving single or unmarried women of the right to abort an unwanted pregnancy is a violation of fundamental rights. A three-judge bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud also ruled that under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, the definition of rape must include marital rape.

■ Redevelopment of Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai Railway Stations to Create New Jobs

The Union Cabinet has approved Indian Railways' proposal for redevelopment of three major railway stations in the country - the New Delhi Railway Station, Ahmedabad Railway Station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai. According to Railways Minister Shri Ashwin Vaishnaw, the redevelopment work of three railway stations will be completed in two to three and half years at an estimated cost of Rs 10,000 crores. The redevelopment of Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai Stations will help in the creation of at least 35,000 new job opportunities, the Minister added.

■ Govt Bans Popular Front of India, Associates for Unlawful Activities

The Ministry of Home Affairs has declared the Popular Front of India (PFI) along with its associates or affiliates or fronts as an "unlawful association" under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The associates, affiliates or fronts include the Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala. The Home Ministry has mentioned that there have been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with Global Terrorist Groups and some activists of the PFI have joined the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Recently, the National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate and State Police carried out a joint operation at premises linked to PFI in several states. Several PFI leaders and functionaries were arrested in the raids.

■ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Completes One Year of its Launch

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has completed one year of its launch. The scheme is transforming India's Digital Healthcare landscape. Till now, over 24.38 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs have been created, over one lakh 59 thousand health facilities have been registered, over 90 thousand healthcare professionals have been registered and over 1.36 crore health records have been linked. Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is building a health model that is holistic, easily accessible and time-saving. He said, it is enhancing the ease of living for patients and healthcare service providers.

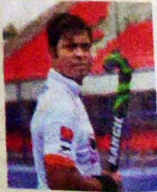
INTERNATIONAL

■ PM Narendra Modi's Economic and Foreign Policy Attracts Global Praise at UNGA Session

At United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's economic and foreign policy has won praises from several

■ Dilip Tirkey Unanimously Elected President of Hockey India

Dilip Tirkey, former captain of Indian Hockey Team and member of the gold medal-winning team at the 1998 Asian Games, was unanimously elected as Hockey India (HI) President on 23rd September. For the first time in history, a former sportsperson and Olympian has gone on to head the national body. Tirkey, 44, has a record 412 international matches as a defender in his career spanning more than 15 years. He represented India at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996, Sydney in 2000, and Athens in 2004.



(Source: AIR/PIB)

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