

News Digest

NATIONAL

5G Services Rolled Out in 8 Cities; to Cover Entire Country by 2023 End

India has joined a select group of countries that offer 5G telephony. While Airtel was the first telecom major to launch 5G services in the four metropolises and other major cities from 1st October 2022, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea are set to follow suit. The entire country will be covered by 5G by the end of December 2023. Apart from



enabling the common citizen to enjoy high speed internet services, the 5G technology will ensure very high speed mobile broadband with ultra accurate positioning that will propel the growth of all sectors of the economy. 5G will aid the farmers in carrying out precision agriculture, pest control, aquaculture, livestock monitoring etc by ensuring real-time transmission of data using Internet of Things (IoT)/sensors/video, controlled delivery of water, nutrients, and pesticides to increase yield. High speed, accurate and real time transmission of data will also provide a major fillip to other sectors like Health, FinTech, Education, Logistics, Transport, Tourism and Disaster Management. It will also lend a major push to Industry 4.0 by enabling Robot-Robot, Worker-Robot communication for higher efficiency and output. Meanwhile, the Centre has approved Rs 36 thousand crore to install 25 thousand new telecom towers in next 500 days in the country.

Ayushman Bharat Launches QR Code Based OPD Registration System on Pilot Mode

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has introduced a QR Code based rapid OPD (outpatient department) registration system allowing patients to avoid the hustle of long queues for OPD consultation. With this, the National Health Authority hopes to make healthcare accessible and efficient. The system, introduced on a pilot basis in Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital in New Delhi, allows patients to scan a QR code, fill in the requisite details, and obtain an online appointment for OPD consultation at the hospital or health facility of their choice. The facility will be gradually expanded to other health centres across the country.



India's Female Infant Mortality Rate Drops to Same Level as that of Males

India's female infant mortality rate (IMR) has dropped to same level as that of males, according to the Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020. However in sixteen states, IMR remained higher for female babies than male but the gap had reduced since 2011. Chhattisgarh had the highest gap in 2020, with a male infant mortality rate of 35 compared to female infant mortality rate of 41. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has said that efforts made towards Beti Bachao Beti Padhao through an integrated approach encompassing advocacy, healthcare and education is breaking the gender bias and resulting in improved numbers across all parameters.

In a Big Boost to Self Reliance in Defence; Indian Air Force Inducts HAL's Light Combat Helicopter

'Prachanda' the indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has been formally inducted in the Indian Air Force. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, while addressing the induction ceremony at Air Force



Station, Jodhpur, Rajasthan said the LCH not only adds to the combat capability of the Air Force but is also a great leap towards the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. 'Prachanda', powered by two 'Shakti' engines is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 meters with a considerable load of weapons and fuel. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the government is encouraging indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country to reduce their import. Not only this, by promoting local manufacturing, the government also aims to achieve Rs 35,000 crore defence exports target by 2025.

National Lok Adalat to be held across the country on 12th November

National Lok Adalat will be held across the country on 12th November this year to dispose of pending cases through settlement. The Department of Consumer Affairs is reaching out to consumers, companies, and organizations through SMS and emails. It has the phone numbers and emails of three lakh parties whose cases are pending before the commissions. More than 16,800 pending cases have been identified in insurance, over 71,000 in banking, over 33,000 in electricity, more than 2000 in railways, and more than 1000 pending cases have been identified in e-commerce. The mission of the Lok Adalat is to

strengthen consumer protection and safety through progressive legislation and provide access to fair and efficient grievance redressal mechanisms.

Universities, Higher Educational Institutes to Create 25% Supernumerary Seats for Foreigners

The University Grants Commission has issued guidelines with regard to 25 percent supernumerary seats to be created for foreign students in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions. The Universities will be free to choose their admission policy for foreign students. As per the guidelines, 25 percent of the extra seats that will be created over and above the existing number of seats will not include the international students under exchange programmes or through a Memorandum of Understanding between institutions or between Government of India and other countries.

INTERNATIONAL

India Strongly Condemns North Korea's Missile Launch Over Japan

India has strongly condemned North Korea's ballistic missile launch over Japan and said that these moves affect the peace and security of the region and beyond. While addressing the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj said the Global South has already been disproportionately affected by the prevailing geopolitical situation and related challenges. She added that it is therefore important to continue to make all efforts to maintain peace and stability.

OPEC to Cut Oil Production by 2 Million Barrels Per Day

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its Russia-led allies have agreed to cut oil production by two million barrels a day at a Vienna meeting. It is the deepest cuts to oil production since the 2020 COVID pandemic. The cut could spur a recovery in oil prices that have dropped to about US\$ 90 from US\$120 three months ago on fears of a global economic recession rising US interest rates, and a stronger dollar. However, the cut in real terms will be less than the headline figure, with multiple OPEC members currently producing less than their assigned quota.



ECONOMY

India Becomes World's Largest Producer, 2nd Largest Exporter of Sugar

India has emerged as the world's largest producer and second largest exporter of sugar. In Sugar Season 2021-22, a record of more than 5000 lakh MT of sugarcane was produced in the country. The season has proven to be a watershed season for the Indian sugar industry as record high sugar exports of over 109 lakh metric tons have been registered. This is an outcome of the synchronous and collaborative efforts of Central and State Governments, farmers, and sugar mills with a supportive overall ecosystem for business in the country, according to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.



India's Merchandise Export Grow by 15% During April-Sept 2022

India's merchandise export has grown by over 15 per cent to US\$ 229 billion from April to September this year in comparison to the same period last year. However, the merchandise export of nearly US\$ 32 billion in September this year is 3.52 per cent less in comparison to the same month last year. Export in certain sectors has seen a decline on account of a slowdown in some developed economies and a consequential slowdown in demands. The export of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery from April to September this year was over US\$158 billion, an increase of 5.53 per cent over the same period last year.

SPORTS

PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia Clinch FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Title

The Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) has recognized PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia as FIH Men's and Women's Goalkeeper of the Year for the second year in a row. Savita Punia, the captain of the Indian women's hockey team, and veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh both received the FIH goalkeeper of the year title in the men's and women's categories on the strength of their performances beneath the bar. Savita is the third athlete to win Goalkeeper of the Year (Women) for three years in a row since the award's debut in 2014.



(Source: AIR/PIB)