

News Digest

NATIONAL

Gujarat Assembly Elections: Polling on 1st and 5th December 2022

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced two-phase Assembly Elections in Gujarat. The first phase of elections for 89 Assembly seats will be held on 1st December while the second phase for 93 seats will take place on 5th December. The counting of votes will take place on 8th of December.

SC Affirms Death Penalty to Red Fort Attack Accused Mohammed Arif

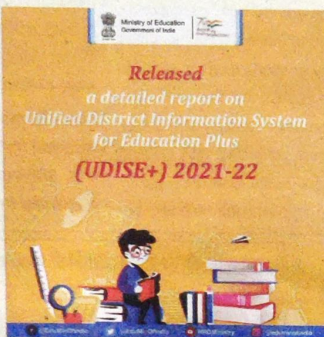
The Supreme Court has affirmed the death penalty awarded to Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist Mohammed Arif for the 22nd December 2000 Red Fort attack case. Three persons, including two army officers, were killed in the incident. Dismissing the review petition, a bench comprising Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi observed that the Court has accepted the prayers that electronic records must be eschewed from consideration. Mohammed Arif, admittedly a Pakistani national, was arrested on 25th December 2000 and awarded a death sentence by a trial court. Later, his death sentence was confirmed by the Delhi High Court.

SC Dismisses Petition Seeking Renaming of Bombay High Court

The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition seeking to change the name of the Bombay High Court as Maharashtra High Court. A bench comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Vikram Nath dismissed the petition after noting that it is a matter to be decided by Parliament. The bench said that it cannot interfere with the Parliamentary procedure.

Gross Enrolment Ratio in All Levels of School Education Shows Improvement

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) improved in 2021-22 at primary, upper primary, and higher secondary levels of school education, as compared to 2020-21 with notable increase in enrolment of girls and students in the SC, ST, OBC and CWSN (Children with Special Needs) category. According to the Union Ministry of Education's Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) Report 2021-22, more than 8 lakh new girl students enrolled in the year 2021-22, as per the data, 95.07 lakh teachers were engaged in school education during 2021-22 out of which more than 51% were female teachers. Uttar Pradesh witnesses highest number of enrolment of Students in Government Schools and recruitment of teachers. Nearly 4.98 lakh schools were certified under Fit India Schools and around 27.7% schools in India had kitchen garden and 21% had rainwater harvesting facility in 2021-22. On the infrastructure front, 89.3% schools had electricity connection, drinking water was available in 98.2% schools, 97.5% schools had separate toilet for girls and 27% had separate toilet for CWSN students.



DRDO Successfully Tests AD-1 Advance Interceptor Missile

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), on 2nd November 2022, successfully tested the AD-1 interceptor missile, one of the two interceptors of its Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Phase 2 project. The missile was successfully fired from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with indigenously-developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the target. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed it as a unique type of interceptor with advanced technologies available with a very few nations in the world. He exuded confidence that it will further strengthen the country's BMD capability to the next level.

Nationwide Campaign for Submission of Digital Life Certificates

The government has started a nationwide campaign for submission of Digital Life Certificates and use of face authentication app by pensioners. Submission of Life Certificates is an important activity to be carried out by pensioners every year in the month of November to ensure continuity of their pension. In the traditional mode, pensioners had to present themselves before the Pension Disbursing Authority for physical submission of their Life Certificate which was inconvenient, particularly for the old, ailing and infirm pensioners. However, to enhance 'Ease of Living' of pensioners, the Government has been promoting use of Digital Life Certificate extensively. Initially submission of DLCs using biometrics



was started. Later, the Government developed a face-recognition technology system based on Aadhar database under which it is possible to give a DLC from any Android based smart phone.

INTERNATIONAL

Benjamin Netanyahu Makes a Comeback as Israel's PM

Benjamin Netanyahu has made a stunning comeback to power in Israel as his Likud party and its far-right and religious allies emerged victorious in the recently held Parliamentary elections. The coalition won 64 out of 120 Parliament seats in the country's fifth election in less than four years. 73 year old Benjamin Netanyahu is the longest-serving Prime Minister, having been elected for five times over the course of 15 years.



In a First after Division, North Korea & South Korea Fire Missile Across Maritime Border

North Korea and South Korea, on 2nd November, both fired missiles across their maritime border for the first time since the peninsula was divided. Describing Pyongyang's firing of missile as an unacceptable breach of its territory, Seoul confirmed having fired missiles to the north in response to Pyongyang's firing. On 4th November, South Korea's military said North Korea fired an artillery barrage after a record-breaking blitz of launches that included a failed intercontinental ballistic missile.

ECONOMY

Products Made by Women SHGs to Be Sold Through Patanjali Stores

The Union Ministry of Rural Development and Patanjali have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) according to which selected products made by women Self Help Groups will be sold through stores of Patanjali Ayurved. This has been done with a view to build on and leverage on the strengths of Self Help Groups under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission. Minister of Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh termed it as an important step in helping rural SHG women attain an aspirational income of at least Rs one lakh per annum.

Cabinet Approves Higher Price for Sugarcane based Ethanol to Reduce Farmers' Woes

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a higher price for Ethanol derived from different sugarcane-based raw materials for the forthcoming sugar season. Remunerative price for C heavy molasses has been hiked 5.89% to Rs 49.4 per litre, B heavy molasses has been increased by 2.8% to Rs 60.7 per litre and sugarcane juice and syrup has been raised by 3.40% to Rs 65.6 per litre. This has been done to ensure early payment to cane farmers. Approving a mechanism for ethanol procurement by public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme, this has also changed the target year for 20 per cent ethanol blending from 2030 to 2025 as the target of 10 per cent ethanol blending has already been achieved in May this year.



SPORTS

FIFA, IAFF Sign Memorandum for Promoting 'Football4Schools' in India

The Union Ministry of Education has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football) and IAFF (All India Football Federation) for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India. Education Minister Shri Dharmendra



Pradhan, while recalling the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP) has given to sports, laid emphasis on mainstreaming sports with education. He described the Football4School as a step towards fulfilling the PM's vision of making sports a way of life as well as created well rounded citizens.

(Source: AIR/PIB)