

8th September, 2021

1. Centre decides to allow induction of women into National Defence Academy

The Central government informed the Supreme Court that it has taken decision to allow induction of women into National Defence Academy (NDA). The Government said the decision was taken in consultation with Armed Forces. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the Apex Court of the decision. The Court proceeded to record the same and posted the case for further hearing on September 22.

The Top Court on 18 of last month ruled that women be allowed to face the NDA entrance exam for gaining commission as officers in defence services. With this, not only have the doors been thrown open for women to gain permanent commission in the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy, the decision has long-term ramifications regarding the future of women in the armed forces.

2. Govt constitutes task force & expert committee to prepare road map for coal based hydrogen production

The Ministry of Coal has constituted a Task Force and Expert Committee to Prepare Road Map for Coal based Hydrogen Production.

The Task Force will be headed by Additional Secretary in the Ministry. Its broad terms and reference include identification of role to be played by each stakeholder Ministry, monitoring of activities towards achieving coal based Hydrogen production and setting up sub committees to achieve the objective.

On the other hand, the Expert Committee will be headed by Director General of the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry, R.K. Malhotra. Its terms and reference include identifying experts in India and co-opting as members, desk based review of progress in hydrogen technology and also review ongoing research projects in Hydrogen technology The Committee will prepare a road map for coal based Hydrogen production and usage including economic viability, environmental sustainability and also assist the Task force in implementation of Coal based Hydrogen production and usage. Coal Ministry has said that the expert committee is expected to submit the report in three months.

3. Rajnath Singh approves delegation of Financial powers to Armed Forces for Revenue Procurement

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved delegation of Financial powers to Armed Forces for Revenue Procurement.

The primary focus of the enhanced delegation of financial powers is to empower Field Commanders and below to procure equipment and war-like stores in a speedy manner for urgent operational necessities and meeting essential sustenance requirements. A general enhancement of

up to two times has been approved for the Competent Financial Authorities. Delegated Financial Powers of Vice Chiefs of the Services have been increased by 10 per cent, subject to an overall ceiling of 500 crore rupees.

4. CBDT amends Income-tax Rules to ease authentication of electronic records submitted in faceless assessment proceedings

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has amended the Income-tax Rules to ease authentication of electronic records submitted in faceless assessment proceedings.

The Finance Ministry said electronic records submitted through registered account of the taxpayers in the Income-tax portal shall be deemed to have been authenticated by the taxpayer by electronic verification code. The move will ease the process of authentication of electronic records in faceless assessment proceedings. The Ministry said this simplified process will also be available to companies and tax audit cases.

Earlier, companies and tax audit cases are mandatorily required to authenticate the electronic records by digital signature.

5. Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy launches programme 'Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath'

Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy launched a programme Bujurgon ki Baat-Desh Ke Saath in New Delhi. The programme aims at enhancing the interaction between the youth and the elder people who are 95 years and above and have spent around 18 years in India before independence.

6. Piyush Goyal appointed as India's Sherpa for G20

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 which is an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.

The next G20 Summit is scheduled to take place from 30th to 31st of next month under Italian Presidency. India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1st December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time. India will be part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from 1st of December this year till 30th November 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading India's representation at G20 Summits since 2014. India has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999.

G20 is major international grouping that brings together 19 of the world's major economies and the European Union, with its members accounting for more than 80 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of global population.

7. All India Institute of Ayurveda inks MoU with Western Sydney University to appoint Ayurveda Chair

All India Institute of Ayurveda under Ministry of Ayush has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU in coordination with Western Sydney University Australia, in virtual mode to appoint an Academic Chair in Ayurveda.

The MoU was signed by Professor Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda and Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University, Australia, Professor Barney Glover. The new Academic Chair will undertake academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda. It includes herbal medicine and yoga as well as design academic standards and short-term and medium-term courses and educational guidelines.

8. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurates country's first functional smog tower at in Delhi

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav dedicated the first functional Smog Tower in India at Anand Vihar, Delhi.

He expressed hope that the pilot smog tower project will yield fruitful results and supplement the air quality improvement efforts.

9. Taliban announces caretaker govt in Afghanistan; Mullah Hasan Akhund to be acting PM

The Taliban group has announced its caretaker government in Afghanistan. The all-male interim cabinet will be headed by Mullah Hasan Akhund as acting Prime Minister. Akhund belongs to Kandahar and led the group's leadership council, which directed insurgent attacks against the United States and allied forces during nearly 20 years of war.