

May 7th and 8th news

International:

Vladimir Putin sworn in for fourth term in Kremlin ceremony

Vladimir V. Putin took the oath of office on 7th May for a fourth term as Russia's president, in a ceremony staged in a gilded Kremlin hall once used to crown czars and replete with pageantry, highlighting his vast accumulation of authority after nearly two decades in power.

Mr. Putin, a former KGB agent, has ruled Russia as prime minister or president for more than 18 years, and in that time has crafted an image as a steely nerved leader and the man best qualified to rebuild his country after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Vladimir Putin has extended his almost two-decade rule by another six years.

The 65-year-old, in power since 1999, is on course to become the longest-serving Russian leader since Joseph Stalin after his victory in March's elections.

Mr Putin was re-elected with more than 76 percent of the vote, his best ever election performance. He has promised to use his fourth term to revitalise the country's economy, but he also faces a host of delicate international disputes.

Russia's ties with the West have been strained by Putin's moves to annex Crimea from Ukraine and to launch a military campaign in Syria in support of its President Bashar al-Assad.

National:

'Ajeevika And Kaushal Vikas Mela' In Bhubaneswar

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), together joined hands to amplify the "Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan" of the current incumbent government which is promoting social harmony and awareness around the pro-poor initiatives of the government.

MSDE organized a Kaushal and Rojgar Mela at New Women's College in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where more than 5000 people from different walks of life participated.

More than 29 states of art multi-skill 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras' was also launched digitally across the country by Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan

One Stop Centres for women in 9 states

The Centre has approved setting up of one hundred additional One Stop Centres in nine states to help violence affected women.

These States are Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The purpose of these centres is to facilitate integrated services for violence affected women such as police assistance, medical aid, psycho-social counselling and legal aid.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has so far set up 182 Centres under the scheme since April, 2015. Over one lakh 30 thousand women affected by violence have been assisted at these centres in 33 States/union territories.

Expansion of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in Tribal Districts

Tribal Affairs Ministry will expand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in Tribal Districts across the country. The aim of the establishment of these Kendras is to provide skill upgradation and capacity building training to increase the incomes of tribals. Tribal Affairs Secretary Leena Nair has recently chaired a meeting in this regard to formulate the arrangements to decide the modalities.

The Ministry said, the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras will be an important milestone in economic development of tribals involved in collection of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) by helping them in optimum utilization of natural resources. TRIFED will provide the training and technical support.

This first model Van Dhan Vikas Kendra is being implemented in Bijapur District of Chhatisgarh for training of 300 beneficiaries with an outlay of over 43 lakh rupees for training, providing equipments and tools for primary level processing.

This initiative is aimed at mainstreaming the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level.

Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20 per cent to around 60 per cent.

Bilateral:

India and Sri Lanka Agree On Information Exchange For Drug Control

India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries. A decision to this effect was taken at the third bilateral meeting between delegations from India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) on narcotics, drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters in New Delhi.

Centre signs \$200mn loan agreement with World Bank for POSHAN Abhiyaan

The Centre has signed a loan agreement worth 200 million dollar with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission -POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Ministry of Women and Child Development in a release said, the loan will help in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children upto 6 years of age from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent by 2022.

The POSHAN scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. The POSHAN scheme aims to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

It also targets to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth rate. The Ministry said, the loan approved will support the first phase of Abhiyan in 315 districts.

Economy:

Indias 7% projected growth rate amazingly fast: ADB

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said, India's projected GDP growth of over 7 percent for the current fiscal is amazingly fast and if this momentum is maintained, the size of the economy can double within a decade.

According to the ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada, India should not worry about not achieving 8 per cent growth but focus on increasing domestic demand by reducing the income inequality.

He said growth is driven more by domestic consumption than exports. Mr Sawada said inequality and poverty reduction would play a very important role in achieving higher growth because consumption can stimulate more production and that can create more employment.

He said tapping the broadening market will be important to achieve higher growth, adding that the services sector too would play a role in pushing up economic growth. ADB has projected India to remain the fastest growing Asian nation with 7.3 percent growth in 2018-19, and 7.6 percent in 2019-20.

Steel exports increased by 16.7 % to 9.6 million tonnes in 2017-18

India's total export of finished steel increased by 16 point 7 percent to 9 point 6 million tonnes in 2017-18. The country had exported 8.2 million tonnes finished steel during 2016-17 fiscal, the Joint Plant Committee said in a report. Empowered by Ministry of Steel, Joint Plant Committee is the only institution which collects data on the Indian iron and steel industry

Sports:

India finishes on top in South Asian Junior Athletics Championships

India has finished on top in the South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo. On the final day of the meet, Indian athletes won nine more Gold medals, ending with a tally of 20 Gold, 22 Silver and 8 Bronze.

The Indian junior athletes also registered five new meet records. In Girls' Triple Jump, Priyadarshini Suresh grabbed the coveted yellow metal with a record of 12.90 metres, while in Girls' Javelin Throw, Sanjana Choudhary bagged the top honours with a record of 48.08.

In Boys Shot Put, Ashish Bhalothia set a new record and won the Gold medal with an effort of 18.53 metres. Triple jumper Kamalraj Kanagaraj also contributed to India's gold medal tally with a record jump of 15.96 metres.

Hosts Sri Lanka finished second behind India, while Pakistan was third. Athletes from seven nations took part in the event.

The Indian juniors will next represent the nation at the 18th Asian Junior Athletics Championships to be held in Gifu, Japan from the 7th of next month.

India wins Silver medals at Liberation International competition

In Shooting, Olympian Gagan Narang and Pooja Ghatkar clinched a Silver medal in the 10-meter Air Rifle Mixed Team event in the Grand Prix of Liberation International competition at Pilsen in the Czech Republic

Having topped the qualification with 833.2 points, the Indian pair came close to overtaking the Lithuanian team of Jurate Cesynaite and Karolis Girulis for the Gold, before missing the target by 1.3 points.

Shri Nivetha Paramanatham and Amanpreet Singh claimed the Mixed Air Pistol Silver after topping the qualification with a score of 775.

Earlier in the tournament, Nivetha had bagged a Gold medal in the Women's Air Pistol, while Mihika Poore took home the top honours in the Women's Air Rifle event.