

July 25th, 26th, 27th

International:

PM Modi reaffirms India's commitment to multilateralism, rules-based world at BRICS Summit

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, India wants to work closely with BRICS nations towards fourth industrial revolution.

Addressing the Plenary session of 10th BRICS Summit at Johannesburg in South Africa on 26th July, Mr Modi called for sharing the best practices and policies in the area. He reaffirmed India's commitment to multilateralism, international trade and rules-based world order.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is the fourth major industrial era since the initial Industrial Revolution of the 18th century. It is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital and biological spheres.

The Prime Minister said, technological innovations can help to enhance better service delivery, productivity levels. He said, compliance with laws, direct payment to beneficiaries of social security and government schemes is the example of better delivery through technology.

He said, talent will have more importance than capital in the 4th industrial revolution where high skill but temporary work will be the new face of employment. He said, it will bring radical changes in the fields of Industrial production, design and manufacturing.

The Prime Minister said, his government's focus is to ensure vocational and technical education to empower the left out section of the society. He said, the idea is to transform job seekers into job providers.

Mr Modi emphasized the need to make rapid changes in terms of education and skill development to prepare the youth for future challenges. He also stressed the need for schools and universities to create the curriculum so that they can prepare the youth for the future.

The BRICS leaders adopted the Johannesburg declaration which reaffirms principles of democracy and inclusiveness, implementation of UN charter and respect for Rule of law. It takes definite stand on corruption and calls for extradition of economic offenders and fugitives and their asset recovery.

The Declaration also calls for fighting international terrorism and early implementation of comprehensive convention on international terrorism(CCIT).

It also refers to timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). It reaffirms the principles of UNFCCC and CBD to promote sustainable development and environmental protection. The joint Declaration reaffirms the importance that India attaches to Africa.

In his address, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that BRICS nations should cooperate to address North-South imbalance, geopolitical conflicts and trade protectionism which are adversely impacting the developing economies. He said that people to people linkages should be strengthened among BRICS nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed the need to promote direct contact between businesses across BRICS nations. He informed that New Development Bank has approved 21 projects across BRICS nations. He said, year 2017 witnessed 30% increase in investments across BRICS countries.

The BRICS summit began on 25th July with keynote address of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. The theme of this year's summit is "BRICS in Africa: collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th industrial revolution.

National:

National Nutrition month-September

Every year September would be celebrated as the National Nutrition Month to mark the country's fight against malnutrition, the Ministry of Women and Child Development

The ministry would, in the month, organize programmes to spread awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight in children and focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers, according to an official statement.

The decision to celebrate September as the National Nutrition Month was taken during the second meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under the Poshan Abhiyaan

Under the Poshan Abhiyan, it was also decided that through the use of technology, a targeted approach and convergence would be used to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition and anemia in children.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed a caller tune and ringtone to popularise and create a connect with the goal of 'Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan'

WCD Ministry launches '#Childline1098' Contest- 'Spot the Logo and Suggest a Tagline'

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, #Childline1098, inviting people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations and send it with a tagline, to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30.

CHILDLINE is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. At present, it is operational at 450 locations.

As Railways often act as carriers of trafficked children, the Ministry signed an MoU with the Ministry of Railways to rescue and rehabilitate runaway, abandoned, kidnapped and trafficked children via Railways.

The Ministry launched an awareness campaign via posters in railway coaches in November, 2015, and around 2 lakh posters have been put in trains which caution passengers about children around them who may need protection

KTDC launches country's first state-run all-woman hotel

Work on India's public sector hotel run entirely by women for women, claimed to be the first such in the country, was launched by state Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran.

A flagship project of the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC), the hotel named 'Hostess' will come up within six months at the KTDC complex at the main bus station in the heart of the city, adjacent to the central railway station.

The project was a 'milestone initiative' of KTDC, considering its purpose, security features and facilities of global standards at affordable rates

Lok Sabha passes Trafficking of Persons Bill, 2018

The Lok Sabha has passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill 2018. The Bill provides for the prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons and seeks to establish a National Anti-Trafficking Bureau to investigate trafficking cases.

It also provides for the setting up of Anti-Trafficking Units (ATUs) at the district level which will deal with the investigation, prevention, rescue, and protection of victims and witnesses.

Replying to a debate on the Bill, Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi said, the bill has a compassionate view and it is victim-centric.

She said, the bill is intended to go after human traffickers and not the victims. She said, states, NGOs were consulted during drafting of the bill. Saying that the bill was long overdue, Ms Gandhi hoped that conviction rate will improve after the bill is enacted.

She said, a lot of countries have written to India saying that it is a good bill and they will also draft their respective anti-human trafficking law based on this.

She added that a rehabilitation fund with an initial corpus of 10 crore rupees will be created for the first time which will be used for the physical, psychological and social well being of the victims and also there will be designated courts in each district for speedy trial of the cases.

Bilateral:

Indian Air Force To Participates In Australia's 'Pitch Black Exercise'

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of four Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft landed at Darwin Air Force Base, Australia for participating in the *Exercise Pitch Black-2018*. This is the first time that an Indian Air Force contingent is participating in this multinational air exercise in Australia.

PM Modi embarks on three-nation tour to Africa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Rwandan capital Kigali on the first leg of his five-day three-nation visit to Africa. It will be the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda.

- Rwanda-23rd and 24th
- Uganda-24th July
- South Africa-25th and 27th July

Four agreements with Uganda

India and Uganda signed four MoUs. The agreements were signed following the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala. The MoUs are....

1. MoU on Defence Cooperation.
2. MoU on Visa exemption for Diplomatic and official passport holders.
3. MoU on Cultural Exchange Programme.
4. MoU on Material Testing Laboratory.

India, UK to enhance partnership in research and innovation sector

India and the United Kingdom will enhance their partnership in the area of research and innovation. The objective is to address challenges, such as water pollution, life-threatening diseases and climate change. This was agreed to at the delegation level meeting of 6th India-Science and Innovation Council in New Delhi. It was attended by Science and Technology and Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and his UK counterpart Sam Gyimah.

Dr Vardhan emphasized that scientists and innovators come up with commercially viable and environment-friendly products for use by common people. He stressed that innovations focus on reducing people's sufferings. The Minister also pitched for collaboration between Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, CSIR, and its UK equivalent to expand cooperation.

Economy:

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & MyGov launches "Innovate India Platform"

R Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission and Arvind Gupta CEO, MyGov launched the "*InnovateIndia Platform*", a collaboration between the Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov, a citizen-centric platform of the Government of India. The InnovateIndia MyGov-AIM portal creates the innovations platform for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level.

Bharti Infratel, Indus Tower Merger Deal Gets SEBI Nod

Mobile tower arm of telecom major Bharti Airtel, Infratel announced that it has received clearance from SEBI for its merger with Indus Towers. It will now approach the National Company Law Tribunal for its approval. The combined company will own 100% of Indus Towers jointly owned by Bharti Infratel (42% holding), Vodafone (42%), Idea Group (11.15%) and Providence (4.85%)

Environment

Odisha CM launches 'Green Mahanadi Mission

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on 24th July launched the 'Green Mahanadi Mission', a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along the Mahanadi river and its tributaries. The Chief Minister launched the campaign during his visit to Boudh and Subarnapur districts where he planted a sapling on the bank of the Mahanadi. A massive plantation drive will be undertaken along the Mahanadi, Ib and Tel rivers. Two crore trees will be planted along the rivers in the state

The plantation drive will be carried out in 16,500 hectare and 500 km. Forest and Environment Minister Bijoyshree Routray said the aim of this programme is to protect the Mahanadi and keep it alive.

Awards:

Two Indians among Ramsaysay Awards

Two Indians, Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among the six winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award. The awards declared on 26th July are regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said in its citation that Vatwani is being recognized for his tremendous courage and healing compassion in embracing India's mentally-afflicted destitute.

Wangchuk, has been recognized for his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India, improving the life opportunities of Ladakhi youth in Jammu and Kashmir. The others award winners are from Cambodia, East Timor, Philippines and Vietnam. Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honour.