

EPFO extends date for filing Applications regarding pension on Higher Wages

Chennai, May 03 2023: EPFO has made arrangements for obtaining Applications for Validation of Option / Joint Option from pensioners / members as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 04.11.2022. To facilitate this process, online facility has been made available. More than 12 lakh applications have been received till date. The online facility was to remain available only till 03.05.2023.



In the meantime, many representations have been received from various quarters seeking extension of time. The issue has been considered and it

has been decided that in order to provide a larger window of opportunity and in order to enable all eligible persons to file their applications, the timeline for filing applications would

now be till 26th June, 2023.

The timeline is being extended to facilitate and provide ample opportunity to the pensioners / members so as to to

ease out any difficulty being faced by them. This has been decided after sympathetically considering the various demands received from employees, employers and their associations.

60th Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Chennai, May 03 2023: Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on its 60th Foundation Day today. On this significant occasion, Prof. Satinder Bhatia, Vice-Chancellor, IIFT remembered Late Shri HD Shourie, the founding Director General. She mentioned that he was the father figure to IIFTians, who laid the foundation of IIFT with the motto, 'Excellence is a way of life'.

with and reaching IIFT's height among top B-schools in India. She said that IIFT has achieved many milestones and it is serving the nation in the field of international business. She mentioned the academic and administrative transformations implemented at IIFT's Delhi and Kolkata campuses and expressed that the newly inaugurated Kakinada campus will achieve excellence very soon. She also said that IIFT has many academic and administrative collaborations to work continuously in the

direction of its vision and mission. With this, IIFT has become the place to attract industries, students, and other stakeholders, she said.

Since its establishment in 1963, IIFT has proactively seized all available opportunities to emerge as an acknowledged centre of excellence in international trade and business. During this period, it has diversified its role from being a think tank institution to a key repository of knowledge in international trade, apart from being the premier business school in the country. The IIFT has grown at a

phenomenal rate in the first two decades of the new millennium.

In the journey of 60 years, IIFT has added many feathers to its cap from being ranked consistently amongst the top business schools, achieving AACSB accreditation to offering an impressive array of innovative MDPs/EDPs offered by the Institute. From July 2023 onwards, IIFT Campus in GIFT City, Gujrat will also be operational.

During the event, VC, IIFT released the commemorative issue of Foreign Trade Review (FTR) Journal.

More than 15,000 people joined the 'Yoga Mahotsav' in Jaipur

Yoga is a spiritual discipline is based on a subtle science that aims to bring about harmony between the body and mind: Governor of Rajasthan, Kalraj Mishra

Chennai, May 03 2023: The Yoga Mahotsav witnessed an exhilarating atmosphere as more than 15,000 enthusiasts performed Common Yoga Protocol (CYP), along with dignitaries, at the sprawling ground of Shri Bhawani Niketan Shiksha Samiti here today. The Yoga Mahotsav was a celebration to commemorate 50 days to International Day of Yoga, 2023. The participants performed Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) in complete rhythm and harmony with a mesmerising outcome.

Jaipur, Dr Smt Somya Gurjar; Deputy Mayor of Jaipur, Smt Puneet Karnawat; Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush; Vice Chancellor of National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) Prof Sanjeev Sharma as well as many other dignitaries and guests took part in this mammoth exercise, with an ulterior motive to popularise Yoga.



Speaking at the occasion, Honourable Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Kalraj Mishra said, "Yoga and Ayurveda have a long history which dates back to centuries. The very first mention of Yoga was in the Rig Veda, one of the oldest sacred texts. This spiritual discipline is based on a subtle science that aims to bring about harmony between the body and mind. The whole world has been going through a tough time in form of Covid-19. Yoga and Ayurveda have helped to control the Pandemic. At the initiation and inspiration of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Bhai Modiji, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21st June, as the International Day of Yoga. Since then, the whole world is celebrating International Day of Yoga with enthusiasm and gaiety. I am extremely happy to be part of this mega event of 50th Day countdown of Yoga. I congratulate the Ministry of Ayush for organising this event in the Pink City of Jaipur."

of Ports Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Today, on this historic city of Jaipur, with a rich legacy of Yoga, has made this Yoga Mahotsav event a grand success. As thousands of you have joined here, the vision of our dynamic Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji to make Yoga a health & wellness movement among people has received a tremendous boost. Our endeavour through these Mahotsav is to sustain a ripple effect around the rich heritage of yoga. Yoga has been proved to act as an elixir to realise a healthy mind & body. Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Modi ji, we remain steadfast towards building a healthier nation with the help of our rich traditional medicinal system including Yoga. As India is chairing the G20 for this year, we have a special responsibility to further our soft power of yoga to enrich the health & wellness of people across the world. Thanks to global appeal that yoga is enjoying since the inception of International Day of Yoga at the behest of Prime Minister Modi ji, it has been able to

bring the whole world together resulting in peace and harmony. This year, we are planning to demonstrate of Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) at Arctic and Antarctic region. With the tremendous response to the Yoga Mahotsav in Jaipur, it has emboldened our effort to make Yoga a global healthcare movement."

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, "Today we have gathered in this beautiful city to celebrate the 50th countdown of International Yoga Day. To understand the importance of yoga, we must first know what yoga is. Yoga is the result of tireless meditation by sages for thousands of years. Our sages have defined yoga as 'samatvam yoga uchyate', which means to remain balanced in both happiness and sorrow, in both equilibrium and imbalance. Yoga has united the world in a single thread, given new meaning to global values, and brought various health systems closer to each other. This beautiful movement of humanity towards a healthy and happy future has been



made popular and institutionalised at the global level thanks to the vision and capable leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The scale of Yoga Day is increasing day by day."

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Ayush and Women & Child Development, Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai said, "In this Pink city of Jaipur, it's a wonderful morning and I feel privileged to extend my heartfelt welcome to all of you in this event of 50th day countdown to the 9th International Day of Yoga. Yoga and Ayurveda give great importance to the mind-body connection. They have connection with nature and the

surrounding environment. Being an allopathic doctor myself, I know how much Ayush systems have helped people during the Covid 19 pandemic. We all know that at present, there has been a rapid change in the lifestyle of the people and this change has taken place in a negative way. Due to which many types of diseases have flourished. These diseases are such that there is no permanent cure in the medical world. It has been established through scientific studies, that if we adopt a positive lifestyle of yoga-meditation and spirituality, we can get rid of most of the modern diseases. I welcome you all and urge to practice yoga as a daily route."

Explaining the reasoning behind organising the 50-day countdown in Rajasthan, the Ayush Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Thousands of foreign tourists visit Rajasthan each year and avail the services of numerous yoga institutions to learn yoga and yoga therapies. There is tremendous potential for the yoga institutions of Rajasthan in the field of Medical Value Travel and spiritual tourism. We are also promoting village tourism, which is perfectly complemented by yoga in Rajasthan. I am confident that the upcoming mass demonstration would increase the enthusiasm for yoga in Rajasthan. Our effort to connect rural population through Ayush Gram in each state. An Ayush Gram will be a congregation of two-three villages and engage an average population of over 3,000. All our efforts would be made for special training by appointing Yoga trainers in the identified villages so that each Ayush Gram is ready to demonstrate CYP on 21st

June 2023."

Three Jaipur based Yoga groups, namely Yogashtali Yoga Society, Yoga Peace, Madan Gurjar & Team also performed at the Yoga Mahotsav. Among the participants, the students, officials from the central and state governments, and yoga enthusiasts participated in the event. The Ministry organised the event with active support and cooperation of the state government of Rajasthan, local authorities and various institutions with an objective to boost Medical Value Travel in Rajasthan through Yoga.

The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (M D N I Y), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Ayush, supported by National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur has been celebrating the Yoga Mahotsav to commemorate the 50 days countdown to the International Day of Yoga at Shri Bhawani Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Sports Ground, Jaipur.

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Growth of Ethanol sector is an example for the world: Goyal

Chennai, May 03 2023: The growth of ethanol sector has been tremendous which has set a sort of example for the world, said Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry while addressing one day seminar on 'National Seminar on Maize to Ethanol' organized by Department of Food and Public Distribution here today.

Shri Goyal said that in last 9 years, sugar sector has been self-sufficient with more than 99.9% payment to farmers for previous season. Now, ethanol will support maize farmers in increasing their income and bringing growth with stability on the lines of sugarcane farmers. Investment of thousands of crores have come creating thousands of jobs in rural sector which has generated multiplier effect on Indian economy. He highlighted that environment friendly fuel like ethanol has been on the top priority list of Hon'ble Prime Minister which has resulted in more than doubling of ethanol blending in just 2 years and target of 20% ethanol blending has also been preponed from 2030 to 2025.

Timely planning, industry friendly policies and transparent approach of the Government of India with collaboration of industry has made these achievements a reality, he said. He stressed on the need for synchronous efforts of Central Government, States, Research Institutes, OMCs and Distilleries to achieve the target of 20% ethanol blending while keeping interests of the farmers always on top priority.

The Union Minister highlighted that India has transformed in accomplishing bigger goals in shorter time to be the world leader. Target of E 20 was preponed from 2030 to 2025 so that India can have clean fuel with propagating farmers' interests.

The Secretary, Agriculture, Shri Manoj Ahuja also expressed the need to have more targeted and region specific approach in promoting cultivation of maize in the country. Secretary, Petroleum supported the idea and highlighted the work of OMCs in collaborating



with industry which resulted in achieving 10% blending target last year and moving in right direction to achieve the 20% blending target in time. Secretary, F & PD spelt out the need for assured procurement of maize at MSP and evolving enabling ecosystem for the whole sector as basic necessity to achieve the target for grain-based distilleries.

In India, distilleries generally produce ethanol from molasses which is the by-product of sugar. However, only sugarcane route is not sufficient to achieve the 20% blending target, therefore, ethanol from food-grains such as maize, damaged food grains (DFG) and rice available with FCI has also been allowed. To achieve the target of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2025, about 1016 crore liters of ethanol would be required and about 334 crore liters of ethanol would be required for other uses. For this, about 1700 crore liters of ethanol producing capacity would be required considering plant operates at 80% efficiency.

It is estimated that to achieve the target of 20% blending, the requirement of food-grains for ethanol production would be around 165 LMT. Globally, maize is a primary feedstock for production of ethanol as it consumes less water and is economical, however, in India, the use of maize as a feedstock for ethanol production is yet to gain momentum. Currently, grain-based distilleries are producing ethanol from food-grains by using either Damaged Food Grains (DFG) like broken rice or using FCI rice, there is hardly any production of ethanol from maize by grain based distilleries in India. Use of multiple feed-stocks for ethanol production will ensure feedstock security thereby not putting any stress on the availability of any single feedstock. Moreover, maize based ethanol is more economical and water

efficient.

The production of maize in the country is consistent. However, due to low demand of maize, farmers are not getting appropriate price for their produce. Production of ethanol from maize will increase the demand of maize and therefore will fetch a better price to farmers. At present, due to export demand, maize prices are high but generally, market price of maize remain below MSP leading to low cultivation area for the crop. Use of maize for ethanol production would assure better prices and consistent demand for maize leading to more cultivation of the crop which is lesser water consuming crop as compared to paddy. Further, distilleries too shall be assured about the availability of feedstock in the market which will not only create win-win situation for both distillers and farmers but also would be of great help in conservation of water and environment.

During all the deliberations, all the stakeholders agreed to have a collaborative approach towards promoting maize production, yield and area. On the lines of sugarcane sector, distilleries need to support maize farmers and assure procurement of their harvest at MSP rate of maize. Petroleum Ministry has also shown willingness to incentivize the ethanol from maize with a medium term stable pricing policy on the matter. Indian Institute of Maize Research will work on better varieties while Distilleries need to collaborate with Cattle & Animal Feed Manufacturers' Association (CLFMA) on quality standards of DDGS so that distilleries can tap huge opportunities in the sector. With integrated strategy of ethanol, DDGS and other by-products from maize, higher profitability could be ensured for farmers, distilleries and

overall industry which would also cater to meet almost 50% need of ethanol for fuel through grain based distilleries.

The seminar thus focused on bringing experts of various varied technological fields under one platform with the aim of looking at ways on usage of technology as a force multiplier to understand the concerns and challenges in promoting maize cultivation as well as to identify a suggestive course of action to progress in achieving the higher maize production in the country which would certainly benefit not only farmers and distilleries but also would be of great help in conservation of water and environment.

Aligning the objective of Atamnirbhar Bharat in meeting fuel energy needs of the country under Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Programme, with the Central Government's aim to further interest of maize farmers of the country, the seminar was organized. The objective of the seminar was to bring all stakeholders of Maize and Ethanol industry at one platform and discuss the strategy and priorities for promoting maize as primary grain based feedstock for ethanol production to achieve 20% blending target by 2025. The Seminar was conducted in four sessions each focusing on key aspect of the overall scenario.

Secretary DFPD, Shri Sanjeev Chopra along with Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Secretary, Shri Pankaj Jain also participated in the Seminar along with eminent experts from various Government Departments, Institutes, Oil Marketing Companies and Industry. Distinguished experts from ethanol industry, sugar sector, Animal Feed Marketing Association and seed/equipment suppliers attended the Seminar.

Infosys Foundation Collaborates with GoSports Foundation to Launch 'Girls for Gold' Program for Aspiring Women Athletes across India

Chennai, May 03 2023: Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic and CSR arm of Infosys, today announced that it is collaborating with GoSports Foundation to build the 'Girls for Gold Program', a high-performance excellence program for junior and emerging women athletes. This program, spanning an initial term of four years, will identify and support progression of talented Indian women athletes between 13 to 19 years of age through collaborations with high potential academies and coaches in India. The program will include scholarships, coaching, access to academies, and performance recognition.

The program will follow a three-pronged approach. First, it will establish a strong cohort of women athletes who will be equipped to compete at the international level, help them build sustainable careers, and nurture them to become role models for the next generation. Secondly, it



will build a pipeline of qualified and capable coaches who will help realize the aspirations of athletes and create an atmosphere of sustained sporting excellence. Third, it will help tech-enable the identified academies to make them world class training centers.

The first cohort of supported academies range across five sporting disciplines, that comprise shooting, boxing, weightlifting, table tennis and badminton. The academies identified as the inaugural beneficiaries of the program are:

- Lakshya Shooting Club
- Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation
- Sathish Sivalingam Weightlifting Foundation
- Raman TT High

Performance Centre
Yadav Pr
Badminton Academy

More academies may be considered for support as the program expands. A Champions Advisory Board has been created, comprising sports personalities that include former Indian shooter and Arjuna awardee Suma Shirur, former national table tennis champion B Bhuvanewari, and amateur boxing champion and Padma Vibhushan awardee MC Mary Kom.

"We truly appreciate Infosys Foundation's commitment to creating cutting-edge avenues for girls and young women to become sporting champions for India. The holistic model of the 'Girls for Gold Program' builds the ecosystem by investing in human and

institutional capacity and creating talent pathways for future generations. We are confident of the impact that this unique program will have on the lives and careers of women athletes we will support and, more broadly, on Indian sport", said, Deepthi Bopaiah, CEO – GoSports Foundation.

Sumit Virmani, Trustee, Infosys Foundation, said, "At Infosys Foundation, a deep-rooted focus on education and women empowerment have been a key priority over the years. Collaborating with GoSports Foundation furthers this long-standing commitment to empower aspiring women athletes with a holistic ecosystem that can help nurture their dreams. Excellence in sports is a driver of social change and we are confident that this collaboration will help these talented young women realize their potential in sports, in an environment amplified with scientific, and tech-enabled processes."

2nd G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Meeting to be held in Mumbai from May 23 - 25, 2023

Chennai, May 03 2023: The 2nd meeting of the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group will be held in Mumbai from May 23rd to 25th. Today, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal held a meeting at the BMC headquarters in Mumbai, to review the preparations being made by BMC and other agencies.

The work done by Mumbai in the last few years in the field of disaster management has been recognized not only at the national level but also at the global level. The scheduled meeting of Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group of the G-20 Council is an opportunity to highlight this achievement to the world. Keeping this in mind, BMC Commissioner directed all the agencies including BMC to maintain proper coordination and complete the pending works within prescribed time.

The 2nd G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting will begin in Mumbai from May 23, 2023. More than 120 members



will attend this meeting. On the sidelines of this meeting, representatives of the Working Group will visit BMC headquarters too. This visit will cover inspection of the control room of the Disaster Management Department and a heritage-walk of the historic municipal building. In view of this, the BMC Commissioner also mentioned that the ongoing renovation works in the BMC Headquarters building should be completed on time. He also directed that all works should be completed by maintaining good coordination with all other stakeholder agencies.

A total of three Working Group Meetings of the G-20 Council are being held in Mumbai in the month of May. In view of this, BMC Commissioner

stated, concerned departments should complete the works of roads, sanitation, beautification etc. which fall within the jurisdiction in time and also by keeping in mind the experience dignitaries had during previous G-20 meetings in the city. He also added that a review of the preparations in this regard will be taken in the next week.

Principal Secretary, Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department, Government of Maharashtra, Asim Kumar Gupta; Additional Municipal Commissioner (Eastern Suburbs) Ashwini Bhide; Additional Municipal Commissioner (City) Ashish Sharma; Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects) P. Velrasu; Additional Municipal Commissioner (Western

Suburbs) Dr. Sanjeev Kumar; Central Government's G-20 Council Director Mrinalini Srivastava, Director General (West Zone) of Press Information India, Mumbai; Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's Joint Commissioner (General Administration) Milin Sawant, Joint Commissioner (Municipal Commissioner's Office) Chandrashekhar Chore, Deputy Commissioner (Circle 4) Vishwas Shankarwar, Deputy Commissioner (Circle 2) Ramakant Biradar, Deputy Commissioner (Circle 1) Dr. Sangeeta Hassanale, K East Ward's Assistant Commissioner Manish Valanju, Director (Disaster Management) Mahesh Narvekar, Chief Fire Officer Sanjay Manjrekar, Chief Security Officer Ajit Tawde, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Security) Mahesh Chime, Government of Maharashtra's Additional Secretary Milind Hardas were present in this review meeting along with representatives of various other agencies.

HINDUSTAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE LAUNCHED MASTERS IN AVIATION SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Chennai, May 03 2023: Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (HITS), located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu is one of the remarkable institutions in India, offering Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Diploma, Research and Doctoral Programs in diverse fields of education. HITS in collaboration with Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (ENAC), France which is internationally recognized as the leading aeronautics and aviation university in Europe, providing a broad range of training, studies and research activities has launched one of its kind Advanced Master's Program in "Aviation Safety Management".

The ceremony for launching of course was held on 18th April 2023 in the presence of Chief guest Mr. Nicolas Cazalis, Vice President, ENAC and Dr. Aby Sam Executive Director, Dr S.N.Sridhara Vice

chancellor (HITS), Dr.A.Sivathanupillai, Former CEO & MD, Brahmos Aerospace & Professor Emeritus (Research), Dr.Lalit Gupta, Former JDG, DGCA, Mr.Hemant Kumar, Vice President & Director of Safety, INDIGO, Dr.R.Asokan, Dean Aviation, HITS.

Mr.Nicolas Cazalis highlighted that the course curriculum was in accordance with the objective set by the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan and Road map. He thanked the management of Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (HITS) for their collaboration with ENAC for launching the program in India. The event was concluded successfully by releasing the program brochure.

The Advanced Master's Program in "Aviation Safety Management" focuses on training safety managers and is exclusively designed for

those interested to pursue as safety managers in Airlines, Airport and other safety related professions in the aviation industry.

A panel discussion on "Aviation Safety Management" was arranged with panel members as:

1. Mr.Nicolas Cazalis, Vice President, ENAC
2. Dr.A.Sivathanu Pillai, Former CEO & MD, Brahmos Aerospace & Professor Emeritus (Research)
3. Dr.Lalit Gupta, Former JDG, DGCA
4. Mr.Hemant Kumar, Vice President & Director of Safety, INDIGO
5. Dr.S.N.Sridhara, Vice Chancellor, HITS
6. Dr.R.Asokan, Dean Aviation, HITS

The special guest Dr.Lalit Gupta, Former Joint Director General, DGCA highlighted the importance of aviation

safety in the airlines industry and how the safety mitigation risks are identified and handled. He conveyed that this is most needed program in India which is launched by Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science in collaboration with Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (ENAC)

The Guest of honor Dr.A.Sivathanu Pillai, Founder CEO & MD Brahmos Aerospace talked on the military aircraft safety management apart from civilian aircrafts. He also highlighted on the safety risks is much needed in also handling the reusable launch vehicles

The special guest Capt. Hemant Kumar, Vice President & chief of flight safety, Indigo enlightened on safety management systems and the much needed System for training the air safety officers and the crew members working in airlines.

Science-20 Engagement Group Meeting began in Lakshadweep

Chennai, May 03 2023: Under India's G20 Presidency, the two-day Science-20 Engagement Group meeting on Universal Holistic Health began at Bangaram Island in Lakshadweep on 1st May 2023, Monday. The Science-20 Meeting aims to develop a holistic approach to health and focus on promoting wellness and preventing diseases, rather than merely treating them.

The first day of the Science-20 meeting began with the Prime Minister exhorting everyone to use scientific techniques and methods to delve deeper into traditional medicines and practices like yoga for a more holistic lifestyle and to shift our ideal from healing to wellness. The meeting saw deliberations on topics



such as the interrelationship of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Further, the need for better medical infrastructure as well as easier access to medical care for Greater Global Health was also discussed during the meeting.

Ashutosh Sharma, President of the Indian National Science Academy, gave an address during this meeting. During his address he said, 'Universal Holistic

Health means recognizing that health is a human right and that everyone deserves access to quality health care that meets their unique needs.'

Furthermore, Shyama Kuruvilla, Senior Strategic Adviser at WHO, also expressed his views wherein he said, that 'the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities and gaps in our mental health systems'. He added, 'Mental health is an important aspect of overall well-being and a

fundamental human right'. 'We need strong mental health policies for all'. He shared, that 'access to mental health services should be available to all, regardless of socio-economic status, caste, ethnicity or gender identity'. 'A strong mental health policy can ensure equality and justice for all'.

The first day of the Science-20 meeting mainly focused on the need to revisit traditional practices for better mental health and incorporate them into modern day-to-day life. This meeting is a significant step towards achieving India's vision of universal health coverage and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals. Earlier in April Science-20 meeting was organized in Tripura.

National Mission For Clean Ganga Organizes Workshop On Sludge Management & 'Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems'

Chennai, May 03 2023: G. Asok Kumar, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on 2nd May 2023 presided over workshops on 'Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS): Issues, Challenges and Way Forward' and 'Sludge Management: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward' held at India International Centre, New Delhi. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National River Conservation Directorate (NRCDD), state governments, academic institutions, researchers, international organisations etc. took part in the workshops. Issues related to 'Parameters and Feasible Technologies required to be installed for Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System in different categories of STPs/ETPs across the Ganga Basin' and 'Characterization and Policy Framework Guidelines on Safe and Efficient Sludge management' were discussed.

Delivering the opening remarks for the OCEMS workshop, Shri G. Asok Kumar emphasized the importance of the workshops in terms of getting reliable and replicable data. "There are projects worth more than Rs. 35000 crore that are going on under Namami Ganga, out of which projects worth more than Rs. 29,000 crore are for

sewerage management. These are big investments and if we don't know the outcomes then it is not right," Shri Asok Kumar said, adding, "The world is looking at us as exemplified with the recognition of Namami Ganga as one of the top 10 world's restoration flagships to revive the natural world. A lot of interest was also shown in Namami Ganga Programme during the UN World Water Conference 2023 held in New York in March 2023."

Shri G. Asok Kumar said that there is a persistent need to outline fair and consistent data to gauge the outcome of the program. He remarked that the human element amplifies noise and distorts data, and we are looking to have accurate numbers. He stressed upon the necessity to have pre-defined parameters that can transmit accurate data from the source to the servers. "Human intervention can create havoc and noise when used erroneously", he said. There are various schools of thoughts with respect to what needs to be measured and creating nation-wide parameters will lead to stable and fair information from the source. He said: "Unless something is monitored, nothing can be done to improve it. If we wish to improve the water quality, then it has to be monitored. For monitoring, the correct data has to be measured."

DG, NMCG called upon academicians and technical experts to finalize the parameters required to measure source data and said that these parameters could be

revolutionary and need not to be confined to the Indian standards as long as they are reliable and repeatable. "There must be some technology available somewhere ensuring that parameters are measured and transmitted in a reliable way. The bottom line is that you get any technology from anywhere in the world, measure whatever parameters you want to but a solution needs to come out that can bring stable, reliable and replicable data to the computer screen without any bias, variation or fear and give the real picture on the ground," he added.

Recently, NMCG inaugurated PRAYAG - which stands for Platform for Real-time Analysis of Yamuna, Ganga and their Tributaries at NMCG.

On sludge management, Shri G. Asok Kumar exhorted a narrative change to view sludge as a gold mine for the country. "The treating capacity of NMCG has increased in the last 7-8 years and it is being ensured that polluted stretches of the river are being properly addressed," he said, adding, "This comes with a new problem of large volumes of sludge and in the last one-and-a-half year or so, Namami Ganga Mission has been focusing on various ways to monetize the reuse of waste water and sludge under the Arth Ganga campaign including use of sludge as soil conditioner in Natural Farming in the Ganga Basin."

NMCG looks to change how people view sludge. STPs have been renamed as 'Nirmal Jal Kendras' to connect the

process of sewage treatment and Ganga Rejuvenation with the local people and farmers. He said that sludge should be used to generate additional revenue for the STPs and Local Urban Bodies. He also mentioned the National Framework for Safe Usage of Treated Water that has been launched by NMCG recently. "We need to look into using sludge as a soil conditioner without causing any health effects, how to compress the volume of sludge and de-water it, pursue farmers to take sludge from us, fortify sludge with additional minerals and market it as fertilizers or manure", he added.

Shri D.P. Mathuria, Executive Director (Technical), NMCG gave the welcome address and made a presentation reflecting on the question of reliability of data that comes through various sources. During the OCEMS workshop, the discussions were held on techniques / instrumentation for Online Influent and Effluent Quality Measurement using real time sensors/analysers, available technologies and suitability of technologies for different matrices of water quality, site selection/conditions, comparison of online/in-line sensors/analysers v/s Lab Analysis - sensor and analyser accuracy and allowed variability, validation, calibration frequency, comparison of BOD, COD, TSS, TOC sensors/analysers, reporting methods and data transmission and commercial viability analysis for various available technologies.

CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (ACs) EXAMINATION, 2019

Chennai, May 03 2023: On the basis of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement's dated 18.05.2022 the final result of CAPF(ACs) Exam 2019 was recast and declared vide Press Note dated 05 September, 2022 recommending 288 candidates in order of merit for appointment.

The Commission, in accordance with Rule 16 (4) & (5) of the Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2019, had also maintained a Reserve List in order of merit below the last recommended candidate.

The Commission hereby recommends

following 41 candidates, which includes 19 General, 02 EWS, 19 OBC and 01 ST candidates, to fill up the remaining posts based on Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2019 from the candidates of Reserve List. Ministry of Home Affairs will communicate directly with recommended candidates.

The candidature of 01 General candidate bearing Roll No. 0835156, 07 OBC candidates bearing Roll numbers 0508733, 0804093, 0818440, 1103418, 1111841, 1200577, 1900725 and 1 EWS candidate bearing Roll No. 1119693 is provisional.

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Inauguration of Vasant Utsav Shri Kapali Temple

Chennai, May 03 2023: Vasant Utsav 2023 was inaugurated today by Shrimati Sudha Anchlia, Former Chief Secretary of Gujrat. Shri Chandra Mohan Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments and Shri Muralidharan, Commissioner of Hindu Religious Endowments. This year the trust is conducting 18th Vasant Utsav Festival of Dance presented by the Saraswathi Educational Cultural and Charitable Trust. The Trust was founded in 1996 by the Late Smt Indira Garyali with an impetus to bring education and financial assistance to the needy and preserve and promote India's cultural heritage. The Trust has been conducting the Vasant Utsav Festival of



Dance commencing on the 1st of May each year at Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, for over 18 years and the festival coincides with the VasantaVizha of the temple, a time when devotees celebrate and Goddess Karpagambal. The festival showcases dancers and classical dance forms from across India for a period of 10 to 12 days, purely with the aim to protect and preserve our art and

Ratna. In addition, the eminent scholar of Kashmir Shaivism Shri Shashi Shekhar Toshkhani was honoured with Shri Kashinath Garyali Award and bestowed with the title of Kashmir Shaiva Vibhushan. Other Shaiva Sidhanta Scholar honoured was Sri Elaya Gnani. The vedic scholars honoured were Shri Shri Brahmasri Shankar Ram Dikshitar and Shri Dev Kishan Sharma. The Vasant Utsav will go on from 1st to 11th of May with nearly twenty performances. As per the programme attached. The trust established by Shrimati Indira Garyali over 25 years, celebrated its Silver Jubilee yesterday.

culture and bring a love for the arts amongst the new generations. We conduct the festival at the Kapaleeswarar Temple as we want to revive the age old tradition of dancing in Temples, when classical dancing was one of the ways of worshiping the Lord. Guru Shrimati Urmila Satyanarayana was honoured with Indira Garyali Award and bestowed with the title of Natya Kala

Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Saraswathi Educational Cultural and Charitable Trust

Chennai, May 03 2023: Saraswathi Educational Cultural and Charitable Trust celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 30th April 2023. The trust founded by Mrs Indira Garyali has served the society for over 25 years. The Trust interested in education established the Madras Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology in the year 1996. It has been most active revival of temple dancing and has been conducting Vasant Utsav Dance Festival at Mylapore Kapaleeswarar Temple since 2004, for nearly two decades. The Vasant Utsav 2023 starts tomorrow, on 1st May. The trust has also started Navavarsha Mahotsav at Bangalore for last five years to give opportunity to perform to the Gurus as well as the upcoming dancers. The advisor of the Trust Dr C K Gariyali IAS has been involved in setting up dance Natyanjali Dance festivals at Chidambaram, Pongal Dance Festival at Mahabalipuram, apart from Vasant Utsav in Chennai. The trust has been working for the welfare of the rehabilitated pavement dwellers in



collaboration with EQUITAS Bank and is involved in providing educational assistance to their children. So far over 1500 children have received the education assistance from the trust. The trust also helps the persons displaced from Kashmir due to terrorism, living in refugee camps around Jammu by educating the children, especially the orphan or single-parent children, assisting in conducting the marriage of widow's daughters, conducting job-fairs for youth, providing textbooks and computers for displaced students and providing other humanitarian aid such as medical aid, conducting funerals etc. The Trust is deeply involved in the evolution of an inclusive society and hence provides Aishwarya livelihood loans for non-bankable, transgender and other marginalized women such as widows

and single mothers living on pavements in partnership with the Equitas bank. Silver jubilee celebrations are launched today by Dr. Kiran Bedi IPS, the first woman police officer of the Country and the Former Governor of Pondicherry and Mrs Sudha Anchlia IAS former Additional Chief Secretary of Gujarat by honouring donors and sponsors such as Mr Vasu MD of Equitas Bank, Rotarian Baskar MD of VNC Group, Mr. Vivek Parthipaan MD of Caplin Point, Mr Yoo Won Ku CEO Dae Seung Motors and Mr. Vijay Sadrangani, partner Spencer's Plaza and Mangal Thirth estates. Aishwarya loans were given symbolically to one transgender and one widow and one single mother. Educational assistance were symbolically given to one male and one female students. Donations were given to

S C A R F – Schizophrenia Research Foundation – Mental health NGO Vithai Project an Equitas Bank CSR initiative Helpline Humanity NGO doing work with displaced Kashmiri families in Jammu and Kashmir Kashmiri Pundit Volunteers NGO doing work with displaced Kashmiri families in Jammu and Kashmir Nul Project – a new initiative started by a 15 year old 10th std Student dedicated to making a difference in the lives of underprivileged people Little Drops - Home for Elderly destitute abandoned on the streets India Vision Foundation - An NGO dedicated to rebuilding lives of imprisoned people Following supporters and volunteers were Recognized John Alex CEO Equitas Holding Company Dr. Thara Vice-President S C A R F 3. Mrs. Vijaylakshmi CSR officer L&T4. Mrs. Meenakshi Ramesh CSR officer United Way Malini Ravindran President Vasant Utsav Dr Shashi Shekhar Toshkhani Scholar and Advisor.

Microsoft Introduces Two New Initiatives to Bolster Support to Indian SMBs

Chennai, May 03 2023: Deepening efforts to support small and medium businesses (SMBs) in every step of their digital transformation journey, Microsoft India has introduced two new initiatives, namely, an SMB-focused website and a dedicated helpline. The SMB-focused website – Microsoft for Small and Medium Businesses, aims at bringing together business owners and entrepreneurs in India to network with peers, enhance their skills and achieve holistic growth, while the Digital Transformation helpline offers dedicated support to help SMBs navigate their technological adoption and deployment journey.

Microsoft for Small and Medium Businesses: This website is a rich repository of skills, resources and tools to cater to every requirement of a

business. It offers an SMB Academy to gain valuable digital skills and improve workforce productivity with access to Microsoft's top curated business and technology courses, as well as inspiring stories of businesses from around the country. The website also offers varied Microsoft solutions that best address the needs of an organization, as well as easy access to Microsoft's vast ecosystem of over 17,000 partners in the country.

Digital Transformation Helpline: Available at 1800-102-1147, this helpline offers SMBs dedicated support to navigate their digital transformation journey seamlessly. The helpline provides expert guidance and assistance in leveraging technology solutions that best address their business challenges, improve operations, increase

efficiency and drive growth.

"The last few years have shown us that technology adoption has a direct impact on a business' performance. For a business to thrive in today's digital economy, it must move to a secured cloud, become more agile and resilient by creating a technological roadmap for their organization. Microsoft has been committed to digitally transforming the SMB ecosystem in India with trusted technology, resources and extensive partner ecosystem. These new initiatives are aimed at further supporting these organizations and work closely with them so they can do more with less," said Samik Roy, Executive Director – Corporate Medium and Small Business, Microsoft India.

A study by Microsoft last year revealed that strong linkages of technology investments

and adoption with business strategies, as well as close collaboration with partners are crucial factors to deliver success for SMBs. Through continued investments and initiatives, Microsoft has been working closely with SMBs, giving them trusted cloud technologies, specially designed solutions, skills and support, as well as multi-city experiential events such as TechMart, to help their digital transformation so they can thrive in today's digitally powered economy.

Visit Microsoft – Make your business future-ready for more information on resources, tools and skills.

Learn more about the India findings of Microsoft SMB Voices & Attitudes study at Microsoft small and medium business (SMB) voice and attitudes to technology study.

National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination (I), 2023-Declaration of Written Result Thereof

Chennai, May 03 2023: On the basis of the result of the written part of the National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination, (I) 2023 held by the Union Public Service Commission on 16th April, 2023, candidates with the under mentioned Roll Nos. have qualified for interview by the Services Selection Board (SSB) of the Ministry of Defence for Admission to Army, Navy and Air Force Wings of the National Defence Academy for the 113rd Indian Naval Academy Course (INAC) commencing from 2nd January, 2024. The result is also available at Commission's website www.upsc.gov.in.

The candidature of all the candidates, whose Roll Nos. are shown in the list is provisional. In accordance with the conditions of their admission to the examination, "candidates are requested to register themselves online on the Indian Army Recruiting website joinindianarmy.nic.in within two weeks of announcement of written result. The successful candidates would then be allotted Selection Centers and dates, of SSB interview which shall be communicated on registered e-mail ID. Any candidate who has already registered earlier on the site will not be required to do so. In case of any query/ Login problem, e-mail be forwarded to dir-

recruiting6-mod[at]nic[dot]in."

"Candidates are also requested to submit original certificates of Age and Educational Qualification to respective Service Selection Boards (SSBs) during the SSB interview." The candidates must not send the Original Certificates to the Union Public Service Commission. For any further information, the candidates may contact Facilitation Counter near Gate 'C' of the Commission, either in person or on telephone Nos. 011-23385271/011-23381125/011-23098543 between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours on any working day. In addition for SSB/Interview related

matter the candidates may contact over telephone no. 011-26175473 or joinindianarmy.nic.in for Army as first choice, 011-23010097/ Email: officer-navy[at]nic[dot]in or joinindiannavy.gov.in for Navy/ Naval Academy as first choice and 011-23010231 Extn. 7645/7646/7610 or www.careerindianairforce.cdac.in for Air Force as first choice.

The mark-sheets of the candidates will be put on the Commission's website within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of final result. (After concluding SSB Interviews) and will remain available on the website for a period of thirty (30) days.

VISIT OF ADMIRAL R HARI KUMAR, CNS TO SINGAPORE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF MAIDEN ASEAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE

Chennai, May 03 2023: Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy is on an official visit to Singapore from 02 to 04 May 2023.

During the visit the CNS co-officiated the inaugural ceremony of maiden ASEAN – India Maritime Exercise (AIME) 2023, held at Changi Naval Base, Singapore on 02 May 23. The ceremony was jointly inaugurated by Adm R Hari Kumar and RAdm Sean Wat, Chief of Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy in the presence of senior dignitaries from other ASEAN nations. This inaugural edition of AIME is being co-hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy and Indian Navy; and will witness participation of ships and personnel from other ASEAN countries.

The harbour phase of the exercise is scheduled to be held at Changi Naval Base from 02 – 04 May 2023 and the Sea Phase will be conducted from 07 to 08 May 2023 in the South China Sea.

In addition to representing India and the Indian Navy during the AIME 2023, Adm R Hari Kumar, will also be attending the opening



ceremony of International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and will deliver a talk on 'Cooperation and Collaboration in the Future Maritime Environment' during a panel discussion at 8th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC), being conducted on the side lines of IMDEX-23.

The CNS would also be calling on Minister for Defence, Singapore and would be interacting with the Chief of Defence Force (CDF), Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Chief of Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), other Navy Chiefs and Heads of Delegation from countries participating in the AIME, IMDEX and IMSC. CNS would be having an engagement with Academia in Singapore to discuss ASEAN – India Maritime Connect

Opportunities.

The AIME-23 is aimed at promoting maritime cooperation and enhancing trust, friendship and confidence amongst ASEAN and Indian Navies. The Harbour Phase at Singapore from 02 to 04 May 23 will witness a range of professional and social interactions between the participating navies which includes cross deck visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) and planning meetings. The Sea Phase scheduled from 07 to 08 May 23 in the South China Sea will provide an opportunity for the participating navies to develop closer links in the coordination and execution of operations in the maritime domain.

India's first indigenously-built destroyer, INS Delhi and INS Satpura, an indigenously-built

guided missile stealth frigate alongwith a P8I Maritime Patrol aircraft will participate in the Inaugural ASEAN India Maritime Exercise and IMDEX. The participating ships form a part of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam and operate under the command of RAdm Gurcharan Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. Presence of the indigenously built ships of the Indian Navy at the multi-national events will be an opportunity to showcase the ship-building capabilities of Indian Shipyards.

ASEAN is at the core of India's Indo-Pacific Policy as was enunciated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in his speech at the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore in 2018. AIME reinforces this belief and India's commitment to 'Act East' in its endeavour to ensure 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR). The visit of the CNS further consolidates the high level of bilateral defence engagements with Singapore as well as India's recognition of 'ASEAN Centrality' to the region.