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Centre launches Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 in 600 districts



The **Government of India** launched the third phase of **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** on 15 January 2021.

The scheme has been rolled out for the current financial year, ending **March 2021**, and will be implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.

Under the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana-3.0**, skills training would be provided in 600 districts across all states, (except four states including Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal) to 8 lakh candidates over next three months with an outlay of **Rs 948.90 crore** with focus on Covid-related skills.

The training will be imparted through 729 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs), empaneled non-PMKK training centres and more than 200 industrial training institutes (ITIs).

Further, a five-year PMKVY will be launched in 2021-22 with an enhanced target of skilling 1.5 crore youth.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit'



◀ The Union Minister of Railways, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution Shri **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the two day '**Prarambh**', **Startup India International Summit** in New Delhi on 15 January 2021.

The Summit has been organized by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under **M/o Commerce & Industry**.

The inaugural event was participated by the members of **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** countries.

The '**Prarambh**' Summit will provide a platform to the startups and young minds from around the world to come together and collaborate to work collectively to come with new ideas, innovation and invention.

The focus of the Summit will be on enhancing multilateral cooperation and engagement with countries from around the globe to collectively develop and strengthen the startup ecosystems.

The Summit marks the fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative, launched by the Prime Minister on 16 January, 2016.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launches India's First Indigenously Designed & Developed Driverless Metro Car



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled India's first 'Driverless Metro Car' on 15 January 2021 during a function held at BEML's Bangalore Complex. The indigenously designed & developed state-of-the-art Driverless Metro trains are being manufactured at BEML Bangalore manufacturing facility, for Mumbai

Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

DRDO Develops India's first Indigenously-Developed 9mm Machine Pistol 'Asmi'



The **DRDO and Indian Army** have jointly developed **India's first indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol**, which has been named as "Asmi", which means "Pride", "Self-Respect" & "Hard Work".

The weapon has been designed and developed by **Infantry School, Mhow and DRDO's Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune** in a record time of

four months.

India and Japan inks MoU to Enhance Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

India and Japan have signed an **MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)** via videoconferencing on 15 January 2021,

The MoU was signed between Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT **Ravi Shankar Prasad** and the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications **Takeda Ryota**.

Under the MoU, both countries will enhance mutual cooperation in the field of 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system to islands of India, spectrum management, smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety etc.

FSS Partners India Post Payments Bank to promote financial inclusion

The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has partnered with **Financial Software and Systems (FSS)**, to promote financial inclusion among **underserved and unbanked segments**.

Under the collaboration, IPPB will use FSS' **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)** to provide interoperable and affordable doorstep banking services to customers across India.

FSS is a leading banking and digital payment processor and provider of integrated payment products.

No foreign leader to attend as chief guest on Republic Day 2021 due to Covid-19 situation

According to the latest notification of the **Ministry of External Affairs**



(**MEA**), it has been decided that there will be **no foreign head of state or government** as the **Chief Guest for the Republic Day** event on January 26, 2021, keeping in view, the global COVID 19 situation. It will be for the first time in over five decades that India will not have a chief guest at the event.

Earlier, United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson was invited to attend the Republic Day event as the chief guest. However, he cancelled his visit after the spread of the new contagious mutant strain of the novel coronavirus in UK.

Following this, it was said that Indian-origin President of Republic of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, would be invited as the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade for 2021.

PM Modi launches Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'** on 16 January 2021, while addressing the



'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit' 2021.

The Startup India Seed Fund would support startups in need of initial capital to start and grow their business and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas.

This initiative will help in setting up new startups and promote their growth.

Petroleum Ministry launches 'SAKSHAM' campaign to spread awareness about 'Green and Clean Energy'



Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav 2021

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has launched a **month long mass awareness campaign** titled '**SAKSHAM**' to spread **awareness about green and clean energy**.

The campaign has been organised by the **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**, to motivate consumers to switch to cleaner fuels and bring in behavioral

change to use fossil fuel intelligently.

SAKSHAM stands for **Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav**.

The pan-India campaign would include various activities such as cyclothon, farmer workshops, seminars, painting competition, CNG vehicle driving contest, etc to spread awareness among masses about the advantages of using clean fuels.

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