

February 2022

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking & Finance

1. PNB launches co-branded contactless credit cards with Patanjali in partnership with RuPay

Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded contactless credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

The co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and are available in two variants - PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select.

Atul Kumar Goel, MD and CEO of PNB. Acharya Balkrishna, Managing Director of Patanjali Ayurved Limited.

2. RBI to Issue Digital Rupee Starting from 2022-23

While presenting the budget 2022-23, the Union Minister for Finance proposed to introduce Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies, to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23. She elaborated that introduction of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) would give a big boost to digital economy.

3. SEBI notifies KRA rules; mandates audit trails of client's KYC records

To enhance the role of KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs), SEBI has notified new norms to make them responsible to carry out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded onto their system by the Registered Intermediary (RI).

4. RBI cancels licence of Nashik based Independence Co-operative Bank Limited

RBI has cancelled the licence of Nashik based Independence Co-operative Bank Limited. The bank will not be allowed to carry out any operations henceforth and a liquidator will be appointed soon.

RBI has clarified that the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

5. SBI launches 'Surya Shakti Cell'; partners with Tata Power for financing Solar projects

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell - 'Surya Shakti Cell'. The Bank has entered into an Agreement with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (a Tata Power Company) for financing solar projects. Surya Shakti Cell will process all the loan applications for Solar Projects (capacity up to 1 MW) sourced from across India Chairman, SBI - Dinesh Khara

6. Asian Development Bank lends record \$ 4.6-bn loans to India in 2021

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a record USD 4.6 billion loans to India in 2021, including USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus response.

The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture, and skills building.

The agency extended a USD 2.2-billion support for 12 state projects.

7. SBI Q3 net profit jumps 62% to record Rs 8,432 crore

India's biggest lender State Bank of India reported a jump of 62.27% year on year (YoY) in the third quarter (Q3) of the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) to Rs 8,432 crores--highest-ever quarterly figure, the bank said. SBI reported a net profit of Rs 5,196 crore in the corresponding period last year. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara.

8. RBI imposes '10 lakh penalty on Kerala-based Pooram Finserv

RBI has imposed a financial penalty of '10 lakh on Pooram Finserv Pvt Restricted in Kerala's Thrissur for non-adherence with sure provisions.

This motion is predicated on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and isn't supposed to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or settlement entered into by the corporate with its prospects, the RBI mentioned.

9. SBI partners NSE Academy to launch five online courses

State Bank of India (SBI) through its Strategic Training Unit has partnered with NSE Academy to promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill. Learners can enroll for five inaugural MOOCs of SBI on the NSE Knowledge Hub platform as a part of this strategic association. NSE Academy is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India.

10. RBI selects Go Digital, Go Secure Theme for Financial Literacy Week

This theme is one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025. RBI will focus on creating awareness about convenience of digital transactions, security of digital transactions and protection of customers.

RBI has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages. This year FLW will be observed between February 14 to 18.

11. Govt to appoint 3 independent directors on NaBFID board

The government is in the process of appointment of three independent directors on the board of newly-incorporated '20,000 crore National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), a move that will clear the decks for commencing of operation of the Development Finance Institution critical for infra financing.

12. Private sector lender Yes Bank launches 'Agri Infinity program'

Yes Bank has announced the launch of an annual startup enabler program that seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food & agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the sector.

Called Yes Bank Agri Infinity, a select cohort of startups will receive mentoring by veteran bankers for experiential co-development. Also get access to the lender's digital banking infrastructure and network.

13. RBI allows NBFCs time till September 30 to comply with new NPA norms

The Reserve Bank of India has extended the timeline by six months for NBFCs to adhere the new NPA recognition norms.

Earlier the regulator had set March 31 deadline for non-bank lenders to upgrade NPAs only after all arrears and principal dues are paid.

NBFCs will have time till September 30, 2022 to put in place the necessary systems to implement this provision.

14. JPMorgan becomes first bank in metaverse, opens lounge in Decentraland

JPMorgan has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse. The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world Decentraland. Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge christened 'Onyx Lounge' after its suite of ethereum-based services. The lounge also features a digital image of the bank's CEO Jamie Dimon.

15. RBI to enhance VRR cap for foreign investors by Rs 1 lakh crore from April 1

The voluntary retention route (VRR) cap for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) will be enhanced by Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 2.50 lakh crore, given the increased interest shown by them, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das announced.

He said a dedicated investment limit of Rs 1,50,000 crore was set for investments under the VRR earlier.

16. RBI cancels licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank, Maharashtra citing its weak financials. Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on February 16, 2022.

The RBI cancelled the licence of the bank as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. Mantha Urban Co Op Bank Ltd- major Indian private bank with its headquarters in Nagpur.

17. Bank of Baroda subscribes to 99,000 shares of India Debt Resolution Company

Public sector Bank of Baroda has subscribed to 99,000 shares of asset reconstruction company India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL). The acquisition is subject to the execution of an investment agreement. IDRCL, as an asset management company, will manage the asset and engage market professionals and turnaround experts for debt resolution. Sanjay Jain is the chief executive Officer of IDRCL.

18. CoinDCX announces strategic alliance with risk monitoring firm Solidus Labs

CoinDCX, India's crypto unicorn, and crypto exchange announced that it is making crypto-native risk monitoring firm Solidus Labs its strategic compliance partner. The partnership with Solidus will forge greater trust and transparency on its platform, and cement its leadership as India's number one digital asset exchange.

19. Kotak Mahindra Bank partners Ezetap for PoS solutions

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has partnered Ezetap to provide integrated point of sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India.

Through this association, Ezetap's integrated and customised point of sale (PoS) solutions will benefit scores of KMBL's merchants in retail business spread across the country,

20. IRCTC, NPCI, Bank of Baroda arm launch co-branded credit card for railway customers

The Indian Railways' catering and ticketing arm along with NPCI and BOB Financial Solutions launched a co-branded credit card to tap the huge potential the market offers.

The 'IRCTC BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card' will offer four reward points (per Rs 100 spent) on grocery and departmental stores and two reward points on other categories. BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda .

21. Paytm Payments Bank signs up as acquiring partner for e-RUPI service

Paytm Payments Bank (PPB) had become an official acquiring partner for the government's e-RUPI vouchers initiative.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently increased the cap on e-RUPI vouchers issued by the government to Rs 1 lakh per year from Rs 10,000 and allowed beneficiaries to use the voucher multiple times until fully redeemed.

Satish Gupta, MD & CEO of PPB.

e-RUPI: cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present through SMS or QR Code.

22. HDFC Bank finances Asia's largest waste to energy plant in Indore

HDFC Bank under its ESG commitment is proud to be associated with Indore Clean Energy Private Limited (ICEPL) for the development of 550 tonnes/day of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant ' the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia.

This is the largest waste to energy project funded by HDFC Bank under its ESG commitments.

23. Standard Chartered launches 'interest-only home loan' facility

Standard Chartered Bank, India has launched the 'interest-only home loan' facility for completed residential properties. where during the initial period, borrowers pay only for the interest accrued on the principal outstanding.

Borrowers can choose to pay only the interest amount via Equated Monthly Instalments for an initial period of up to one to three years.

24. Edelweiss Asset Management launches eInvest mobile app

Edelweiss Asset Management has announced the launch of eInvest a mutual fund mobile app for investors for a smooth investing experience. eInvest is an easy-to-use app that will help investors perform all financial transactions on the go.

This app will bring a transformational change in the way mutual fund investors manage their day-to-day operations.

25. IDBI Bank board approves appointment of TN Manoharan as additional director

IDBI Bank has approved appointment of T N Manoharan as additional director with immediate effect. Manoharan is not related to any other director on the board and the KMP (key management personnel) of the bank, the lender said in a BSE filing.

He also served as director at the instance of RBI in Sahara India Finance Corporation.

26. Union Minister Narayan Rane launches MSME RuPay Credit Card

Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane announced establishment of MSME-Technology Centre at Sindhudurg and launched the MSME RuPay Credit Card. The MSME-Technology Center to be set up at Sindhudurg at a cost of about Rs 200 crore will enhance the competitiveness of MSME industries.



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Economy

1. GST collections in Jan cross Rs 1.3 lakh cr-mark for fourth time

The central government's goods and services tax (GST) collection in January crossed Rs 1.38 lakh crore.

GST collection crossed Rs 1.30 lakh crore mark for the 4th time.

Revenues for month of Jan 2022 15% higher than GST revenues in the same month last year & 25% higher than the GST revenues in January 2020. January is the fourth month when GST collection has crossed Rs 1.30 lakh crore.

2. Economic Survey GDP forecast of 8-8.5% optimistic

The Economic Survey's GDP forecast of 8-8.5% for the next fiscal is optimistic and the Union Budget is expected to focus on fiscal management and reforms to give a booster dose to the economy.

The Survey's GDP growth forecast of 9.2% for this year and 8-8.5% for the next year will catapult India as the fastest growing major economy of the world for two consecutive years.

3. FM Nirmala Sitharaman presents Union Budget for 2022-2023 in Parliament on 1st February

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for the Financial Year 2022-23 in the Lok Sabha at 11 am on 1st Feb. After getting the nod from the Cabinet, the Finance Minister will present the Union Budget in a paperless form for the second time in Parliament.

Earlier, the Union Budget of 2021-22 was delivered in paperless form last year for the first time.

4. Central Theme Of Economic Survey 2021-22 Is The 'Agile Approach'

The central theme of this year's Economic Survey is the 'Agile approach', implemented through India's economic response to the COVID-19 Pandemic shock. Informing further, the preface of Economic Survey states that the 'Agile approach' is based on feedback loops, real-time monitoring of actual outcomes, flexible responses, safety-net buffers and so on.

5. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2022-23

- India's economic growth estimated at 9.2% to be the highest among all large economies.
- PLI Schemes have the potential to create an additional production of Rs 30 lakh crore.
- In 2022-23, States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP.

6. International Arbitration centre at GIFT City for dispute resolution

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the setting up of an international arbitration centre at the GIFT City in Gujarat for timely resolution of disputes under international jurisprudence.

7. Services PMI falls to six-month low in January 2022

India's services sector activity moderated to a six-month low in January 2022, amid imposition of restrictions across the country due to the fast spread of the Omicron variant as well as inflationary pressures. Data released by the analytics firm IHS Markit showed the purchasing managers' index (PMI) for services fell to 51.5 in January 2022 from 55.5 in December 2021.

8. RBI projects India GDP growth rate at 7.8% for FY23

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das projected India's economic growth for the financial year 2023 (FY23) at 7.8%. The growth rate for the current financial year is retained at 9.2%. The governor said there was some loss of economic momentum due to third pandemic wave and the demand for contact intensive sector is muted.

9. RBI keeps benchmark lending rate unchanged 10th time in a row at 4%.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 per cent and decided to continue with its accommodative stance in the backdrop of elevated level of inflation. This is the tenth time in a row that the Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has maintained the status quo. MPC is a 6 member body headed by RBI governor

10. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for December 2021 released

For the month of December 2021, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 138.0. The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the month of December 2021 stand at 120.3, 138.8 and 162.5 respectively.

11. Sebi rejigs advisory committee on alternative investment policy

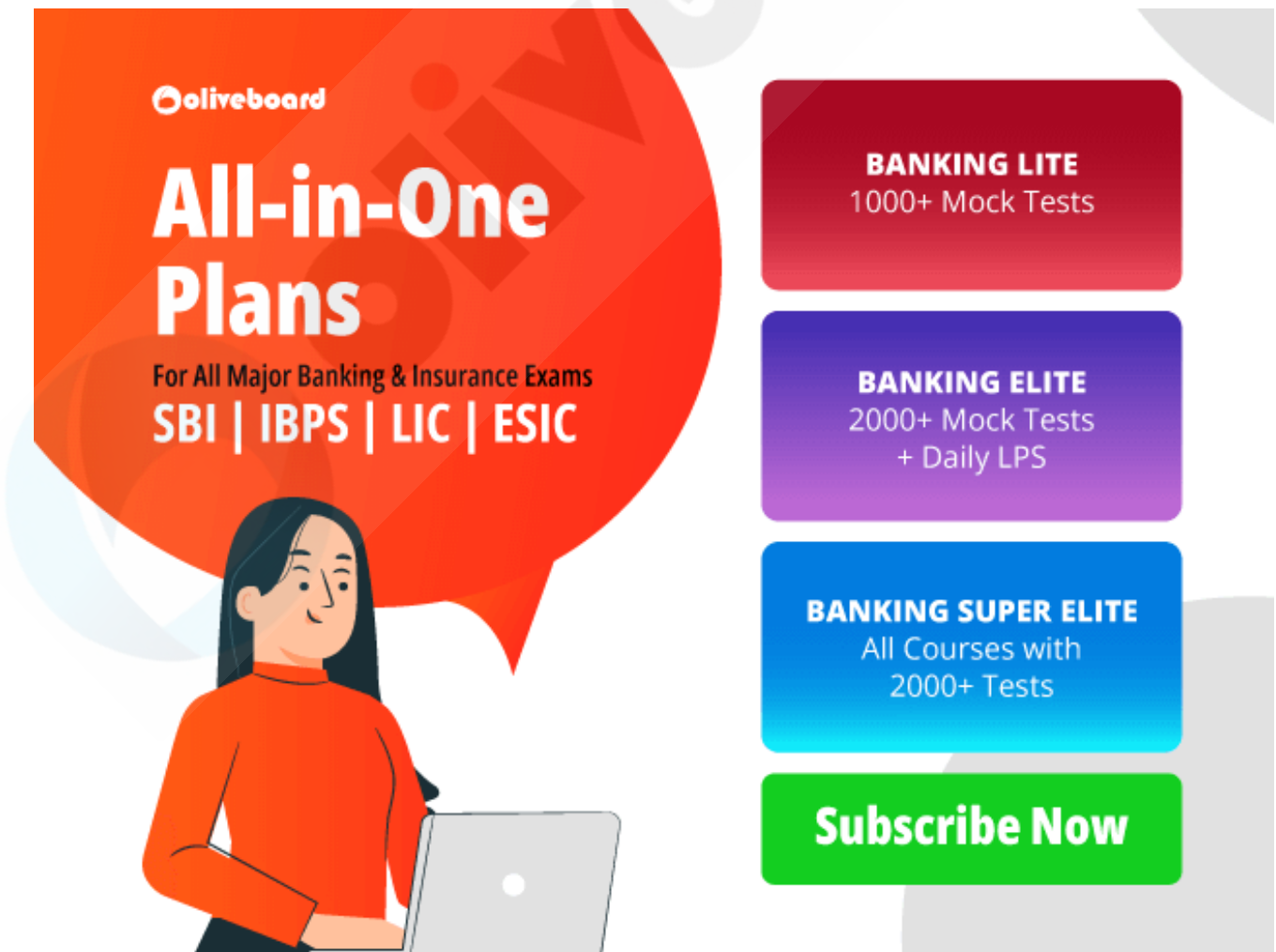
SEBI has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF space. The committee has now 20 members, as per an update by the SEBI. The committee is chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy. The panel, which was constituted by SEBI in March 2015, earlier had 22 members.

12. India's overall ranking on IP protection improves, says USCC report

India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index, according to an annual report compiled by the influential US Chambers of Commerce

13. Brickworks Ratings lowers India's GDP to 8.3% in FY22

Brickworks Ratings has revised downwards India's GDP growth forecast to 8.3 per cent in the current fiscal 2021-22 (FY22). Earlier in January 2022, the rating agency had estimated this between 8.5-9 per cent. Brickwork Ratings is one of the seven Sebi-registered credit rating agencies (CRA).



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National

1. GAIL starts India's maiden project of blending hydrogen into CGD network

Gas Authority of India Limited has commenced India's first-of-its-kind project of mixing hydrogen into natural gas system at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited, one of GAIL's Joint Venture (JV) Company with HPCL, operating in Indore. Chairman & Managing Director of GAIL: Manoj Jain.

2. India's first geological park to come up at Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur

The first 'geological' park of country will be built in Lamheta in Jabalpur. Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of Rs 35 crores.

3. Central Vista project: Rs 2,600 crore allocated in Budget for construction of non-residential office buildings

In Union Budget 2022-23, the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has been allocated an amount of Rs 2,600 crore for the construction of non-residential office buildings of the ambitious Central Vista project, including the Parliament as well as the Supreme Court of India. The amount is Rs 767.56 crore more than Rs 1,833.43 crore which was given in FY22.

4. 1000th Trip of Kisan Rail of Central Railway Flagged Off

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India flagged off the 1000th trip of Kisan Rail on Central Railway from Savda, Maharashtra to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi through weblink on 3.2.2022.

5. UP's tableau adjudged the best at Republic Day parade 2022

Uttar Pradesh has been selected as the best state tableau among 12 States and UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade 2022. The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'. A total of 12 States and Union Territories have participated during the Republic Day parade. CISF has been named the best marching contingent

6. 15% tax for new investment in manufacturing to have sunset clause: Revenue Secretary at ASSOCHAM meet

The concessional tax rate of 15 per cent has been extended by a year till 2024 in the Union Budget. revenue Sec. said, there is a sunset clause on the special dispensation of concessional 15 per cent tax on companies setting up greenfield manufacturing facilities and therefore the the government encourages businesses to set up before the sunset date.

7. PM Modi unveils 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad to commemorate 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya

PM Modi has dedicated to the nation, the 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' at Muchintal near Shamshabad in Hyderabad. Statue of Equality commemorates the 11th century Bhakti Saint Ramanujacharya, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed. Statue is made of 5 metals ie Gold, Silver, Copper, Brass and Zinc
Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

8. NTPC puts into operation 74.8 MW solar capacity in Rajasthan

State-run power giant NTPC has said that 74.88 MW power generation capacity is commercially operational at Fatehgarh Solar PV Project at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. With this, commercial capacity of the NTPC and NTPC group has become 54,377.30 MW and 67,832.30 MW respectively.

Bhadla Solar Park, with capacity of 2,245 MW, is the biggest solar plant

9. Mumbai's landmark Khadi Emporium, oldest such shop in country, banned from selling Khadi products

The nearly seven-decades-old 'Khadi Emporium' has been banned for selling fake Khadi products by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

The commission, which is under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, has adopted a 'zero tolerance' policy against sale of spurious or non-Khadi products in recent years.

10. Govt Plans To Make Fitness Testing Of Vehicles Through Automated Testing Stations Mandatory From 2023 Onwards

The government plans to make fitness testing of vehicles through Automated Testing Stations mandatory in a phased manner starting from April next year.

The Road Transport and Highways Ministry said a draft notification has been issued for public comments regarding mandatory fitness testing of vehicles through an ATS.

11. BHP unveils world's first LNG-powered ore carrier, sees 30% emissions cut

Group unveiled the world's first liquefied natural gas-fuelled bulk carrier vessel in Singapore, one of five vessels that the mining giant will take delivery of in 2022 as part of efforts to curb supply chain emissions.

The 299-meter (981ft) long Mt.Tourmaline Newcastlemax ore carrier was built by Eastern Pacific Shipping in China and stopped off in Singapore to take on LNG

12. Sh. RK Singh launches Powerthon-2022 for tech-driven solutions for quality power supply

Power Minister R K Singh launched Powerthon-2022, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply.

The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants to create teams for efficient electricity networks.

13. Adani Green first in India to achieve GRI South Asia charter member status

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), the world's largest solar power developer and the renewable energy arm of the diversified Adani Group, has received approval for being a member of the GRI South Asia Charter on Sustainability Imperatives.

AGEL had initiated this pursuit in response to a call from GRI by becoming a signatory to the GRI South Asia charter in April 2021.

14. AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launches dedicated storefront for Ayurveda products on Amazon

AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched a dedicated storefront for Ayurveda products on Amazon in the marketplace.

This Ayurveda product storefront will enhance the visibility of unique Ayurveda products such as various kinds of juices, skin-care supplements, immunity boosters, oils and more from small businesses and startup brands.

It will make shopping easier.

15. AIM, NITI Aayog, and USAID collaborates under SAMRIDH initiative

Atal Innovation Mission(AIM),NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.

It will improve access to affordable & quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 & tier-3 cities, and rural & tribal area

16. Atal Tunnel officially recognised as 'Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 feet' by World Book of Records

Certified the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet', the Atal Tunnel was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain. The 9.02 km long Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the nation by PM Modi in October 2020.The Tunnel was constructed by Border Roads Organisation. Headquarters of BRO is located in New Delhi

17. India targets 1.2 billion ton coal production by 2023-24

The government has implemented a number of steps including revenue share mechanism, rolling auction, and single window clearance to boost output. Coal India Limited (CIL) has envisaged a coal production programme of one Billion Tonne from CIL mines. CIL has identified 15 projects with a capacity of about 160 MTPA to be operated by Mine Developer cum Operator mode. Shri. Pralhad Joshi is the Minister of Coal in India.

18. Leh to host World Cup cycling event in September 2022

Leh is going to host the first-ever highest level of World Cup cycling event in India in September 2022. Cycling events add to several other adventure sports activities in Ladakh. UCI World Cup Eliminator event is organized by the UT Ladakh Police in association with City Mountainbike and Cycling Federation of India, CFI.

19. PM Modi kick-starts 50th-anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT in Hyderabad

On the occasion of the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Prime Minister inaugurated (ICRISAT)'s Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility and also launched a commemorative stamp issued in Hyderabad. The ICRISAT global headquarters is located in Patancheru near Hyderabad, Telangana, India

20. RPF launches nationwide operation to curb human trafficking

Railway Protection Force has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of 'Operation AAHT', special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers. The RPF that rescued more than more than 2,000 women and children between 2017-21 The National Crime Records Bureau registers 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking every year.

21. Indian Railways achieves great milestone within five months as Mumbai Division operates 100th Textile Express

The Mumbai Central Division of the Western Railway zone has recently achieved a milestone of loading the 100th Textile train from Chalthan, located in the Surat area, to Sankrail of South Eastern Railways' Kharagpur Division. On 01.09.2021, the first train was flagged off by the Minister of State for Railways and Textiles Darshana Jardosh from Udhna in Gujarat.

22. PM approves extension of Modernisation of Police Forces scheme till 2025-26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of the umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) for three more fiscals till 2025-26 with a central outlay of Rs 26,275 crore with the bulk going to equip forces to tackle troubles in Jammu and Kashmir, north-east and naxal-infested states.

23. Dabur becomes first Indian plastic waste neutral' FMCG company in India

Dabur India, India's largest Ayurveda company has become a complete plastic waste neutral firm in the country after collecting, processing and recycling around 27,000 metric tonnes of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22.

With this, Dabur has become the first Indian consumer goods company to achieve this landmark.

24. Centre reduces agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil from 7.5 percent to five percent to provide further relief to consumers

With a view to provide further relief to consumers and to keep in check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils, the Centre has reduced the agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil from 7.5 percent to 5 percent.

The current basic rate of import duty of zero percent on Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil, and Crude Sunflower Oil upto 30th of September this year.

25. Ministry of Corporate Affairs introduces detailed CSR disclosure framework

Putting the online compliance in order, the Union ministry of corporate affairs has put in place a detailed disclosure framework for CSR spending by companies.

According to the new compliance roadmap, the companies will now be required to fill Form CSR-2 (Report on Corporate Social Responsibility).

26. Centre bans 54 Chinese apps including those belonging to Alibaba and Tencent

The Indian government, which banned 224 Chinese apps in three rounds in 2020, has now issued fresh orders to ban around 54 Chinese apps, many of which belong to large companies such as Alibaba and Tencent and have resurfaced in new avatars.

The union government has issued fresh orders to ban over 54 Chinese apps, terming them a threat to privacy and security of Indians.

27. India, Australia and Singapore conduct international workshop on marine plastic debris

The Government of India, in partnership with the Government of Australia and the Government of Singapore, conducted an international workshop on combating marine pollution focusing on marine plastic debris. The workshop held virtually, brought together with the world's leading experts, scientists, government officials with policy expertise, and representatives from industry.

28. NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe launches the Fintech Open Hackathon

Leading digital payments platform PhonePe has announced that NITI Aayog, in association with the platform, will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all hackathon that aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the fintech ecosystem.

The hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code.

29. Centre to prepare 3D maps of 100 cities using geospatial technology and drones

The government is in the process of using geospatial technology and drones to map over six lakh villages as well as prepare pan-India 3D maps of 100 Indian cities.

Survey of India had called for empanelment of companies for the mapping exercise of the villages. It has also launched Svamitva Scheme for this purpose.

30. NHPC Limited has set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company namely 'NHPC RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED (NREL)'

NHPC Limited has set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company namely 'NHPC RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED (NREL)', for development of Renewable Energy, Small Hydro and Green Hydrogen based business of NHPC Ltd. The Subsidiary has been incorporated with the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana.

31. Government approves implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project during the period 2022-23 to 2025-26

The government has approved the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of Rs.3,375 crore during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high-speed connectivity. The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.

32. India's first Biosafety level-3 mobile lab launched in Nashik

India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory was launched in Nashik. The mobile laboratory has been set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings. The mobile laboratory provides a public health solution to this problem.

33. PM Modi Inaugurates Drone Manufacturing Facilities of Garuda Aerospace

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the drone manufacturing facilities of Garuda Aerospace at Manesar in Gurugram and Chennai. This year, the Budget announcements had prioritized technology and innovation and mentioned the use of Kisan drones among the varied sectors wherein drones can be used. The Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace is a drone-as-a-service (DAAS) company.

34. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH virtually flagged off the Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH Shri Sarbananda Sonowal today virtually flagged off the 'Most Awaited' Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, from Belapur Jetty. The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island, and JNPT.

35. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates two new Departments, two new Research Centres at IIPS Mumbai

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated two new Departments and two new Research Centres at International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in Deonar, Mumbai.

The newly inaugurated departments are 'Department of Survey Research and Data Analytics' and the 'Department of Family and Generations'. The new Centres are called 'Centre of Demography of Gender' & 'Centre for Ageing Studies'.

36. Bharti Airtel joins SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium; anchoring 20 pc investment in cable system

Bharti Airtel has joined the 'SEA-ME-WE-6' undersea cable consortium in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast-growing digital economy.

Airtel is participating as a "major investor" in the SEA-ME-WE-6 and is anchoring 20 per cent of the overall investment in the cable system, which will go live in 2025.

37. Piyush Goyal plans for Commerce Ministry to get \$2 trillion exports by 2027

The Department of Commerce is set to undergo transformative changes towards evolving into a 'future ready' establishment of the Government with scaling up, strengthening, & infusion of 'new age' capabilities leading to an ecosystem which can achieve USD 2 trillion exports by 2027.

38. Union Minister Giriraj Singh releases Rural Connectivity Geographic Information System Data in public domain

Union Minister Giriraj Singh has released Rural Connectivity Geographic Information System Data in the public domain.

GIS technology will be utilized for improvement in the planning and implementation of projects in rural areas.

Data will contribute immensely to the making of New India.

39. Defence ministry teams up with CSC e-Governance to onboard pension services under SPARSH across India

The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) under the of ministry of defence has teamed up with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under ministry of electronics and information technology, to onboard pension services under the System for Pension Administration (Raksha) - SPARSH - initiative across more than four lakh Common Service Centres.

40. WEF and NIUA launch 'Sustainable Cities India' program to help cities meet Net Zero goals

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India' program which will aim to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.

41. Greater Noida Authority gets Centre's nod to start Aadhaar authentication online

The Greater Noida Authority has become the first in Uttar Pradesh to get permission for carrying out the Aadhaar authentication of its allottees online. Once officially rolled out, the facility will allow allottees to avail all property-related services online.

The new initiative would allow the Authority to verify the identities of beneficiaries & reduce the frauds.

42. Mansukh Mandaviya launches ICMR/DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation & Entrepreneurship for medical professionals

To promote start-up culture, ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration and develop an innovation-led ecosystem at Medical Institutes across the country, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has launched ICMR/DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation & Entrepreneurship for medical professionals, scientists & technologists at medical, dental, paramedical institutes & colleges.

43. National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing announced

Catering to the next-generation digital manufacturing & aiming to mitigate immediate disabilities of local industries, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Communications & Railways & Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics & IT& Skill Development & Entrepreneurship announced 'National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing'.

44. India's biggest wrestling academy to be set up by Railways in Delhi

The Indian Railways will soon set up the country's biggest world-class academy, exclusively for wrestlers in railways, with all the best sports facilities at Kishanganj locality in Delhi.

An estimated cost of Rs 30.76 crore for its establishment has already been sanctioned by the railway.

45. Rs 200 crore MSME Technology Centre to be set up in Sindhudurg

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Narayan Rane today announced the establishment of MSME-Technology Centre with an outlay of Rs. 200 Crore, in Sindhudurg.

46. SPMCIL Declared A Prohibited Place

The Delhi headquarters of the country's only currency and bank notes manufacturer, that printed the new series of notes of denomination '2,000 and '500 in 2016, has been declared a 'prohibited place' under the British-era Official Secrets Act (OSA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SPMCIL is a government printing and minting agency. SPMCIL is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

International

1. PM Modi congratulates PM of Portugal Antonio Costa on re-election

Prime Minister Antonio Costa won re-election to his third consecutive term during the general election in Portugal as the new far-right party Chega took ground in the country's Parliament.

The Socialist Party won about 41.7% of the vote, giving them an absolute majority in Parliament for the first time since taking power six years ago. The party now controls at least 117 seats in the 230-seat Parliament.

2. Saudi Arabia organizes first-ever yoga festival

Saudi Arabia has organized the first-ever yoga festival on Bay La Sun Beach near Jeddah, which drew over 1,000 yoga practitioners from throughout the kingdom. The event kicked off on 29th January and continued till 1st February. The event was organized by the Saudi Yoga Committee.

3. Dubai to launch world's first hydrogen-powered flying boat

Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet' in Dubai. THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.

4. South African scientists copy Moderna's COVID vaccine

Scientists in South Africa have produced a copy of the Moderna Covid vaccine, raising the prospect of wider access to jabs in poorer parts of the world.

Researchers in Cape Town backed by the World Health Organization hope to begin human trials in November.

They have used publicly available information to produce the mRNA vaccine. SA Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein Currency: South African rand

5. Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to Maldives comes into force

Maldives has announced that the Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to the island nation, comes into effect.

Maldives has commenced the process of granting Indian Nationals visa free entry for business purposes, for a period not exceeding the visa free period of 90 days.

6. India to help Sri Lanka launch its version of Aadhaar

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card. The Rajapaksa government will 'prioritise' the implementation of the Framework as a national level programme

The initiative follows bilateral talks between President Gotabaya Rajapaksa & Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2019. Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte; Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.

7. Larsen & Toubro's construction arm bags significant order in Bangladesh

Larsen & Toubro Ltd, commonly known as L&T, is an Indian multinational conglomerate, which is counted among world's top five construction companies. Now, this Indian MNC has secured an order, amidst stiff global competition, to construct hi-tech IT parks at 8 locations across Bangladesh.

This project is L&T's first order in Bangladesh for IT and office space construction.

8. US to reopen Solomon Islands embassy amid moves to counter China

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has confirmed the United States plans to open an embassy in the South Pacific nation of Solomon Islands in an effort to counter China's influence in the politically troubled Pacific Islands.

The announcement comes as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visits Fiji for talks with Pacific island leaders. Capital: Honiara, Currency: Solomon Islands dollar.

9. Nepal to become first country to deploy India's UPI platform

Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services.

10. Maiden shipment of steel from Haldia to Pandu through Bangladesh flagged off

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterway and AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the maiden voyage of barges with a consignment of 1798 metric ton of finished steel products from Haldia in West Bengal to Pandu in Assam through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route (IBP route).

The Indo-Bangladesh protocol route will use NW-1 as well as NW-2 on the Indian side.

11. Second edition of Bangladesh film fest to be held in Agartala, Tripura

The second edition of the Bangladesh Film Festival will be held at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhawan, Agartala as part of golden jubilee celebration of the liberation war, assistant high commissioner Arif Mohammad.

The festival, scheduled to be held in October last year, was postponed following communal incidents and attacks on minority Hindus.

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Sports

1. PR Sreejesh becomes first Indian man to win World Games Athlete of the Year Award

Veteran Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade.

Sreejesh became the first man and second hockey player to win the award, following in the footsteps of compatriot and India women's captain Rani, who took the 2019 prize.

2. 2022 Beijing Olympics: Skier Arif Khan, only Indian athlete at winter games

Alpine skier Arif Khan is the first from Kashmir and the only Indian to qualify for the 2022 Winter Olympics being held in Beijing. He is also the first Indian to qualify for two different events of Winter Olympics and will be slalom and giant slalom alpine skiing in Beijing.

3. Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra nominated for Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award

Neeraj has been selected as one of the six nominees for the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award. 24-year-old javelin thrower is only the third Indian to be nominated for the award after wrestler Vinesh Phogat in 2019 and cricket star Sachin Tendulkar, who won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award 2000-2020.

4. India win record-extending fifth U-19 World Cup title, beat England by 4 wickets

India produced a clinical all-round performance to beat England by four wickets in the final to win the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2022 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua.

Bowling his medium pacers to deadly effect, Raj Bawa (5/31) ran through the English middle-order 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will be hosted by India

5. Foundation Stone Of World's Third Largest Cricket Stadium Laid In Jaipur

The world's third-largest cricket stadium is going to be built in Jaipur, and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot & BCCI president Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the project virtually. It will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world & it would seat 75,000 spectators.

Seven out of the 10 big stadiums in the world are in India

6. Africa Cup Of Nations: Senegal Beat Egypt In Final Shoot-Out To Win Maiden Title

Senegal defeated Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations championship winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at Olembe Stadium in Yaound, Cameroon.

Sadio Mane scored the winning spot-kick as Senegal claimed a first ever Africa Cup of Nations title with a 4-2 penalty shootout victory over seven-time winners Egypt.

7. Ahmedabad IPL team to be called Gujarat Titans

The Hardik Pandya-led Ahmedabad team of the Indian Premier League will be known as the Gujarat Titans. The franchise, which is owned by private equity firm CVC Capital, said that the name was chosen to pay tribute to the state's rich cricketing legacy.

The Ahmedabad-based IPL franchise will be led by Hardik Pandya.

8. India To Host International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session In 2023 After 40 Years

India won the right to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session in Mumbai in an unopposed race, during the 139th IOC Session in Beijing, China.

This will be the second IOC session in India.

The IOC session is the general meeting of the Members of the IOC. It is the IOC's supreme organ, and its decisions are final.

The country last hosted an IOC session in 1983 in New Delhi.

9. Ranji Trophy 2022: Bihar batter Sakibul Gani scripts world record with a triple hundred on first-class debut

Bihar batter Sakibul Gani created a new world record for the highest score by a batter on debut in first-class cricket. Gani scored 341 runs for Bihar against Mizoram in their Plate group opening match at the Jadavpur University Campus 2nd Ground, Kolkata. Gani becomes the first batter in the history of world cricket to hit a triple hundred on their first-class debut.

10. Indian opener V.R. Vanitha announces retirement at 31

Indian opener V.R. Vanitha announced her retirement from all forms of cricket at the age of 31. Vanitha, who played domestic cricket for Karnataka and Bengal, made her debut for the national team in an ODI against Sri Lanka in January 2014.

11. Carlos Alcaraz becomes youngest ATP 500 champion

Carlos Alcaraz earned his first ATP Tour match win as a 16-year-old at the Rio Open presented by Claro two years ago.

The seventh-seeded Alcaraz defeated third-seeded Diego Schwartzman 6-4, 6-2 to become the youngest ATP 500 champion since the category was created in 2009.

12. Norway tops Beijing 2022 medal table after record-breaking performance

Norway topped the medal table at the Winter Olympics with a record-breaking performance in Beijing to cement their dominance in winter sports.

Their gold medal haul of 16 represents the most ever won at a single Winter Games. In total, Norway won 16 gold, eight silver and 13 bronze medals.

Germany finished second in the medal table with 12 gold, 10 silver and five bronze.

13. SAAF & National Cross Country Athletics Championship to begin from March 26

The 2nd South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF) Cross-Country championship and the 56th National Cross Country Athletics Championship will be held in Kohima, Nagaland on March 26.

The championships will be held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima.

The tournament will be the first-ever international athletics event in Nagaland.



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Agreements & MoUs

1. SBI-NCF-IGNCA sign MoU for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design at Red Fort, Delhi

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between State Bank of India, Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts and National Culture Fund for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, Delhi.

2. Sri Lanka signs \$500 million credit line with India to import fuel

Sri Lanka signed a \$500 million credit line with India to import fuel. The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) will provide the credit line for purchasing petroleum products. Sri Lanka is struggling with its worst financial crisis in years with reserves hitting \$3.1 billion in December. The country has to repay about \$4 billion in debt repayments in 2022.

3. LIC, Policybazaar join hands to accelerate insurance growth

LIC and Policybazaar have joined hands to offer a wide range of term and investment products to consumers. This affiliation aims at facilitating seamless digital distribution of life insurance products across the nation. LIC Chairperson: M R Kumar. Policybazaar Co-founder & CEO: Yashish Dahiya.

4. Hero Electric partners Axis Bank for retail financing

Hero Electric has partnered with Axis Bank to offer retail financing solutions for its entire portfolio. Customers can opt for two-wheeler financing across Hero Electric's network of over 750 dealers. Axis Bank will additionally offer customised loan amounts and flexible tenure for both customers and dealers. Sohinder Gill, CEO, Hero Electric. Amitabh Chaudhry, CEO & MD, Axis Bank.

5. UN Environment Programme Signs MoU With Maharashtra Govt To Ensure Implementation of Climate Change Mitigation, Adaption

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to support its 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign, an initiative about the energy and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UNEP will support the state in educating, mobilising youth on plastic pollution & marine litter through UNEP's Tide Turner Challenge UNEP Headquarters location: Nairobi, Kenya

6. Amazon India signs MoU with Karnataka govt to turn rural women into entrepreneurs

Amazon India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs.

Amazon India would launch Sanjeevini-KSRLPS in its marketplace and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' programme to train and empower thousands of women entrepreneurs to come online.

7. Amazon India signs MoU with NIF incubator to fire up Indian innovators

Amazon India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council (NIFientreC).

NIFientreC is a technology business incubator hosted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy, and livelihoods across rural India.

8. RBL Bank partners with Creditas Solutions to automate collections

RBL Bank has partnered with Creditas Solutions for its 'Neo Collections' platform.

The private sector lender will utilise the SaaS-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle.

The platform can also determine the best course of action for every customer by offering customised payment plans to service debt, schedule an EMI plan.

9. Sonata Software Partners with Microsoft in its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'

- Sonata Software, a global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company, partners with Microsoft in its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail', further strengthening its offerings to the retail industry. Sonata Software is a Microsoft Gold Partner, recognized for its expertise in delivering the highest quality of service on the Microsoft stack.

10. NHPC inks pact to build 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity in Rajasthan

State-run NHPC Ltd has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) between the company and Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) for the development of 10,000 MW renewable energy projects in the state. NHPC said it is expanding its renewable energy portfolio and has taken up several green projects under different modes.

11. SBI, NCF, IGNSA Inks MoU For Development Of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre For Design At Red Fort, Delhi

The State Bank of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Culture Fund (NCF) of the Ministry of Culture, for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at Red Fort, in Delhi.

SBI has agreed to sponsor the project under CSR with a contribution of Rs. 10 crore for the implementation.

12. NRAI signs MoU with All India Sports Council of the Deaf

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD) under which the former will conduct competitions at every level for shooters with hearing impairment.

The MoU will be in effect till 2029.

The National Rifle Association of India was founded in 1951.

13. India and Australia sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism cooperation

The MoU will facilitate Exchange of information and data related to tourism, Cooperation between tourism stakeholders, particularly hotels and tour operators, Cooperation and exchanges between training and education providers in tourism and hospitality, Investment in the tourism and hospitality sectors, Visits of tour operators and wholesalers, media and more.

14. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & UNDP India launch Community Innovator Fellowship

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with UNDP, India launched the Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF) marking the 'International Day of Women & Girls in Science'. This is a one-year-long intensive fellowship program which has been designed for an aspiring community innovator irrespective of their socio-economic background.

15. India, WFP signs MoU to distribute food grains in Afghanistan

India signed an agreement with the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 tonnes of wheat that it has committed to sending Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance. The agreement was announced by the Indian Embassy in Rome. World Food Programme HQ: Rome; Founded: 1961.

16. Hero Electric partners with SBI for E-2W loans; discount offered for YONO payment

Electric two-wheeler company Hero Electric has announced its partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI) for two-wheeler financing solutions.

Customers buying Hero Electric e-scooters will get an additional INR 2,000 off on payments made through YONO, SBI's integrated digital banking platform. customers will be able to opt for a fully digital and paperless two-wheeler loan.

17. Saint-Gobain India & IIT Madras Research ink pact to promote renewable energy in buildings

French glass and building material major Saint-Gobain and IIT Madras Research Park have signed an agreement to collaborate on technologies to promote maximum use of clean energy as part of net-zero carbon emission objectives. As part of the MoU signed by Saint-Gobain India will be supporting IIT Madras Research Park with a funding of '1 crore over the next 3 years.

18. Reliance Jio partners with SES to announce satellite-based internet for India

Reliance Jio has partnered with SES, a Luxembourg-based satellite solutions provider to form a new initiative ' Jio Space Technology Limited. The joint venture is aimed at delivering the next generation scalable and affordable broadband services in India by making use of satellite technology.

Jio and SES will own 51 percent and 49 percent each in the equity stake.

19. Vedanta And Foxconn Sign MOU For Manufacturing Semiconductors In India

Vedanta, one of India's leading multinational groups, and Hon Hai Technology Group ('Foxconn'), world's largest electronics manufacturing company, announced signing an MOU to form a joint venture company that will manufacture semiconductors in India.

According to the MOU signed between the two companies, Vedanta will hold the majority of the equity in joint venture.

20. NSDC collaborates with CSC for delivery of services to accelerate skill development

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) & Common Service Centres (CSC) have inked a pact for the delivery of services to accelerate India's skill development.

The NSDC has signed an MoU with the Common Services Centres to collaborate for the delivery of services related to various skill development programmes to the youth in rural & remote areas.

21. India, Australia ink letter of intent on new and renewable energy technology

India and Australia has inked a letter of intent for working together towards reducing the cost of new and renewable energy technologies and scaling up their deployment to reduce emission globally. The letter of intent (LoI) was signed at the 4th India - Australia Energy Dialogue, as per a power ministry statement. Dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister RK Singh.

22. KVB, UNANU Technologies tie-up for digital freight finance

Karur Vysya Bank has joined hands with the Chennai-based UNANU Technologies for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors. using the end-to-end logistics technology platform.

UNANU has built the Freight Financing System within their suite of software platforms.

23. IIM Kozhikode, Niti Aayog ink pact to boost monitoring and evaluation ecosystem

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) & Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog recently inked a Statement of Intent (SoI) on Institutional Partnership that will focus on strategic and technical collaboration to strengthen the overall monitoring & evaluation environment in India, with special focus on building a data monitoring.

24. India, Germany sign work plan for collaboration to strengthen quality infrastructure

India and Germany has signed a work plan for cooperation to strengthen quality infrastructure, reduce technical barriers to trade, enhance product safety and strengthen consumer protection. The areas identified for collaboration include mobility, energy, circular economy, smart farming/agriculture, medical devices, digitalisation, machinery safety, and medical devices, etc.

25. Twitter partners with Paytm to boost 'Tips' feature in India

Twitter Inc. has partnered with Paytm's payment gateway to ramp up the support for its 'Tips' feature in India.

Through 'Tips', users can send cash payments to their favourite content creators on the microblogging platform/small business owners.

Last year that Twitter was experimenting with the Tips feature in India & had collaborated with Razorpay as its first partners.

26. BSE Ebix signs insurance broker agreement with LIC, join for distribution of insurance products

BSE Ebix Insurance Broking, a joint venture of BSE and Ebix Fincorp Exchange Pte Ltd, has announced signing of an insurance broker agreement for the distribution of Life Insurance Corporation's products on its platform.

Under this agreement, BSE Ebix will offer their clients insurance products offered by LIC such as Life & Health, using its omni-channel digital presence.

27. Vedanta signs pact with TERI to accelerate ESG goals

Vedanta has signed a pact with TERI to accelerate its Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

Vedanta plans to invest around Rs 200 crore over the next five to 10 years on R&D and sustainability initiatives to promote and build a sustainable ecosystem.

28. TransUnion CIBIL Partners With FICCI On A Unique Nation-Wide MSME Consumer Education Program

TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the FICCI to launch MSME consumer education program that will support MSMEs in gaining awareness of credit management, CIBIL Rank and commercial credit information. This program will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.

29. India and UAE signed the historic Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India and UAE signed the historic Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) aimed at boosting the merchandise trade between the two countries to US\$ 100 billion over next 5 years. The deal was signed during the virtual summit meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. UAE is celebrating 50 years of its foundation.

30. Govt. of India and World Bank sign loan agreement of \$115 million

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million Programme (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme) that will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience. Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hect of degraded land by 2030.

31. MoU Signed between Ministry of Tourism and Alliance Air Aviation Limited

The Ministry of Tourism in order to boost tourism throughout the country signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL). The MoU was signed with a view to achieve the common purpose of joint domestic promotion and considering the need to synergize the activities of MoT and AAAL in the tourism markets.

32. Mahindra Electric collaborates with CSC to promote EV adoption in rural India

Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd (MEML) has partnered with Common Service Centres (CSC), a government organisation that helps provide employment in rural India, to promote adoption of electric vehicles.

Through this association with CSC, MEML will offer its range of electric vehicles like the Treo and Alfa to aspiring customers in the rural markets.

33. Govt. of India, World Bank sign loan agreement of \$115 million for implementation of REWARD Project

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) Programme (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme) that will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices.

34. Mahindra Insurance Brokers partners Tata 1mg for wellness solutions

Mahindra Insurance Brokers (MIBL), a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Mahindra Finance), has announced its partnership with Tata 1mg, an online healthcare platform, to provide corporate India with a holistic wellness solution.

The tie-up plans to offer customised health solutions for the well-being of corporate employees and their families.

35. KSUM partners with Google for startups to foster global links

Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has announced a collaboration with tech giant Google for local startups to connect with the global startup community.

This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions.

36. Standard Chartered, IATA tie up forh payment platform for airline industry

Global banking group Standard Chartered has partnered with the International Air Transport Association to launch a payment platform for airline industry in India.

In addition to existing payment options such as credit cards, IATA Pay will be a new payment option that enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as UPI Scan & Pay & UPI Collects.

37. India, France sign roadmap to enhance bilateral exchanges on blue economy and ocean governance

India and France have agreed on a Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance with the aim to contribute to scientific knowledge and ocean conservation and ensure that the ocean remains a global common, based on the rule of law.

India and France underscored that fisheries are a vital economic sector & play a decisive role in food security and livelihood security.

38. Jammu: Govt Medical College, Tata hospital sign MoU to develop modern cancer care facilities

The Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu and Kashmir, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Memorial Hospital for academic and technical collaboration for developing ultra-modern tertiary cancer care facilities.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Schemes

1. Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE scheme announced in Budget 2022-23

A new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE was announced by the Union Minister for Finance in the Union Budget 2022-23.

The scheme will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council. An initial allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore will be made. It will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti, and social development projects.

2. NIMHANS to spearhead national tele-counselling

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) will spearhead a National Tele-Mental Health Programme across the country, as per the Union Budget 2022-23. The programme will include a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and IIITB providing technology support.

3. Blue Economy is the sixth dimension of Government of India's Vision of New India by 2030: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

The minister in Parliament said that the Government of India's Vision of New India by 2030 enunciated in February 2019 highlighted the Blue Economy as the sixth dimension of its vision. He said, Rs. 150 Cr has been provisioned during 2021-22 under Deep Ocean Mission.

4. Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022 announced by Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser

Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its 'Waste to Wealth' Mission has announced the 'Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022'. Its aim is to empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management as Swachhta Saarthis and implement actions to reduce waste for a greener planet. It is one of the nine national missions of the Prime Minister's PM-STIAC scheme

5. Govt decides to continue the Scheme of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram for another 5 years

Central Government has decided to continue the Scheme of 'Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram, RYSK for another five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with an outlay of over 2,710 crore rupees. The decision was taken with a view to achieving the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports - Anurag Singh Thakur

6. PMKSY scheme extended till FY'26 with Rs 4,600 crore outlay

The food processing ministry on Monday said its flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore. PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

7. Social Justice & Empowerment Department launches 'SMILE' for the Welfare of Transgender community and the Beggars

This umbrella scheme is designed to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. Under this includes two sub-schemes - 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' and 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'.

8. 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' & 'An Integrated Mobile Service Delivery Van' for Divyangjan and Senior Citizens launched

A 'Samajik Adhikarita Shivir' for distribution of aids and assistive devices to 'Divyangjan' under the ADIP Scheme and Senior citizens under 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' (RVY Scheme) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was organized at Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh.

9. Rajasthan tops solar electrification under Saubhagya Scheme

Rajasthan has the maximum households electrified through the solar-based standalone system, while hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had nil beneficiaries under the initiative.

Centre had launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana 'Saubhagya' in October 2017. It also entailed provision of solar based standalone systems to un-electrified households

10. Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry to launch a Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar will launch the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Communities.

The De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes are the most neglected, marginalized, economically & socially deprived community.

11. Jal Jeevan Mission achieves 9 cr rural tap connections in 2.5 years since launch

Under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission of the Jal Shakti Ministry, the government has claimed to have provided tap water supply to more than 5.77 crore rural households, taking the total number to 9 crore since the programme was launched in August 2019.

'Har Ghar Jal' is a term used for saturation coverage of tap water in a given rural habitation.

12. Government approves Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme to continue till 31st March, 2026

The Government has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 31.03.2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier. The proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore out of which Central Share is Rs. 8120.97 crores and the State Share is of Rs. 4808.19 crores. It has been envisaged to support around 1600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.

13. First direct flight between Delhi-Khajuraho under RCS-UDAN flagged off

The first direct flight between Delhi and the heritage city of Khajuraho was flagged-off. With this, 405 routes would be operationalized under the UDAN-RCS scheme. SpiceJet was awarded the Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi route under the RCS-UDAN 3.0.

SpiceJet is India's largest regional carrier and the strongest supporter of UDAN scheme.

14. Government approves 'New India Literacy Programme, a new scheme of Adult Education for FYs 2022-27'

Government-approved a new scheme 'New India Literacy Programme for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22. The National Education Policy 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.

15. Government Approves Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme To Continue Till 31st March, 2026

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Appointments & Resignations

1. Former RBI governor Urjit Patel resigns as independent director of Britannia Industries Limited

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has resigned from the post of non-executive and independent director of Britannia Industries Limited, citing a full-time work assignment starting next month.

He was a part of the Board of the Company. The former governor also confirmed that there was no other reason other than his new project for the resignation.

2. Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi joins as Director General, NIELIT

Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi has joined as Director General of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT). National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

3. Senior scientist GA Srinivasa Murthy appointed director of DRDL Hyderabad

GA Srinivasa Murthy has been appointed director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Hyderabad.

4. Former Sports Secretary Ravi Mittal appointed as IBBI Chairperson

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Ravi Mittal, former Sports Secretary, as the Chairperson of Insolvency Regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

It maybe recalled that IBBI Wholetime Membef (WTM) Navrang Saini is currently officiating as Chairperson till March 5 this year.

M S Sahoo was the first Chairperson of IBBI. He will serve as IBBI Chief for five years or till he attains the age of 65 years.

5. LIC nominates MK Gupta on IDBI Bank board

Life Insurance of Corporation of India (LIC) has nominated Mukesh Kumar Gupta, retired Managing Director of LIC, on the Board of IDBI Bank.

Gupta's appointment comes in the wake of Rajesh Kandwal ceasing to be LIC Nominee Director with effect from February 2, 2022. LIC Chairperson: M R Kumar. IDBI MD&CEO: Rakesh Sharma

6. Former Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor to be PNGRB head

Tarun Kapoor, who superannuated as secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021, was selected to be chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). His candidature will now go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for ratification and once approved, he would take over.

7. JNU Vice Chancellor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar appointed as next University Grants Commission chairperson

Jawaharlal Nehru University Vice Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar was appointed as the chairperson of the University Grants Commission, or UGC. The Ministry of Education said that Kumar will retain the post for five years or till he becomes 65.

The post of the UGC chairperson had been vacant after Professor DP Singh resigned on December 7 after he turned 65. UGC- Founded: 1956.,First executive: Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar.

8. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, history professor at HNB Garhwal University, is the new NCERT director

Dinesh Prasad Saklani, a professor of history at the HNB Garhwal University, was appointed as the director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for five years. He succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, who finished his term over a year ago.

NCERT is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education (MoE).

9. IndiGo appoints co-founder and promoter Rahul Bhatia as MD

Rahul Bhatia, the co-founder of IndiGo, is taking on a newly-created executive position of managing director at the company, after the biggest budget carrier in Asia by market value posted a surprise quarterly profit.

Mr Bhatia will oversee all aspects of the airline, and actively lead the management team, Chairman Meleveetil Damodaran said in the statement. IndiGo Chief Executive Officer Ronojoy Dutta.

10. Sonali Singh given charge of Controller General of Accounts

Centre has given the charge the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to Sonali Singh, Additional Controller General of Accounts, after superannuation of Dipak Dash.

A 1987 batch officer of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), Singh had joined CGA as Additional Controller General of Accounts in October 2019.

11. NATO chief to head Norway central bank

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg will take over as Norway's central bank Governor at the end of the year. The appointment comes amid escalating tensions between the West and Russia.

Western nations fear Moscow has plans to invade Ukraine, which aspires to join the NATO alliance.

12. S R Narasimhan takes additional charge as CMD POSOCO

State-run Power System Operation Corporation Ltd(POSOCO) said its Director (System Operation) S R Narasimhan has taken additional charge of the post of chairman and managing director.

Narasimhan has a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering and Master in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance. POSOCO's Headquarters: - New Delhi, India

13. NAREDCO Appoints Alok Gupta as the New Director General

National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), an apex real estate body appointed Alok Gupta as the New Director General (DG) of the association. Gupta has taken over the charge of NAREDCO from 1st February 2022.

The National Real Estate Development Council was established self-regulatory body in 1998 under the aegis of Housing And Urban Affairs Government of India. Rajan Bandelkar, President, NAREDCO.

14. Ms Sukla Mistry takes over as first women Functional Director on IndianOil Board

Ms. Mistry as Director (Refineries) of IndianOil shall spearhead the business & operations of nine refineries & petrochemical plants of IndianOil.

Ms Mistry is also the first woman in IndianOil to hold the position of Executive Director & Refinery Head of an IndianOil refinery unit, first at Digboi Refinery (Assam) from 1 st January 2018-7 th February 2019. Digboi Refinery (Assam), is the oldest operating refinery in Asia.

15. Launch Vehicle specialist Unnikrishnan Nair becomes chief of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

Renowned scientist and Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) director Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). He was appointed as VSSC director after the post became vacant following the appointment of Dr S Somanath as ISRO chairman.

VSSC located in Thiruvananthapuram, Founded: 21 November 1963. Dr Brahm Prakash- First Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

16. Santishree Pandit appointed first woman VC of JNU

Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, a political science professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University, has been appointed as the first women Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

She was appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind, who is the University's Visitor, She will hold the job for the next five years. She succeeds M. Jagadesh Kumar, who was appointed chairperson of the UGC.

17. Pradip Shah, ex-consultant to World Bank, appointed Pfizer India chairman

Pfizer India has appointed Pradip Shah as the chairman of its board following the resignation of R A Shah.

Pradip Shah is the ex-managing director and a founding member of Crisil.

Prior to founding Crisil, he assisted in founding HDFC in 1977.

He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

18. Sanjay Malhotra appointed DFS Secretary in Finance Ministry

The Center has appointed Sanjay Malhotra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in Finance Ministry.

Before this, Malhotra was Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He succeeds Debashish Panda, who recently completed his term as DFS Secretary on January 31.

19. S. Kishore appointed as new SSC Chairman

Senior bureaucrat S. Kishore has been appointed as Chairman, Staff Selection Commission (SSC). According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Presently, he is serving as Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

20. IDFC First Bank appoints Chetan Sanghvi as Chief Risk Officer

The IDFC First Bank has appointed Chetan Sanghvi as the Chief Risk Officer, in accordance with the succession plan of the Bank, as per the due process as required under the applicable laws. He has been appointed for a minimum period of three years with effect from February 08, 2022.

IDFC First Bank, CEO: V. Vaidyanathan. Founded: October 2015.

21. Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari Appointed As Chief Justice Of Madras High Court

Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court. In exercise of the powers conferred under Clause (1) of Article 217 of the Indian Constitution, the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India has made the appointment.

22. N Chandrasekaran reappointed chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years

Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years, having the support and approval of the board of Tata Trusts and its chairman Ratan Tata.

N Chandrasekaran joined the Tata Sons board in October 2016, was designated chairman in January 2017, and took official charge in February 2017.

23. Former J-K High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal appointed as chairperson of Committee of Administrators to run TTFI

The Delhi High Court has appointed former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal as the chairperson of the Committee of Administrators to discharge the functions of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

Chetan Mittal, Senior Advocate and SD Mudgil, a renowned athlete as a member of the committee.

24. Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan concurrently accredited as next High Commissioner of India to Tonga

Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan concurrently accredited as next High Commissioner of India to Tonga.

Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan, presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Tonga, with residence in Suva.

25. Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi appointed as the next Indian High Commissioner to Republic of Vanuatu

Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi appointed as the next Indian High Commissioner to Republic of Vanuatu.

He is a 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer is currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to New Zealand.

He had earlier served as Ambassador of India to Mexico. Vanuatu is a South Pacific Ocean nation. Capital: Port Vila; Currency: Vanuatu vatu.

26. Ex-Turkish Airlines head Mehmet Ilker Ayci appointed as the new CEO and MD of Air India

Former chairman of Turkish Airlines Ilker Ayci has been appointed Air India's new CEO and MD, the erstwhile national carriers new owners the Tata Group.

Ilker is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success.

Ayci's appointment would be subject to regulatory approvals.

27. Vineet Joshi takes charge as new CBSE chairperson

Vineet Joshi, additional secretary in the ministry of education, has been assigned the charge of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) chairperson.

Joshi's appointment comes after his predecessor Manoj Ahuja was appointed as the OSD in the department of agriculture and farmers welfare.

28. German President Steinmeier reelected for second term

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was elected to a second five-year term by a special assembly of lawmakers and state-nominated delegates.

The position of president in Germany is largely symbolic, but its holder is nonetheless the country's highest authority.

29. PESB picks Captain BK Tyagi as the next CMD of Shipping Corp

Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi has been picked by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) to be the next Chairman and Managing Director at the state-run carrier Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI). Captain Tyagi is currently the director looking after the liner and passenger services division at SCI which is in the process of being privatised by the government.

30. Former Navy Vice chief G Ashok Kumar, takes charge as first National Maritime Security Coordinator

Former Navy vice chief G Ashok Kumar has been appointed as the first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC).

Proposed after the 26/11 terror attacks, the NMSC will be part of the National Security Council Secretariat, and will report to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

31. Debashis Mitra takes over as ICAI President; Aniket Sunil Talati becomes VP

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has been elected Debashis Mitra as its President for the 2022-23 term.

Aniket Sunil Talati has been elected as Vice President of the institute, which has more than 340,000 members and over 700,000 students.

Mitra, who is serving his third term in ICAI Council, has been in the accounting profession for more than 34 years. ICAI is the world's second largest accounting body.

32. Centre nominates DFS Secy Sanjay Malhotra as Director on RBI's central board

The central government nominated department of financial services (DFS) secretary Sanjay Malhotra as a director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI's affairs are governed by the central board of directors. The board is appointed by the government. There are five official directors -- the RBI Governor and not more than four deputy governors.

33. CSB Bank has got the approval of (RBI) for the appointment of Pralay Mondal as the deputy managing director.

CSB Bank has got the approval of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the appointment of Pralay Mondal as the deputy managing director of the company. His prior appointment in the bank since September 23, 2020 was as President (Retail, SME, Operations and IT).

34. Rakesh Gangwal Quits IndiGo Board, To Pare Stake Over 5 Years

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.'s co-founder Rakesh Gangwal quit the carrier's board and will pare his stake in the company over five years, ceding control to co-promoter Rahul Bhatia after a truce. Gangwal has resigned as non-executive, non-independent director of InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of India's largest carrier IndiGo with immediate effect.

35. Chetan Ghate succeeds Ajit Mishra as director of Institute of Economic Growth

The Institute of Economic Growth has appointed Chetan Ghate as the new director succeeding Ajit Mishra.

Ghate, who was a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020, is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country under the age of 45.

36. Takuya Tsumura appointed as new President & CEO of Honda Cars India

Japanese auto major Honda Motor Co. Ltd. has announced the appointment of Takuya Tsumura as the new President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) with effect from 1 April 2022.

The appointment comes as part of the management changes announced annually by the company.

37. Burkina Faso military leader Damiba to be sworn in as country's president

Burkina Faso military leader Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba is due to be sworn in as the country's president, just over two weeks after soldiers ousted President Roch Kabor in a coup.

Last week, the Constitutional Council, having taken note of Mr Kabor's resignation, declared Mr Damiba, a 41-year-old army officer, president of Burkina Faso. Capital: Ouagadougou; Currency: West African CFA franc.

38. Sanjeev Sanyal appointed full-time member of Economic Advisory Council to PM

Noted economist and historian Sanjeev Sanyal has been inducted as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), the panel's chairman Bibek Debroy announced.

In 2007, Sanyal was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship for his work on urban issues and was also honoured by the Singapore government at the World Cities Summit 2014.

39. Manika Batra joins Adidas as brand ambassador

Sportswear company adidas has announced that it has roped in table tennis player, Manika Batra as the brand ambassador.

This partnership focuses on empowering women to realise their dreams as the brand continues to be an ally, cheering for women breaking barriers and creating a reverberating impact in the world of sports.

40. Multi-gaming platform A23 appoints Shah Rukh Khan as brand ambassador

Online skill gaming company Head Digital Works has announced Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador for its online multi-gaming platform 'A23'.

The campaign will showcase all of A23's offerings which include games of skill such as carom, fantasy sports, pool and rummy, among others. A23's 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign would promote responsible gaming habits.

41. HUL separates position of the Board Chairman and CEO & MD; Nitin Paranjpe appointed non-executive chairman

Hindustan Unilever announced the appointment of Nitin Paranjpe as the non-executive chairman and non-executive director of the company, effective from March 31, 2022. Sanjiv Mehta, the CEO, and MD of the company will continue in his current role.

The company also announced the re-appointment of Dev Bajpai as a whole-time director for a period of five years.

42. IKEA India appoints Susanne Pulverer as its first woman CEO, CSO

Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA (part of Ingka Group) announced the appointment of Susanne Pulverer as its new and first woman Chief Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer, for its India business.

Prior to her role as IKEA India CEO and CSO, Pulverer held the position of Group Business Risk and Compliance Manager at the Ingka group.

43. Digital India CEO Abhishek Singh named National e-Governance Division chief

In a top level administrative realignment the Union government has announced to elevate senior IAS officers and Digital India Corporation CEO Abhishek Singh as new National e-Governance Division (NeGD) CEO.

The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

44. Dr. K. N. Raghavan, head of India's Rubber Board elected Chairperson of IRSG for next 2 years

The Secretariat of IRSG (International Rubber Study Group), the intergovernmental organization of natural rubber (NR) and synthetic rubber (SR) producing and consuming countries, has announced the election of Dr. K. N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board of India as the new Chairperson of the IRSG Heads of Delegation.

45. BharatPe terminates head of controls Madhuri Jain Grover's services

Weeks after being sent on leave the services of Madhuri Jain Grover, head of controls of BharatPe and wife of founder Ashneer Grover, have been terminated by the company on allegations of misappropriation of funds, according to sources privy to the development.

46. Harmanpreet Kaur will be India's vice-captain in World Cup: Mithali Raj

India skipper Mithali Raj on Saturday confirmed that Harmanpreet Kaur will serve as her deputy in the upcoming Women's 50-over World Cup.

In the last two ODIs against New Zealand, Deepti Sharma donned the hat of vice-captain. Harmanpreet did not play the fourth ODI, while she did make a comeback in the final ODI, Deepti stayed on as the vice-captain.

47. World Bank's India head Junaid Ahmad appointed vice president of operations

The World Bank's India head Junaid Kamal Ahmad has been appointed as a Vice President of the international lending institution.

Ahmad, who as Vice President, Operations would head the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), is only the second Bangladeshi national to be appointed to such a high position in the history of the bank.

48. Dish TV's ropes Rishabh Pant as its brand ambassador

Dish TV India, has announced the appointment of Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador. Pant will feature in the brand's 360-degree communication for the next two years. This investment in the D2H brand is going to make it even stronger. The close affinity between D2H brand and Rishabh Pant as brand ambassadors will enable deeper engagement of D2H with its TG.

49. Rakesh Sharma again appointed as MD & CEO of IDBI Bank

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) has informed the stock exchanges that its board has approved the reappointment of Rakesh Sharma as the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19, 2022. Sharma's reappointment as the MD&CEO of the bank has received the banking regulator RBI's nod.

50. Prof Bhushan Patwardhan appointed as chairman of NAAC

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has appointed educationist and research scientist Professor Bhushan Patwardhan as chairman, of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The position was vacant after Prof Jagadish Kumar was appointed as chairman of UGC. NAAC's Head Quarters in Bengaluru.



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Awards

1. Telugu short film 'Street Student' wins Rs 2 lakh prize at NHRC's Short Film Award Competition

A Telugu short film 'Street Student' by Akula Sandeep depicting the story of a street urchin with a strong message on right to education has bagged the first prize in a competition organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in January 2022.

'Karfew' by Romi Meitei has been selected for the second prize worth Rs 1.5 lakh.

2. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell wins ICC's 'Spirit of Cricket' award

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell is the recipient of the ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for 2021 due to his sportsmanlike gesture in the T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Abu Dhabi. Mitchell is the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson. ICC Chief Executive: Geoff Allardice

3. 'Mamasoubhagam' bags best short film award: Kerala State Level competition

Adarsh "MM", a Sanskrit teacher at Veliyannoor PS Natarajapillai Memorial UP School, has emerged as this year's winner at the best short film competition organized by the general education department. He bagged the prize for the best short film for the Sanskrit movie 'Mamasoubhagam'. Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

4. CII presents DX 2021 award to Karnataka Bank

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) awarded the prestigious Digital Transformation award, 'DX 2021' to Karnataka Bank.

The award is in recognition of best practices in digital transformation, including the 'KBL Vikaas'.

Bank has recently launched digital transformation journey 'KBL NxT' as part of wave 2.0 of 'KBL VIKAAAS'.

5. Keegan Petersen, Heather Knight ICC players of the month for January

South Africa's Test sensation Keegan Petersen and England women's team captain Heather Knight were voted ICC Players of the Month for January 2022.

In the men's category, South African batter Keegan Petersen was a sensation during the home Test series against India.

He ended the series as the highest run-scorer with 276 runs and was named the Player of the Series.

6. Yohan Poonawalla receives 'Business Leader of the Year Award'

URJA Awards 2022, a brainchild of Usha Kakade's Gravittus Foundation, honoured Mr. Yohan Poonawalla, Chairman and Director of various Poonawalla Group of companies, with the Business Leader of the Year award this year. Mr. Yohan Poonawalla received the award for the Business Leader of the year from Mrs. Amruta Fadnavis at the Gravittus Foundations URJA Award 2022. Yohan Poonawalla is one of India's leading industrialists and philanthropists.

7. Coal India bags 'Most Dependable Public Sector in India' Award

Coal India Ltd (CIL) under the Ministry of Coal has been conferred with the 'Most Dependable Public Sector in India' award.

The Award was conferred on CIL by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Kolkatta in 'Energy Meet & Excellence Awards function.

8. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022: Asha Parekh honoured with Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry

Legendary actor Asha Parekh has been honoured with Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry accolade at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022.

Asha Parekh had appeared in many commercially successful films throughout her career. She was the highest-paid actor (female) of 1960s and 1970s. She is known as the 'Hit Girl' of Indian cinema

9. Mirabai Chanu wins gold at Singapore Weightlifting International

Indian weightlifter and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist, Mirabai Chanu has won the gold medal in the 55kg weight category at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 on February 25, 2022. Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium.

Ranks & Reports

1. India in global gold buying spree; RBI 2nd largest buyer of yellow metal

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second largest buyer of yellow metal among the world's Central Banks in 2021. The largest buyer, the Central Bank of Thailand, bought 90 metric tonnes of gold while RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021. India's official gold reserves is ninth largest in the world.

2. Democracy Index 2021: India's Score Improves, Ranking 46 Of 167 Countries

India is ranked 46 on the global index with an overall score of 6.91.

It has the lowest score of 5 on political culture and the highest score of 8.67 on electoral process and pluralism.

It scores 6.18 on civil liberties, 7.22 on political participation, 7.50 on functioning of government.

3. Centre's GDP deflator forecast for FY23 is 3-3.5%

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Centre's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator projection for 2022-23 is 3 to 3.5 per cent.

This means that the government's own real GDP growth projection for the coming fiscal year is in the range of 7.6-8.1 per cent, given that the Union Budget assumes a nominal GDP growth rate of 11.1 per cent for FY23.

4. India Ranks 3rd Globally In LEED Certified Green Buildings As Per US Green Building Council

India has ranked third in the world for LEED certified green buildings in 2021 in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list.

China and Canada are at the first two positions. The United States is not included in the list but remains the world's largest market for LEED.

5. Mumbai & Bengaluru among top 10 most congested cities in world

According to TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021, Despite Covid-induced lockdowns keeping a large number of vehicles off the roads in 2021, Mumbai and Bengaluru have been ranked 5th and 10th in the global ranking of urban congestion during the period while Delhi and Pune occupied the 11th and 21st spots among 404 cities across 58 countries. World's most congested city in 2021 is Istanbul, Turkey (Congestion level: 62%*)

6. Zombie firms absorbed 10% of total bank credit extended to all companies: RBI Bulletin

The number of perpetually loss-making zombie firms, who use more credit/external finance to service debt regularly thus enabling them to remain in business, absorbed about 10 per cent of the total bank credit extended to all firms in the Indian economy.

Such firms are estimated to account for about 10 per cent of the total debt of the non-financial corporate sector.

7. India's GDP likely to grow at 5.8% in Oct-Dec: SBI's Ecowrap report

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to grow at 5.8% in the third quarter of fiscal 2022, according to an SBI's research report- Ecowrap. As per SBI Nowcasting Model, the forecasted GDP growth for Q3 FY22 would be 5.8%, with a downward bias. The full year (FY22) GDP growth is now revised downwards to 8.8% from our earlier estimate of 9.3%.

8. Hurun India Wealth Report: Dollar-millionaire households in India increased to 4.5 lakh

The number of dollar-millionaire households in the country has increased by 11% to 4,58,000 households compared to last year, according to the latest Hurun India Wealth Report 2021.

According to the report, the number of Indian dollar-millionaire households is estimated to increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households by 2026. A dollar-millionaire household has a net worth of at least INR 7 crore.

Important Days

1. India joins global movement to raise awareness on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

Observing the 3rd World NTDs Day on 30th January, as a key moment to highlight the global community's commitment to ending NTDs, India joined close to 40 other nations to illuminate the iconic New Delhi Railway Station in purple and orange hues, which is one of the busiest railway stations in the country in terms of train frequency and passenger movement.

2. World Wetlands Day | February 2nd

United Nations recognised 'World Wetlands Day' is celebrated on February 2 to mark the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the same day in 1971.

Wetlands, often known as 'liquid assets' are the most crucial natural resources that help stabilise water supplies, cleanse polluted waters, protect shorelines, and recharge groundwater aquifers. The theme for World Wetlands Day was 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.

3. World Cancer Day 2022 | 4th February

World Cancer Day is observed on February 4 every year to spread awareness about cancer.

World Cancer Day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008.

The day aims to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection and treatment. The theme of World Cancer Day 2022 is "Close the Care'Gap"

4. Safer Internet Day: February 8

Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked.

This year marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place right across the globe. 2022's Theme:- "Together for a better internet".

5. World Pulses Day- 10 February

World Pulses Day is observed on 10 February to raise awareness about the importance of pulses. The day has been celebrated since 2019 by the United Nations (UN). The 2022 World Pulses Day's theme will be: 'Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems'. The day also highlights the need for increased access to these crops among underprivileged sections.

6. International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022: February 11

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed by the United Nations (UN) on 11 February each year. The day aims to promote the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

This year marks the seventh observance of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This year theme :- 'Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us'.

7. World Radio Day celebrated across Globe

World Radio Day was celebrated on Feb 13 2022 across the globe. World Radio Day is observed every year on 13th of February to stress the importance of radio. It is also a day to remember the unique power of radio which touches lives and brings people together from every corner of the globe.

8. International Childhood Cancer Day: February 15

Every year, February 15 is observed as International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) to raise awareness about the evil that entails this issue and the ways to deal with the same.

The most common types of childhood cancers include leukemias, brain cancer, lymphomas, solid tumours, such as neuroblastoma, Wilms tumour and bone tumors. 2022 Theme: 'Better Survival', which is a part of 3 campaigns launched in 2021 for ICCD.

9. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated across the country on 19 February every year.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated across the country on 19 February every year. He founded the Maratha Kingdom and was one of India's most progressive, wise and fearless emperors. This year marks his 392nd birth anniversary. The birth anniversary of Shivaji is celebrated with great zeal and pride in Maharashtra.

10. International Mother Language Day to be celebrated as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India is organizing a two-day event for 21st ' 22nd February 2022 at

Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts, New Delhi. The theme of 2022 is: 'Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities'.

11. World Day Of Social Justice 2022:20 February

The privileges that an individual holds in terms of wealth, opportunities, economically, politically and socially are called social justice.

World Day of Social Justice is observed on February 20 each year, as declared by the United Nations. The UN reviewed the Declaration of Copenhagen and Programme of Action for Social Development on November 26, 2007. 2022 Theme:- 'Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment'.

12. International Mother Language Day 2022 | 21 February

International Mother Language Day is observed on 21 February every year to promote awareness of linguistic & cultural diversity with an aim to promote multilingualism (the ability to speak multiple languages or the use of multiple languages).

The day was 1st announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999 and was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.

13. MEA celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week from 21st to 27th Feb

External Affairs Ministry is celebrating its Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week from 21 to 27th of this month.

The celebrations will include a series of commemorative events and activities in New Delhi and other cities across the country. S. Jaishankar:- Minister of External Affairs

14. World Thinking Day 2022: February 22

World Thinking Day is celebrated on February 22 worldwide.

Donations are collected for the Thinking Day Fund which supports projects to help Girl Guides and Scouts.

It started in 1926 and is celebrated in 150 countries every year.

With the motive to help, spread awareness, and give voice to young women, World Thinking Day is celebrated globally. "Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality" is the theme for 2022.

15. World NGO Day 2022: 27th January

World NGO Day is observed on 27 February every year. Over 89 nations across six continents celebrate World NGO Day. It is an international day that is observed to recognise, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and nonprofit organizations. In 2014, World NGO Day was officially celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly.

16. 3rd India Protein Day: February 27, 2022

India has been observing its National Protein Day on February 27 since 2020.

Indian health professionals came up with a 'Right to Protein' initiative to educate Indians on the importance of protein intake. The sole intention behind this drive is to promote protein sufficiency in India through awareness, advocacy about the right to protein accessibility.

17. National Science Day 2022: February 28

National Science Day (NSD) is observed every year on February 28 in India, to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'. Theme-based science communication activities are carried out all over the country on the occasion of National Science Day.

This year's National Science Day 2022 is "Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future."

Summit & Conferences

1. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Flags Off NITI Aayog's Fintech Open Summit

In an effort to showcase the importance of the fintech industry, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS and EY, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, 'Fintech Open', from 7th to 28th February.

Fintech Open aims to create an immersive learning experience. Union Minister for Railways, Communications, & Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw.

2. PM Modi to Virtually Address High-level Segment of One Ocean Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit through a video message.

The high-level segment of the summit will also be addressed by several other heads of states and governments including Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Canada.

3. PM Modi to deliver inaugural address at Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at the Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit.

The summit is TERI's annual flagship event and the theme for this year is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a research institute in New Delhi.

4. Union Cabinet Approves Setting Up of G20 Secretariat, to be Headed by Prime Minister

India will hold the presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023. G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.

The G20 Secretariat, it said, is being established to handle work relating to substantive, knowledge, content, etc.

5. Sri G Kishan Reddy inaugurates first-ever Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India', in Hyderabad

India hosted a first-of-its-kind Global Summit on "Reimagining Museums in India" in Hyderabad on 15-16 February 2022.

The online summit encompassed four broad themes: Architecture and Functional Needs; Management; Collections (including curation and conservation practices); and Education and Audience Engagement.

6. Steel Minister, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh to chair two-day Conference of Ministers of Mines & Industries from States

Union Steel Minister, Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh will chair 'Conference with Mines and Industry Ministers' of mineral rich states of the country at Konark, Odisha between 25-26 February, 2022.

The Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste will also address the two day Conference.

7. 19th edition of BioAsia kick-starts on 24th February

19th edition of the Asia's largest life-sciences and Health Tech forum BioAsia, the annual flagship event of Government of Telangana will be held during February 24th and 25th, 2022 in a virtual format.

The theme of this year's edition is 'Future Ready' and would focus on exploring industry's current position and future potential.

8. Two-day conference on temple architecture begins

In a celebration under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture, a two-day international conference 'Devayatanam ' An odyssey of Indian temple architecture began at Hampi, Karnataka.

This was in line with the overall vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who inspires us with 5 V's.

Science & Technology

1. Zydus Cadila starts supply of Covid-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D to govt

Zydus Cadila said it has commenced supplies of its Covid-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D to the central government. It is also planning to make the vaccine available in the private market. ZyCoV-D is a three-dose vaccine administered intradermally.

2. ISRO to launch Chandrayan-3 in August this year

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will make its third venture to the Moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission in August this year. This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline. ISRO will conduct 19 missions till December this year. Minister of State for Ministry Of Earth Sciences- Dr Jitendra Singh

3. NASA Plans to Retire International Space Station in 2031

The International Space Station will continue its operation until 2030 and then crash into an uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo.

It will be replaced with three free-flying space stations to continue the work after ISS's retirement.

NASA also selected Houston-based Axiom Space to provide the ISS's first commercial module.

4. IISc commissions Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has installed and commissioned Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India, and the largest in an Indian academic institution under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

5. India successfully decommissions INSAT-4B satellite

The ISRO said as a part of India's continual efforts towards preservation of the long-term sustainability of outer space, INSAT-4B has undergone post mission disposal (PMD) at the end of its life, followed by decommissioning on January 24, 2022.

The decommissioning of the satellite was to comply with the UN and the Inter IADC recommended space debris mitigation guidelines. Indian Space Research Organization: ISRO

6. Indian scientists develop a next-generation probiotic that provides hope for longevity and healthy aging

A team of Indian Scientists has recently identified the next-generation probiotic bacterium *Lactobacillus Plantarum* JBC5 from a dairy product that showed great promise in promoting healthy aging. The team has also developed a yogurt using this probiotic bacterium which can be consumed to derive all these health benefits.

7. ISRO successfully launches earth observation satellite EOS-04 along with 2 other satellites, INS-2TD and INSPIRE sat1

The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO has successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The PSLV-C52 mission has also injected three satellites into the orbits.

PSLV C52 placed an EOS-04 radar imaging satellite weighing 1710 kgs into orbit.

8. Israel becomes first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace

Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drones in civilian airspace. Referring to this, the Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety recently announced the country's first certification for unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) to operate in civilian airspace.

Hermes Starliner can fly for up to 36 hours at an altitude of around 7600 m. Capability to carry an additional 450kg of thermal, electro-optical, & other payloads.

9. First woman reported cured of HIV after stem cell transplant

A U.S. patient with leukemia has become the first woman and the third person to date to be cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant from a donor who was naturally resistant to the virus that causes AIDS.

The two prior cases occurred in males - one white and one Latino - who had received adult stem cells, which are more frequently used in bone marrow transplants.

Defence

1. Lt Gen GAV Reddy Succeeds Lt Gen KJS Dhillon As Defence Intelligence Agency Head

Lieutenant General GAV Reddy, SC, has been appointed as the new head of the Defence Intelligence Agency. General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon.

The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organisation and is among the principal advisors on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff. The first Director-General of the DIA was Lt Gen Kamal Davar.

2. Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 46th Raising Day

The Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on .

From just seven surface platforms in 1978, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory.

It is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025. It is the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world.

3. India flight tests Rafale-Marine for INS Vikrant

The marine version of the French-made Rafale fighter jet has been successfully flight-tested at a shore-based facility in Goa where conditions similar to that on the indigenously-developed aircraft carrier INS Vikrant were simulated.

The Rafale-M jet was tested for 12 days last month at Goa's INS Hansa facility using a 283 metre mock ski-jump facility.

4. BrahMos, Uran Missiles Successfully Test Fired From Andaman Islands

Fired by the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the two anti-ship missiles were BrahMos and Uran and were launched from the Indian Navy's guided-missile corvette.

The latest test-fire comes just a week after the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was fired off the coast of Odisha in Balasore on January 20, 2022.

5. Sea Trials of First Sea Sortie of Fifth Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' commenced

The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 01 Feb 22. The submarine was launched in Nov 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The submarine would be named Vagir, after commissioning.

6. Naval Investiture Ceremony- 2021 Conducted in New Delhi

Naval Investiture Ceremony to felicitate naval personnel who have demonstrated gallant acts, leadership, professional achievements and distinguished service of high order was conducted at Varunika Auditorium, INS India, New Delhi on 03 Feb 22.

7. Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade held

To mark the successful completion of training of 127 Air Force Special Forces Operatives of Garud Force, Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was held on 12 February 2022 at Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar.

8. Indigenous Tejas MK-I Aircraft to participate in Singapore Air Show-2022

The Air Show will be held from 15th to 18th of February. Singapore Air Show is a biennial event which provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase their products.

Ministry of Defence in a statement said that IAF will be pitching the indigenous Tejas MK-I alongside participants from across the world.

9. Brahmos supersonic cruise missile successfully test-fired from INS Visakhapatnam

India successfully test-fired a naval variant of the advanced supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a stealth guided-missile destroyer of the Indian Navy. The Indian Navy's warship INS Visakhapatnam carried out a test firing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile off the western seaboard.

10. Ministry of Defence teams up with Bengaluru-based aerospace startup NewSpace India Limited to develop pseudo satellite

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a deal with Bengaluru-based aerospace startup NewSpace India Limited to create a High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS).

HAPS is an autonomous aircraft that can operate at altitudes of more than 65,000 feet and stay in the air for months at a stretch, allowing it to undergo surveillance operations.

11. Eastern Bridge-VI: Joint exercise of India and Oman Air Force, Sukhoi-30 and F-16 aircraft to be part

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) are participating in a bilateral exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI from 21 to 25 February 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur. This is the sixth edition of the exercise.

During this, Indian Air Force fighter aircraft Sukhoi-30 and Oman's F-16 aircraft can be seen roaring in the sky.

12. Israel successfully tests naval version of Iron Dome

Israel has successfully tested a new naval air defense system, intercepting a series of threats in what officials called a key layer of protection against Iran and its proxies in the region.

The C-Dome system is a naval version of the Iron Dome, which has been used to shoot down rockets fired from the Gaza Strip for the past decade.

13. Tejas to participate in prestigious Cobra Warrior exercises of the Royal Air Force in the U.K.

India's first indigenously designed, developed and manufactured Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, will take part in the famed 'Cobra Warrior' exercises, a multi-nation air exercise at Royal Air Force (station) Waddington, UK.

The Cobra Warrior exercises are the largest joint military exercises conducted by the Royal Air Force (RAF) in the United Kingdom for over a decade. LCA Tejas Mk 1A has an indigenous content of 60 per cent.

14. DRDO and IIT Delhi scientists demonstrate Quantum Key Distribution between two cities 100 kilometres apart

A joint team of scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, for the first time in the country successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 kilometres.

15. India, Japan to hold joint military exercise in Karnataka from Feb 27-Mar 10

A joint military exercise, EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022, between India and Japan will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi in Karnataka from 27th February to 10th of March. Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018. Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries.

16. EXERCISE EASTERN BRIDGE -VI AT AIR FORCE STATION JODHPUR

Indo-Oman exercise, Eastern Bridge-VI (2022) was successfully conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 21 to 25 February 2022. Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) participated with Indian Air Force (IAF) in the exercise which was aimed at providing operational exposure and undertaking mutual exchange of best practices, towards enhancing operational capabilities.

17. Rs 13,020 crore border management plan approved by Modi government

The Modi government has approved a Rs 13,020 crore central sector umbrella scheme for continuation of the Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) during the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The decision will strengthen infrastructure for improving border management, policing and guarding.

18. Indian Air Force Exits From Exercise Cobra Warrior In UK

Amidst ongoing Russia-Ukraine War, the Indian Air Force has decided not to deploy its aircraft for Exercise Cobra Warrior 2022 in the UK.

Indian made Light Combat Aircraft Tejas was expected to participate in the military exercise, its debut in overseas war games.

The multi nation air exercise 'Ex Cobra Warrior 22' at Waddington, UK was planned from March 6 to 22.

19. 2nd Biggest Operator Of Submarine Hunters, Indian Navy Receives Its 12th P-8I Poseidon Aircraft From Boeing

Boeing delivered the 12th P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to India.

This is the fourth of the four additional aircraft delivered under the options contract signed by the Ministry of Defence in 2016.

Only the US operates more P-8Is than India.

The P-8I is an integral part of the Indian Navy's fleet and has surpassed 35,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013. The Indian Navy was the first international customer for the P-8.



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Books & Authors

1. India's 1st Season Style Book 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life' launch

India's 1st Season Style Book 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life', Written by Akash Kansal, launched by actor R. Madhavan.

2. A book named 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' penned by Navdeep Gill has been released

A short biography of Tokyo Olympics-2021 Gold Medal winner Neeraj Chopra titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' penned by sports author Navdeep Singh Gill was released recently.

The book has 72 pages and covers the life history and achievements of Neeraj Chopra right from his childhood to Tokyo Olympics, in colour. Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards

3. 'How To Prevent The Next Pandemic': Bill Gates

After alerting the public to the threat of a future pandemic in his famous 2015 TED Talk, Microsoft co-founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates now writes on making the Covid19 the last pandemic ever in his upcoming book 'How To Prevent The Next Pandemic'. The book, to be published by Penguin Random House internationally and Knopf in the US, will release on May 3.

4. 'A Nation To Protect' Documents India's COVID-19 Journey, How PM Lead Keeping Nation First

Priyam Gandhi-Mody, in her book 'A Nation to Protect: Leading India through the Covid crisis', has described how India battled and emerged from the deadly crisis under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Efforts of all Indians created a compounding effect under a strong leadership that made tackling the pandemic possible.

5. 'History of Sriniketan': Book throws light on Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction

A new book explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922.

The book, 'A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction', is written by historian and Tagore biographer Uma Das Gupta. It is published under Niyogi Book's 'Paper Missile' imprint.

6. Dignity in a Digital Age | Book by Ro Khann

A book on the digital age by Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna, that seeks to democratize the digital revolution in the larger good of humanity and the planet, has been getting rave reviews and accolades from politicians and global economists.

In his foreword, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen writes that 'Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us'.

7. A book title 'The Great Tech Game' penned by Anirudh Suri

Indian author, Anirudh Suri has come out with his new book titled 'The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations.' It has been published by HarperCollins India. In this book, the author lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era.

Miscellaneous

1. Bata names Disha Patani as its brand ambassador

Footwear brand Bata India Limited has roped in Disha Patani as the new face of the brand. The move comes as Bata looks at further strengthening its youth connect and a fashion forward imagery that presents a fitting blend of style and comfort. With this association, the actor will be seen promoting various popular labels under the Bata Umbrella. Bata is a Switzerland based footwear company

2. SPMCIL celebrates 17th Foundation Day

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) celebrated its 17th Foundation Day programme on 11 Feb 2022. Also, Union Finance Minister launched the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra' during the occasion.

3. Bikaji Foods International files draft papers with SEBI to raise funds via IPO

Bikaji Foods International Ltd has filed a draft papers with Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds via initial public offering.

The Initial public offering (IPO) consists of a pure offer for sale of upto 29.37 million shares by its existing promoters and shareholders.

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Obituary

1. First BJP MP in Lok Sabha, Chandupatla Janga Reddy, passes away

Chandupatla Janga Reddy, an iconic leader in BJP who had defeated Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao from Hanumakonda Lok Sabha constituency in 1984 general elections, has passed away. His election to the parliament in the 1984 elections, in which he was one among the only two members of parliament from BJP is historical

2. Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passes away at 92 in Mumbai

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away in Mumbai at the age of 92 after suffering a multi organ failure last night.

Considered one of Indian cinema's greatest singers, Mangeshkar received the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2001.

Lata Mangeshkar was the first Indian to perform at London's Royal Albert Hall in 1974.

3. Veteran actor Ramesh Deo dies aged 93

Veteran actor Ramesh Deo, known for films like "Anand" and "Aap Ki Kasam" in Hindi cinema and his extensive work in the Marathi film industry, died on following a heart attack. He was 93.

Ramesh Deo had featured in more than 250 Hindi films and nearly 200 Marathi movies in his career spanning 60 years.

4. R Rajamohan, Who Led The First Asteroid Discoveries In Independent India, Is No More

Professor R Rajamohan, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades.

He is best known for his Kalki Project, which aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India.

This was the first asteroid discovered in India in 104 years.

5. 'Kabir of Karnataka' Ibrahim Sutar dies at 82

Padma Shri awardee and social worker Ibrahim Sutar passed away in Karnataka following a cardiac arrest.

He was 82.

Fondly referred to as the 'Kabir of Kannada', Sutar was known for his work towards spreading social and communal harmony. Ibrahim is popular among the public, especially in north Karnataka, for his spiritual discourses. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2018.

6. 'Mahabharat's Bheem' actor Praveen Kumar Sobti dies

Actor-athlete Praveen Kumar Sobti, best known for playing Bheem in the TV series "Mahabharat" and for winning an Asian Games gold medal, died.

Sh. Praveen represented the country across various athletic events in hammer and discus throw and even won four medals at the Asian Games, including two gold medals in 1966 and 1970.

7. Additional Solicitor General Rupinder Singh Suri passes away

Senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Rupinder Singh Suri died.

Suri was appointed the ASG in June 2020.

Sh. Suri was designated as senior advocate in 2009 and also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.

8. Industrialist Rahul Bajaj, former chairman of Bajaj Group, passes away at 83

The former chairman of Bajaj Auto Rahul Bajaj passed away.

The Padma Bhushan awardee was appointed as Chairman Emeritus of the Company for a term of five years with effect from May 1, 2021. He has also helmed Bajaj Group of Companies apart from being Chairman of the Board of multiple companies.

9. Veteran singer-composer Bappi Lahiri dies in Mumbai at 69

Veteran singer-composer Bappi Lahiri died in a Mumbai hospital following multiple health issues.

He was 69. Bappi Lahiri was suffering from Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and recurrent chest infection.

Fondly known as Bappi da, he was as much known for his hit numbers as he was for his fascination for gold.

10. Kannada poet Chennaveera Kanavi passes away at 94

Eminent Kannada litterateur Dr Chennaveera Kanavi passed away at the age of 94.

The litterateur had won the Sahitya Akademi award for his book 'Jeevadhvani'. Besides, he received the Rajyotsava Award, Pampa Award, Nadoja title, Nrupathunga award, Sahitya Bangara Award and several other awards.

11. Veteran Bengali singer Sandhya Mukherjee dies at 90 in Kolkata

Veteran Bengali singer Sandhya Mukherjee died following a massive cardiac attack at a private hospital in Kolkata.

Mukherjee, who was considered a legend during her lifetime, refused to accept the Padma Shri award on January 24.

Mukherjee received the Banga Bibhusan, highest civilian honour given by the Bengal government, in 2011.

12. Senior Journalist Ravish Tiwari passed away

Ravish Tiwari, National Political Editor and Chief of National Bureau of The Indian Express, whose work blended scholarship with journalistic rigour to explain the change in politics and society, passed away.

13. Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy passes away

Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy passed away in a private hospital in Hyderabad in Telangana.

Reddy, was a two-time MLA from the Atmakur Assembly constituency in the Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan; CM: S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

14. Gandhian social worker & freedom fighter Shakuntala Choudhary passes away

Shakuntala Choudhary, the 102-year-old Gandhian social worker and freedom fighter, passed away this morning in Guwahati.

Hailing from Assam's Kamrup, she worked for the wellbeing of villagers, especially women and children, and was popularly known as Shakuntala Baideo.

She was named a Padma Shri award recipient by the Government of India, this year.

15. Veteran Malayalam actor KPAC Lalitha passes away

KPAC Lalitha, veteran actor in Malayalam cinema, passed away.

She was 74 years old.

She has been suffering from poor health for the past few months.

Lalitha entered cinema after a career in theatre.

A prolific actor, she has acted in over 500 films in a career spanning over 50 years.



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Person in news

1. Centenary birth anniversary of legendary Singer Pandit Bhimsen Joshi being celebrated

Indian Classical music lovers pay homage to legendary Singer Pt Bhim Sen Joshi on his centenary birth anniversary on Friday. He was born on 4th February 1922 at Gadag in Dharwad. He was honoured with the Padma Shri (1972), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Hindustani vocal music (1975), Padma Bhushan (1985)

2. MediBuddy ropes in Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador

Digital healthcare platform MediBuddy has roped in megastar Amitabh Bachchan as their official Brand Ambassador

With the signing of the veteran actor, MediBuddy further aims to amplify its reach in every nook and corner of the country.

As part of the deal, the actor will endorse the various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritize health

3. Chairman of Supreme Court panel on Char Dham project Ravi Chopra resigns

The chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed high-powered committee on Char Dham all-weather road, Ravi Chopra, has resigned expressing disappointment over the apex court order limiting the panel's jurisdiction to only two 'non-defence' stretches of the project.

4. Freedom fighter, orator and eminent poet Sarojini Naidu's 143rd birth anniversary

India remembered freedom fighter, orator and eminent poet Sarojini Naidu on her 143rd birth anniversary on Feb 13. She was a proponent of civil rights, women's emancipation and anti-imperialistic ideas. Sarojini Naidu was the second women President of the Indian National Congress and first Indian woman to preside the INC conference.

5. Billionaire venture capitalist Peter Thiel to step down from board of Facebook Meta

German-American tech billionaire Peter Thiel will step down from the board of investors of Facebook Meta, the company announced in a statement.

Thiel raised his wealth through the online payments company PayPal, co-founded in 1998 with Elon Musk and has invested in Airbnb, Affirm, Stripe and SpaceX, among others. He also co-founded Palantir Technologies and Founders Fund.

6. R Praggnanandhaa becomes the third Indian to defeat Magnus Carlsen

16-year-old Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa defeated the reigning five-time World Champion GM Magnus Carlsen with black pieces during the ongoing Airthings Masters.

With this win, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa also became only the third Indian in history to defeat Magnus Carlsen after former World Champion Vishwanathan Anand and GM Pentala Harikrishna.

7. Professor Neena Gupta Receives Ramanujan Prize For Young Mathematicians

The Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians was awarded to Professor Neena Gupta, a mathematician of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, in a virtual ceremony on 22nd February 2022.

She received the award for the year 2021 for her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.

8. Philanthropist Bill Gates conferred Hilal-e-Pakistan honour for efforts to eradicate polio

Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates has been conferred with Hilal-e-Pakistan, the second highest civilian honour in the country, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been a major contributor in worldwide polio eradication through Gavi, the vaccine alliance. Pakistan's highest civilian award: Nishan-e-Pakistan.

9. Malaysian Tan Kim Her appointed Indian badminton's doubles coach

Malaysian Tan Kim Her has been appointed as India's doubles coach in badminton till the Asian Games in 2026, the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The 50-year-old's return to India will raise the stock of the doubles combinations in the country. He has been credited with shaping the careers of doubles specialists Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.

Insurance

1. Bank of Baroda to acquire Union Bank's 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life

Bank of Baroda (BoB) board has approved acquisition of a 21% stake of Union Bank of India in IndiaFirst Life Insurance, subject to regulatory approvals.

On completion of the transaction, BoB will hold a 65% stake in IndiaFirst Life, Union Bank will hold 9% and Carmel Point Investments India will have the remaining 26% stake.



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India & World

1. India & Oman review progress in military-to-military engagements

India & Oman review progress in military-to-military engagements during 11th Joint Military Cooperation Committee Meeting (JMCC) in New Delhi.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the progress made in military-to-military engagements, including joint exercises, industry cooperation and various ongoing infrastructure projects.

2. India-Israel agree to further enhance cooperation in the agricultural sector

Union Minister Shri Tomar informed that it has been decided to convert 150 villages around the Centers of Excellence into Villages of Excellence with technical assistance from Israel, out of which 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence where India and Israel will work together.

3. India sends medical supplies to Pacific island nation of Kiribati

Responding to the appeal of Kiribati seeking offers of support to manage its first Covid-19 outbreak, India has sent a consignment of medical supplies containing PPEs and medications to the Pacific Island country. Kiribati Capital: Tarawa, Currency: Australian dollar, Kiribati dollar

4. India and Japan to hold joint seminars on attracting Hydrogen investments

The Embassy of Japan announced it has, in collaboration with Japanese organizations of the region, designated February-April 2022 as the 'India-Japan Clean Hydrogen Month' in order to attract further investment and to resolve technical and economic issues obstructing the utilization of hydrogen.

5. IIT UAE: New IIT to be set in UAE as part of trade deal - first ever Institute of national importance outside India

India has announced to set up the first Indian Institute of Technology, IIT in Dubai as a part of India-UAE trade deal. This will be the first time when India's premier institute, IIT will be set up in a foreign country.

IITs are the national institute of India and presently there are 23 IITs in the country.



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Environment

1. Hoysala Temples in Karnataka are India's nomination for World Heritage List for 2022-2023

The Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023.

The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's Tentative list since April 15, 2014, and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of this country. Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO: Vishal V Sharma

2. Gujarat's Khijadia & UP's Bakhira wildlife sanctuary, India's two new protected sites

India now has a network of 49 Ramsar sites covering an area of 10.93 hectares, the highest in South Asia

Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

3. Scientists find White-Cheeked Macaque in Arunachal Pradesh

In an important discovery, scientists have recorded presence of White-Cheeked Macaque (*Macaca leucogenys*) from central Arunachal Pradesh in India. The species was discovered in 2015 by a group of Chinese scientists from the Modog region in southeastern Tibet and this discovery was considered a significant breakthrough as far as primates are concerned.

4. India to replace diesel by renewable energy in agriculture by 2024

Union power and renewable energy minister R K Singh said that India will replace use of diesel in farming with renewables by 2024. He chaired a virtual meeting with additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of power in states for collaboration between the Central and state governments for achieving energy transition goals.

5. One Ocean Summit: UNESCO pledges to have at least 80% of the seabed mapped by 2030

On the occasion of the One Ocean Summit taking place in the French city of Brest, UNESCO has announced that at least 80% of the seabed will be mapped by 2030, compared to 20% currently, with the support of its Member States & the private sector.

In 2017, UNESCO joined forces with the Nippon Foundation, Japan's largest private foundation to launch the Seabed 2030 programme.

6. Govt notifies green hydrogen & ammonia policy; targets 5 million tonnes output by 2030

The Ministry of Power has notified the green hydrogen and ammonia policy under which the government is offering to set up manufacturing zones for production, connectivity to the ISTS (inter-state transmission system) on priority basis, and free transmission for 25 years if the production facility is commissioned before June 2025. The government has raised its production target by 5 times from 1 million tonnes by 2030.

7. Centre constitutes National Dam Safety Authority for dam-related safety, disasters, resolve inter-state issues

The National Dam Safety Authority, which seeks to maintain standards related to dam safety, prevent dam-related disasters & resolve inter-state issues in this regard, has come into force from 25 Feb. Authority will be headed by a chairman and assisted by 5 members to lead its 5 wings- policy & research, technical, regulation, disaster & resilience, administration & finance.

Apps & Portals

1. National Portal to assist households to set up solar systems on their roofs

Consumers who want to set up solar systems on their rooftops would now be able to find suppliers in their area, assistance in set-up and subsidy from their respective power utility ' all at a national portal being developed by the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE).

2. Instagram announces 'Take a Break' feature to encourage breaks from social media

Instagram has announced a new campaign called 'Take a Break' in various countries including India. Take a Break will alert users scrolling on Instagram to periodically take breaks from the platform and focus on other things. The platform will also alert users of the new inclusion with a notification. Meta is the parent organisation of Instagram.

3. World Health Organization launches 'Quit Tobacco' App to help people to give up use of tobacco

WHO has launched 'Quit Tobacco App' to help people kick the cigarette butt and give up the use of tobacco in all forms - including smokeless and other newer products.

The app, the first such by WHO, and the first that targets all forms of tobacco, helps users to identify the triggers, set their targets, manage cravings, & stay focused to quit tobacco. WHO director-general :- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (from Ethiopia).

4. RBI cancels registration certificate of P C Financial Services operating 'Cashbean' app

Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the Certificate of Registration of PC Financial Services Pvt Ltd, Delhi for violation of RBI directions on outsourcing and Know Your Customer norms.

PC Financial Services Private Limited, New Delhi was primarily engaged in mobile app-based lending operations through an app called `Cashbean` .

5. Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh launches Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

Addressing the launching event the Minister said that the Ombudsperson App is a step towards e-governance, this will be helpful in ensuring transparency and accountability.

6. Education Ministry launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign

Ministry of Education has launched a Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, developed by Ministry of Education and MyGov India.

7. IIT Roorkee launches KISAN mobile to send agricultural advises

IIT Roorkee organised a regional farmers' awareness program under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) project and in continuation of the series of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Farmers and other stakeholders were sensitized about the Agromet Advisory Services jointly provided by the AMFU Roorkee and India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Tata Steel's arm to buy debt-ridden Neelachal Ispat Nigam for '12,100 crore from government

The Centre has approved Tata Steel Long Products' bid to buy steel producer Neelachal Ispat Nigam. The Centre's 'Alternative Mechanism' approved the bid for buying 93.71 per cent of shares of JV partners of four CPSEs and two Odisha state government PSEs at the bid enterprise value of Rs 12,100 crore.

The Centre does not hold any equity in the company.

2. Sony buys 'Destiny' game developer Bungie for \$3.6 billion

Sony Group Corp. is purchasing Bungie Inc., the U.S. video game developer behind the popular Destiny and Halo franchises, for \$3.6 billion to bolster its stable of game-making studios.

Buying Bungie will give Sony one of the most popular first-person shooter games to compete with the massive Call of Duty series, which Sony's main rival now owns through Activision.

3. Bharti Airtel to acquire 25% stake in technology startup Lavelle Networks

Bharti Airtel to acquire 25% equity stake in Bengaluru-based technology startup, Lavelle Networks, which specialises in Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) solutions. As part of its NaaS [Network as a service] portfolio, Airtel will offer software defined connectivity solutions from Lavelle Networks and co-create a host of innovations as part of its NaaS platform.

4. Dr Reddy's Laboratories inks agreement to acquire Nimbus Health GmbH

Dr Reddy's Laboratories has inked a pact to acquire Germany-based Nimbus Health GmbH. The acquisition will allow Dr Reddy's to build on Nimbus Health's strengths and introduce medical cannabis-based medicines as a promising treatment option for patients. Nimbus will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dr Reddy's.

5. Reliance New Energy buys additional 10.3% stake in Sterling & Wilson Renewable

Reliance Industries in a communication to stock exchanges has said that its subsidiary Reliance New Energy (RNEL) has acquired an additional 10.37% stake in Sterling & Wilson Renewable Energy (SWREL) for '738 crore from its promoters. After the acquisition, RNEL holds 40.00% of the total paid-up equity share capital of SWREL. Reliance will invest \$10 billion in sustainable energy initiatives over three years.

6. Max Healthcare Institute signs deal to acquire Eqova Healthcare

Max Healthcare Institute has inked a deal to acquire Eqova Healthcare, a company with long-term exclusive rights to aid development and provide medical services to an upcoming 400-bed hospital. The hospital, which is owned by Nirogi Charitable and Medical Research Trust, will come up at Patparganj, Delhi.

7. Jio Platforms to invest US\$200 million in Glance

Jio Platforms, the subsidiary of Reliance Industries (RIL), is investing \$200 million in Glance, an AI-driven lock-screen platform from InMobi, in a series D funding round.

Glance has also entered into a business partnership arrangement with Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, which will provide Glance's 'lock-screen platform' on JioPhone Next smartphones.

8. Jio Platforms picks up 25% stake in US-based tech startup TWO for \$15 mn

Jio Platforms has picked up a 25% stake in US-based deep-tech startup company TWO Platforms for \$15 million.

Founded by Indian-origin computer scientist Pranav Mistry in July last year, TWO Platforms is an artificial reality company that focuses on building interactive and immersive AI experiences.

9. BigBasket acquires Kerala startup Agrima Infotech.

India's largest online grocery seller BigBasket has acquired the enterprise business unit of a deep-tech company incubated by Kerala Startup Mission with a view to revolutionizing offline retail in the country. BigBasket, a TATA enterprise, will be implementing Kochi-based startup Agrima Infotech's unique customer vision technology platform, Psyight.

10. Commission approves proposed combination involving acquisition of stake in ISMT Limited by Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved proposed combination involving acquisition of stake in ISMT Limited by Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited.

Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited (Acquirer) is a listed public company limited by shares and is a flagship company of Kirloskar Group.

ISMT Limited (Target) is a listed public company limited by shares.

11. Bharti Airtel acquires strategic stake in Singapore-based blockchain technology start-up Aqilliz

Bharti Airtel has acquired a strategic investment in Aqilliz, a blockchain technology startup, the telecom service provider. According to Airtel, Singapore-based Aqilliz has developed Atom, a patented hybrid blockchain platform that mixes differential privacy and federated learning on a distributed digital ledger.

12. Northern Arc Group to acquire SMILE Microfin

Northern Arc Group to acquire the microfinance business of S.M.I.L.E. Microfinance Ltd on slump sale basis to strengthen its retail finance business.

The transaction will involve the takeover of the microfinance portfolio of S.M.I.L.E., along with its network of nearly 150 branches catering to over 0.2 million customers.

13. Bharti Airtel to acquire 4.7% stake of Vodafone in Indus Towers

Bharti Airtel has entered into an agreement to buy 4.7 percent stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Plc, the former said in an exchange filing recently. The transaction will be done on the principal condition that the amount paid shall be inducted by Vodafone as fresh equity in Vodafone Idea Limited and simultaneously remitted to Indus Towers to clear VIL's outstanding dues.



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Agri-Business

1. NABARD Introduces 'JIVA' to Promote Natural Farming

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the JIVA agroecology-based program, which will promote natural farming through its existing watershed and wadi programs in 11 states.

The JIVA initiative will be implemented in 25 projects, covering five agroecological zones.

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FinTech

1. Paytm Money launches 'Pops' messenger to provide user-specific info on stocks, portfolio and market

Paytm Money, on January 27, 2022, launched Pops, an intelligent messenger service to provide user-specific information on their portfolios, stocks and market analysis. Paytm Money said it is partnering with InvestorAi to offer stock recommendations based on signals generated using artificial intelligence. CEO, Paytm Money: Varun Sridhar

2. e-RUPI voucher limit to be enhanced to '1 lakh

RBI has proposed to increase the cap of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the Central government and State governments from '10,000 to '1,00,000 per voucher and permit such e-RUPI vouchers to be used more than once (until the amount of the voucher is completely redeemed).



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Legal

1. RERA Prevails Over SARFAESI ; Homebuyers Can Move RERA Authority Against Bank's Recovery Actions : Supreme Court

The Supreme Court upheld a Rajasthan High Court judgment which held that Real Estate Regulatory Authority can entertain complaints by home buyers against the bank which took possession of a real estate project as a secured creditor(Union Bank Of India vs Rajasthan Real Estate Regulatory Authority).

The bench comprised Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna.



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States/UTs

Andhra Pradesh

1. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Nikarshan Sadan ' Dredging Museum in Visakhapatnam

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated Nikarshan Sadan' ' The DCI (Dredging Corporation of India) Dredging Museum at DCI campus in Visakhapatnam.

The museum displayed models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos and historical milestones of this dredging behemoth from the Eastern Port City of Vizag.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Torgya Festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh

The traditional Torgya Festival of the Monpa community in Arunachal Pradesh began at the Tawang Monastery on 30 Jan 2022. This year it marked a special occasion as 'Dungyur Torgya' which came after 3 years gap. Torgya Festival of the Monpa community in Arunachal Pradesh is a festival that welcomes a healthy and prosperous new year.

Assam

1. Assam Govt Collaborates With IIT Madras, Launches India's First Night Navigation Mobile App In Rivers

The Assam government, launched the country's first night navigation mobile application in rivers for ferries on the Brahmaputra river.

The transport department developed the night navigation mobile application in association with the principal scientist of IIT Madras K Raju and will survey the draft of the rivers.

Gujarat

1. ReNew Power commissions Gujarat's first wind-solar hybrid project

ReNew Power has commissioned Gujarat's first wind-solar "hybrid project at the Chlor-Alkali unit of Grasim Industries in Bharuch, Gujarat.

The first phase of the hybrid project, with 17.6 MW commercial-scale wind-solar, is expected to generate about 80 million units of renewable energy every year, mitigating about 75,000 tonnes of carbon emission annually.

2. ConnectEd to provide free online education to Gujarat Government School

Edtech social enterprise ConnectEd Technologies has launched an initiative with Everest Kanto Cylinders (EKC) to provide free online access to curriculum-linked educational content across Gujarat government schools.

The programme aims to provide quality vernacular educational content to government school students to improve learning outcomes, especially during pandemic.

3. Gujarat announces New Biotechnology Policy for 2022-27

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27. This policy is aimed to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under this policy, the strategic projects and mega and large projects are eligible for special packages.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Himachal Pradesh gets 1st Biodiversity Park at Mandi's Bhulah valley

The first biodiversity park of Himachal Pradesh has been established at a cost of Rs 1cr at Bhulah in Janjehli Valley of Mandi district, which would prove to be a boon for researchers and tourists and also help conserve endangered Himalayan herbs.

With this park, the valley of Bhulah is ready to make its contribution towards conservation of the endangered Himalayan herbs.

2. 100 districts in the country become 'Har Ghar Jal' under Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Mission achieved another milestone of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts in the country.

As per the ministry, Chamba, an Aspirational District of Himachal Pradesh has become the 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' District.

The motto of the Jal Jeevan Mission is 'no one is left out'.

Karnataka

1. Union Steel Minister RCP Singh lays foundation stone for coke oven plant in Mangaluru

Union Minister for Steel Ram Chandra Prasad Singh laid the foundation stone for the Coke Oven Plant (1,80,000 tonnes per annum) at the blast furnace unit in KIOCL Limited in Panambur.

The project, planned at a total cost of Rs 836.90 cr, also includes the setting up of 2.0 L tonnes per annum ductile Iron spun plant.

Coke oven project would be completed within 20 months.

Panambur is located in Karnataka.

2. Devayatanam: An odyssey of Indian temple architecture

Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated Devayatanam, conference on temple architecture of India, at Hampi, Karnataka. He also released a booklet consisting of 75 glorious temples from across India.

Devayatanam aims to highlight the architectures of Indian temples. The 2day international conference is being organized by Archaeological Survey of India.

Kerala

1. Kerala government signed an MoU with Social Alpha to develop clean energy tech

The Kerala government signed an MoU with Social Alpha, a joint initiative of Tata Trust and the Indian government, through its Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC). The Energy Management Centre (EMC) and Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) are part of the project.

Madhya Pradesh

1. India's first biomass-based hydrogen plant coming up in Madhya Pradesh

The country's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant is coming up in the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. The plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. It will also produce biochar and methane. The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of '24 cr.

2. PM Modi to virtually inaugurate Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Feb 19.

This Bio CNG plant will be operated from 100% wet waste.

This plant is built on PPP mode, from which Indore Municipal Corporation will get revenue of 2.5 crores per annum.

3. 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival begins in Madhya Pradesh

The 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival commenced in Madhya Pradesh. The week long festival will be held till February 26th.

Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel inaugurated the festival at Khajuraho.

'Khajuraho Dance Festival' is being organized in Khajuraho, located in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The festival is being organized on the theme of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Maharashtra

1. Maharashtra's Health Minister announces "Hope Express" will be launched to prevent cancer

Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer. This is the first such machine in India. The State Health Minister also promised to take initiative to start Hope Express in every district of the state through district planning.

2. India's first water taxi service inaugurated in Mumbai

The long-awaited water taxi services connecting the twin cities, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, first of its kind in India, was flagged off by Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray.

The services will commence the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will connect the nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island & JNPT.

Meghalaya

1. Emergency response system Dial 112 debuts in Meghalaya

Meghalaya chief secretary RV Suchiang inaugurated the nationwide emergency response system (NERS)/emergency response support system (ERSS) or Dial '112', at Sadar Police Station Complex. It is an endeavour of the Union home ministry to launch a unified response system with a single number for all kinds of emergencies and distress.

Rajasthan

1. Jaisalmer Desert Festival begins in Rajasthan

The world-famous Jaisalmer Desert Festival is also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City began at Pokaran.

The four-day-long festival started with colourful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions.

The festival comprises of various tourist-attracting competitions including Turban tying, Panihari Matka , Mehandi and mandana competitions.

Telangana

1. First ever water bird census in Telangana

Biodiversity Management Committee of Manikonda Municipality, in collaboration with the Telangana Biodiversity Board and Dhruvansh organisation, conducted the first ever water bird census in Telangana at seven lakes.

2. Asia's biggest tribal fair kicks-off in Telangana

Telangana's Medaram Jatara, considered to be Asia's largest tribal fair celebrated over four days every two years, began at Medaram village of Mulugu district.

Over 1.25 crore people are expected to congregate at the village to celebrate the valour of Adivasi icons Sammakka and Sarakka, who are considered to be protectors of the community.

Uttarakhand

1. Akshay Kumar appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand

Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the state of Uttarakhand.

Actor Akshay Kumar also has a previously associated link with Uttarakhand. In 2017, the actor was appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand for the 'Swachhta Abhiyan'. Apart from Akshay Kumar, cricketer Rishabh Pant was likewise established as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand:- Pushkar Singh Dhama.

West Bengal

1. SIDBI launches 'waste to wealth creation' programme in Bengal

SIDBI has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme in which women will make ornaments and showpieces from fish scale in the Sundarbans in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district.

Under this programme, SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women in directly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.

Delhi

1. Former IPS officer P K Bhardwaj named DERC's new ombudsman

Delhi's energy regulator DERC has appointed Delhi Police's former Special Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Bhardwaj as its ombudsman to inspect grievances of the town's electrical energy shoppers.

He was administered the oath of office by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Chairman Justice (Retd) Shabihul Hasnain.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. J&K onboards the 'Digital India' brandwagon, becomes first UT to integrate with National Single Window System

Onboarding the 'Digital India' brandwagon for a maiden digital journey of sorts by any union territory so far, the Jammu & Kashmir has become the first UT to adopt the National Single Window System (NSWS) to fast-track key investment proposals digitally through the new portal.

It is linked with India Industrial Land Bank which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K.

2. Jammu Smart City to develop Apsara Road 'High Street' for enhanced walkability experience and connectivity

Aiming to develop street, walkability experience and connectivity for citizens, Jammu Smart City Ltd (JSCL) signed a pact for the development of Apsara road 'High Street' Gole market area along with the adjoining roads.

The Rs 50-crore development project is under the Smart City programme of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

3. J&K admin signs MoU with New Zealand company to transform sheep farming sector

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has signed an MoU with the New Zealand G2G, a public sector company for transforming the sheep farming sector in the Union Territory and also launched a rural home stay project in the UT in collaboration with the Oyo Rooms.

The livestock sector in J&K, contributes nearly 25.8 % of the total value of output in agriculture.

4. Centre launches J&K's first free telemedicine service in Kathua

The Centre has launched a free telemedicine service in the ambulance, 'Doctor on wheels' in Kathua district in Jammu and Kashmir. The ambulance is equipped with the latest lab technology and can connect patients with senior doctors in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Surat, and Ahmedabad.

5. Indian Railways Gives Glimpse Of India's First Cable Stayed Rail Bridge In J&K

The first cable-stayed railway bridge in India is in the making in the gorgeous Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. Built on the Anji river, the bridge known as the Anji Khad bridge will link Katra and Reasi.

The bridge is a part of the 111-kilometre long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project. It will run for a length of 473.25 metres with the support of 96 cables. The estimated cost of the project is around '458 crores.

6. J&K admin sets target to harness hydropower potential to make UT power surplus

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has set a target to harness the region's hydropower potential to make the Union territory power surplus in next five years.

He added that among the priorities in this regard was tapping the 20,000-megawatt (MW) power potential of the region.

In the past 70 years, only 3,500 MW out of the potential of 20,000 MW had been harnessed in J&K.

Ladakh

1. Annual Spituk Gustor Festival 2022 Begins In Ladakh

Spituk Gustor, the annual celebrations of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage began on 30 January 2022. The main attraction of the festival was the colourful mask dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi), White Mahakala, Protector Deity.

2. Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre lifts Second LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2022

Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, LSRC has lifted the 2nd LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2022. In finals played in NDS Ice Hockey rink in Leh, LSRC defeated arch-rivals ITBP by 3 Nil to win a consecutively second title in the season.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur presented the trophies to the finalists in both men's and women's categories of this edition of LG Cup.

Committees

1. SEBI revamps advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund.

The eight-member committee will now be chaired by G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI.

Rejigging its committee, SEBI has listed Vijay Kumar Venkataraman, chief-trade services at Nurture.farm and former MD and CEO of NCDEX; and Mrin Agarwal, founder of Finsafe India among the new inductees. The panel was earlier headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of IIM-Ahmedabad.

2. Delhi High Court suspends TTFI, orders appointment of Administrator

The Delhi High Court has suspended the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

The order by Justice Rekha Palli came after a three-member enquiry committee submitted its report. On November 17, The Court appointed the committee to look into TTFI's handling of the match-fixing allegations made by table tennis player Manika Batra.

3. Supreme Court Appointed Panel Submits Interim Report in Pegasus Snooping Case

A technical committee headed by Justice RV Raveendran, which was set up to look into the allegations of government allegedly using Israeli software Pegasus to spy on politicians, activists, and journalists, has submitted its interim report in the Supreme Court.





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BANKING

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.0%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.0%

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi	Director General of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)
GA Srinivasa Murthy	Director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)
Ravi Mittal	Chairperson of Insolvency Regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
Tarun Kapoor	Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)
Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar	Chairperson of University Grants Commission
Dinesh Prasad Saklani	Director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
Rahul Bhatia	Managing Director of IndiGo
Sonali Singh	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
S R Narasimhan	Chairman and Managing Director of Power System Operation Corporation Ltd(POSOCO)
Alok Gupta	Director General (DG) of National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)
Sukla Mistry	Functional Director on IndianOil Board
Unnikrishnan Nair	Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit	Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
Pradip Shah	Chairman of Pfizer India
Sanjay Malhotra	Secretary in Department of Financial Services
S. Kishore	Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
Prof Bhushan Patwardhan	Chairman of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
Rakesh Sharma	MD & CEO of IDBI Bank
Rishabh Pant	Brand Ambassador of Dish TV India
K. N. Raghavan	Chairperson of International Rubber Study Group
Abhishek Singh	CEO of National e-Governance Division (NeGD)

Susanne Pulverer	Chief Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer of IKEA
Nitin Paranjpe	Non-Executive Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Hindustan Unilever
Shah Rukh Khan	Brand Ambassador of A23
Manika Batra	Brand Ambassador of Adidas
Sanjeev Sanyal	Full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba	President of Burkina Faso
Takuya Tsumura	President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL)
Chetan Ghate	Director of Institute of Economic Growth
Pralay Mondal	Deputy Managing Director of CSB Bank
Debashis Mitra	President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
Aniket Sunil Talati	Vice - President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)
Sanjay Malhotra	Director on Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
G Ashok Kumar	National Maritime Security Coordinator
Binesh Kumar Tyagi	Chairman and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI)
Frank-Walter Steinmeier	President of Germany
Vineet Josh	Chairperson of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
Mehmet Ilker Ayci	CEO & MD of Air India
Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi	High Commissioner to Republic of Vanuatu
Palaniswamy Subramanyan Karthigeyan	High Commissioner to Tonga
Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Tata Sons
Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari	Chief Justice of Madras High Court
Chetan Sanghvi	Chief Risk Officer of IDBI FIRST Bank

AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
Daryl Mitchell	ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for 2021
Karnataka Bank	Digital Transformation award 2021
Keegan Petersen	ICC Men's Player of the Month (January 2022)
Heather Knight	ICC Women's Player of the Month (January 2022)
Yohan Poonawalla	Business Leader of the Year Award
Coal India Ltd (CIL)	'Most Dependable Public Sector in India' Award
Asha Parekh	Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
February 2 nd	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands Action for People and Nature
February 4 th	World Cancer Day	Close the Care'Gap
February 8 th	Safer Internet Day	Together for a better internet
February 10 th	World Pulses Day	Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems
February 11 th	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us
February 13 th	World Radio Day	
February 15 th	International Childhood Cancer Day	Better Survival
February 19 th	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti	
February 20 th	World Day of Social Justice	Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment
February 21 st	International Mother Language Day	Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities
February 22 nd	World Thinking Day	Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality
February 27 th	World NGO Day	
February 27 th	National Protein Day	
February 28 th	National Science Day	Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Chandupatla Janga Reddy	Politician
Lata Mangeshkar	Singer
Ramesh Deo	Actor
R Rajamohan	Astronomer
Ibrahim Sutar	Social Worker
Praveen Kumar Sobti	Actor & Athlete
Rupinder Singh Suri	Former Additional Solicitor General
Rahul Bajaj	Former Chairman of Bajaj Auto
Bappi Lahiri	Singer- Composer
Dr Chennaveera Kanavi	Kannada litterateur
Sandhya Mukherjee	Bengali Singer

Ravish Tiwari	Journalist
Mekapati Goutham Reddy	Minister of Industries, Andhra Pradesh
Shakuntala Choudhary	Freedom Fighter & Gandhian Social Worker
KPAC Lalitha	Actor

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandn
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	HimantaBiswaSarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgah	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	AnusuiyaUikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	BandaruDattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	MangubhaiChhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Charanjit Singh Channi	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	TamilisaiSoundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	SatyadeoNarain Arya
UttarPradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Anil Bajjal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr.Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
SarbanandaSonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports



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