

January 2022

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking & Finance

1. SBI to acquire 9.95% stake in GIFT-IFSC-based Clearing Corp

State Bank of India is set to acquire up to 9.95 per cent stake in India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) Ltd subject to maximum investment of '34.03 crore. The Clearing Corporation is a GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat) based Market Infrastructure Institution (MII). It is the first international clearing corporation to be set up at GIFT City.

2. The Mumbai-based company CryptoWire introduces India's first global index of cryptocurrencies IC15

CryptoWire, a global crypto super app which is a special business unit of TickerPlant, announced the launch of India's first index of Cryptocurrencies - IC15, which is a rule-based broad market index by market capitalisation.

The Base Value of the index is set at 10,000 and the base date is April 1, 2018.

CryptoWire Managing Director and CEO Jigish Sonagara.

3. Fino Payments Bank receives RBI approval for cross-border money transfer under MTSS

Fino Payments Bank has received the RBI approval for commencing International Remittance business under the MTSS.

The Bank will be undertaking inward cross-border money transfer activities and will be partnering with an Overseas Principal. It has also received the approval to partner with one of the largest global remittance service providers as its Overseas Principal. Money Transfer Service Scheme -MTSS.

4. Reserve Bank of India caps upper limit of offline payment transaction at Rs 200

RBI has set the upper limit for individual offline payment transactions at '200 and said such payments could only be done face-to-face.

Offline payments can be made using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets, & mobile devices.

These are part of the its 'framework for facilitating small value digital payments in offline mode". An offline payment is a transaction which does not require internet/telecom connectivity.

5. SBI, ICICI, HDFC Bank remain as Domestic Systemically Important Banks, says RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stated State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the 2020 list of D-SIBs.

RBI places D-SIBs in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).

6. State Bank of India invests \$20 mn in payment solutions provider Pine Labs

Payment solutions provider Pine Labs Pvt Ltd, which is headed for a US listing, has raised an additional \$20 million (around Rs 150 crore) in new investment from the State Bank of India (SBI).

Pine Labs will invest the new funds in scaling Plural, its newly launched brand of online payment products, and aims to become an omnichannel partner of choice for merchants.

7. SBI to not levy charges on IMPS transactions up to Rs 5 lakh done via Net banking, mobile banking

The State Bank of India (SBI) stated that IMPS transactions up to Rs 5 L done using digital mediums like Net banking and mobile banking (including Yono) will not attract service charge.

The charges for sending money via IMPS for amounts between Rs 2 L and Rs 5 L will be Rs 20 plus GST. SBI has increased the IMPS limit for money transfers done at its bank branches.

8. Airtel Payment Bank gets RBI approval to operate as scheduled bank

The Reserve Bank of India has included Airtel Payment Bank in the 'Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934'. A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act is known as "Scheduled Commercial Bank".

At present, one in six villages in the country is being served by Airtel Payments Bank.

9. RBI cancels CoA of Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance and Eko India Financial Services

The Reserve Bank of India stated that the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of Payment System Operators (PSOs) Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance Limited and Eko India Financial Services Ltd has been canceled.

The CoAs of both these PSOs were cancelled by the apex bank on account of non-compliance with the regulatory requirements.

10. Aligning LCR norms for small biz accounts with Basel standards, RBI hikes funds cap by 50 %

The Reserve Bank has increased the threshold for deposits and other funds of non-financial small businesses by 50% to Rs 7.5 crore (from existing 5 cr) for the purpose of maintenance of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), with the aim to better align its regulations with Basel norms and also enable banks to manage liquidity risks more effectively. LCR: proportion of highly liquid assets held by banks to meet short term obligations.

11. HDFC Bank starts online customs duty payment facility for customers

HDFC Bank's integration with Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) ICEGATE platform has gone live, allowing customers to pay for their customs duty directly via the bank. With this, the bank will offer customers the convenience of directly paying customs duty by selecting HDFC Bank. HDFC Bank said it has facilitated both retail and wholesale payments of customs. HDFC Bank is India's largest private sector bank by assets.

12. UCO Bank launches RuPay Select Contactless debit card

UCO Bank has announced that it has launched the UCO Bank RuPay Select Contactless Debit Card for its premium customer segment in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), on the occasion of the 79th Inauguration Day of the bank.

The card also offers an ATM withdrawal limit of Rs 50,000 along with a purchase of up to Rs 2 lakh at POS or e-commerce.

13. Federal Bank launches instant loan approval portal for MSMEs

Private sector lender Federal Bank has launched an online lending platform federalinstaloans.com to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India.

Eligible borrowers can avail up to 50 lakh through the platform at present. Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Aluva, Kerala .

14. HDFC Bank adjudged 'Best Private Bank in India' at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021

HDFC Bank has been adjudged Best Private Bank in India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021, organised by Professional Wealth Management.

For the Global Private Banking Awards 2021, PWM received over 120 submissions which were reviewed by a panel of 16 judged from four continents.

15. Indifi, GPay tie-up to offer instant digital credit to small merchants

Lending company Indifi Technologies has collaborated with Google Pay to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay platform. The borrowing process is entirely digital and eligible merchants on the Google Pay for Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi and submit an application online.

16. YES Mutual Fund is now WhiteOak Capital MF

The names of YES Mutual Fund schemes have been changed to WhiteOak Capital schemes as YES AMC is now a WhiteOak group company.

The White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for Indian equity investors.

YES MF has three schemes ' YES Overnight Fund, YES Liquid Fund and YES Ultra Short-term Fund.

17. Paytm Payments Bank leads UPI beneficiary chart; SBI biggest remitter in December

Paytm Payments Bank has emerged as the biggest receiver of UPI amount with 926.17 million transactions while public sector bank SBI topped the chart of being the biggest remitter in December, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). State Bank of India followed PPBL as the second-largest beneficiary with 664.89 million transactions.

18. Minimum 6 airbags to be made mandatory in vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers from October 2022

The road transport ministry has said it will make it mandatory for carmakers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers for enhanced safety of occupants from October this year.

It has been decided to enhance safety features by amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989.

19. Kotak Mahindra Bank introduces Same Day Settlement feature for merchants

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) has introduced the Same Day Settlement (SDS) feature for merchants for payments received on its Point of Sale (PoS) terminals.

At a time when digital payments are soaring, the SDS facility is especially useful for businesses with immediate cash flow requirements, those with high inventory turnover and the need to replenish stocks frequently.

20. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Platina fixed deposit

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Platina Fixed Deposit, which offers interest of 15 basis points in addition to the regular Ujjivan SFB term deposit rates.

Under regular fixed deposits, general citizens get an interest rate of 6.9 per cent for a tenure of 990 days, while the interest rate for senior citizens is 7.65 per cent.

21. City Union Bank launches fitness watch debit card in tie-up with GOQii

City Union Bank, the oldest Private Sector Bank in India, in association with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii and powered by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched a wearable payment solution called CUB fitness watch debit card.

Customers need to hold this wristwatch in front of the PoS device during payment.

22. PMC Bank Resolution Scheme Approved By Government With Staggered Deposit Pay-Out

The Government has approved and notified the final resolution scheme for Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, over two years after it was put under restrictions. All branches of PMC Bank shall operate as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank from Jan. 25, 2022 ' the date of amalgamation.

PMC Bank had a deposit base of Rs 10,727 crore and loans worth Rs 4,473 crore.

23. Pencilton Launches Teen-Focused Debit and Travel Card

Pencilton, a teen-focused Fintech startup based in India, recently launched PencilCard, a debit card that is compliant with National Common Mobility Card standards. It has been launched in partnership with Transcorp.

The National Common Mobility Card was developed by India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in early 2019. It allows the user to pay for travel, toll duties, retail shopping and withdraw money.

24. SPMCIL sets up new bank note printing lines at Nashik and Dewas

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) under its modernization initiatives has set up New Bank Note Printing Lines each at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas.

SPMCIL, a Government of India owned Miniratna company, is engaged in the manufacture/production of Currency & Bank Notes, Security Paper, Non-Judicial Stamp Papers etc.

25. RBI imposes restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow; withdrawals capped at Rs 1 lakh

RBI has imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, including a cap of Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals.

The restrictions came into force from closure of business hours on January 28, 2022 (Friday).

RBI said the Lucknow-based co-operative bank will not, without its prior approval, grant or renew any loans and advances, or make any investment.

26. Bad Bank Receives All Approvals, Rs 50,000 crore Assets to be Transferred in Phase 1

Under the new structure approved by RBI, the bad bank 'the National Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd (NARCL)' will acquire and aggregate the bad loan accounts from banks, while India Debt Resolution Co. Ltd (IDRCL) will handle the resolution process.

It is ready to commence operations with 15 cases worth Rs 50,335 crore to be transferred by March 31.

A total of 38 accounts worth '82,845 crore have been identified for transfer to the NARCL

27. SBI lists maiden issue of \$300 million Formosa bonds on India INX

SBI has issued \$300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance on India INX GIFT IFSC. This is the first such issuance by any Indian Bank in the Formosa Bond market.

SBI through its London branch raised \$300 million from Regulation S Formosa bonds at a coupon of 2.49 per cent.

Formosa bond is a bond issued in Taiwan.

SBI is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond

Economy

1. Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 46th GST council meet in Delhi

The GST Council's 46th meeting was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The GST Council has recommended to defer the decision to change the rates in textiles recommended in the 45th GST Council meeting. Consequently, the existing GST rates of 5 % instead of 12% in textile sector would continue.

2. India's GDP to grow 9% in FY22 and FY23: ICRA

ICRALtd. expects the Indian economy to maintain a real GDP growth of 9.0% each in FY2022 and FY2023, amidst the uncertainty ignited by the Omicron variant of Covid-19. The rating agency highlighted that the available data for Q3 FY2022 does not offer convincing evidence that the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC's) criteria of a durable and sustainable growth recovery. ICRA was established in 1991 with headquarters in India.

3. RIL to raise \$5 billion by issuing unsecured US dollar-denominated bonds

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd has said, the Finance Committee of Reliance board of directors has approved to raise \$5 billion in one or more tranches by issuing senior unsecured US dollar denominated fixed rate notes. The bond sale is poised to become the single largest such borrowing by an Indian company.

4. Mamaearth Parent Company Honasa Consumer Becomes First Unicorn Of 2022

Personal care-focused e-commerce platform Honasa Consumer, which sells its products under the labels of Mamaearth, The Derma Co and House of Brands, has raised \$52 million in the latest funding round led by Sequoia, valuing it at \$1.2 billion, thus becoming the first unicorn in the new year. The round has also given its employees an opportunity to monetise their vested ESOP. Varun Alagh is the Co-Founder and CEO of Honasa.

5. GST Collection Stood At ' 1.29 Lakh Crore in December 2021

GST revenue collected in December 2021 was over ' 1.29 lakh crore, 13 per cent higher than the same month in 2020. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December 2021 is ' 1,29,780 crore, of which CGST is ' 22,578 crore, SGST is ' 28,658 crore, IGST is ' 69,155 crore (including ' 37,527 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ' 9,389 crore.

6. Nippon India MF launches India's first Auto ETF

Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF) has announced the launch of Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF.

The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on 5 January 2022 and close on 14 January 2022 and the minimum investment amount required is '1,000.

Investors can add in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.

7. DPIIT to organize Startup India Innovation Week

DPIIT is set to organize the Startup India Innovation Week from January 10th to 16th 2022. This week-long virtual innovation celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. India is the third largest startup ecosystem in the world.

8. NSO released First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2021-22

Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12) in the year 2021-22 is estimated at '147.54 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 of '135.13 lakh crore, released on 31st May 2021. Nominal GDP in the year 2021-22 is estimated at '232.15 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 of '197.46 lakh crore. The First Advance Estimates of GDP was introduced in 2016-17.

9. India to surpass Japan as Asia's second largest economy by 2030

By 2030, India is expected to replace Japan as Asia's second-largest economy, surpassing Germany and the United Kingdom to become the world's No. 3 economy, according to IHS Markit. India is currently the world's sixth-largest economy, behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom. In terms of GDP by purchasing power parity (PPP) basis, India is ranked 3rd in the world.

10. ReNew raises \$400 million by issuing green bonds overseas

ReNew Energy Global Plc, one of India's top renewable energy companies said that India Clean Energy Holdings, a Mauritian entity and a wholly owned subsidiary of ReNew, has raised \$400 million at 4.5% by issuing senior secured dollar notes in the international market. ReNew is the most active

international bond issuer from India, having so far raised \$3.5 billion. The World Bank is a major issuer of green bonds.

11. World Bank Maintains India's Growth Projection At 8.3% For 2021-22

India's economic growth is expected to be 8.3 per cent in the current financial year and 8.7 per cent in 2022-23, according to World Bank's "Global Economic Prospects" report.

The 8.3 percent GDP growth prediction for the current fiscal (2021-22) is the same as what was projected by the World Bank in its last projection released in October 2021.

12. WPI inflation eases to 13.56% in December 2021

The wholesale price-based inflation in December 2021 eased to 13.56%, mainly on account of softening in fuel, power and manufacturing items even though food prices hardened.

WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the ninth consecutive month beginning April. Inflation in November was 14.23%, while in December 2020 it was 1.95 %.

13. India ranks third on tech VC investments in startups in 2021

Global tech VC investment into startups hit a record level of \$675 billion in 2021, doubling the previous all-time high of \$340.6 billion in 2020.

The investments in 2021 were led by the US at \$328.8 billion followed by China at \$61.8 billion and India coming in third with a \$44.6 billion funding into the sector. Top 3 city hubs were the Bay Area, New York & the Greater Boston Region, all in the USA.

14. India's renewable energy generation to rise by 30 per cent by 2024: IEA

India's renewable generation is expected to increase by 30 per cent by 2024 relative to 2021, according to a recent report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

It added that it was driven by state and central auctions, and India's target of 450 GW of installed renewable capacity.

15. ESG issuances by Indian companies jump 500% to \$8.2 billion in 2021

India witnessed a massive surge of 503% increase in ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) labelled issuances at \$8.29 billion in the calendar year 2021 as against \$1.37 billion in CY2020.

As investors become environmentally conscious and look to put their money in green projects, financiers are rising to the cause.

16. NSE Indices launched Nifty India Digital Index

NSE's index services subsidiary, NSE Indices Limited recently launched a new index ' Nifty India Digital index.

The Nifty India Digital Index aims to track the performance of portfolio of stocks that broadly represent the Digital theme within basic industries like software, e-commerce, IT enabled services, industrial electronics and telecom services companies.

17. HeroMotoCorp, ASDC Team Up For Two-Wheeler Short Term Training Course

Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) and Hero MotoCorp have joined hands for a comprehensive two-wheeler short term training course.

Utilising the content provided by Hero MotoCorp, ASDC will deliver a variety of learning modules and certifications in automotive servicing.

18. Optimal hedge ratio for ECBs is at 63%: RBI Paper

The optimal hedge ratio for the External Commercial Borrowings(ECBs) raised by firms in India is estimated at 63% for the periods of high volatility in the foreign exchange (forex) market, as per a RBI Working Paper.

Optimal hedge ratio is a ratio that implies the percentage of total asset or liability exposure that an entity ought to hedge against exchange rate fluctuation ECB are in the form of cash bonds, securitised instruments, preference shares & instrument

19. India Ratings sees FY23 GDP growth at 7.6% on sustained govt spending

India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) expects gross domestic product (GDP) to grow 7.6 per cent in fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23), helped partly by continued government spending and a favourable global trade outlook.

The ratings agency estimates investments, as measured by gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), to grow 8.7 per cent YoY in FY23. The real GDP in FY23 will be 9.1 percent higher than the FY20 (pre-Covid level) GDP level

20. Swiggy becomes decacorn, valuation crosses \$10.7 bn in new funding round

Food delivery platform Swiggy said that it has raised \$700 million in new funding led by asset management firm Invesco. The Bengaluru-based start-up is now valued at \$10.7 billion, up from its previous valuation of \$5.5 billion just six months ago.

The latest funding makes Swiggy the fourth decacorn 'valued at \$10 billion or more' after Paytm, Oyo and Byju's.

21. India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber and gherkins

India has become the world's top exporter of gherkins. During the months of April to October, India exported 1,23,846 metric tonnes of cucumber and gherkins for US\$ 114 million (2020-21).

India has crossed the \$ 200 million mark of export of agricultural processed product- pickling cucumber, which is globally referred as gherkins or cornichons, in the last financial year.

Nearly 15 percent production of the world's gherkin requirement is grown in India.

22. IMF raises GDP growth forecast by 50 bps to 9% for FY23

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its forecast for growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) in FY23 by 50 basis points (bps) to 9 percent.

The National Statistical Office's first advance estimate for national income for FY22 has pegged GDP growth for the year at 9.2 percent.

India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 was also raised by 50 bps to 7.1 percent.

23. Darwinbox joins the unicorn club with \$72 million fresh funding

Human resource technology startup Darwinbox has raised \$72 million in Series D funding led by Technology Crossover Ventures (TCV), catapulting the company into the coveted unicorn club 'firms with valuation of \$1 billion or more.

Founded in 2015 by Chaitanya Peddi, Jayant Paleti, and Rohit Chennamaneni, Darwinbox competes with global leaders like SAP, Oracle and Workday.

3 other startups- Mamaearth, Fractal & LEAD School have attained unicorn status this year.

24. India: 5th largest trading partner of Brazil in 2021

India became the 5th largest trading partner of Brazil in 2021. The bilateral trade chain exceeded US\$ 11 billion, an increase of 63% compared to 2020, and a significant difference from the level observed since 2015.

For 2020, pharmaceutical products correspond to almost 30% of India's exports to the country.

In 2019, India was Brazil's 7th largest import source country & 18th export destination.

25. Ola rebrands quick commerce segment as Ola Dash; aims to set up 500 'dark stores'

ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd, parent of ride-hailing company Ola, has rebranded its quick commerce business as Ola Dash and aims to set up 500 so-called dark stores, or warehouses that do not have retail storefronts, in the next six months across 20 Indian cities amid rising competition for quick commerce in the country.

The quick commerce service was launched in 2021 as Ola Store.

26. Exports of electronic goods register 49 percent surge between April and December 2021: Govt

Commerce and Industry Ministry said that electronic goods export has registered a tremendous growth of 49% between April to December 2021.

During the same period in 2020, 7.4 billion US dollars worth of electronic goods were exported while in 2021, electronic items worth 11 billion were exported.

Maximum 18% of electronic goods items were exported to USA followed by UAE.

National

1. PM inaugurates Bina (MP)-Panki (UP) Multiproduct pipeline project

The Multiproduct pipeline from Bina Refinery (MP) to POL Terminal at Panki, Kanpur (UP) was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The 356 Km long project has a capacity of around 3.45 million metric tonne per annum. This Project also includes augmentation of Tankage capacity and construction of Rail Loading Gantry at Panki POL Terminal. Total cost of the project is Rs.1524 crore

2. PM Modi to lay foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut. The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut at an estimated cost of about 700 Crore rupees. The University will have the capacity of training 1080 sportspersons including 540 female and 540 male sportspersons.

3. Govt releases draft National Air Sports Policy for public feedback

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) for public feedback. NASP 2022 covers sports like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding and paragliding; microlighting and paramotoring; skydiving and vintage aircraft.

4. Dharmendra Pradhan launches NEAT 3.0 to provide best-developed ed-tech solutions

Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched NEAT 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country. NEAT stands for National Educational Alliance for Technology.

The minister also launched AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages. AICTE: - All India Council for Technical Education

5. LIC's assets at \$463 billion exceeds the GDP of several economies

LIC assets at \$463 billion exceeds the GDP of several economies, and it is ranked 5th globally in terms of life insurance GWP and 10th globally in terms of total assets.

Its assets are 1.1 times more than the entire Indian MF industry i.e. Rs 31.4 trillion (till March 31, 2021).

LIC is the largest asset manager in India with Rs 36.7 trillion AUM.

6. FASTag Toll Collection Jumps To A Record ' 119 Crore/Day In December 2021

The FASTag electronic toll collection across national highways and state roads hit an all-time high in December 2021.

The government said it collected ' 3,679 crore via FASTag, which translates to a collection of ' 119 crore per day. It also saw a substantial jump in revenue increasing by ' 1,375 crore year-on-year.

FASTag was mandated on vehicles from February 2021.

7. Home ministry releases manuals to curb cybercrime and promote cyber-hygiene

Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla has released a set of manuals focused on prevention of cybercrime and inculcating cyber-hygiene across rural areas, in industrial bodies and among the general public.

The manuals are part of a focussed awareness campaign for prevention of cybercrimes.

8. Cabinet nod for 2nd phase of Green Energy Corridor with Rs 12,000 cr outlay

The Union Cabinet gave its nod to investing Rs 12,031 crore for laying transmission lines to evacuate electricity generated from renewable power projects in seven states.

The project, called Green Energy Corridor Phase-II, would involve laying 10,750 circuit kilometers of transmission lines by 2026.

The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.

9. Power minister dedicates Automatic Generation Control to nation

Union Power Minister R K Singh has dedicated to the nation the Automatic Generation Control (AGC) project which would help in maintaining the frequency and reliability of the electricity system.

This is also expected to facilitate achieving the government's ambitious target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity by 2030.

10. KVIC launched India's first 'Mobile Honey Processing Van' to support farmers and beekeepers

Chairman KVIC Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena launched the country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad. This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8

hours. The van is also equipped with a testing laboratory, that would instantly examine the quality of honey.

Sweet Revolution (Honey Mission/Mithi Kranti) is related to honey production.

11. G Kishan Reddy flags off the first Janshatabdi express trains between Manipur and Tripura

The first Janshatabdi express trains connecting the states of Manipur and Tripura via Assam was flagged off by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology and by Shri G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister For Culture, Tourism And Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) through video link from Railway Board. Janshatabdi Express is a more affordable and economical version of the Shatabdi Express.

12. TCS wins second phase of Passport Seva Programme valued at about Rs 6,000 crore

Tata Consultancy Services, India's largest IT services firm, has won the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme of the ministry of external affairs. Analysts estimate the deal to be valued at about Rs 6,000-8,000 crore over a decade. This is the country's largest mission-critical e-governance programme till date.

India is ranked at 90th position in the Henley Passport Index 2021.

13. Ministry of AYUSH to organise global Surya Namaskar Demonstration programme on Makar Sakranti

The Ministry of AYUSH is organizing a global Surya Namaskar Demonstration programme on 14 January 2022 for 75 lakh people globally (on the day of Makar Sakranti to commemorate the journey of the sun to the Northern Hemisphere). This occasion commemorates thanksgiving to 'Mother Nature' for bestowing health, wealth and happiness. Surya Namaskar is a set of 8 Asanas performed in 12 steps with coordination of the body.

14. Union Steel Minister laid Foundation Stone for new 5 MTPA Project at JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works in Karnataka

Union Steel Minister laid the foundation stone for the new 5 MTPA project at JSW Steel Vijayanagar Works integrated steel facility in Ballari, Karnataka. This brown-field expansion project is being undertaken through JSW Vijayanagar Metallics Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of JSW Steel Ltd.

15. Govt surveys 17.78 lakh acres of defence land using drone and satellite technology

In a first such comprehensive exercise since Independence, the government has surveyed 17.78 lakh acres of defence land using the latest technologies such as three-dimensional modelling, drone & satellite imageries.

The mammoth exercise of surveying about 1.61 lakh acres of defence land inside cantonments and 16.17 lakh acres outside cantonments was started in October 2018.

16. Startup India Innovation Week to be organized from Jan 10-16 to boost entrepreneurship ecosystem

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organizing the first-ever Startup India Innovation Week from January 10 to 16.

This virtual week-long innovation celebration is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.

DPIIT has recognised more than 61,000 startups as on date.

17. India to add 10 gigawatt (GW) renewable energy capacity in 2022

India is estimated to add about 10 GW of total renewable energy capacity in 2022, down 10% year on year, according to clean energy consultancy firm Bridge to India. Capacity addition prospects would depend greatly on the timeline for clarity on transmission lines in Rajasthan & Gujarat. Many projects have already got force majeure relief on account of module supply disruption.

18. Real GDP to grow at around 9.5% in FY22: SBI Ecowrap

India's real GDP is expected to grow at around 9.5 per cent in 2021-22 on a year-on-year.

The report comes a day after the National Statistical Office (NSO) released the First Advance Estimates of National Income for financial year 2021-22. Accordingly, the estimates had said that India's economy is expected to clock a growth of 9.2 per cent in terms of real GDP for FY22.

19. 'North East on Wheels Expedition' launched to promote Culture of Northeastern States

Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi launched 'North East on Wheels Expedition' in New Delhi to promote the Culture of Northeastern States. The Bike Expedition is scheduled between 8th to 16th April 2022 to mark the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The expedition will also promote the Dekho Apna Desh initiative of the Ministry of Tourism.

20. Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Launches Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge

The Department of Fisheries, Government of India in association with Startup India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the 'Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge' on 13th Jan 2022. The challenge has been launched with an objective to provide a platform to start-ups within the country to showcase their innovative solutions within the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.

21. Khadi Monumental National Flag to be displayed at Longewala

The Monumental National Flag, which is the world's largest national flag made of Khadi fabric, will be put to a grand public display along the India ' Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer to celebrate 'Army Day'.

The Monumental National Flag will be displayed at Longewala which was the center stage of the historic battle between India and Pakistan in 1971.

22. BARC ratings for news channels to resume soon

Ratings by Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) for the news channels will resume, after the organisation revised its procedures and protocols.

The ratings were suspended after the Mumbai police busted a racket involving a private channel's efforts to tamper the ratings. BARC is the world's largest television measurement science industry body. BARC :- Founded: 2010; Headquarters: Mumbai.

23. Indian Railways launch 'Mission Amanat' to help find passengers' lost luggage, details to be posted on official website

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) plays a major role to ensure the safety and security of passengers as well as their luggage and belongings.

In this direction, the RPF has taken a new initiative by launching 'Mission Amanat', making it easier for the railway passengers to get back their lost luggage.

24. Indian economy recovery on 'solid path', expected to grow 6.5% in FY22: UN

Indian economy expected to grow 6.5% in the current financial year ending March 2022, (FY22), down from the earlier forecast of 8.4% amid rapid vaccination progress.

The flagship United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022 report.

India's economic recovery is on a solid path, amid rapid vaccination progress, less stringent social restrictions.

25. Writ petition not maintainable against proceedings by banks, ARCs under SARFAESI Act: SC

The Supreme Court has said borrowers, aggrieved by proceedings initiated under the SARFAESI ACT by the bank or the assets reconstruction company (ARC), have to avail the remedy under this law and no writ petition would be maintainable. The apex court delivered its judgement on the pleas filed by the ARC challenging the order passed by the Karnataka High court. SARFAESI(Securitisation and Reconstruction for Enforcement of Security Interest) Act,2002

26. Union Health Minister Releases Postal Stamp To Mark One Year Of Covid Vaccination Drive

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister, celebrated the one-year anniversary of India's immunisation drive by launching a postal stamp on India's achievement in developing an indigenous covid-19 vaccine.

The total Covid-19 immunisation coverage in India has surpassed 156.76 crores.

27. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to launch its first bi-monthly E-Newsletter

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (DEPwD) is going to launch its first bi-monthly E-Newsletter during the inauguration of main building of Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC), Kozhikode, Kerala.

CRC in Kozhikode was established in 2012. DEPwD, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

28. Labour ministry sets up monitoring centers to track migrant workers' movement

Labour ministry has activated 21 monitoring centers across India to track the movement of migrant workers/address job related grievances, in the wake of rapid rise in Covid cases.

Centre has advised all state commissioners to reassure the migrant workers amidst the third wave so as to prevent exodus while requesting them to maintain records of returnee migrant workers. Minister of Labour and employment:- Bhupender Yadav.

29. Aslan Karatsev beats Andy Murray for Sydney title

World No. 20 Aslan Karatsev powered past Andy Murray 6-3,6-3 in one hour and 31 minutes in the Sydney Classic final. The No. 1 seed hit 29 winners in a near-flawless performance that left three-time Grand Slam champion Murray out of answers. World No. 9 Paula Badosa of Spain took the women's title beating French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(4) in 2hr 22m.

30. Cabinet approves tenure extension of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

The union cabinet has approved the extension of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for three years with effect from April 1, 2022. Now it will remain in effect till March 31, 2025. The commission was established in 1993 as per the provisions of the NCSK Act initially for the period upto March 31,1997.

31. Cabinet approves Rs 1,500 crore infusion in IREDA to boost renewable energy financing

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the infusion of Rs 1,500 crore in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

This will enable IREDA to lend Rs 12,000 crore to the renewable energy sector. This Cabinet decision will help IREDA to create renewable energy capacity of 3,500 to 4,000 MW.

32. Cabinet sanctions Rs 973 crore to SBI for ex-gratia payment to borrowers

The government has approved sanction of Rs 973.74 crore to State Bank of India (SBI) as reimbursement related to loan moratorium that was implemented in 2020 amid the pandemic. The Budget had made provision of Rs 5,500 crore for the scheme of ex-gratia payment of difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months to borrowers in specified loan accounts.

33. HAL Signs Contract for Export of ALH to Mauritius

In-line with the Government's vision to boost defence exports to friendly foreign countries, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a contract with Govt. of Mauritius (GoM) for export of one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Mk III) for Mauritius Police Force.

The Govt. of Mauritius already operates HAL built ALH and Do-228 aircraft.

34. Over 76500 'Agri Nutri Gardens' established under Agri Nutri Garden Week

Over 76 thousand 500 'Agri Nutri Gardens' have been established under the Agri Nutri Garden Week' as against the target of 7 thousand 500.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission(DAY-NRLM) observed this week from 10th to 17th of January.

It is the Mission's agenda to support every rural poor household to have an Agri Nutri Garden to fulfill nutri needs

35. NITI Aayog, RMI India release report, titled Banking on Electric Vehicles in India

NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute(RMI),and RMI India released a report, titled Banking on Electric Vehicles in India.

The report outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in the electric mobility ecosystem.

It provides considerations and recommendations regarding the inclusion of Electric Vehicles in RBI's priority-sector lending guidelines

36. Coal Secretary launches Koyla Darpan Portal

Coal Secretary Dr. Anil Kumar Jain launched Koyla Darpan Portal to share Key Performance Indicators related to the Coal Sector.

The portal will have the Key Performance Indicators related to Coal Production, Status of Coal Stock in Thermal Power Plants, Allocation of Blocks, Monitoring of Major Coal Mines and Coal Price. Portal is accessible through the website of the Ministry of Coal for maximum public reach

37. Amar Jawan Jyoti flame merged with flame at National War Memorial

The Amar Jawan Jyoti flame at India Gate has been merged with the flame at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

The ceremony to merge the Amar Jawan Jyoti Flame was presided over by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Balabhadra Radha Krishna.

India Gate was unveiled in 1931 and it was built to honour the 70 thousand soldiers of British India who gave supreme sacrifice

38. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's statue to be installed at India Gate

In order to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and as part of the year long celebrations, the government has decided to install a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate in New Delhi.

Till the work for the statue is completed, a hologram statue of Netaji will be present at the same place. PM Narendra Modi will unveil the hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate on 23rd January.

39. Reliance Jio introduces UPI autopay in collaboration with NPCI

Reliance Jio, in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched autopay facilities for millions of UPI and Jio users, making the telecom giant the first player in its industry to integrate with this unique e-mandate feature.

This feature, namely the UPI autopay, would allow Jio customers to set standing instructions on the MyJio app.

40. Nation celebrates Parakram Diwas marking birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; PM to unveil hologram statue of Netaji

Nation is celebrating Parakram Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate.

The hologram statue will be replaced by a grand granite statue of Netaji which will be installed to commemorate Netaji's 125th birth anniversary.

The statue is made of granite.

41. AICTE launches student learning assessment programme, expands teacher training programme

With an aim to create a large pool of trained technical teachers, the All India Council for Technological Education (AICTE) announced that it was expanding the ambit of National Initiative for Technical Teachers Training (NITTT) by making it accessible to teachers with more than five years of service.

The AICTE announced the launch of the Students Learning Assessment (PARAKH)

42. Abide With Me, the Christian hymn dropped from Beating Retreat ceremony of Republic Day celebrations.

Penned in the pre-modern world by Henry Francis Lyte, a Scottish Anglican minister and son of a naval captain, the hymn has been a fixture in the Indian Beating Retreat ceremony since 1950. Played at dusk, this is also the last piece before the retreat buglers bring down the Indian flag.

Abide With Me has been replaced by Kavi Pradeep's seminal piece Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon.

Abide With Me was one of Mahatma Gandhi's personal favourites.

43. India unveils 5-year roadmap to becoming \$300-billion electronics powerhouse

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with ICEA on released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for the electronics sector. It is titled '300 billion dollar Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026'. This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document - the first of which was released in November last year.

44. MeitY unveils roadmap to achieve US\$300 billion from electronics manufacturing and exports by 2026

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw released a five-year roadmap and vision document for the electronics sector, titled '\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026'. Mobile manufacturing that is expected to cross US \$100 billion annual production - up from the current US \$30 billion. It is expected to constitute nearly 40 percent of this ambitious growth.

45. MoS Culture Meenakshi Lekhi releases pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'

Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has released the pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' in New Delhi.

The book has been prepared by Culture Ministry in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.

The book portrays the tales of valour of our forgotten women freedom fighters.

46. Gurugram gets India's largest EV charging station: Can charge 100 cars at once.

NHEV (National Highway for Electric Vehicle) inaugurated India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Gurugram, Haryana. This charging station has been installed and operated by Alekrify. This smart EV charging station gets 100 charging points for four-wheelers, out of which 72 units are AC slow chargers while 24 units consist of DC fast chargers. Prior to this, the country's largest EV charging station was located in Navi Mumbai.

47. IIT-Delhi's 1,000 Made-in-India drones light up sky at Beating the Retreat held at Vijay Chowk.

India's biggest 'Drone Show' displaying 1,000 drones at the 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony was executed by Indian startUp 'Botlab' under Union Ministry of Science and Technology and led by IIT Delhi alumni.

'Beating the Retreat' is a centuries-old military tradition dating from the days when troops disengaged from battle at sunset.

48. PM Modi to address 30th Foundation Day of National Commission for Women

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 30th Foundation Day programme of National Commission for Women NCW.

"The theme of the programme is 'She The Change Maker', aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.

The State Commissions for Women and Department of Women and Child Development in State Governments participated in the event. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani was present on the occasion.

49. PM Modi launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation

The Prime Minister launched the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation. He said that the World is entitled to benefit from Indian music like they have from Yoga.

Durga Jasraj and Pandit Shaarang Dev keep alive the glorious legacy of the maestro. Yoga, Indian music has the capacity to stir the depth of the human mind and the world is entitled to be benefited from it.

50. Indian StartUp "Botlab" will fly 1,000 Drones in "Beating Retreat" ceremony

Indian StartUp "Botlab", funded by Technology Development Board (TDB) under Union Ministry of Science and Technology and led by IIT Delhi alumni, will fly 1,000 Drones in the "Beating Retreat" ceremony.

This will make India the fourth country, after China, Russia and UK, to carry out such a large-scale show with 1,000 drones. Union Minister for Science and Technology: Dr Jitendra Singh



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International

1. BRICS Bank to admit Egypt as new member

The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) has announced the admission of Egypt as its new member. Egypt is the fourth new member admitted into NDB, after Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uruguay, further expanding the bank's global outreach. Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by BRICS nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The bank formally opened in July 2015.

2. World's Longest Metro Line Opens in Shanghai.

Upholding its rank as the city with the largest Metro network in the world, China's Shanghai has opened two new metro lines ' Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18. With the new lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network has extended to 831 km, continuing to be the longest in the world.

3. Apple Becomes World's First \$3 Trillion Company

Apple became the world's first \$3 trillion company based on market capitalization, which is the total value of all of the company's outstanding shares.

The milestone came after Apple's stock price rose over 40% in the last year.

Apple's cash flow also makes the stock a safe haven during times of market uncertainty.

4. Government of Antigua and Barbuda joins Intl. Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

Antigua and Barbuda has become the 102nd country to join International Solar Alliance.

Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Solar Framework in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr. K. J. Srinivasa.

Antigua and Barbuda has joined the ISA by signing the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement.

5. Justice Ayesha Malik to be Pakistan's first woman Supreme Court judge

Pakistan on 6 Jan moved closer to appoint the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, after a high-power panel approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge Ayesha Malik to the apex court.

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) ' headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed ' approved Malik's elevation by a majority of five votes against four. Benazir Bhutto was the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan.

6. 20th Dhaka International Film Festival to begin on Jan 15

The 20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) will take place between January 15-23 at multiple venues in Dhaka. The festival will showcase 225 films from 70 countries under 10 categories. The film festival is being organised in a hybrid mode with many films being streamed online during the festival.

7. Human case of bird flu detected in the UK

A person living in the south-west of England has caught bird flu.

Cases like this are extremely rare and the individual probably became infected from very close contact with a sick or dead bird.

Experts say there is no evidence of onward spread and all close contacts of the person are being monitored.

The individual is currently well and self-isolating. Human to human transmission of bird flu is very rare.

8. Cyprus detects new 'Deltacron' Covid variant

Cyprus has detected a new variant dubbed as "Deltacron", that has a similar genetic background to the Delta variant, coupled with 10 mutations from Omicron.

The variant has already affected 25 people in Cyprus.

The new variant from the lineage named B.1.640.2 is believed to have infected people in the country.

Capital: Nicosia; Currency: Euro.

9. Nepal, India firms sign first private power trade deal of the two nations

Nepal Power Exchange Limited and India's Manikaran Power Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding on energy trading.

The deal ends the monopoly of the state-owned power utility 'Nepal Electricity Authority' in energy trade.

The pact was signed during Nepal Power Market Summit 2022 held in Kathmandu.

10. PGCIL inks pact with Africa50 for Kenya Transmission Project

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) has inked a pact with pan-African infrastructure investment platform Africa50 to continue the development of the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.

Once completed, the project will be the first independent power transmission in Kenya.

11. Poet Maya Angelou becomes the first black woman to appear on US coin

The US Treasury has minted coins featuring poet Maya Angelou - the first black woman ever featured on the US 25-cent coin known as a quarter.

Angelou, a poet and activist, was the first black woman to write and perform a poem at a presidential inauguration.

In 2010, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom - the highest US civilian award - by President Barack Obama.

12. India grants \$ 900 mn loan to Sri Lanka to tackle forex crisis

India has announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, amidst a shortage of almost all essential commodities in the island nation.

These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over USD 509 million and currency swap of USD 400 million.

13. PM Modi, his Mauritius counterpart Jugnauth to virtually inaugurate India-assisted infrastructure projects in Mauritius

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will jointly inaugurate the India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius virtually.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the two dignitaries will also launch the Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius. Mauritius- Capital: Port Louis; Currency: Mauritian rupee

14. Indonesia names new capital Nusantara, replacing sinking Jakarta

Indonesia will move its capital to mineral-rich East Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo.

The name of the new capital will be Nusantara -- which means "archipelago" in Javanese. It will be based in the regions of North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara. The new project is likely to cost around 466 trillion rupiah (\$32 billion).

15. Shaped Like An Infinity Symbol, Dubai Opens Incredible 'Infinity Bridge' To Traffic For The First Time

Dubai has thrown the 'Infinity Bridge' open to traffic for the first time.

The bridge consists of six lanes and improves the link between Deira and Bur Dubai.

It features a combined 3-metre track for pedestrians and cyclists.

First announced in 2018, the Infinity Bridge is part of a Al Shindagha Corridor Project.

The bridge has an arch shaped like the infinity symbol.

16. Roberta Metsola Becomes Third Woman, Youngest To Head European Parliament

Centre-right Maltese lawmaker Roberta Metsola, chosen as the third woman to head the European Parliament.

The politician from the European Union's smallest nation becomes the youngest president ever to run the chamber.

Metsola, a member of the biggest parliamentary bloc, the European People's Party, replaced the centre-left Italian parliament chief.

17. Barbados PM Mia Mottley sworn in after 2nd consecutive elections

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley was sworn in for a second term after her party appeared to have swept every legislative seat in the first elections the island nation held as a republic since casting off the British monarchy.

Barbados: Capital: Bridgetown; Currency: Barbadian or Bajan dollar

18. India pays \$29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for 2022

India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for the year 2022.

As of January 21, 2022, 24 Member States have paid their regular budget assessments in full.

India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.

19. Australia announces billion-dollar(US\$700 million) package to protect Great Barrier Reef

Australia unveiled a billion-australian dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged Great Barrier Reef hoping to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list. The Great Barrier Reef has suffered three mass bleaching events during heatwaves in 2016, 2017 and 2020, leaving many affected corals struggling to survive.

20. Netherlands unveils 'world's-largest' canal lock

Dutch King Willem-Alexander opened what authorities say is the world's largest canal lock.

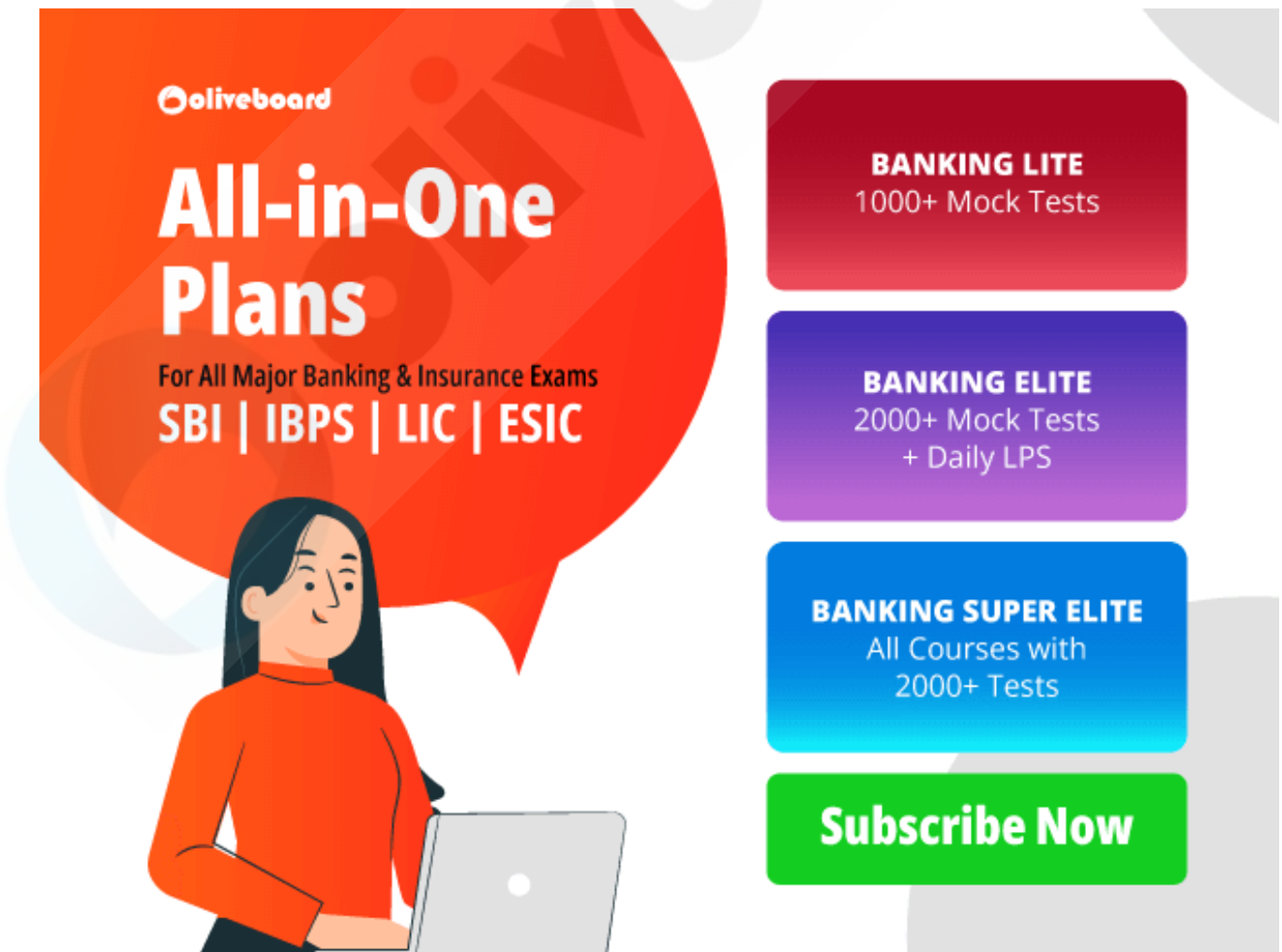
The 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide sluice replaces a smaller, nearly 100-year-old one at IJmuiden, a small port city connecting the North Sea Canal to the port of Amsterdam.

The IJmuiden lock was designed to allow large, modern cargo ships to reach the port of Amsterdam
Netherlands: Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro; Prime minister: Mark Rutte.

21. Samsung Surpasses Intel As World's Top Semiconductor Company In 2021 Powered By Memory Chip Business And Momentum In Logic ICs

Samsung took the first position from Intel thanks to its solid growth momentum in both logic IC and memory segments. Memory vendors continued to lead the industry with SK Hynix and Micron taking the third and fourth positions, followed by IC design vendors, including Qualcomm and NVIDIA.

The year saw 19% YoY revenue growth.



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Sports

1. Jasprit Bumrah Achieves Milestone of Picking 100 Test Wickets Away From Home

Jasprit Bumrah has achieved the milestone of picking 100 wickets away from home in Test cricket. The pacer got to the feat on Day 4 of the first Test between South Africa and India at the SuperSport Park in Centurion. Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions. The 28-year-old now has 105 wickets, out of which 101 have come away from home. Bumrah made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018. He plays for Mumbai Indians in IPL.

2. India lift U-19 Asia Cup beating Sri Lanka by 9 wickets in Dubai

India lifted the Under-19 Asia Cup by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain-interrupted One-Day International final in Dubai through Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method. India won a record-extending eighth Asia Cup in the nine years that the competition has been played in.

3. Himachal Pradesh create history, win Vijay Hazare Trophy

Himachal Pradesh beat Tamil Nadu in the finals to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy, bringing home the first-ever title in the domestic cricket circle. With this, skipper Rishi Dhawan and his team have created history in the Indian domestic cricket.

Himachal chased a huge score of 315. Opening batsman & wicket-keeper, Shubham Arora, scored an unbeaten 136 runs off 131 balls.

4. Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez retires from international cricket, will continue to play in franchise leagues

Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez has reportedly retired from international cricket.

Mohammad Hafeez is Pakistan's most capped player at the ICC T20 World Cup.

In his iconic career that spanned over 18 years, Hafeez featured in 218 One Day International (ODIs) and 55 Test matches for Pakistan. He is also known as 'The Professor' in cricketing circles.

5. Contract of Neeraj Chopra's coach Klaus Bartonietz extended till 2024 Paris Olympics: AFI

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will continue to train with his German coach Klaus Bartonietz, whose contract has been extended till the 2024 Paris Games, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) confirmed. Bartonietz took charge as Chopra's coach from compatriot and former world record holder javelin thrower Uwe Hohn.

6. Winter Olympics-bound Md Arif Khan included in Target Olympic Podium Scheme

The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved the inclusion of Alpine Skiing athlete Md Arif Khan in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Core group, until the Winter Olympics, scheduled this February in Beijing, China. Khan will take part in the Winter Olympics in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. The first Winter Olympic Games, the 1924 Winter Olympics, were held in Chamonix, France.

7. Indian doubles pair Bopanna-Ramkumar clinch Adelaide International title

India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated top-seeded Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo in the men's doubles final to win the Adelaide International tournament.

It was Bopanna's 20th ATP doubles title and first for Ramkumar.

Bopanna and Ramkumar will split USD 18700 as prize money and earned 250 ranking points each.

8. Canada sweeps past Spain to win maiden ATP Cup

Felix Auger-Aliassime beat Spanish star Roberto Bautista Agut in a gripping encounter to earn Canada a maiden ATP Cup. This followed Denis Shapovalov ending Pablo Carreno Busta's winning start to the season 6-4, 6-3. Canada earned its place in the final after stunning defending champion Russia.

9. Shri Rajnath Singh flags-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by NIMAS in France

Shri Rajnath Singh, on January 07, 2022, flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in France. The expedition was conducted in November 2021 and the team was led by Director NIMAS Colonel Sarfaraz Singh.

The team comprises 12 people - eight Army personnel and four youths of Arunachal Pradesh.

10. Tata Group to replace Vivo as Indian Premier League 2022 title sponsor

Tata Group will replace Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as the Indian Premier League's title sponsor from this year.

The board is expected to earn around Rs 130 crore more from the deal it had with Vivo which was supposed to run till 2023.

The 2022 mega auction for IPL is set to take place in Bengaluru in the second week of February. Indian Premier League chairman:- Brijesh Patel

11. South African all-rounder Chris Morris retires from all forms of cricket

South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket and is set to take up a coaching role with domestic side Titans.

The 34-year-old cricketer made the announcement on social media.

A right-arm pacer and explosive batter, Morris made his Test debut as late as 2016 and featured in only four games in traditional format.

12. AISCD gets approval to hold first World Deaf T20 Cricket championship in 2023

The All India Sports Council of the Deaf has got approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala from January 10-20, 2023. This championship was planned to be conducted in 2020-21 but due to the sudden outbreak of coronavirus it was postponed first to 2022 & now fixed for 2023.

It will be held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

13. India Open: Lakshya Sen defeats world champion Loh Kean Yew 24-22, 21-17 in men's singles final

Lakshya Sen defeated current World Champion Loh Kean Yew in straight games 24-22, 21-17 to win his first India Open title in the men's singles.

It was a double delight for India as earlier, Chirag Shetty /Satwiksairaj Rankireddy won their first ever Indian Open finals as they defeat Mohammad Ahsan/ Hendra Setiawan 21-16, 26-24 in the men's doubles.

14. Sania Mirza to retire after 2022 season

India tennis star Sania Mirza has announced that 2022 will be her last season since her body is "wearing down" and motivation and energy for the everyday grind is not the same anymore.

Mirza, 35, had returned to tennis after giving birth to her son in March 2019 but her progress was later thwarted by the coronavirus pandemic.

15. PV Sindhu defeats compatriot Malvika Bansod, lifts Syed Modi International 2022 title

India shuttler PV Sindhu won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International tournament. At the Babu Banarasi Indoor Stadium, top-seed Sindhu defeated Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash that lasted for 35 minutes.

Indian duo of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto clinch mixed double's title defeating T Hema Nagendra and Srivedya in straight games.

16. India's first para-badminton academy launched in Lucknow.

Ageas Federal Life Insurance in association with Dronacharya Awardee Gaurav Khanna launched India's first Para-Badminton Academy.

The state-of-the-art, high-performance centre with advanced equipment and facilities in Lucknow aims to improve India's medal chances at the 2024 Paralympics to be held in Paris, France.

17. Hockey Women's Asia Cup 2022: India beat China 2-0 to win Bronze medal

Japan continued their impressive run at the 2022 Hockey Asia Cup as they thrashed the mighty South Koreans 4-2 at Muscat, Oman.

India won the bronze medal beating China 2-0 for third and fourth place play off .

Sharmila Devi in the 13th minute and Gurjit Kaur in the 19th minute scored goals for India.

18. Australian Open 2022: Ashleigh Barty becomes 1st Aussie woman to win home Grand Slam in 44 years

Ash Barty ended Australia's 44-year wait for a home winner at the Australian Open when the world number one staved off a fightback from American Danielle Collins to complete a 6-3 7-6(2) win on January 29 and pick up her third Grand Slam title.

Barty became the first Australian to win the event since Chris O'Neil captured the women's title in 1978.

19. CSK Becomes First Indian Sports Establishment To Gain Unicorn Status

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) has become the first Indian sports enterprise to gain unicorn status with its market cap surpassing INR 7,600 crore and the share value in the market trading entering INR 210-225 price band. The franchise's market cap went past its parent entity, India Cements. India Cements'

market cap was at INR 6,869 crores. The addition of two new franchises to the league ' Lucknow, and Ahmedabad.

20. Rafael Nadal Beats Daniil Medvedev In Australian Open Final To Win Record 21st Grand Slam Title

Rafael Nadal defeated Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open men's singles final to win a record 21st Grand Slam title.

With his victory, Nadal overtook Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in the list of most men's singles Majors and became the first ever male player to win more than 20 Grand Slam titles in singles. Nadal won the thrilling final in Melbourne.

21. 14-year-old Unnati Hooda becomes youngest Indian to win Super 100 event at Odisha Open 2022

Teenage badminton sensation Unnati Hooda became the youngest Indian to win a Super 100 tournament by bagging the Odisha Open 2022 title.

Putting on a deft performance, the 14-year-old from Rohtak, Haryana showed some great skills with the racquet to claim a straight games victory, 21-18, 21-11 against fellow Indian compatriot, Smit Toshniwal.

22. Tata Steel Chess 2022: Magnus Carlsen beats Fabiano Caruana to clinch title with a round to spare

Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands): Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the 12th and penultimate round of the Tata Steel Masters chess here to jointly occupy the sixth place.

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen clinched his eighth title in Wijk aan Zee after beating Fabiano Caruana in round 12.



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Agreements & MoUs

1. Government Of Jharkhand And The Indian School Of Business Collaborate To Develop Forest Economy

Premier city-based B-school, Indian School of Business (ISB) will be working with the government of Jharkhand to empower the state's forest economy.

A MoU to the effect has been signed by the department of scheduled tribe, scheduled caste, minority and backward class welfare, department of forests, Jharkhand, alongwith the Bharti Institute of Public Policy at ISB.

2. STPI partners with HDFC Bank and Excelpoint Systems to strengthen tech startup ecosystem in India

AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT), a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), has signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs), one with HDFC Bank and another with Excel point Systems India Pvt Ltd, a niche technology player, for fostering entrepreneurship and nurturing tech startups in the country.

3. Airtel Payments Bank, Park+ tie up to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions

Airtel Payments Bank on Thursday announced a collaboration with Park+ to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across the country.

The partnership aims to leverage the distribution reach and digital payments stack of Airtel Payments Bank to digitise the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle. FASTag employs RFID technology for making toll payments while the vehicle is in motion.

4. RBL Bank and Google announced a strategic collaboration

RBL Bank and Google announced a strategic collaboration to fuel the Bank's customer experience strategy and expand its value proposition to serve its rapidly growing customer base through its digital platform, Abacus 2.0. This collaboration will enable better customer data management, and analytics, enabling effective cross-selling within the Bank's large customer base. RBL Bank currently has over 4 million urban retail asset and liability customers.

5. MoU Signed Between Assam Govt & NDBD For Dairy Development

The Assam government has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to set up a joint venture company to execute a Rs 2,000 crore project to process 10 lakh litres of milk per day.

As part of the development project, more than 15,000 high milk-yielding Gir cows will be inducted into Assam. Two cattle-feed and organic manure manufacturing units would be set up under this MOU.

6. Govt to own 35.8% in Vodafone Idea after conversion of AGR dues into equity

Vodafone Idea has approved the conversion of the full amount of interest related to spectrum auction instalments and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) Dues into equity.

The conversion will therefore result in dilution to all the existing shareholders of the company, including the promoters.

The Net Present Value (NPV) of this interest is expected to be about '16,000 crore.

7. Nabard tries out fintech alliance to support SHGs

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has forged a partnership with fintech firm Arthimpact Digital Loans (ARTH) for providing end-to-end fintech solution including skilling, micro financial services and forward linkage support to self-help group members. NABARD's established on 12 July 1982 as a central regulating body for agriculture financing.

8. TechM partners Nokia for enterprise 5G solutions

Finnish telecom maker Nokia & IT giant Tech Mahindra have joined hands to deploy 5G-based solutions for business organisations.

Under the collaboration, Tech Mahindra will leverage Nokia's private wireless DAC (digital automation cloud) solution for customers across industries and facilitate in automating 5G private wireless network management on a cloud computing system.

9. NIRDPR signs MoU with National Centre for Good Governance

Hyderabad-based National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), New Delhi, to promote good governance and strengthen local institutions with effective implementation of government programmes.

10. MSDE and IGNOU sign MOU to link vocational education and training with higher education

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU) for further strengthening the vocational and technical training framework.

This collaboration will provide students with an opportunity to join the three-year degree programme of IGNOU.

IGNOU is run by the central government of India.

11. Federal Bank, Equirus Wealth jointly launch USD Fixed Maturity Fund

Federal Bank in association with Equirus Wealth has launched 'US Dollar offshore fund' exclusively for their customers.

This is in collaboration with SCUBE Capital, a global fund management company based out of Singapore.

Both NRI and Resident customers of Federal Bank will be able to invest in this fund.

12. IIM Kozhikode, Indian Bank collaborate to lend upto Rs 50 crore for startups

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode launched a startup funding scheme called 'IndSpring Board' to encourage new startups in partnership with Indian Bank.

The scheme launched as part of an agreement between IIMK's business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) and Indian Bank, will help startups by providing loans up to Rs 50crore

13. Jio inks partnership with Finnish university to accelerate 6G research, standardization

Jio Platforms (JPL) has signed a pact with the University of Oulu, Finland, for undertaking research and standardization related activities in 6G technology.

JPL & the University of Oulu will collaborate in Research and Development (R&D) of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics.

14. Paytm, Fullerton announce partnership to scale up digital lending to MSMEs

Fullerton India and One97 Communications Limited, which owns the brand Paytm, India's leading digital payments and financial services platform, have announced a partnership to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers.

Fintech users will be able to use Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later) on the Paytm platform as a result of this relationship.

Fullerton India Credit Company Limited is owned by Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG)

15. Indipaisa, Hitachi Payment Services Debut FinTech Platform for SMBs

Hitachi Payment Services, a payment solutions provider, has launched a FinTech platform for India's microbusinesses and small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs).

The objective is to offer a high-quality digital platform for fintech services at affordable prices for Indian MSME market.

16. India, France sign MoU with scope for cooperation in health research

The MoU was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR and Institut Pasteur, France. CSIR & Institut Pasteur will jointly research and focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders and enable delivery of effective and affordable healthcare solutions not only for the people of India and France but for the global good.

17. NIF Incubation Council ties up with Amazon India to boost Grassroot Innovation

National Innovation Foundation's Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council and Amazon India have signed an MoU for online distribution of product of grassroots innovations, student innovations, and outstanding traditional knowledge-based products.

The MoU will make innovations from rural parts of India available universally.

18. \$150-million India-UAE VC Fund set up to boost start-up ecosystem

A \$150-million India-UAE venture capital fund to fuel the growth of start-ups in India and the UAE was launched from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai.

The VC Fund is a first of its kind to be set up in the UAE with a purpose to source, invest, and nurture promising start-ups through an accelerator to fuel the growth of India-UAE start-ups.

19. TerraPay, NPCI International partner to enable real-time, international payments

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), international payments arm of NPCI has signed an MoU with TerraPay, Netherlands-based global payments infrastructure company to allow Indians with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's secure payments technology. In December 2021, NIPL tied up Western Union to enable real-time bank account payout.

20. IREDA and Goa Shipyard Ltd signs MoU for Rooftop Solar Power Projects

Under the MoU, IREDA will assist GSL by providing its techno-financial expertise to set-up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarter of the company situated in Vasco da Gama, Goa.

The two companies are PSUs under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Defence, respectively.

Chairman & Managing Director(CMD): IREDA:Pradip Kumar Das; GSL: Cmde. Bharat Bhushan Nagpal



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Schemes

1. PM Modi to transfer tenth installment of PM Kisan Scheme to the bank accounts of more than 10 crore farmers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that he will release 10th installment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme of more than 20 thousand crore rupees will be transferred to more than 10 crore farmer families. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, financial benefit of six thousand rupees per year is provided to the eligible family of farmer. PM KISAN scheme was launched in the year 2019

2. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to launch 100-day Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will launch 100-day Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'. The reading campaign aims to have participation of all stakeholders at national and state level including children, teachers, parents, community and educational administrators. Children studying in Balvatika to grade eight will be part of this campaign.

3. Semiconductor mission launched by IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a specialised and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation. It has been set up with the aim to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design. The scheme is notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

4. Telangana tops in highest number of ODF villages

Telangana tops other states in the country in having the highest number of villages as ODF plus under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) phase II programme.

Of 12,769 villages, 8,035 villages are aspiring villages with clean and good sanitation practices having green surroundings, enabling people to lead a quality life while piped and safe drinking water is supplied.

5. Assets of National Pension Scheme, Atal Pension Yojana cross '6.99 lakh crore: PFRDA

Total assets managed under NPS and APY, the two flagship pension schemes of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), have crossed '6.99 lakh crore.

Total assets under management (AUM) as on January 1, 2022, stood at '6,99,172 crore.

Total AUM under the National Pension System and Atal Pension Yojana was at '5,78,025 crore as of March 31, 2021.

6. UJALA scheme completes 7 years; saves 48 b kWh energy every year

The Power Ministry has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship UJALA programme.

The initiative evolved into the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.

The programme also resulted in massive energy savings.

7. Apple, Samsung to make smartphones worth Rs 37,000 crore in 2022 under govt's PLI scheme

Apple and Samsung are set to manufacture smartphones worth Rs 37,000 crore (\$5 billion) in the financial year 2022 as a part of the government's Production Linked Incentive scheme. Interestingly, these figures will exceed the target set by the government by over 50%. PLI aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

8. MoHUA-AFD Launch Swachhata Start-Up Challenge to Nurture the Evolving Ecosystem of Indian Waste Management Sector

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry launched the 'Swachhata Start-Up Challenge' to provide an impetus to innovative start-ups to come forward and drive catalytic transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector.

The Challenge was launched in partnership with DPIIT and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

Appointments & Resignations

1. Indian Railways appoints VK Tripathi as new Railway Board Chairman

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi as the Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board. Tripathi is currently working as the General Manager of North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur.

Tripathi has been appointed in place of outgoing Chairman and CEO Sunit Sharma. This appointment has been made for six months from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022.

2. Director General VS Pathania takes over as DG Coast Guard

Director General VS Pathania, took over as the 24th Chief of Indian Coast Guard. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi. The Flag Officer is a qualified helicopter pilot and holds a Master's Degree in Defence & Strategic Studies from the University of Madras.

3. Asheesh Pandey joins Bank of Maharashtra as executive director

Shri Asheesh Pandey has joined as Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra (BoM). Prior to joining BoM, Shri Asheesh Pandey was Chief General Manager & Chief Operations Officer (COO) at Union Bank of India (UBI) and has a progressive professional career spanning more than 24 years. The Headquarters of Bank of Maharashtra is located at Pune.

4. Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy, first to be hired for Tesla's Autopilot team

Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk, disclosed that Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.

Before joining Tesla, Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.

Ashok is the head of Autopilot engineering.

5. Vinod Kannan takes over as Vistara CEO, replaces Leslie Thng

Vinod Kannan took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistara airline.

Kannan replaced Leslie Thng who was the CEO from July 16, 2017 to December 31, 2021.

Vistara said Deepak Rajawat has been elevated to take up the role of Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer.

Vistara, is a 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons Private Limited and Singapore Airlines.

6. Alka Mittal becomes first woman to head ONGC as CMD

Alka Mittal, has been given the additional charge of chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

With this appointment, Mittal has become the first woman ever to head ONGC as its CMD. She will hold the post for six months or until a regular appointment for the position is announced, whichever is earlier.

Subhash Kumar, was given the additional charge of the post from April 1, 2021.

7. Sudan's PM Abdalla Hamdok resigns after mass protests

Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has resigned after another day of mass protests rocked the capital Khartoum. Thousands marched against a recent deal he had done to share power with the army.

It is another blow to Sudan's fragile attempts at a transition to democratic rule after the overthrow of Sudan's long-term authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

8. Govt re-appoints Vijay Paul Sharma as CACP Chairman

The Centre has again appointed Vijay Paul Sharma as the chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after he relinquished the post in May last year following completion of the five-year tenure.

The role of CACP chairman will be crucial in the proposed committee on the minimum support price (MSP) and other reforms.

9. Former US diplomat Atul Keshap appointed head of US-India Business Council

Atul Keshap, former US envoy to India, has been appointed as President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), announced the US Chamber of Commerce.

Nisha Biswal, a former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, and Ambassador Keshap's predecessor as President of USIBC, will remain deeply involved with the organization.

10. RBI appoints Ajay Kumar Choudhary and Deepak Kumar as new Executive Directors

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Deepak Kumar and Ajay Kumar Choudhary as new executive directors (ED) with effect from 03 January, 2022.

Prior to being promoted as ED, Deepak Kumar was heading the department of information technology of RBI, while Ajay Choudhary was Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Supervision.

11. Jet Airways interim CEO Sudhir Gaur steps down

Jet Airways' interim CEO, Capt. Sudhir Gaur has resigned from his position. Gaur was also the Vice-President of Operations at Jet Airways.

According to sources, Capt. Priyapal Singh has been appointed as the interim manager of Jet Airways. The airline would commence domestic operations with six narrow body aircraft in 2022.

12. Senior Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes charge of Secretary-General of SCO

China's senior diplomat Zhang Ming has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in which India is a member.

Zhang has taken charge from Vladimir Norov, former Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan for a three-year term.

He was until recently China's ambassador to the European Union.

13. Centre elevates top IAS officer G Asok Kumar as DG National Mission for Clean Ganga

Senior IAS officer, G Asok Kumar posted as additional secretary, Union ministry of Jal Shakti assumed the charge as Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Kumar, a 1991 batch of IAS officer has earlier also served in Civil Aviation and Power ministries and was also executive director of projects in National Mission for Clean Ganga.

14. Opec appoints Kuwait's Haitham Al Ghais as new secretary general

Opec appointed Kuwaiti oil executive Haitham Al Ghais as its new secretary general, as demand for oil continues to improve amid a mild recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Al Ghais, a veteran of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Kuwait's Opec governor from 2017 to June 2021, will take the group's reins in August, replacing Mohammad Barkindo.

15. Mr. Soma Sankara Prasad assumed the charge of MD & CEO in UCO Bank

Mr. Soma Sankara Prasad has assumed the charge of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in UCO Bank. Prior to joining UCO Bank, he served as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India. During his tenure in UCO Bank, Shri Prasad shall focus on strengthening the Bank fundamentally, improving profitability and growing consistently across all key parameters. UCO Bank headquarters: Kolkata

16. Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed Vice President of AIIB

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as a Vice President of the Beijing-based multilateral funding institution AIIB.

India is a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with the 2nd highest voting share after China.

He will be one of the five Vice Presidents of the AIIB with a three-year tenure.

He will succeed outgoing D J Pandian. AIIB is headed by former Chinese vice minister for finance Jin Liqun.

17. CSB Bank MD & CEO C. VR. Rajendran opts for early retirement, to step down on March 31

CSB Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer C. VR. Rajendran will step down from his role on March 31, 2022.

CSB Bank generates one of the highest net interest margins (NIMs) in Indian banking industry at 5.1 percent, as per the statement issued by the lender.

The CASA mix is at 34.5 percent as on December 31, 2021 growing at an impressive 22 percent YoY.

18. Navrang Saini's term as IBBI chief extended

Centre extended the additional charge of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Wholetime Member Navrang Saini as Chairperson till March 5 this year.

While IBBI still has a chairperson for two more months, the post of Chairman at Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) is vacant for over eight months now.

19. Ajaz Patel voted ICC Men's Player of the Month for December 2021 after record 10-fer vs India

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on January 10 announced Ajaz Patel as the winner of the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for December 2021.

New Zealand's, Ajaz Patel made history in December, when he picked up 10 wickets in an innings against India at Wankhede, becoming only the third player in Tests to achieve that feat after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble.

20. Alikhan Smailov named Kazakhstan's Prime Minister

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev nominated Alikhan Smailov for Prime Minister, and the lower house of parliament swiftly voted him in during a session broadcast live on state television.

Alikhan Smailov (49) served as the first Deputy Prime Minister in the previous cabinet which Mr. Tokayev dismissed last week.

21. Rakesh Anand Appointed Chef de Mission for CWG, Bhupender Singh Bajwa for Asian Games

The Indian Olympic Association appointed senior vice president of the Indian Olympic Association Rakesh Anand as the Chef de Mission of the country's contingent for the upcoming Commonwealth Games to be held at Birmingham from July 28-August 8.

IOA president Narinder Dhruv Batra also announced general team managers for the Commonwealth Games. Birmingham is a major city in England.

22. Engineer Vaibhav Ghadiok architects the first autonomous traffic management platform in the world

Indian born Engineer Vaibhav Ghadiok has architected the first autonomous traffic management platform in the world.

This young 36-year-old is a pioneer in the field of robotics with multiple inventions and patents to his name.

He is the Executive VP of Engineering at Hayden AI, where he is using his expertise in AI and robotics to enhance transit systems across the world.

23. Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas succeeds Gita Gopinath as IMF's chief economist

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the next chief economist, replacing Indian origin Gita Gopinath. Gourinchas will succeed Gita Gopinath, a US national of Indian origin. Gopinath has been appointed the first deputy managing director of the IMF.

24. LLC appoints cricketer Jhulan Goswami as ambassador

Legends League Cricket (LLC) has appointed cricketer Jhulan Goswami as its ambassador to promote women empowerment.

The LLC also announced an all-women match official team for the league, which includes ICC empaneled female umpires and match referees from around the world.

South Africa's Shandre Fritz will be the match referee for the entire league. Shubha Bhosle Gaikwad will be India's youngest female umpire.

25. S Somnath, who led Chandrayaan-2 rocket launcher project, appointed ISRO chief, to succeed K Sivan

The Centre appointed S Somanath as the Secretary of the Department of Space and the Chairman of the Space Commission.

His new appointment is for a combined tenure of three years from the date of joining of the post.

Sh. S Somanath will succeed K Sivan, who completes his extended tenure on January 14. He is tenth chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

26. Narendra Kumar Goenka appointed as new chairman of AEPC

Narendra Kumar Goenka took charge as new chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) replacing A Sakthivel. AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the guidance of the Ministry of Textiles, that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/international buyers. AEPC was formed in 1978.

27. RBI approves Sh. Ittira Davis' appointment as Ujjivan SFB's new MD & CEO

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank announced that it has received the RBI approval for the appointment of Mr. Ittira Davis as its Managing Director & CEO for a period of one year.

Mr. Ittira Davis is a senior banker with over 40 years of rich experience having worked extensively in India, the Middle East, and Europe.

He has been associated with Ujjivan since March 2015. Ujjivan SBF Ltd is an Indian small finance bank based in Bangalore (formed in 2017).

28. Govt appoints Vikram Dev Dutt as Chairman, MD of Air India Limited

The Ministry of Civil Aviation appointed Vikram Dev Dutt as Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Limited.

On October 25, the government had signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

Of the 141 Air India aircraft that Tatas will get, 42 are leased planes, while the remaining 99 are owned. He will get the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

29. Lt Gen Manoj Pande appointed as next Army Vice Chief

The Government has approved the proposal for appointment of Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Pande as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff. General Pande would be the successor to Lt Gen CP Mohanty who is scheduled to superannuate on January 31.

During his 37 years of distinguished service, Pande has taken active part in Operation Vijay and Operation Parakram.

30. Dileep Sanghani elected as IFFCO chairman

Dileep Sanghani has been elected as chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO).

These elections were held due to the demise of incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai earlier on October 11, 2021.

The elected board of directors of IFFCO unanimously elected Dileep Sanghani as the 17th chairman of the Cooperative.

31. RBI gives nod to Vinod Rai's appointment as Independent Chairman of Unity SFB

Former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai's (from 2008 to 2013) appointment as the Independent Chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Sh. Rai served as the first Chairman of Banks Board Bureau, the body which advises the Centre on top-level appointments at public sector banks and ways to address bad loans. Unity SFB is a joint venture between Centrum Group and BharatPe.

32. Shashank Goel appointed as Additional Secretary in Labor and Employment Ministry

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shashank Goel, IAS of 90 batch as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Shailesh Kumar Singh, IAS of 91 batch has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

33. Raghuvendra Tanwar appointed chairman of ICHR

Professor emeritus, Kurukshetra University Raghuvendra Tanwar has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

His appointment is for a period of three years from the day he assumes office of the Chairman of the Council or until further order.

The primary aim and objective of the ICHR is to promote and give directions to historical research

34. Rajaram Narayanan appointed as MD & CEO of Sequent Scientific

Sequent Scientific has announced the appointment of Mr. Rajaram Narayanan as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD), succeeding Mr. Manish Gupta who has been its CEO & MD for the past eight years.

The appointment of Mr. Rajaram Narayanan will be effective from April 11, 2022, and shall remain in employment for a minimum of five years.

35. Cadila re-appoints Sharvil P Patel as MD for another five-year term

Cadila Healthcare has re-appointed Sharvil P Patel as Managing Director of the company for a period of five years with effect from April 1, 2022.

The company's board based on the subject to approval of the members of the company has approved the proposal to re-appoint Patel as the MD for a further period of five years till March 31, 2027.

36. Prajakta Koli becomes UNDP India's first youth climate champion

Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion under her partnership with the organisation.

The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.

37. Govt. appoints Vinodanand Jha as New Chairperson to PMLA Adjudicating Authority.

Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer has been appointed as the chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority located in the national capital.

Mr. Jha has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.

38. V Anantha Nageswaran Appointed India's Chief Economic Advisor

Dr Venkatraman Anantha Nageswaran has been appointed as the chief economic advisor following the resignation of Krishnamurthy Subramanian who has returned to academia.

Every year, the chief economic advisor presents the economic survey which is presented by the finance minister in Parliament just before the Union Budget. It is an annual document of the ministry.

39. Pushp Kumar Joshi to be new chairman and managing director of HPCL

Pushp Kumar Joshi has been picked by government headhunter PESB to be the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), the nation's third-largest oil refining and fuel marketing company.

Joshi, 58, has been on the board of HPCL for almost a decade now.

He will replace Mukesh Kumar Surana, who superannuates on April 30 this year.

40. LIC Chairman MR Kumar's term extended by one more year

LIC initial public offering (IPO), the Centre extended the term of the incumbent Chairman MR Kumar by one more year. This is expected to ensure continuity at leadership level and provide comfort to key institutional investors about stability at the Board level post the IPO and even if the proposed mega offering gets delayed beyond March 2022. The Centre also extended the tenure of Raj Kumar, Managing Director of LIC.



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Awards

1. Smriti Mandhana nominated for prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award

India women's team cricketer Smriti Mandhana was today nominated for the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award. With 855 runs in 22 internationals, at an average of 38.86 with one century and five half-centuries, the year gone by has seen the 25-year-old Mandhana touch new heights.

2. Sahitya Akademi Awards, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 announced

Author Namita Gokhale won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 in English for her novel 'Things to Leave Behind'; the award was given to 19 other authors in various languages. Published in 2016, in 'Things To Leave Behind' Gokhale explores the themes of British colonialism, caste and creed. Megha Majumdar won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 for her debut book 'A Burning',

3. South Indian Bank wins UiPath Automation Excellence awards 2021

The Kerala-based lender South Indian Bank has won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for Best Automation under Crisis for Business Continuity.

The award was bestowed upon the Bank for its exceptional use of Robotic Process Automation capabilities under difficult times for solving severe operational constraints, thereby ensuring business continuity. The UiPath Automation Excellence Awards aim to recognise the change-makers of automation.

4. Union Jal Shakti Minister announces 3rd National Water Awards

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced 3rd National Water Awards-2020. In the Best State category, Uttar Pradesh has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018. India with 18% of the world's population has only 4% of world's renewable water resources

5. Will Smith wins his first Golden Globe, takes accolade for 'Best Actor'

Will Smith took home his first Golden Globe Award. He won the Best Film Actor (Drama) for King Richard. The Power Of The Dog won the two biggest awards - Best Film (Drama) and Jane Campion won the Best Director. Nicole Kidman won her fifth Golden Globe for Best Film Actress (Drama) for Being The Ricardos.

6. Kerala Arts & Crafts Village wins international award

The Kerala Arts and Crafts Village near Kovalam has won the 2021 International Craft Award for the best craft village of the year.

The Kerala Arts and Crafts Village is an institution established by the Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society for the state tourism department.

Indians Amita Sachdeva and Mubarik Khatri have won the awards for master artisans award.

7. Forensic Science Laboratory wins SKOCH award for battling crime against children

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), New Delhi won SKOCH Award in Silver category for its work towards combating Crime and Violence against Children.

It was given on the 78th SKOCH Summit organised with theme of 'State of Governance'.

Deepa Verma, the Director of the Rohini-based lab, has accepted the award on behalf of the lab.

8. Golden Globes 2022: The full list of winners

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association revealed the winners for the 79th annual Golden Globe Awards.

Full list of winners of the Golden Globes 2022:

#Best Motion Picture ' Drama

The Power of the Dog

Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture ' Drama

Will Smith, King Richard

Best Director ' Motion Picture

Jane Campion, The Power of the Dog

9. NIRAMAI, InnAccel receive World Bank and Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards

These awards recognise innovative startups that leverage technology to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.

NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd was selected for its novel software-based medical device that detects early-stage breast cancer in a simple and private way on women of all age groups and breast densities.

10. Govt Launches Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar to Award Schools for Cleanliness, COVID Preparedness

Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar has launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 '2022. The SVP 2021-22 is open to all categories of schools i.e. government, government aided and private schools in both rural and urban areas. The schools can apply till March 2022 to apply for the awards. Schools will be awarded at the district, state and national level. The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar was first instituted in 2016-17.

11. Robert Lewandowski wins Best FIFA Men's Player 2021

Robert Lewandowski has been named the Best FIFA Men's Player for 2021, meaning the 33-year-old attacker has defended his title from last year. Lewandowski beat Lionel Messi of Paris Saint-Germain and Mohamed Salah of Liverpool to top spot.

Robert Lewandowski (Poland captain) has been crowned the Best FIFA Men's Player at the FIFA ceremony held in Zurich, Switzerland.

12. Pfizer chief Albert Bourla wins \$1 million Genesis Prize for development of COVID-19 vaccine

Albert Bourla, chairman and chief executive of global pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc., was awarded the prestigious Genesis Prize for his efforts in leading the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The \$1 million award is granted each year to a person for their professional achievements, contributions to humanity, and commitment to Jewish values. Pfizer's vaccine was the first to win U.S. approval for emergency use in December 2020

13. Mrs World 2022: Mrs America Shaylyn Ford win clinches the title

Mrs America, Shaylyn Ford, was crowned as 'Mrs World 2022' in the recently concluded beauty pageant. The finale of the beauty pageant was held in Nevada, Las Vegas. Mrs Jordan and Mrs UAE were declared as the runner ups, respectively.

Mrs UAE scripted history for becoming the first lady to represent the UAE at this beauty pageant.

14. Smriti Mandhana Named In ICC T20I Women's Team Of The Year, No Indian In The Men's Side

Star India opener Smriti Mandhana has named in the ICC T20 women's Team of the Year for her superlative show in the format in 2021 but no Indian made the men's side.

The stylish Southpaw, who is the Indian team's vice-captain in the format, was the country's highest scorer in the format in 2021 with 255 runs at an average of 31.87.

15. President's Horse Virat Awarded For Selfless Service; First Parade Horse To Be Awarded

Virat, a horse living in the President's security unit received a Chief of Army Staff commendation card, scripting history as he becomes the first parade horse of the regiment to be awarded this card.

The horse named Virat has a distinction of escorting former Presidents of India as well as current president Ramnath Kovind with grace and dignity for over the past 13 years. Virat has been awarded for his selfless and outstanding service.

16. Shaheen Afridi wins Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Player of 2021

Pakistan's left-arm seamer Shaheen Afridi has won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year for 2021. Afridi had an unforgettable 2021, claiming a total of 78 wickets in 36 international matches at an average of 22.20.

The award is given to the best overall performer in men's international cricket in a year. He claimed seven wickets in six games as the former champions reached the semi-finals.

17. Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year

Smriti Mandhana has won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy for being the ICC's Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

She becomes only the second player, after Australia allrounder Ellyse Perry, to win the highest individual distinction in the women's overall category of the annual ICC awards more than once.

18. 29 children conferred Bal Puraskar award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBR) award to 29 children from across the country ahead of Republic Day. The children received digital certificates through the blockchain technology ' the first time that the technology has been used in conferring awards by the government ' and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each.

19. India's Koozhangal wins best film award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival

During the recently concluded 20th Dhaka International Film Festival in Dhaka, Indian movie Koozhangal won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category. The film was helmed by P S Vinothraj.

Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films during the concluding session of the film festival.

20. Former Prime Minister Of Japan Shinzo Abe Honoured With Netaji Award 2022

Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by the Netaji Research Bureau on the 125th birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter.

Consul general of Japan in Kolkata, Nakamura Yutaka, received the honour on behalf of Abe at a function organised by the bureau at the Elgin Road residence.

21. Padma Awards 2022 announced

Gen Bipin Rawat, former UP CM Kalyan Singh, Hindustani Classical vocalist Prabha Atre and Radheshyam Khemka of Gita Press have been named for the Padma Vibhushan. Apart from Rawat, Singh and Khemka have been conferred the award posthumously.

A total of four Padma Vibhushans, 17 Padma Bhushans and 107 Padma Shri awards have been conferred this year.

Please find the link to entire list in the 'Detailed Content' section.

22. Suriya's Jai Bhim, Mohanlal's Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham shortlisted for the 94th Academy Awards

Tamil legal drama Jai Bhim and Malayalam actioner Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham have found a place in the shortlist of 276 films which are in contention to get nominated at the 94th Academy Awards.

Directors Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh's Writing with Fire, a film about a newspaper run by Dalit women, has been shortlisted in the Best Documentary Feature category. Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham won three National Awards.

23. Friendship Hospital in Bangladesh wins the RIBA International Prize 2021

Friendship Hospital, designed by architect Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury and his studio URBANA in Bangladesh, is the winner of the RIBA International Prize 2021.

The RIBA International Emerging Architect 2021 is awarded to Hooba Design Group for the Kohan Ceram Central Office Building in Iran. The RIBA International Prize is awarded every two years,



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Ranks & Reports

1. As per the report by Compare the market, Hyundai still remains the most loved car in India.

As per the annual report, the South Korean auto major Hyundai was the most searched brand in India. World over, people chose Toyota followed by Tesla. 2021 was the post-covid-19 breakout year and the year which also saw the semiconductor shortages hampering the production and sales of cars around the world. Toyota was overall the most searched car brand in 2021.

2. Indian passport becomes 83rd most powerful globally in 2022, up from 90th rank

The power of the Indian passport has improved, with the country climbing seven places to rank in 83rd place in the Henley Passport Index, up from the 90th position in previous year's rankings.

The Henley Global Mobility Report 2022 Q1, published quarterly by global immigration consultant firm Henley & Partners, It shows that the Indian passport now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide.

3. Forest Survey report 2021 released; increase of 2,261 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country in last two years.

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav released the 'India State of Forest Report 2021, prepared by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country.

4. 17th 'Global Risks Report 2022' released

The World Economic Forum has released The Global Risks Report 2022, with one of its seven chapters dedicated to space, entitled "Crowding and Competition in Space."

It examines risks across five categories: economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological.

5. RBI releases Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2020-21

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21. As per the report, the volume of complaints received was increased by 22.27% on an annualized basis.

The overall disposal rate improved from 92.52 per cent to 96.59 per cent, despite the higher volume of complaints received.

6. Global unemployment projected to stand at 207 million in 2022: ILO

Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022. This is 21 million more than in 2019 before the novel coronavirus disease pandemic began, according to the ILO World Employment and Social Outlook 'Trends 2022. Global working hours in 2022 will be almost 2% below their pre-pandemic level' that is equivalent to the loss of 52 million full time jobs.

7. RBI: Digital payments up 39.6% in Sept 2021

The RBI's Digital Payment Index, which shows the deepening of payments through digital modes in India, rose by 39.64 per cent to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month.

Constructed with March 2018 as the base period 'DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100' the RBI-DPI was 173.49 in September 2019.

8. FDI flows to India slip 26% in 2021: UN report

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India in 2021 were 26 per cent lower, mainly because large Mergers and Acquisitions deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated.

FDI reaching an estimated USD 777 billion in 2021 - three times the exceptionally low level in 2020.

India received USD 64 billion in foreign direct investment in 2020, the fifth-largest recipient of inflows.

9. India ranks 85 in Transparency International's corruption index

India's rank improved one place to 85 among 180 countries

The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, on a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

Among those with weak scores are: China (45) and India (40), Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26).

Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.

10. TCS, Infosys rank among the most valuable IT services brands globally

India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the second largest firm Infosys have been named among the most valuable IT services brands globally, according to a report by brand valuation firm Brand Finance. The Ireland-headquartered IT firm Accenture, however, has retained its leading position valued at \$36.2 billion. The two Indian technology powerhouses knocked out IBM ' popularly known as the Big Blue.

11. Apple Retains Most Valuable Brand Title in 2022 : Report of Brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance

Apple has retained the title of the world's most valuable brand in 2022, with a valuation of a whopping \$355.1 billion, according to a report.

Following Apple, Amazon and Google have been named among the top-three most valuable brands in the year. TikTok, on the other hand, has emerged as the world's fastest-growing brand, with its valuation increasing 215% in 2022.

12. Maharashtra has highest number of SC entrepreneurs

Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of MSMEs owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises.

Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises & Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME. The fourth, fifth and sixth slots belong to Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab.



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Important Days

1. DRDO celebrates its 64th foundation day today

Defence Research and Development Organisation is celebrating its 64th foundation day. It was on this day (Jan1st) in 1958 when DRDO was formed to make India strong and self-reliant in terms of science and technology and especially in military technologies. In the span of 63 years the organization has transformed the landscape of defence research and in the country. Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is the chairman of DRDO

2. World Braille Day: January 4

Commemorating the birth anniversary of the inventor of the Braille system, Louis Braille, and remembering his contribution towards the welfare of visually impaired people, January 4 is observed as the World Braille Day.

World Braille Day was formed in 2019 by the United Nations General Assembly.

3. World Day of War Orphans: January 6

Every year on January 6, the World Day of War Orphans is recognized.

The World Day of War Orphans 2022 reminds the world that caring for children in awful conditions is a duty, particularly in the face of a pandemic.

The French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses founded the World Day of War Orphans.

4. Birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh being celebrated as Prakash Parv

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is celebrated every year to mark birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. This year, it falls on 9 January 2022. The auspicious occasion is also known as Prakash Parv.

Guru Gobind Singh was a great warrior who also founded the Khalsa tradition in 1699. He was extremely popular for standing up against oppression in society.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji declared Guru Granth Sahib as Sikhism's holy scripture in 1708.

5. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2022: January 9th

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day is celebrated to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.

It is celebrated every two years on 09 January.

The date, 09 January, was selected to mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915. First Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated on 9 January 2003.

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that December 26 shall henceforth be marked as 'Veer Baal Divas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that December 26 shall henceforth be marked as 'Veer Baal Divas' to pay homage to the courage of the 'Sahibzades', four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the last Sikh guru. While all four were martyred, the date has been chosen as it was the day observed as the martyrdom day of the Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.

7. National Youth Day 2022 | marked on January 12

The birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is celebrated across India as National Youth Day, to honour one of the greatest philosophers and spiritual leaders.

The decision to celebrate Vivekananda's birthday as National Youth Day was taken in 1984, and it was first marked on January 12, 1985.

8. Indian Army Day 2022: January 15

India celebrates Army Day with tremendous zeal on January 15. It commemorates Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa (K. M. Cariappa), who'd been the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.

Every year, the day is marked by conducting a military parade and many other martial displays at Delhi Cantonment's Cariappa Parade Ground. We will mark the 74th Indian Army Day with almost the same pride, zeal & passion in 2022.

9. PM Modi announces January 16 as 'National Startup day'

The country will celebrate January 16 as National Startup Day.

In 2021, India granted 28,000 patents compared to 4,000 in 2013-14, while 2.5 lakh trademarks were registered in 2020-21 compared to 70,000 in 2013-14, a government statement revealed.

Noting that 42 unicorns-startups valued at over \$ 1 billion-- came up in India last year

10. MoHUA launches 'Open Data Week' to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation by smart cities

With an aim to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the initiation of the Open Data Week from 17 January to 21 January.

The Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives, leading up to the 'Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference.

11. Tripura celebrates 44th Kokborok day | 19 January

Tripura has observed the anniversary of the recognition of Kokborok dialect as an official language of the state with a series of programs and colourful events.

Kokborok was recognised as an official language in 1979 but still it is not included in the 8th schedule. The activities include cultural programmes and literary activities.

12. International Day of Education : January 24

International Day of Education 2022 will be celebrated on January 24. Every year, this day is marked with various events to discuss and understand the role of education in building a sustainable and peaceful world.

The United Nations initiated the commemoration of International Day of Education at the UN General Assembly on December 3, 2018.

13. National Girl Child Day: January 24

Ever since 2008, the date of January 24 is celebrated as the National Girl Child Day in India every year.

The celebrations across the country are led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

This year, Ministry of Culture is organising an event called 'Umang Rangoli Utsav', as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

14. National Voters' Day : January 25

The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on January 25 to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.

The theme for this year's National Voters' Day is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.

15. National Tourism Day : January 25

National Tourism Day is celebrated on January 25 every year across the country.

This day is observed by the government to encourage tourism and explain the essential role of tourism in the growth of the country.

This year's theme for National Tourism Day is 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'.

16. Nation celebrates 73rd Republic Day

India marks January 26 as its Republic Day every year. In 2022, the country is celebrating its 73rd Republic Day.

While India gained independence from the British Raj in 1947, it wasn't until January 26, 1950, that the Indian Constitution came into effect, and India became a sovereign state, declaring it a republic. The celebrations this year are special as it falls on the 75th year of Independence.

17. International Customs Day : January 26

Instituted by the World Customs Organization (WCO), International Customs Day is held on January 26, which commemorates the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium.

In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO) and today custom organizations from 179 countries are WCO members.

18. Martyrs' Day / Shaheed Diwas: 30th January

Martyrs' Day is observed every year on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of the father of the nation Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was assassinated on this day in 1948.

In India, Shaheed Diwas is mainly observed on two days -- 30th January and 23rd March. On both days people pay homage to the freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives for their motherland.

19. World Leprosy Day: 30th January

World Leprosy Day takes place on the last Sunday of January worldwide to raise awareness about leprosy (Hansen's disease) and teach people about it. In India, World Leprosy Day is celebrated on 30 January, the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death.

The theme for World Leprosy Day 2022 is 'United for Dignity'.



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Summit & Conferences

1. National Conference on e-Governance to be held in Hyderabad

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), in association with the state government of Telangana will organise the 24th national conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21 in Hyderabad.

The theme of this conference is 'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World'.

2. 'Hyderabad Declaration' adopted for revolution in digital services

A 'Hyderabad Declaration' resolving to use tech to minimize human interaction for delivery of services at grass root-level was adopted by the centre and Telangana government.

The resolution came out at the 24th conference on e-governance was held with collaboration of the union government's Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Telangana government. The theme of Conference is 'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World'.

3. PM Narendra Modi addressed World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda via video conferencing.

During the address the PM proposed the a 'P-3' approach. The P-3 approach stands for "pro-planet people.

The three main areas of concern at the summit are Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic and Social Resilience.

4. PM Narendra Modi to host first meeting of India-Central Asia Summit

Prime Minister will be hosting the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit in a virtual format. Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will be participating in the meeting.

The summit is a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's extended neighbourhood.

5. India, ASEAN approve digital work plan to combat use of stolen mobile handsets

India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 was approved in the 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers meeting.

India and ASEAN nations have jointly approved a work plan under which they will develop a system to combat the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, among other things.

The meeting was co-chaired by ministers from India and Myanmar.

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Science & Technology

1. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) opens 'Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022'

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the opening of Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem. The Challenge has been designed to promote Geospatial Policy and to make India a Geospatial enabled nation. It is organized with select Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality GIS dataset

2. Russia test-fires new hypersonic Tsirkon missiles from frigate, submarine

The Project 22350, Admiral Gorshkov, successfully conducted a series of tests of the hypersonic Zircon missile, a total of about 10 launches.

Russia had confirmed that the military successfully fired a simultaneous salvo of its Zircon hypersonic missiles. Russia has carried out a number of successful tests of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile.

3. New covid variant 'IHU' discovered in France

A new variant of Covid-19 has emerged in France recently.

Named IHU, the B.1.640.2 variant was discovered by the academics at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection.

According to the researchers, the new variant contains 46 mutations ' even more than Omicron.

The B.1.640.2 has not been reported in any other country or labelled a variant under investigation by WHO.

4. Tata's COVID Test Kit 'OmiSure' to detect Omicron variant gets ICMR nod; priced at Rs 250

Mumbai based, The Tata Medical and Diagnostics has developed a kit 'OmiSure' that can detect the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The kit will identify infection from Omicron variant and will be available by January 12. The kit is priced at Rs 250.

Apart from identifying the B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant, the kit can also detect any other circulating SARS-CoV-2 variant.

5. Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Kalpana Chawla Centre For Research In Space Science And Technology At Chandigarh University

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science and Technology (KCCRSST) at Chandigarh University.

He also launched a Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 crore, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three Services.

It is established with the objective of training students in space science and satellite development. Kalpana Chawla was the first woman of Indian origin to go to space.

6. The first successful pig-to-human heart transplant has been performed

A US man has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically-modified pig.

David Bennett, 57, is doing well three days after the experimental seven-hour procedure in Baltimore. The possibility of using animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation to meet the demand has long been considered, and using pig heart valves is already common.

7. ISRO successfully conducts qualification tests of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted qualification tests of the Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan human space programme. The ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu conducted the test for 720 seconds duration yesterday and met the test objectives. ISRO Chairman: K Sivan ISRO HQ: Bengaluru

8. South Africa Launches 1st 'made In Africa' Satellites Under SpaceX's Transporter-3 Mission

South Africa has launched its first satellite constellation developed entirely in the continent of Africa. Three locally produced nanosatellites, which made up the country's first Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation, were launched from Cape Canaveral in the United States, as part of American aerospace company SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission.

9. Research says India sold around 75 million strips of Dolo 650 since Covid

According to statistics from the research firm IQVIA, India sold around 75 million strips of Dolo pills since the onset of the pandemic. The annual sales increased to 94 million strips or 1.4 billion tablets. By November 2021, it had risen to 145 million strips (twice as much as in 2019) or 2.2 billion tablets.

10. CSIR-CDRI Scientists Have Developed an Indigenous RT-PCR Kit Called "Om" (INDICoV-Om) for Omicron

CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, 'Om', for the testing of Omicron variant of coronavirus.

It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron. Currently, two more such kits developed by private players are available in the market. The kit will give test result in around two hours.

11. NASA offers \$1 million for innovative ideas to feed astronauts in 'Deep Space Food Challenge'

In October 2021, Phase 1 of the challenge culminated as NASA awarded 18 teams a total of \$450,000 for their concepts for innovative food production technology that produces safe, acceptable, palatable, nutritious food

products.

NASA now invites both new and existing teams to enter Phase 2 for a prize purse up to \$1 million. NASA launched the 'Deep Space Food Challenge' with Canadian Space Agency.

12. Facebook-Parent Meta Creates AI Research SuperCluster Supercomputer, Touted to Be World's Fastest

Meta Platforms Inc. announced that its research team built a new artificial intelligence supercomputer that the company maintains will soon be the fastest in the world.

By mid-summer, when the AI Research SuperCluster is fully built, it will house some 16,000 GPUs, becoming the fastest AI supercomputer in the world.

13. All 695 Railway Hospitals Integrated With Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

The Indian Railways integrated its 695 hospitals and care centres with the 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' (ABDM), according to the Union Health Ministry.

This was done under RailTel's collaboration with the National Health Authority (NHA), which aims to create a National Digital Health Eco-system by implementing the ABDM.



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Defence

1. Exercise Milan 2022: India to host 46 nations in mega naval wargames

India has invited a total of 46 friendly foreign countries to participate in the multinational naval exercise Milan in Visakhapatnam, scheduled from February 25, 2022.

The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration.

Initiated in 1995, Exercise Milan is held biennially and conducted with friendly navies.

2. DRDO successfully flight tests final deliverable configuration of Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile

In a big boost to the armed forces, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight, fire and forget missile and is launched from a man portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight.

3. Indian Naval Ships undertake Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force Ships

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal.

The Maritime Partnership Exercise included a wide range of maritime operations viz. Flying Operations, Replenishment Approaches and Tactical Manoeuvres.

4. India successfully test fires sea-to-sea variant of BrahMos Cruise Missile

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise.

The missile was launched from the Indian Navy destroyer INS Vishakhapatnam off the Western coast.

The sea to sea variant of the missile was test fired at the maximum range and hit the target ship with pinpoint accuracy.

5. In a first, India to export Brahmos missiles to the Philippines under \$374 million deal

The Philippines has approved BrahMos Aerospace's proposal worth \$374 million for the sale of shore-based anti-ship missile system to the island nation's Navy.

BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos' that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.

The BrahMos order is the first major military export by India.

6. Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal launched to redress pension grievances of ESM

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched three new initiatives for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans' Day.

MoD has launched a dedicated Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal designed to speedily redress pension, including family pension-related grievances of ESM and their dependents.

7. Indian Navy's indigenous INS Kochi takes part in joint exercise with Russian warships

INS Kochi, the Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, has conducted a joint exercise with ships of the Russian Navy in the Arabian sea.

The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.

8. Indian Navy in partnership with the Japanese Navy conducts a maritime exercise in the Bay of Bengal

The navies of India and Japan carried out maritime exercises in the Bay of Bengal to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries.

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal.

9. India selects Swedish defence company Saab's AT4 as its new single-shot weapon

The Indian Armed Forces have selected Saab's AT4 as their new single-shot weapon.

Saab has been awarded a contract for providing AT4 single-shot support weapons to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

The AT4 was selected by the Indian Armed Forces following a competitive programme.

The Indian Armed Forces already operate Saab's Carl-Gustaf multi-purpose weapon system.

10. Indian Navy conducts 20-day joint maritime exercise at Arabian Sea

The Indian Navy conducted a 20-day joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar at the Arabian Sea to 'validate operational plans' of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard.

The exercise was conducted under the aegis of FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command.

11. Russia, Iran & China to Hold Joint Military Exercise In Persian Gulf

Iran, Russia, & China, began the 2022 Marine Security Belt naval drills in the northern Indian Ocean, as the Chinese Navy sends the destroyer Urumqi to the Gulf of Oman to participate in the CHIRU-2Q22 joint drills.

The drill, will be staged in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean, will involve forces from the marine & airborne units of the Iranian Navy.

12. Indian Navy conducts workshop on artificial intelligence in Jamnagar

The Indian Navy conducted a three-day-long virtual workshop at Indian naval station (INS) Valsura in Jamnagar of Gujarat on leveraging artificial intelligence.

The workshop, which was conducted under the aegis of southern naval command.

The Indian Navy is focused on incorporation of artificial intelligence and machine learning in critical mission areas.

13. Decommissioned INS Khukri to be converted into museum

The Indian Navy handed INS Khukri, the reincarnation of the warship of the same name which had played a key role in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, to the Union Territory of Diu for public display and to be converted into a museum.

It was decommissioned last month after 32 years of service.

14. Navy inducts two indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters ALH-DHRUV MK III in the fleet of Andaman Nicobar Command(ANC)

The Advanced Light Helicopter, ALH MK III designed & developed by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited, HAL is inducted into ANC's fleet after two decades.

Equipped with twin powerful shakti engines, modern radar, electro-optical sensors, etc is capable to carry out missions day & night with max 14 soldiers.

15. India, Philippines signs 375 million dollar deal for the sale of BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles

India and Philippines signed a 375 million dollar deal for the sale of BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles to the Philippines Navy.

Defense Secretary of Philippines Delfin Lorenzana and Indian Envoy to Philippines Shambhu Kumaran signed the contract in Manila.

The development is a major shot in the arm for India's efforts to become an exporter of defence hardware. BrahMos Aerospace is India-Russian joint venture that produces supersonic cruise missiles



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Books & Authors

1. New biography of Subhas Chandra Bose with untold stories to release in February 2022

A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist' is all set to release in February.

The biography is authored by researcher and founder of 'Mission Netaji' Chandrachur Ghose and published by Penguin Random House India under its Viking imprint.

2. Indomitable spirit: A glimpse into the life and career of ex-SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya

Former State Bank of India (SBI) Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya turned author with her autobiography - 'Indomitable - A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership'.

Published by HarperCollins India, the book tracks the life and career of the 65-year-old banker, who broke the glass ceiling and stood out in a male-dominated industry.

3. Book 'Operation Khatma' released, a thriller on 1996 Hazratbal shrine occupation by JKLK

After Indian Army's Surgical Strike across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in September 2016, there was a similar strike, although on a lesser scale, to target terrorists within the Kashmir Valley. Narrating the story about this strike is a new book 'Operation Khatma'.

The book is eyewitness account by two journalists- R C Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar

4. 'A Little Book of India' by Ruskin Bond

The grand old storyteller from the hills has returned with yet another 'Little Book' and this time, it is a more personal take on India ' the country which has been his home for 84 years.

Published by Penguin Books, in A Little Book of India, Ruskin Bond takes inspiration from his own experiences and pens down an ode to the country's heritage and diversity.

5. "The \$10 Trillion Dream" debut book by former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg

"The \$10 Trillion Dream" claims to explore the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s.

The book, scheduled to release towards the end of next month, is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

6. MoS Culture Meenakshi Lekhi releases pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'

Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has released the pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' in New Delhi.

The book has been prepared by the Culture Ministry in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.

The book portrays the tales of valour of our forgotten women freedom fighters. It contains stories of queens who battled imperialism & dedicated lives for Maa Bharati



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Obituary

1. Indian Navy's 1971 war veteran Vice Admiral S H Sarma dies

The Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran Vice Admiral S H Sarma passed away in Bhubaneswar. Sarma, who turned 99 last December, was the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet during the 1971 war.

India had defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war leading to the creation of Bangladesh. He is also served as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command.

2. Rotomac owner Vikram Kothari passes away in Kanpur at the age of 73

Vikram Kothari, managing director of Rotomac Group, passed away in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur. Kothari, who owns the Dum Pan Masala, had started another company by launching Rotomac Pen in 1995.

In the year 1997, he was awarded as the best exporter by the Prime Minister. His Rotomac company's worth in next 10 years (1995-2005) rose to Rs 100 crore.

3. Sindhutai Sapkal, 'mom to thousands of orphans', passes away

Legendary social worker Sindhutai Sapkal - who is known for her work in raising orphaned children - passed away. Sindhutai was 73.

She passed away in the Galaxy Hospital in Pune. In 2021, she was conferred with the coveted Padma Shri honour.

Sindhutai devoted herself to orphans.

She is fondly called "mai", which means "mother".

4. Centenarian freedom fighter Ayyappan Pillai passes away

Veteran freedom fighter, eminent lawyer and one of the early leaders of the BJP in Kerala, K Ayyappan Pillai passed away in the city at the age of 107 years.

Pillai was one of the senior most members of the bar associations in the country.

The centenarian was also the one of the first councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.

5. Sidney Poitier, first black man to win Best Actor Oscar, dies

Bahamian-American actor Sidney Poitier, who won an Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964, has died at the age of 94.

In 1963, Poitier had made a film in Arizona, Lilies of the Field. The performance led to a huge milestone making him the first black winner of a lead-acting Oscar.

He was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work.

6. Kannada writer 'Champa' passes away

Prominent Kannada writer Chandrashekhara Patil, popularly known as 'Champa', passed away at the age of 82.

Champa was a Kannada language activist, a poet and a playwright and also served as President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) and Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority.

7. Olympic medalist Deon Lendore dies aged 29

Deon Lendore, an Olympic and world championship medalist from Trinidad and Tobago, died in a car accident in Texas.

He was 29.

According to Texas A&M University, for whom Lendore had worked as a volunteer assistant coach over the past two seasons, the sprinter was returning home from practice when he was involved in an automobile accident.

8. European Parliament President David Sassoli dies aged 65 in Italy

Sassoli, 65, was first elected at the European Parliament in 2009. He won another term in 2014 and served as the Parliament's vice president. He had decided not to run for reelection when lawmakers vote to appoint their new president later this month.

The European Parliament, headquartered in Strasbourg, France, represents the 450 million citizens of the European Union. It refers to itself as the heart of European democracy.

9. Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away at 83

Kathak legend Pandit Birju Maharaj died at his home in Delhi.

A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, Brajmohan Maharaj, or Birju Maharaj was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers. He trained under his father and guru Acchan Maharaj and uncles Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj.

10. Former Japanese PM Toshiki Kaifu passes away

Former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who worked on political reform after the so-called Recruit stock-for-favors scandal in the 1980s.

He was 91 years old.

After the Gulf War, the Japanese Self-Defense Force were deployed to the Gulf region to conduct minesweeping operations during Kaifu's term of office.

11. Renowned Bengali theatre personality Saoli Mitra dies at 73

After a life replete with remarkable performances on stage, theatre personality Saoli Mitra passed on, away from the public eye. Much like her father, the legendary Sambhu Mitra.

She had acted in Ritwik Ghatak's avant garde film Jukti Takko aar Gappo in 1974.

12. Renowned social worker and Padma Shri Shanti Devi passes away

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri Shanti Devi passed away.

Shanti Devi, received the prestigious Padma Shri award from President Ram Nath Kovind on November 9, 2021. She was known for her dedication towards the underprivileged community and restoring peace in the Maoist-affected areas in Odisha.

13. Major Ahluwalia, spine institute founder and mountaineer, dies at 85

Founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), professional mountaineer, and Padma Shri recipient ' Major HPS Ahluwalia donned many hats. He passed away at the age of 85. At the age of 26, Major Ahluwalia was part of the first Indian expedition to summit Mount Everest in 1965.

14. Eminent archaeologist R Nagaswamy passes away

Renowned archaeologist, art historian and Padma Bhushan awardee R Nagaswamy, who was the first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology died.

He was 91.

Nagaswamy was an expert witness in a London court in the famous Pathur Nataraja case and played a key role in bringing back the Chola-era bronze Nataraja to Tamil Nadu.

15. Noted Kathakali Dancer & Padma Shri Recipient Milena Salvini Of France Passes Away

Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini of France passed away.

Italian-born Salvini was a regular visitor to India, especially Kerala where she learnt Kathakali, and ran 'Centre Mandapa', a school for Indian dance forms, in Paris.

The Government of India conferred the Padma Shri award on Salvini in 2019 for her contribution in the field of performing arts.

16. Legendary Indian Hockey Player Charanjit Singh Dies

Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, died in Una, Himachal Pradesh after suffering a cardiac arrest that followed prolonged age-related illnesses.

The former mid-fielder was 90 and would have turned a year older next month.

Charanjit suffered a stroke five years back and was paralysed since then.

17. Social worker and Padma Shri awardee Baba Iqbal Singh passes away

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee Baba Iqbal Singh, in-charge of the Kalgidhar Trust, died at the age of 96 years.

He had started his journey of service towards humanity following in the footsteps of his mentor Sant Attar Singh Maharaj.

He is also remembered for his efforts to increase education among youngsters.

Person in news

1. Ex-UK PM Tony Blair now 'Sir Tony', joins top royal order

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Duchess of Cornwall, and Baroness Amos are to be appointed as members of the Order of the Garter, England's oldest and most senior order of chivalry. The former prime minister now will be known as 'Sir Tony'.

The appointments are the personal choice of the Queen, who has up to 24 "knight and lady companions".

2. Joshna Chinappa back in top-10 of PSA world rankings

India's leading squash player Joshna Chinappa has returned to the top-10 of PSA world rankings. The 35-year-old reached a career-high 10th place for the first time in 2016.

She has returned to the elite club of players in 10th position.

Saurav Ghosal has dropped a spot to be 16th in the men's rankings.

3. Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes first Indian-origin woman to trek solo to South Pole

British-born Sikh army officer Preet Chandi has become the first woman of color to complete a solo expedition to the South Pole.

Chandi, who has spent the past few months skiing solo and unsupported across Antarctica.

Chandi, who adopted the nickname "Polar Preet" for her blog and fundraising efforts, spent two and a half years preparing for the grueling expedition.

4. Bank of Baroda signs cricketer Shafali Verma as brand endorser

State-owned Bank of Baroda has signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser.

Shafali has created various records, one of which is when she became the youngest woman cricketer to play for India in her debut game against South Africa.

The Bank has a digital-first policy to attract the youth and provide them a seamless banking experience at their fingertips. Sanjiv Chadha: - managing director and chief executive of Bank of Baroda

5. Google doodle honours educator Fatima Sheikh on her 191st birth anniversary

Google on January 9, 2022, honoured educator and social reformer Fatima Sheikh, on her 191st birth anniversary with a doodle on their homepage. Fatima Sheikh is regarded to be 'India's first Muslim woman teacher,' played an instrumental part in co-founding the Indigenous Library alongside Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule in 1848. Sheikh took an active role in Phules' Satyashodhak Samaj (Truthseekers' Society) movement

6. Bharath Subramaniam becomes India's 73rd Chess GM

Fourteen-year-old Bharat Subramaniam became India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster, achieving the third and final GM norm at an event in Italy.

He got his third GM benchmark here and also touched the expected 2,500 (Elo) mark.

Mitrabha Guha became the 72nd GM of the country last November, two days after Sankalp Gupta became the 71st GM.

7. Asia Cup: Goalkeeper Savita Punia named captain of India Women's Hockey team

Goalkeeper Savita will lead India at the upcoming women's Asia Cup in Muscat as Hockey India named a strong 18-member squad for the event, including 16 players that featured at the Tokyo Olympics.

Since regular skipper Rani Rampal is recovering from an injury in Bengaluru, Savita will lead the side in the tournament, which is scheduled to be held between January 21-28.

8. Former West Indies captain Lloyd receives knighthood

Legendary West Indies captain Clive Lloyd was knighted by the British Royal Federation.

Lloyd the former two-time World Cup-winning captain was honoured with a CBEs (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for his services to the sport of cricket.

The Guyana-born batsman played for the English County cricket club of Lancashire between 1968 until 1986.

9. Under-19 girls' singles badminton: Tasnim Mir becomes first Indian to rank No.1 in the world

Tasnim Mir, a junior category shuttler, has become the world's number-1 badminton player in the women's singles category of Under-19.

Tasnim has become the first junior female player from India to achieve this feat. When the junior world rankings started in 2011, Saina was not eligible, while Sindhu has been the world number-2 player. 16-year-old badminton star Tasnim Mir from Mehsana, Gujarat

10. Jahnvi Dangeti becomes first Indian to complete prestigious Nasa programme

Jahnvi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP) at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US, making her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.

She is part of a carefully shortlisted group of 20 students from around the world.

11. Indian-origin scientist, Dr Sriram Subramaniam among UBC researchers unveil world's 1st molecular-level analysis of Omicron

A team of researchers, has become the first in the world to conduct a molecular-level structural analysis of the Omicron spike protein.

The findings show strong antibody evasion and binding with human cells that contribute to increased transmissibility, and that vaccination remains the best defence, the university said.

Spike protein helps the virus enter and infect cells. Omicron was first identified in South Africa and Botswana in November 2021.

12. Para-athlete Kamalakanta Nayak clocks 213 km in 24 hours in wheelchair marathon, sets record

Para-athlete Kamalakanta Nayak entered the Guinness Book of World Records by covering 213 km in 24 hours on his manual wheelchair. A resident of Puri district, Kamalakanta started his marathon from the Master Canteen Square to Rajmahal Square Cycle Track point.

Earlier, the highest distance covered by wheelchair in 24 hours was 182.4 km by Mario Trindade of Portugal in 2007

13. GoodDot ropes in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador

Plant-based meat company GoodDot has roped in Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador.

With this association, the company wants to create awareness about the new category of plant-based meats.

It also wants to send out a message that small changes in lifestyle and food choices can go a long way in making the world a better place.

Abhishek Sinha: Co-founder, and CEO, GoodDot

14. Mohammad Rizwan and Tammy Beaumont are ICC's T20I cricketers of the year

Mohammad Rizwan and Tammy Beaumont have been named the ICC men's and women's T20I Cricketers of the Year for 2021, respectively.

Oman's captain Zeeshan Maqsood, meanwhile, was named the ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year.

The Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year award has gone to Austria's Andrea-Mae Zepeda.



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Insurance

1. LIC 'Digi Zone' inaugurated in Mumbai

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has inaugurated 'LIC Digi Zone' at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, to enhance its sales and services for its customers.

The Corporation will offer information regarding its products and services through kiosks installed in the Digi Zone premises.

Customers can buy policies online, pay premium and avail other services. LIC chairman:- M R Kumar.

2. IRDAI reduces obligatory cession of premiums to GIC Re to 4% from FY23

The insurance regulator has lowered the obligatory cession of sum insured on each general insurance policy that is to be reinsured with state-owned reinsurer GIC Re to 4 per cent, beginning financial year 2022-23 (FY23), from 5 per cent earlier.

The move could result in GIC Re losing about Rs 1,500-2,000 crore of premiums, said industry experts.



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India & World

1. Anupam Ray to become India's new ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament

Senior diplomat Anupam Ray has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi. Ray will succeed Pankaj Sharma. Mrs. Tatiana Valovaya is the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament

2. India joins Quad partners, Japan and South Korea for Sea Dragon exercise

Sea Dragon is a US-led multi-national exercise designed to practice and discuss Anti-submarine warfare tactics to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. India and its partners in the Quad along with Canada and South Korea are participating in the multinational exercise Sea Dragon at Guam.

3. Cabinet approves India-Nepal MoU for bridge construction over Mahakali River

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Nepal for the construction of a bridge over Mahakali River at Dharchula (India) - Dharchula (Nepal). The Cabinet also approved the signing of an agreement between India and Spain on "Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters". Sharda River, also called Kali River/ Mahakali River, originates at Kalapani in Himalayas

4. Special logo released to mark 70 years of India, Japan diplomatic ties

India released a special logo to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan. The logo released to mark the occasion depicts a Peacock and a Green Pheasant, which are national birds of India and Japan respectively. The Green Pheasant forms the numeral 7 with its tail and the Peacock forms the numeral 0. India has been the top recipient of the Japanese government's financial aid since 2003.

5. World Bank approves Rs 1000 cr loan to help people get West Bengal govt services

According to a statement released by the state government, the loan will help the administration improve services such as medical help through telemedicine, support for the elderly and differently-abled, financial inclusion of citizens with digital payments and disbursement of benefits for public schemes.

6. India, Israel launch commemorative logo to mark 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.

The winning design created by an Indian student, Nikhil Kumar Rai, was chosen through a joint decision of the Embassies and Consulates from both countries.



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Environment

1. Govt introduces penalty regime for non-compliance of fly ash utilisation

Prohibiting dumping and disposal of fly ash discharged from coal or lignite based thermal power plants on land or into water bodies, the Centre has made it mandatory for such plants to ensure 100% utilization of ash in an eco-friendly manner, and introduced for the first time a penalty regime for non-compliance based on 'polluter pays' principle.

2. Scientists explore Thwaites, Antarctica's 'doomsday' glacier

A team of scientists are sailing to "the place in the world that's the hardest to get to" so they can figure out how much and how fast seas will rise because of global warming eating away at Antarctica's ice. The Florida-sized glacier has gotten the nickname the "doomsday glacier" because of how much ice it has and how much seas could rise if it all melts over the time. Global mean sea level has risen about 8'9 inches (21'24 centimeters) since 1880.

3. Shockwave from Tonga volcanic eruption recorded in Chennai

A violent eruption of an underwater volcano in Polynesian kingdom Tonga (South Pacific island) has spread shock waves around the world.

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apaii volcano has erupted regularly over the past few decades. During events in 2009 and 2014/15 hot jets of magma and steam exploded through the waves.

This volcano is known as a subduction volcano. Tonga - Capital: Nuku'alofa; Currency: Tongan paanga

4. Scientists name new species of rainfrog after Greta Thunberg

A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, has been named after Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg. The species has been named as *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, or popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog. The frog was originally discovered in 2012, and was thought to be part of already categorised *Pristimantis* family.

5. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in TN wins TX2 Award for doubling tiger population

The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu was Tuesday awarded the prestigious international TX2 Award for doubling its tiger population since 2010.

Nepal's Bardia National Park was also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers.

The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in Erode district , now houses 80 tigers in its 1408 sq. km campus.

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Apps & Portals

1. Dr Jitendra Singh launches portal for PM's Excellence Awards

Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award. The entire concept and format of the PM's Excellence Award has undergone a revolutionary change since 2014. Prime Ministers Awards for Excellence in Public Administration to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by officers of the Central and State Governments.

2. NBBL unveils Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS) to simplify bill payments

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a unique functionality called 'Unified Presentment Management System' (UPMS).

Through UPMS, NBBL will enable the customers to set up standing instructions ' from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments.

3. Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar: Govt-CSC to conduct first-ever cultural survey of villages through mobile app

Government-promoted CSC SPV, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages through a mobile application.

The survey, titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar', will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique. The entire exercise is expected to be completed by mid-2022.

4. COVA Chd App launched in Chandigarh to provide information on COVID

Punjab Governor and Administrator of Union Territory Chandigarh, Banwarilal Purohit launched COVA Chd App in order to provide the public a handy access to all the meaningful information on COVID.

COVA Chd is Corona Virus Alert App and also provides citizens with preventive care information and other government advisories related to COVID-19.

5. Sebi launches 'Saa 'thi' mobile app for investor education

Securities and Exchange Board of India chairman Ajay Tyagi has launched Saa 'thi ' a mobile app on investor education. The app will look to create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of securities market, KYC (Know Your Customer) process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments and investor grievances redressal mechanism. The app is available in Hindi and English.

6. CSC Launches Yogyata App to Impart Skill-based Vocational Education to Rural Youth

Common Services Centers (CSC) has launched the "Yogyata" mobile phone application to provide vocational education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and citizens in rural areas.

In addition, the app will provide access to courses that can enhance skills and educational qualifications to the targeted youngsters.

7. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched NIPER Research Portal to facilitate research & innovation in pharmaceutical sector

India is the third-largest pharmaceutical manufacturing country and to make the research more purposeful and meaningful in the sector, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the Research Portal of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER).

8. Parliament launches Digital Sansad App to make live proceedings accessible to citizens.

The app will also allow citizens to check what their members of Parliament are doing, what debates they are participating in and what they are saying.

It will also contain members' speeches and participation in all proceedings including budget sessions etcetera from 1947 onwards.

The archive will be from the 12th to the 17th Lok Sabha session.

Apart from a virtual tour of Parliament, the 2022 Budget Session can also be watched live

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Tech Mahindra to acquire 100% stake in Allyis India, Green Investments

Tech Mahindra has approved a proposal for the acquisition of a 100 per cent stake in Allyis India and Green Investments, for a total consideration of up to USD 125 million. The acquisition is expected to bolster Tech Mahindra's capabilities in digital experience solutions - learning and development, marketing, instructional design; and engineering - cloud and automation.

2. HDFC Life completes Exide Life's acquisition, merger soon

HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited has announced the completion of the acquisition of Exide Life Insurance Company Limited after receiving all the necessary regulatory approvals. Exide Life will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Life. The Competition Commission of India had approved the acquisition by HDFC Life Insurance Company of 100% shareholding in Exide Life

3. Reliance New Energy Solar to buy Faradion

Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has signed a definitive agreement to pick up a 100% stake in Faradion Ltd for an enterprise value of 100 million. Based out of Sheffield and Oxford in the UK, Faradion has a patented sodium-ion battery technology. Reliance New Energy Solar will also invest 25 million in growth capital.

4. GAIL acquires 26% stake in ONGC Tripura Power Company

State-run power utility GAIL (India) has acquired 26 per cent equity in ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC), which owns and operates a 726.6 megawatt (MW) gas-based combined cycle power plant at Palatana in Tripura.

GAIL had participated in an open bidding process of IL&FS and had emerged as the successful bidder. OTPC owns and operates a 726.6 MW (363.3 MW x 2) gas based combined cycle power plant.

5. Reliance takes 26% stake in delivery firm Dunzo for \$200 million

Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm has invested \$200 million for a 25.8% stake in Benagulru-based Indian online delivery platform Dunzo to get a foothold into the rapidly growing market of superfast dispatch of household goods. Dunzo will use the funds to expand to 15 cities from its current seven-city operation.

6. Reliance acquires New York's luxury hotel Mandarin Oriental for \$98.15 million

The Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) announced that the Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd (RIIHL), its wholly-owned subsidiary, had entered into an agreement to acquire the entire share capital of the Columbus Centre Corporation (Cayman), and the indirect owner of a 73.37% stake in the Mandarin Oriental New York, a premium luxury hotel for \$ 98.15 million.

7. Microsoft to buy 'Candy Crush' maker Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion

Microsoft is set to buy Activision Blizzard, the company behind video games including Call of Duty, World of Warcraft, & Candy Crush, in a nearly \$70 billion all-cash deal.

Microsoft already sells the Xbox gaming console, and owns several popular video game franchises, including Minecraft and Doom.

The acquisition will accelerate the growth in Microsoft's gaming business.

8. Farm tech platform DeHaat acquires agri-input marketplace Helicrofter

DeHaat, the technology-based platform offering end-to-end agricultural services to farmers in India, announced its acquisition of Maharashtra-based B2B agri-input marketplace startup, Helicrofter.

DeHaat serves over 700,000 farmers across Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

9. Shiprocket acquires B2B logistics aggregator Rocketbox

Tech-enabled logistics & fulfillment company Shiprocket has acquired Rocketbox, a B2B logistics aggregator platform.

The Rocketbox founders will join the Shiprocket leadership team, and continue to build the cargo product as part of this deal.

This would address the technical complexities that merchants face while reducing the costs of LTL(Less-than-Truckload)cargo shipping

10. Google to invest \$1 bn in Bharti Airtel, to buy 1.28% stake for \$700 mn

Google will invest upto \$1 billion in Bharti Airtel through a mix of equity investment and commercial partnership in affordable devices. This is the tech giant's second investment in an Indian telecom service provider and reflects its growing focus on India.

Google holds 7.73% stake in Reliance Jio and the two have also partnered to make affordable smartphone JioPhone Next.

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Agri-Business

1. Bangladesh emerges as top destination for Indian pomegranates over last few years.

India exported 68,502.9 tonnes of the fruit last year, out of which 36,906.77 tonnes went to Bangladesh. Out of the 53,524.31 tonnes of fruit exported to Bangladesh, 31,185.84 tonnes were exported to Bangladesh in the current year.

One of the main reasons is the ease of transport and the generally relaxed quality requirements.



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FinTech

1. Google Cloud ties up with CryptoWire to develop blockchain, crypto ecosystem

CryptoWire will explore Google Cloud's advanced solutions including smart data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence to deliver a superior customer experience. TickerPlant has entered into an alliance with Google Cloud for the development of the CryptoWire ecosystem, catering to all stakeholders of crypto and the blockchain industry on a common platform.

2. RBI sets up fintech department to focus on the 'dynamically' growing sector

The new department has been created with effect from January 04, 2022, by subsuming the FinTech Division of Department of Payment and Settlement Systems, Central Office (DPSS, CO).

The department will not only promote innovation in the sector, but also identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it and address them in a timely manner.



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States & UT's

Assam

1. Philanthropist & Industrialist Ratan Tata Conferred With 'Assam Baibhav Award'

The government of Assam has honoured philanthropist and industrialist Ratan Tata with the state's highest civilian award, 'Assam Baibhav' 2021.

Awards will be presented in two other categories, Assam Saurav and Assam Gaurav, to 19 personalities for their contribution to the fields of education, administration, health, entrepreneurship, academia, sports, among others.

Bihar

1. India's oldest sloth bear Gulabo dies at Bhopal's Van Vihar national park

India's oldest sloth bear, fondly named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal. The female sloth bear, who was rescued from a Madaari or street performer in May 2006 at the age of 25 years.

Gulabo was one of the star attractions in the park.

She was the oldest sloth bear of the country, it added. As per the IUCN Red List, the Sloth bear is listed as vulnerable.

Chhattisgarh

1. 'Rozgar Mission' To Be Launched To Generate 12-15 Lakh New Employment Opportunities In Chhattisgarh

With an aim to generate 12 to 15 lakh new employment opportunities in next five years, State Government has decided to constitute Chhattisgarh Employment Mission under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel.

Moreover, expertise of institutions such as IIT, IIIT, IIM, NIT will be taken to create new opportunities.

Gujarat

1. Indian Railways renames Kevadiya station as Ekta Nagar railway station

The Ministry of Railways has approved the renaming of the Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station. This Gujarat's railway station which falls under the Vadodara division has been renamed as 'Ekta Nagar' railway station.

It falls under the Vadodara division under Western Railway zone of Indian Railways.

The station code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be EKNR.

2. Gujarat launches second edition of the student start-up and innovation policy

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has inaugurated a two-day international conference of academic institutions as a precursor to the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

During the inaugural ceremony, Patel launched the second edition of the Student Start-up and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0) in the presence of dignitaries from India and across the world.

Haryana

1. India's first heli-hub to be set up in Gurugram with many aviation facilities

Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala announced that Gurugram will get India's 1st heli-hub with all aviation facilities.

The heli-hub will be the first of its kind in India to have all facilities at one place for helicopters.

The heli-hub is proposed to be built in Gurugram & would be near the metro facility along with easy connectivity to industrial areas (Noida & Bhiwadi).

Himachal Pradesh

1. Himachal becomes country's first LPG-enabled and smoke-free state

Himachal Pradesh has become the first LPG enabled and smoke free state in the country due to Ujjwala scheme of the Central Government and housewives welfare scheme of the State Government. The Center had started the Ujjwala scheme to rid women of serious diseases caused by smoke while lighting a wood stove. The state government also started to benefit more and more women.

2. BRO launches Project Yojak to boost road infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh

To speed up the border roads infrastructure works, especially strengthening the connectivity to Ladakh, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), an organisation working under Ministry of Defence, has constituted a new project "Yojak".

The main task of the project will be to build more tunnels like Atal Tunnel and maintain the connecting roads. Current headquarter of the project is in Manali but is expected to be shifted to Lahaul.

3. 9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 inaugurated at Kaza

In Himachal Pradesh, the 9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 was inaugurated at Ice Skating Rink, Kaza in Lahaul Spiti district. For the first time in the state, Ice Hockey competition & development camp is being organized at the national level. Teams from Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, Ladakh, ITBP Ladakh, Chandigarh & Delhi are participating in this mega event.

4. Himachal Pradesh and Haryana govts sign MoU for construction of Adi Badri Dam

Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana signed an MoU at Panchkula, for the construction of Adi Badri Dam that would come up on 77 acres in Himachal Pradesh near Adi Badri area of Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana.

The proposed dam aims for the rejuvenation of Saraswati river with an estimated cost of Rs 215.35 crore.

Jharkhand

1. Govt approves 315 water supply schemes worth Rs 9544 cr for Jharkhand under Jal Jeevan Mission

Union Government has approved 315 water supply schemes of worth nine thousand 544 crore rupees for Jharkhand under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Jal Shakti Ministry has said that these schemes will provide tap water supply to about eight lakh rural households in four thousand 424 villages of the State. Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.

Karnataka

1. Karnataka launches 'Brain Health Initiative' to help people beat Covid stres

Karnataka has launched 'Brain Health Initiative', a first-of-its-kind in the country, undertaken by NIMHANS in association with NITI Aayog in the state.

Under this programme, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients. The initiative is being rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts on pilot basis.

National Institute Of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences - NIMHANS

Kerala

1. First electric boat built for Kochi Water Metro Project handed over to KMRL

In Kerala, the first battery powered electric boat built for the Kochi Water Metro Project was handed over to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited. The fully air-conditioned boat is among the 23 boats being built by the Cochin Shipyard for the 747-crore rupee Kochi Water Metro project. Kochi Water Metro system will have 78 ferries, linking 38 terminals spread over 76 route kilometre

2. Kerala's Kumbalangi to be first sanitary napkin-free village in India

Kumbalangi, which won acclaim as India's first model tourism village, is set to become the country's first sanitary-napkin-free panchayat.

The move is a part of an initiative titled 'Avalkayi' being implemented in the Ernakulam parliamentary constituency.

In this initiative, menstrual cups will be distributed to women aged 18 and above. Kerala CM:- Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor:- Arif Mohammad Khan.

3. India's first graphene innovation center to be established in Kerala

It was recently reported that India's first innovation center for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for an investment of Rs 86.41 crore (over USD\$11.5 million).

Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the center.

4. Kerala gets its first Bird Atlas; records of 361 bird species

Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA) is a first-of-a-kind state-level bird atlas in India. The atlas, curated over years, covers a number of species found in the State.

Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health.

As per reports, is Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling efforts, and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists.

Maharashtra

1. BMC to start public awareness campaign 'SPARSH' against leprosy on 30th Jan

Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will start SPARSH, a public awareness campaign against leprosy under National Leprosy Eradication Programme.

The campaign will last up to 14th February. BMC will organize exhibitions in all its 24 administrative zones.

Slogan of SPARSH programme this year is Kushrog muktikade Vatchal (way ahead towards leprosy free).

Manipur

1. Railway Ministry gives nod for final survey of Imphal-Moreh section for construction of BG line

The Ministry of Railways has given sanction for the final location survey of the Imphal-Moreh section of about 111 km for the construction of a new broad gauge (BG) line connecting India & Myanmar.

This new line once constructed will be of strategic importance and will form an important part of the proposed Trans-Asian Railway, which will connect India with South East Asia. The final location survey will be conducted at an estimated cost of Rs 333 lakh.

2. Kachai Lemon Festival begins in Manipur

The 18th edition of the two days long Kachai Lemon Festival began in Manipur on Jan 13 2022 at the Local Ground of Kachai Village in Ukhrul district.

The Kachai Lemon Festival is organised annually to promote this unique kind of lemon fruit and to encourage the lemon farmers.

Mizoram

1. South maubuang becomes mizoram's first odf plus village

The village of South Maubuang in Aibawk block of Aizawl district in Mizoram has been declared a model ODF Plus village, having fulfilled all the criteria as per SBM-G Phase II guidelines.

According to official data, the village which has a population of 649 individuals from 116 households has emerged as the first ODF Plus village in the State of Mizoram.

Odisha

1. Odisha's Ganjam District Declared As Child Marriage Free

Odisha's Ganjam has declared itself a child marriage free district.

To control child marriages, the Ganjam administration with the help of UNICEF and ActionAid India had launched the Nirbhaya Kadhi programme in 2019. Under the programme, Panchayat and ward-level task forces were formed to create awareness among people about the ills of child marriage.

2. Odisha raises upper age limit for govt jobs from 32 to 38 years

The Odisha state cabinet has raised the upper age limit from 32 to 38 years for recruitment into government jobs. The upper age limit for various recruitments of the state government was raised to enable aspirants, who missed out the opportunity because of the Covid situation over the last two years, to appear for recruitment examinations.

Rajasthan

1. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary set to be notified as 4th tiger reserve of Rajasthan

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, which is among the proposed five sites in the country, is expected to be formally notified as tiger reserve (TR) soon before the Global Tiger Summit, which is to be held at Vladivostok, Russia.

The Centre also announced the development during the 4th Asia ministerial conference on tiger conservation.

Tamil Nadu

1. Uttarayan, Bihu and Pongal Celebrated on Jan 14

In Tamil Nadu, the beginning of the month Thai, marking the onset of Spring Harvest season is celebrated as Pongal.

In Assam, the Magh or Bhogali bihu is being celebrated across the state with traditional fervor and gaiety.

Makar Sankranti- celebrated as a festival of kites in Gujarat. The festival is also popularly known as Uttarayan throughout the state.

2. Chennai International Airport Ranks 8th in Global List for 'On-Time Performance'

The Chennai International Airport is one of the top 10 large international airports in the world that ensures 'on-time' departures.

In a review conducted by Cirium, an organisation that specialises in offering aviation data to travel, finance, aerospace, and aviation industries, the airport has been ranked 8th for 'on-time performance' for the year 2021.

Telangana

1. Hyderabad gets India's first Open Rock Museum, 35 varieties of rocks on display

Union Minister of State for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh, inaugurated India's 1st Open Rock Museum.

The museum displays around 35 different varieties of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion yrs. to around 55 million yrs.

These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth, up to 175 kms from the earth surface. CSIR Director General, Shekhar C. Mande.

2. Govt inaugurates India's first coal to methanol plant built by BHEL

Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey has dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant to the nation in Hyderabad.

The 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant that has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99% from high-ash Indian coal.

Tripura

1. PM Modi to inaugurate development projects in Manipur, Tripura

Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of 22 developmental projects worth over Rs 4,800 crore in Imphal.

In Agartala, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the new integrated terminal building at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport and will also launch two key development initiatives.

PM will inaugurate 13 projects worth around Rs 1,850 crore in Manipur. Also will lay the foundation stone of 9 projects worth around Rs 2,950 crore in Imphal.

Uttar Pradesh

1. UP's Jhansi Railway Station Renamed As 'Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station'

The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed Jhansi Railway Station as 'Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station' after Rani Laxmibai. Earlier the Mughalsarai Railway station was renamed as Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction and the Faizabad Railway station as Ayodhya Cantt. Faizabad and Allahabad districts, were renamed as Ayodhya and Prayagraj, respectively.

2. Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stones for 572 km of National Highway projects worth Rs.12981 crore in UP

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 572 km of National Highway (NH) projects at a cost of Rs.12981 crore in Kaushambi, Ayodhya and Basti in Uttar Pradesh.

He Inaugurated and laid foundation Stone of 6 NH Projects worth Rs 2659 Crore in Kaushambi.

3. Ministry of Tourism allocates INR 500 crore to Uttar Pradesh under Swadesh Darshan scheme

Ministry of Tourism has allocated INR 500 crore to the state of Uttar Pradesh under its Swadesh Darshan's scheme for strengthening tourism infrastructure through various spiritual circuits such as the Ramayana & Buddha circuits. Information was shared by Union Tourism & Culture Minister, G Kishan Reddy after he virtually inaugurated PRASAD scheme projects at Govardhan, UP.

4. UP govt declares 4 villages near Nepal border as revenue villages

The Uttar Pradesh government declared four villages located near the Nepal border in the district as revenue villages.

These four villages are Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia and Bichhia located in Mihinpurwa tehsil of the district. All these villages are Vantangiya villages. The Vantangiya' community comprises people brought from Myanmar during the colonial rule to plant trees.

West Bengal

1. Narendra Modi unveils new campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute built at Rs 530 crore in Kolkata

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata in the presence of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

The second campus of CNCI has been built at a cost of over Rs 530 cr, out of which around Rs 400 cr have been provided by the Union and the rest by the West Bengal government.

2. Narayan Debnath, legendary Bengali comic book writer and illustrator and creator of iconic comic strips, passes away

Narayan Debnath, the great comic book writer, illustrator and author, who created the iconic Bengali cartoon characters "Bantul the Great", "Handa Bhonda" and "Nonte Phonte".

He was 96.

Debnath's death marks the end of an era in Bengal's cultural history.

In 2021 he was awarded the Padma Shri by the government of India.

Delhi

1. First e-vehicle charging station in South Delhi launched by TCIL

TCIL, a mini Ratna category-1 status company under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, with support of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) launched the first e-vehicle charging station in South Delhi area at South Extn. Part I.

The charging stations are equipped with CCTV surveillance & Wi-fi facility for use by common public.

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Purple Revolution is J-K's contribution to Start-ups India, says Union Minister Jitendra Singh

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has stated that "Purple Revolution" is Jammu and Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India", an initiative that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016. The Aroma Mission launched by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the CSIR which led to the well-known "Purple Revolution" in India.

2. Jerri hamlet declared as first 'Milk Village' of J&K

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the administration has declared Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the J&K and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet.

The village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows will give the local farmers financial security.

3. J&K Police Bags Highest 115 Police Medals For Gallantry On January 26

Jammu and Kashmir Police bagged 115 Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG), out of a total of 189 awarded this year. They more than doubled their last year's tally of 52 PMGs. J&K Police won awards for conducting several counter-insurgency operations in 2019-20.

No one has been given the top category president's police medal for gallantry (PPMG) this time.

4. Sh. Amit Shah launches District Good Governance Index in 20 districts of J-K

In the composite ranking of the first-ever District Good Governance Index (DGGI) released by Sh. Amit Shah, the Jammu district has managed to top the list followed by districts of Doda, Samba, Pulwama, and Srinagar in the UT.

The DGGI has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in partnership with the UT's administration.

Puducherry

1. Logo and Mascot of National Youth Festival 2022 in Puducherry unveiled

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Lt. Governor of Puducherry Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan has unveiled the Logo and Mascot of the 25th National Youth Festival to be held in Puducherry from January 12 to 16.

The tag-line of the National Youth Festival, Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva meaning Capable Youth- Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth.

2. Prime Minister inaugurates MSME Technology Centre at Puducherry

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry.

This World Class Technology Centre set up with an investment of about Rs. 122 crore is spread across 10 acres, will train 20,000 youth, support 2000 MSMEs and incubate 200 Start Ups, thereby propelling the local economy to great heights.



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Committees

1. SEBI Restructures Market Data Advisory Committee; S Sahoo To Chair Panel

SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

Rejigging its market data advisory committee, Sebi has said the panel will now be chaired by S Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

2. Panel formed to prepare energy transition roadmap for India

The government is planning to draw up an energy transition roadmap for the oil and gas sector that could prove to be a key step on India's path to net-zero emissions by 2070. The oil ministry has set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee headed by former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor, who demitted office in November, to draft the strategy.

3. PM security breach: SC appoints Justice Indu Malhotra as probe panel head

The Supreme Court has set up a five-member committee headed by retired top court judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe into the security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Punjab visit on January 5.

Bench of Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli made the decision to appoint an independent committee.

4. Centre forms 3-member committee to probe into PM Modi's security lapse

The ministry of home affairs constituted a three-member committee to probe into the serious lapses in the security arrangement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab's Ferozepur. The ministry announced that the committee will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, secretary (security), Cabinet Secretariat.

5. RBI Governor-headed FSDC sub-committee reviews economic situation

The FSDC sub-committee headed by Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has reviewed the economic situation in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and resolved to keep a close watch on the unfolding developments with a view to ensure financial stability. The meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) Sub-Committee (FSDC-SC) was held via video.

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Economic Survey 2022 key highlights

The **Economic Survey 2021-22** was tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as a prequel to [Budget 2022](#). The **Economic Survey 2022** brings out the economic trends in the country and facilitates a better appreciation of the mobilisation of resources and their allocation in the Union [Budget 2022](#). The Survey, penned by the chief economic advisor of India, analyses the trends in agricultural and industrial production, infrastructure, employment, money supply, prices, imports, exports, foreign exchange reserves and other relevant economic factors that have a bearing on the Budget. It is presented in Parliament ahead of the Budget for the following year.

India's FY22 GDP growth seen at 9.2 per cent

GDP growth for FY23 has been projected at 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent

Economic recovery back on track

India sees 8-8.5% GDP growth in FY23

Agriculture sector to grow 3.9 % in 2021-22

Industrial sector to grow 11.8% in 2021-22

Services sector to grow 8.2% in 2021-22

Union Budget 2022 highlights (Source: The Economic Times)

Economy

— Capex target expanded by 35.4 per cent — from Rs 5.54 lakh crore to Rs 7.50 lakh crore. FY23 effective capex seen at Rs 10.7 lakh crore

— India's growth highest among all major economies; we are now in a strong position to withstand challenges

— The goal is complementing macro-growth with micro-all-inclusive welfare, digital economy and fintech, tech-enabled development, energy transition and climate action

— ECLGS cover expanded by Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh crore

— Top focus of the budget this year are: PM Gati Shakti, Inclusive Development, Productivity Enhancement, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, Climate Action, Financing of investments

— Productivity-linked incentive schemes in 14 sectors have received excellent response; received investment intentions worth Rs 30 lakh crore

— Economic recovery benefitting from public investment and capital spending. This Budget will provide impetus to growth

— In 2022-23, states will be allowed fiscal deficit of up to 4 pc of GSDP

Expenditure and deficit

— Proposed fiscal deficit of 4.5% of GDP by 2025/26

— Projected fiscal deficit of 6.4% of GDP in 2022/23

— Revised fiscal deficit for 2021/22 at 6.9% of GDP

— 50 year interest free loans over and above normal borrowing allowed for states

— Scheme for financial assistance to states for capital investment outlay to be Rs 1 lakh crore for 2022/23

Taxes

- Govt vows a stable and predictable tax regime
- Govt to provide one-time window to correct omissions in ITRs filed, updated returns to be filed within 2 years
- Any cess or surcharge on income not allowed as business expenditure
- 1 per cent TDS on transfer of virtual assets above a threshold, gifts to be taxed
- Surcharge on long-term capital gains capped at 15 per cent
- The government will tax income from digital asset transfers at 30%
- No deduction allowed while computing income except cost of acquisition
- Loss cannot be set off from any other income
- Gift of cryptocurrencies to be taxed at receiver's end
- A new provision to allow taxpayers to file an updated return
- Updated return can be filed within 2 years from the end of the relevant assessment year.
- Alternate Minimum Tax for cooperative societies to be cut to 15%
- Proposal will reduce surcharge on cooperative societies to 7%, for those whose income is between Rs 1 crore and Rs 10 crore
- Tax deduction limit increased to 14% on employers contribution to NPS account of state govt employees

Jobs

- ECLGS extended till March 2023, 60 lakh jobs eyed in next 5 years
- Efforts of central, state governments leading to jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities
- Digital ecosystem for skilling and livelihood to be launched.
- This will aim to skill, reskill, upskill citizens through online training.
- API based skill credentials, payment layers to find relevant jobs and opportunities

Infra & manufacturing

- National highway network to be expanded by 25,000 kms during FY 22-23
- Desh stack e-portal to be launched to promote digital infra
- Strategic transfer of ownership of Air India completed now
- 2,000 kms to be brought under Kavach by FY 22-23
- Four multi-modal national parks contracts will be awarded in FY23
- One product one railway station will be popularised, 400 new Vande Bharat trains to be introduced
- PM Gatishakti masterplan for expressways will be formulated in next financial year
- 100 PM Gati Shakti terminals to be set up in next three years
- Focus on public investment to modernise infrastructure over the medium term, leveraging tech platform of Gati Shakti via a multi-modal approach
- PM Gati Shakti will pull forward the economy and will lead to more jobs and opportunities for the youth
- 1 Concessional corporate tax rate of 15 pc would be available for 1 more year till March 2024 for newly incorporated manufacturing companies

Housing & urban planning

- Rs 48,000 crore is allotted for PM Awas Yojana
- In 2022-23, 80 lakh houses will be completed for identified beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana; 60,000 houses will be identified as beneficiaries for PM Awas Yojana in rural & urban areas
- 60,000 crore allocated for providing access to tap water to 3.8 crore households
- In 2022-23, 80 lakh households will be identified for the affordable housing scheme
- Rs 60,000 cr allocated to provide tap water connections to 3.8 crore households in 2022-23
- A high-level committee for urban planners and economists to be formed for recommendations on urban capacity building, planning implementation, and governance
- 5 existing academic institutions for urban planning to be designated as Centre for Excellence with endowment fund of Rs 250 cr
- Modern building by-laws will be introduced
- A high-level panel to be set up for urban planning
- Govt to promote use of public transport in urban areas
- Proposal to reduce Minimum Alternative Tax to 15 pc for co-op societies, at par with corporate

MSMEs & startups

- Rs 6,000 crore programme to rate MSMEs to be rolled out over 5 years
- MSMEs such as Udyam, e-shram, NCS & Aseem portals will be inter-linked, their scope will be widened
- They will now perform as portals with live organic databases providing G-C, B-C & B-B services such as credit facilitation, enhancing entrepreneurial opportunities
- A fund with blended capital raised under co-investment model facilitated through NABARD to finance startups in agriculture & rural enterprises for farm produce value chain
- Startups will promoted for Drone Shakti
- PE/VC invested Rs 5.5 lakh crore in startup, expert committee will be set up to suggest measures to help attract investment
- Existing tax benefits for startups, which were offered redemption of taxes for 3 consecutive years, to be extended by 1 more year

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Agri

- Govt to pay Rs 2.37 lakh crore towards procurement of wheat and paddy under MSP operations
- 2022-23 has been announced as International Year of Millets
- Railways will develop new products for small farmers and MSMEs
- A rationalised scheme to increase domestic oilseed production will be brought in to cut down imports
- Kisan Drones for crop assessment, land records, spraying of insecticides expected to drive a wave of technology in agri sector
- Ken Betwa river linking project worth Rs 44,605 crore announced
- Draft DPRs for 5 river links have been finalised
- Finance startups to be incentives to aid rural enterprises
- Natural farming will be promoted along Ganga river corridor
- A completely paperless, e-bill system will be launched by ministries for procurement
- Financial support will be provided to farmers to take up agro-forestry

Electric Vehicles

- Battery swapping policy to allow EV charging stations for automobiles will be framed
- Private sector will be encouraged to create sustainable and innovative business models for battery and energy as a service, improving the efficiency in the EV ecosystem

Education

- States to be encouraged to revise syllabi of agricultural universities to meet needs of natural, zero-budget & organic farming, modern-day agriculture
- One class, one TV channel' program of PM eVIDYA will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels
- This will enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1 to 12
- Digital university to be set up to provide education; to be built on hub and spoke model
- 1-Class-1-TV Channel to be implemented to provide supplementary education to children to make up for loss of formal education due to Covid



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Finance & inclusion

- Rs 1 lakh crore financial assistance to states to be provided in 2022-23 to catalyse investments
- Proposed to introduce Digital Rupee by RBI using blockchain technology, starting 2022-23
- Measures will be taken to step up private capital in infra sector
- Digital Rupee to be rolled out by 2023
- 100% of 1.5 lakh post offices will come on the core banking system, enabling financial inclusion and access to accounts through net banking, mobile banking, ATMs, and also provide online transfer of funds between post office accounts and bank accounts
- This will be helpful especially for farmers and senior citizens in rural areas, enabling inter operability, and financial inclusion.
- IBC amendments to enhance efficiency of resolution process
- Facilitate cross-border insolvency resolution
- To speed up voluntary winding up of companies
- 75 digital banks in 75 districts will be set up by scheduled commercial banks to encourage digital payments
- International arbitration centre will be set up in GIFT city to provide faster dispute resolution
- World-class university to be allowed in GIFT IFSC free from domestic regulation, says FM

Healthcare

- An open platform for the national digital health ecosystem will be rolled out
- It will consist of digital registries of health providers and health facilities, unique health identity and universal access to health facilities
- 95 per cent of 112 aspirational districts have made significant progress in health, infra
- For mental health counselling, a National Tele Mental Health Program will be launched

Telecom

- Spectrum auction will be conducted in 2022 for the rollout of 5G
- Scheme for design led manufacturing to be launched for 5G ecosystem as part of PLI scheme to enable affordable broadband and mobile communication in rural and remote areas
- 5 pc of USO Fund to be provided for R&D and technology upgradation
- Contracts for laying optical fibre in villages to be awarded under BharatNet project under PPP in 2022-23
- Data centre and energy storage system to be given infrastructure status; move to provide easy financing

Women & Children

- Recognising the importance of 'Nari Shakti', 3 schemes were launched to provide integrated development for women and children
- 2 lakh Anganwadis to be upgraded for improving child health

Ease of Business

- 75,000 compliances have been eliminated and 1,486 union laws repealed to make it easier for businesses
- Next phase of ease of doing business, ease of living to be launched
- Voluntary exit for corporates to be cut down to 6 months from 2 years

Defence

- Govt committed to reduce import and promote self reliance in defense sector
- 68 per cent of capital for defence sector to be earmarked for local industry
- Defense R&D will be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% of defense R&D budget.
- Private industry will be encouraged to take up the design and development of military platforms and equipment in collaboration with DRDO and other organizations through SPV model.
- 68% of capital procurement budget in defence will be earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23 (up from the 58% last fiscal)

Railways

- 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains to be manufactured in next 3 years
- 2,000 km of rail network to be brought under indigenous technology KAWACH for safety and capacity augmentation: FM

Climate & Net Zero

- Risks of climate change are strongest externalities for the world
- Funds will be used for projects that will help reduce carbon intensity of the economy
- Sovereign green bonds will be part of government's borrowing programme in FY23
- Proceeds to be deployed in public sector projects
- 4 pilot projects for coal gasification to be set up
- Rs 19,500 cr additional allocation for PLI for manufacturing high efficiency solar modules has been made
- Low carbon development strategy opens up employment opportunity

Travel

- ePassports will be rolled out in 2022-23 for convenience in overseas travel
- E-passport with embedded chip will be rolled out

QUICK LEARNERS

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
Vinay Kumar Tripathi	Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board.
Director General VS Pathania	Chief of Indian Coast Guard
Asheesh Pandey	Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra
Ashok Elluswamy	Head of autopilot engineering in Tesla
Vinod Kannan	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistra
Alka Mittal	Chairman and Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
Vijay Paul Sharma	Chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)
Atul Keshap	US-India Business Council (USIBC)
Deepak Kumar	Executive Director of RBI
Ajay Kumar Choudhary	Executive Director of RBI
Zhang Ming	Secretary- General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
G Asok Kumar	Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga
Haitham Al Ghais	Secretary- General of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
Soma Sankara Prasad	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of UCO Bank.
Urjit Patel	Vice-President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
Navrang Saini	Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
Alikhan Smailov	Prime Minister of Kazakhstan
Rakesh Anand	Chef de Mission of Common Wealth Games
Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas	Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF)
S Somanath	Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
Narendra Kumar Goenka	Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)
Ittira Davis	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Vikram Dev Dutt	Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Limited.
Dileep Sanghani	Chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO).

Vinod Rai	Independent Chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank
Shashank Goel	Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
Raghuvendra Tanwar	Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research(ICHR)
Rajaram Narayanan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Sequent Scientific
Sharvil P Patel	Managing Director of Cadila Healthcare
Vinodanand Jha	Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)Adjudicating Authority
Venkatraman Anantha Nageswaran	Chief Economic Advisor of India
Pushp Kumar Joshi	Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd(HPCL)

AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
South Indian Bank	UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021
Will Smith	Golden Globe- Best Actor
The Power Of The Dog	Golden Globe- Best Film
Nicole Kidman	Golden Globe- Best Actress
Kerala Arts and Crafts Village	International Craft Award 2021
Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), New Delhi	SKOCH Award
NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd	World Bank and Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards
Robert Lewandowski	FIFA Men's Player 2021
Albert Bourla	Genesis Prize
Shaheen Afridi	Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021
Smriti Mandhana	Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy for ICC's Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021
Shinzo Abe	Netaji Award 2022
Friendship Hospital, Bangladesh	RIBA International Prize 2021
Prabha Atre	Padma Vibhushan
Radheyshyam Khemka	Padma Vibhushan
General Bipin Rawat	Padma Vibhushan
Kalyan Singh	Padma Vibhushan
Ghulam Nabi Azad	Padma Bhushan
Victor Banerjee	Padma Bhushan
Gurmeet Bawa	Padma Bhushan
Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee	Padma Bhushan
Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Padma Bhushan
Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella	Padma Bhushan

Madhur Jaffery	Padma Bhushan
Devendra Jhajharia	Padma Bhushan
Rashid Khan	Padma Bhushan
Rajiv Mehrishi	Padma Bhushan
Satya Narayana Nadella	Padma Bhushan
Sundararajan Pichai	Padma Bhushan
Cyrus Poonawalla	Padma Bhushan
Sanjaya Rajaram	Padma Bhushan
Pratibha Ray	Padma Bhushan
Swami Sachidanand	Padma Bhushan
Vashishth Tripathi	Padma Bhushan
Anuradha Sarma Pujari	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Assamese
Bratya Basu	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Bengali
Mwdai Gahai	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Bodo
Raj Rahi	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Dogri
Namita Gokhale	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 English
Daya Prakash Sinha	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Hindi
D.S. Nagabhushana	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Kannada
Wali Mohd. Aseer Kashtawari	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Kahmiri
Sanjiv Verenkar	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Konkani
George Onakkoor	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Malyalam
Kiran Gaurav	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Marathi
Chhabilal Upadhyaya	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Nepali
Hrushikesh Mallick	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Odia
Khalid Hussain	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Punjabi
Meethesh Nirmohi	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Rajasthani
Vindeshwariprasad Mishr 'Vinay'	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Sanskrit
Niranjan Hansda	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Santali
Arjun Chawla	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Sindhi
Ambai	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Tamil
Gorati Venkanna	Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 Telugu

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
January 1st	64 th Foundation Day of DRDO	
January 4th	World Braille Day	
January 6th	World Day of War Orphans	
January 9th	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	
January 12th	National Youth Day	
January 15th	Indian Army Day	

January 16th	National Start Up Day	
January 19th	44th Kokborok day	
January 24th	International Day of Education	
January 24th	National Girl Child Day	
January 25th	National Voters Day	Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative
January 25th	National Tourism Day	Rural and Community Centric Tourism
January 26th	73 rd Republic Day of India	
January 26th	International Customs Day	
January 30th	Martyrs Day	
January 30th	World Leprosy Day	United for Dignity

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Vice Admiral S H Sarma	Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak War Veteran
Vikram Kothari	Managing Director of Rotomac Group
Sindhutai Sapkal	Social Worker
Ayyappan Pillai	Freedom Fighter
Sidney Poitier	Bahamian-American Actor
Chandrashekhara Patil	Kannada Writer
Deon Lendore	Olympian
Pandit Birju Maharaj	Kathak Dancer
Toshiki Kaifu	Former Japanese Prime Minister
Saoli Mitra	Theatre Personality
Shanti Devi	Social Worker
Major HPS Ahluwalia	Founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC)
R Nagaswamy	Archaeologist
Milena Salvini	Kathakali Dancer
Charanjit Singh	Former Indian Hockey Player
Baba Iqbal Singh	Social Worker

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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
Chhattisgarh	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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