

Mongolian prime minister submits resignation after COVID-19 protests



Mongolia's Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa submitted his resignation to parliament after protests in the capital Ulaanbaatar over the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The protests erupted on Wednesday over what some Mongolians saw as the inhumane treatment of a COVID-19 patient and her newborn baby. The protests triggered the dismissal of senior health officials. Mongolia's deputy prime minister and health minister also tendered their resignations.

Mongolia, which earned praise from the World Health Organization in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic for its handling of the health crisis, has recently been battling an outbreak caused by an infected driver entering from Russia.

Trump Impeachment To Be Sent To Senate On Monday



Donald Trump will go on trial in the US Senate soon after an impeachment case against the former president is transmitted by the House of Representatives on Monday. The House impeached the Republican leader for a historic second time on January 13, just one week before he left office, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi has yet to send the article of impeachment to the Senate. The step is necessary in order to launch the trial process.

Myanmar, Mauritius, Morocco & Seychelles receive India made COVISHIELD vaccine



India continues to forge ahead with its Neighbourhood First policy as it extends a steady shoulder of a friend in need to its partner countries. Myanmar, Mauritius, Morocco and Seychelles received India made COVISHIELD vaccine. India will continue to supply COVID-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Anurag Srivastava said it will ensure that domestic manufacturers have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad. Many countries have evinced interest in accessing vaccines from India which is the global hub for vaccine production.

India proposes to expand research, tourism in the Arctic



India has unveiled a new draft 'Arctic' policy that, among other things, commits to expanding scientific research, sustainable tourism and mineral oil and gas exploration in the Arctic region. The draft policy is open to public comments until January 26 and has been prepared after deliberations among several ministries.

India expects the Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research to lead scientific research and act as a nodal body to coordinate among various scientific bodies to promote domestic scientific research capacities by expanding earth sciences, biological sciences, geosciences, climate change and space related programmes.

The Arctic is home to almost four million inhabitants, of which approximately one-tenth are considered as indigenous people.

Jayant Khobragade appointed India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat



Jayant N Khobragade, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1995 batch, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Khobragade is currently serving as joint secretary at headquarters of the ministry in Delhi. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners. The 10 member countries of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Govt. uses Rapid Assessment System, RAS for taking feedback from people vaccinated for COVID-19



The Union Government is using Rapid Assessment System, RAS for taking feedback from those who get vaccinated for COVID-19. This initiative is aimed at improving the vaccination experience for citizens, while ensuring that all norms are being followed during the vaccination process at all Vaccination Centres. This feedback system will help the government to make the vaccination process more citizen-friendly. The Electronics and IT Ministry said, RAS platform has already sent out around six lakh 20 thousand SMSes to all those who have been vaccinated in a short span of four days.

Indian Railways finalises tender for Vande Bharat type train sets for 44 rakes of 16 Cars each



Indian Railways has finalised the tender for Vande Bharat Type train sets for 44 rakes of 16 Cars each. The procurement includes a five-year comprehensive annual maintenance contract with the supplier. The Ministry said, for the first time, the tender required a minimum 75 per cent local content requirement of the total value of the tender. This is expected to give a boost to Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission.

The Ministry further said, three bidders participated in this tender and the lowest offer was from indigenous manufacturer Medha Servo Drives limited who successfully met the minimum local content of 75 per cent of the total value.

MoU signed between Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, IIT Roorkee



Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Roorkee signed an MoU in New Delhi for continuation of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Professorial Chair focusing on research and development, teaching and training in the area of Development of Highway Infrastructure.

This collaboration will strengthen Research and Development activities in Road Sector and the Chair professor is expected to provide leadership in conducting and coordinating research, development and teaching in the area of Development of Highway Infrastructure.

DRDO successfully conducts captive and release trial of SAAW



DRDO successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon SAAW from Hawk-I of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) off the Odisha coast. This was the ninth successful mission of SAAW conducted by DRDO till now. SAAW is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) Hyderabad. This is 125 Kg class smart weapon, capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers, taxi tracks, and runways etc. up to a range of 100 kilometres.

RIL net rises 12.5%, revenue slides 21%



Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) reported third-quarter consolidated net profit rose 12.5% to Rs. 13,101 crore, from Rs. 11,640 crore in the year-earlier period, helped by a 22% decline in costs. Revenue from operations, however, declined 21% to 1.24 lakh crore in three-month period ended December, from 1.57 lakh crore in the comparable quarter of the last financial year. A reduction in expenses helped buoy profits, as costs shrank to 1.13 lakh crore in the quarter, from 1.45 lakh crore a year earlier.

Indian bank Q3 net more than doubles



State-owned Indian Bank reported more than doubling of its profit at Rs 514.28 crore for the third quarter ended December 2020. The percentage of net NPA was lower at 2.35 per cent as against 3.50 per cent. Total income during the quarter under review was Rs 11,421.34 crore, up from Rs 6,505.62 crore in the same period a year ago. However, the bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) as a percentage of assets rose to 9.04 per cent during October-December 2020-21 from 7.20 per cent in the year-ago period.

Yes Bank Q3 net at Rs. 147 cr.



Yes Bank reported consolidated net profit of Rs. 147 crore for the December quarter and a jump in asset quality stress due to COVID-19. The bank had posted a loss of Rs 18,564 crore in the year-ago period, when it recognised all the hidden stress in the balance sheet, while the same number stood at Rs 120 crore in the quarter-ago period. The private lender had to be bailed out by a consortium led by SBI last March on troubles with the loan book.

Opening of India Africa Trade Council in India



India Africa Trade Council was inaugurated in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Chennai for building up business relations between both the countries of India and African Region. India Africa Trade council will open 13 Trade offices in Major Metro cities of India to facilitate Indian Businessmen wanting to do Trade in African countries. These offices are expected to work directly with embassies in Delhi and bring opportunities to places like Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.

Bangladesh clinch ODI series with second consecutive win against WI



Bangladesh clinched the 3-match ODI series against West Indies with an emphatic victory in the second ODI played at the Sher-e-Bangla cricket stadium in Dhaka. West Indies won the toss and decided to bat first. It scored 148 runs in 43.4 overs. Bangladesh went past the WI score with 7 wickets to spare.

Satwiksairaj-Ashwini move into last four



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa entered the mixed doubles semifinals with a stunning win over the World No. 6 pair of Peng Soon Chan and Liu Ying Goh of Malaysia in the Toyota Thailand Open Super 1000 tournament. The world no 22 Indian pair next will be up against top seeds Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai of Thailand.

NRAI to announce teams for rifle, pistol World Cups after trials 3 and 4



The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has announced that the Indian teams for the two combined International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stages scheduled in New Delhi and Changwon, in March and April 2021 respectively, will be selected only after the completion of the third and fourth (T3 and T4) National Rifle/Pistol trials. The said trials are scheduled at the National Capital's Dr. Karni Singh Shooting range between February 8-14. The National Federation has also announced the Indian squad for the first ISSF World Cup Shotgun stage, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, from February 22.

Intl. hockey stadium in Salt Lake complex



An international hockey stadium with astro-turf will be built inside the Salt Lake Stadium Complex, West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas announced. The stadium, to be built over an area of approximately three acres at an estimated cost of ₹20.53 crore, will have grass hills and can accommodate 6500 spectators. It will have two players' dressing rooms. The colour combination of the astro-turf will be blue and yellow. The field of play will be 110m x 75m.