

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (FEBRUARY 2022)

INTERNATIONAL

Burkina Faso suspended from AU following coup

The African Union suspended Burkina Faso a week after the volatile country suffered its latest coup, as envoys from West Africa and the UN headed for talks with the new junta.

Amnesty labels Israel an 'apartheid state'

Amnesty International has labelled Israel an "apartheid" state that treats Palestinians as "an inferior racial group," joining the assessment of other rights groups which the Jewish state vehemently rejects.

Denmark lifts nearly all COVID-19 restrictions amid cases surge

Denmark became the first European Union country to lift nearly all of its Covid restrictions despite record numbers of cases, relying on its high vaccination rate to cope with the milder Omicron variant.

Burkina Faso restores constitution, appoints coup's leader as head of state for transitional period

In Burkina Faso, the military government announced that it has restored the constitution a week after taking power and has appointed the coup's leader Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba as head of state for a transitional period.

US deploys 3,000 troops in Ukraine standoff

President Joe Biden is directing the Pentagon to deploy more than 3,000 American troops to bolster the defense of European allies in the first major movement of U.S. forces in Russia's military standoff with Ukraine.

China, Pakistan ink new CPEC agreement

China and Pakistan signed a new agreement on industrial cooperation as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan during Prime Minister Imran Khan's on-going visit to Beijing.

South African scientists copy Moderna's COVID vaccine

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

Ottawa declares state of emergency over truckers protest against Covid restrictions

In Canada, the Mayor of the capital Ottawa has declared a state of emergency in response to more than a week of truckers' protests against Covid restrictions.

US approves 100 million dollar support contract with Taiwan

The US has approved a 100-million-dollar support contract with Taiwan aimed at boosting the island's missile defense systems.

13 million face severe hunger in Africa: UN

Drought conditions have left an estimated 13 million people facing severe hunger in the Horn of Africa, according to the United Nations World Food Program.

Possibility of new COVID variants really high, warns WHO

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the Omicron variant of COVID will not be the last one and the possibility of other new variants is really high.

India rejects references to J&K, CPEC in China and Pakistan joint statement

India has rejected the references to Jammu and Kashmir and the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the joint statement between China and Pakistan issued on 6th of this month.

Russia launches Belarus military drills

Russia has started 10 days of joint military drills with Belarus amid fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine. The drills come amid rising tensions over Russia's build-up of troops near its border with Ukraine.

US moves to free \$7 billion in Afghanistan assets to aid locals

The US government take steps to free half of the \$7 billion in frozen Afghan reserves held in the United States to aid the Afghan people without providing the Taliban access to the funds.

US to reopen embassy in Solomon Islands amid moves to counter China

US to reopen embassy in Solomon Islands amid moves to counter China. Washington promises more diplomatic and security resources to the South Pacific region as China's influence grows.

Myanmar Military announces amnesty for more than 800 prisoners on Union Day

The military government of Myanmar announced pardon for more than 800 prisoners on the occasion of the country's 75th Union Day.

Sri Lanka takes emergency measures to avoid food crisis

Sri Lanka has taken emergency measures to meet its imminent food crisis. Recently, the Sri Lankan Commerce Ministry signed an agreement with its Myanmar's counterpart for import of rice to augment its food stock.

Key U.S.-Canada crossing reopens after COVID protests

A major U.S.-Canada border crossing The Ambassador Bridge reopened almost a week after it was forced shut by truck driver-led protests against coronavirus restrictions, prompting police to quell the demonstration with a series of arrests.

Ethiopia lifts wartime state of emergency

Ethiopia's Parliament lifted a state of emergency imposed last November when Tigrayan rebels threatened to advance on the capital, the foreign ministry said, easing restrictions earlier than expected.

Bangladesh-US Air forces conducts joint air exercise between 20-25 Feb

The air forces of Bangladesh and the US have conducted a joint air exercise named 'Cope South 22' between Feb 20-25.

Algeria's president says, Government will introduce unemployment benefits for young adults

Algeria's President Abdelmadjid Tebboune says the government will introduce unemployment benefits for young adults as the country struggles with high rates of joblessness.

France to withdraw troops from Mali after 10 years

France announced that it would withdraw its troops from Mali over a breakdown in relations with the country's ruling junta.

Nirmala Sitharaman participates in first G20 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors' meeting under G20 Presidency of Indonesia

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has participated in the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting under G20 Presidency of Indonesia.

Six African countries to receive revolutionary mRNA technology to set up vaccine production centres

WHO has announced that six African countries namely Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia will be given the revolutionary mRNA technology to set up their own vaccine production centres helping the continent acquire self-reliance against the Covid pandemic.

U.S. to sell 250 Abrams tanks to Poland

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced the sale of 250 Abrams tanks to Poland, as Washington moves to strengthen the defences of a key eastern European ally.

US FDA to consider India's Covaxin as vaccine candidate in America

Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN will be evaluated as a COVID-19 vaccine candidate in the United States. Ocugen is co-developing COVAXIN for COVID-19 in the US and Canada.

Covid: England ending isolation laws and mass free testing

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson laid out the details of his "living with COVID" plan, which involves an end to the legal requirement to self-isolate after a positive coronavirus test and a rollback of free mass coronavirus tests from April.

At least 171 people died after flash floods and mudslides in Petrópolis

Search and clean-up efforts continue in the Brazilian city of Petrópolis, five days after flash floods and mudslides that have killed at least 171 people.

Russia recognises Ukraine separatist regions as independent states

Russian President Vladimir Putin has recognised breakaway rebel regions Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine's east as independent states, effectively ending peace talks.

Pakistan introduces new law targeting social-media users posting 'fake news' on military, judiciary

Pakistan government has introduced a new cyber-crime law that could see social-media users jailed for up to five years for posting "fake news" about the military, judiciary or public officials.

Biden signs executive order to prohibit trade, investment in Ukraine breakaway regions

US President Joe Biden signed an executive order to prohibit trade and investment between US individuals and the two breakaway regions of eastern Ukraine recognized as independent by Russia.

First shipment of 2500 MT of Indian wheat dispatched to Afghanistan via Pakistan

The first convoy of 50 trucks carrying 2500 MT of wheat assistance from India to Afghanistan via Pakistan was flagged off in a ceremony at Amritsar in Punjab.

Russia launches special military operation on Ukraine's eastern Donbas region

Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region. Ballistic missile attacks were also launched on a number of Ukrainian cities.

Ukraine's Parliament imposes 'state of emergency' to deal with the situation arising out of threat from Russia

Ukraine's parliament has imposed a national state of emergency aimed at helping to forge a response to the threat of a Russian invasion.

Council of Europe suspends Russia over Ukraine invasion

The Council of Europe has suspended Russia from the continent's human rights organization because of its invasion of Ukraine.

UN World Food Programme appeals for funds to assist those affected by Cyclone Emnati

The United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) has appealed for funds to assist those affected by the Cyclone Emnati in Madagascar.

Somalia extends deadline for completion of long-delayed parliamentary elections

Somali leaders have extended the deadline for the completion of long-delayed parliamentary elections to 15th March. They had been scheduled to conclude by 25th February.

India abstains from voting on UNSC resolution on situation in Ukraine

A resolution on the situation on Ukraine was tabled for action in the UN Security Council. In the 15 member Council, the resolution received 11 votes in favour, Russia voted against it and three nations India, UAE and China abstained.

Russia suspends space launches from French Guiana

Russia is suspending space launches from French Guiana and withdrawing its technical personnel. In response to the EU sanctions, the agency suspends its cooperation with European partners on space launches from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou.

President Vladimir Putin orders Russian military to put its nuclear forces on special alert

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Russian military to put its nuclear forces on special alert - the highest level of alert for Strategic Missile Forces.

U.S., allies target 'fortress Russia' with new sanctions, including SWIFT ban

The U.S., European Union and United Kingdom agreed to block "selected" Russian banks from the SWIFT global financial messaging system.

NATIONAL

Indian, Omani air forces begin joint exercises in Jodhpur

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman began a five-day bilateral exercise at the Jodhpur

air force station. The exercise named Eastern Bridge VI is in its sixth edition.

Home delivery of medicines will begin from Feb 1 under SeHAT: Defence Ministry

Defence Ministry has said that home delivery of medicines will begin from February 1 under Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation, SeHAT.

NIMHANS to spearhead national tele-counselling

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) will spearhead a National Tele-Mental Health Programme across the country, the Union Budget announced.

Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande is Vice Chief of Army Staff

Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande took over as the Vice Chief of Army Staff from Lt. Gen. C.P. Mohanty who superannuated on January 31.

696 Anti Human Trafficking Units established in various States\UTs

A total of 696 Anti Human Trafficking Units have been established in various States and Union Territories, Centre said.

Govt approved setting up of seven PM MITRA Parks in greenfield/brownfield sites

Union Minister of State for Textiles, Darshana Jardosh has informed that the centre has approved setting up of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in greenfield/brownfield sites to develop world class infrastructure.

ZyCoV-D supply to Centre starts

Pharmaceutical company Zydus group announced that it had started the supply of its COVID-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D, to the Central government against their order.

Foundation stone laid for new border haat on Bangladesh-India border

The foundation stone for the third border haat at Kamalpur-Kumarghat on Tripura- Bangladesh border was laid jointly by the Chief Minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi.

Ministry of Finance releases PDRD Grant of 9,871 crore rupees to 17 States

Ministry of Finance has released the monthly Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of 9 thousand 871 crore rupees to 17 States. This was the 11th installment of the PDRD grant released to the States.

UP's tableau adjudged the best at Republic Day parade this year

Uttar Pradesh has been selected as the best state tableau among 12 States and UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade 2022. Central Industrial Security Force has been named the best marching contingent among Central Armed Police Force and other auxiliary forces.

JNU Vice Chancellor Jagadesh Kumar appointed as Chairman of UGC

Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University Jagadesh Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of University Grants Commission UGC.

Sonali Singh given charge of Controller General of Accounts

The Government of India has appointed Sonali Singh to hold the additional charge of the Controller General of

Accounts (CGA), under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, with effect from February 01, 2022.

PM Modi unveils 216-foot tall 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation 216-foot tall 'Statue of Equality in Hyderabad to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Ramanujacharya. The statue has been conceptualised by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates "Innovations in Public Administration" programme of Capacity Building Commission of Mission Karmayogi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology inaugurated 'Innovations in Public Administration' program of Capacity Building Commission CBC of Mission Karmayogi to identify successful innovations in public service pioneered by civil servants.

Bangladesh signs agreement to purchase 420 broad-gauge railway wagons from India

The Bangladesh railways will procure 420 broad-gauge wagons from India. The agreement was signed in Dhaka.

Drugs Controller General of India, grants emergency use of single-dose Sputnik Light Covid-19 vaccine

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has informed that Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI has granted emergency use permission to Single-dose Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine in India.

Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022 announced by Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, GoI

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its "Waste to Wealth" Mission has announced the "Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022.

R K Singh launches Powerthon-2022 for technology-driven solutions to ensure quality and reliable power supply

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

Santishree Pandit is first woman V-C of JNU

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

One-third of ₹10,990 cr. in PM CARES fund spent: audit

The PM CARES Fund collected ₹10,990 crores since its inception in March 2020 until March 2021. It spent ₹3,976 crores during the 2020-21 financial year, according to the audited financial statement posted on its website.

Akshay Kumar Named As Brand Ambassador of The Hill State, Uttarakhand

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has been named as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand. Apart from Akshay Kumar, cricketer Rishabh Pant was also appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador in December 2021.

AIM, NITI Aayog, and USAID collaborates under SAMRIDH initiative

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

AYUSH Minister launches dedicated storefront for Ayurveda products on Amazon

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

Atal Tunnel certified by World Book of Records as World's Longest Highway Tunnel

Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records as the World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10 thousand Feet. The 9.02 kilometers long strategically significant Atal Tunnel, that runs under the Rohtang Pass was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway.

Govt bans import of foreign drones to promote Make-In-India initiative

As part of efforts to promote domestic manufacturing of drones in the country, the Government has banned import of foreign drones with certain exceptions.

NITI Aayog announces 5 most improved aspirational districts in Agriculture, Water Resources sector

NITI Aayog has announced the five most improved aspirational districts in the Agriculture and Water Resources sector for December 2021. Malkangiri in Odisha tops the list. It is followed by Chhatrapur in Madhya Pradesh and Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir.

India's mRNA vaccine likely by April

Data from human trials of India's first homegrown mRNA COVID-19 vaccine are likely to be presented to authorities for evaluation by the end of the month, and company officials are aiming to roll out the product before April.

Suicides due to job loss highest in 2020: Centre

Over 16,000 people committed suicide due to bankruptcy or indebtedness while 9,140 people ended their lives due to unemployment between 2018 and 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha.

No quarantine for travellers from 82 countries from Feb. 14

Fully vaccinated international passengers from 82 countries have been permitted quarantine-free entry from February 14, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

National Monuments Authority to hold first ever global webinar on Monuments protection

National Monuments Authority will hold first ever global webinar on Monument's protection. The webinar will be organised in collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations on Protection of the Monuments and their significance for the Preservation of National Heritage.

17.78 lakh acres of defence land surveyed

The Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) has completed the exercise of surveying the 17.78 lakh acres of defence land, the first such exercise post Independence.

Two National Centres of Excellence in Carbon Capture, Utilization being established in India

Two National Centres of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization are being established in India. These Centres are being set up at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru.

India and Australia sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on tourism cooperation

India and Australia signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism cooperation in the field of Tourism in New Delhi.

Central Scheme SMILE launched to provide welfare measures to marginalised people

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Virendra Kumar inaugurated the ambitious SMILE- Support for Marginalized Individual for Livelihood and Enterprise- Scheme of the centre for this community in New Delhi.

Govt scraps requirement of drone pilot licence

The requirement of a drone pilot licence has been abolished in the country. In a gazette notification of Ministry of Civil Aviation, it has been said that the Remote Pilot Certificate issued by a Directorate General of Civil Aviation approved drone school through the single window Digital Sky platform will be sufficient for operating drones in the country.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over Ganga river at Munger in Bihar

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over the Ganga river at Munger in Bihar through video conference. The bridge has been constructed on NH 333B at the cost of 696 crore rupees.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission announces integration with health App -Aarogya Setu

The National Health Authority (NHA) under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) announced its integration with health App - Aarogya Setu. This integration takes the benefits of 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account-ABHA number to the Aarogya Setu user base and beyond.

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

Indian scientists have developed a next-generation probiotic that provides hope for longevity and healthy aging. A team of Indian Scientists has identified probiotic bacterium Lactobacillus Plantarum JBC5 from a dairy product that showed great promise in promoting healthy aging.

AIM, NITI Aayog, and UNDP India launches Community Innovator Fellowship

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with UNDP, India launched the Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF). This fellowship is a year-long program that aims to provide young community innovators necessary infrastructure and knowledge building in their entrepreneurial journey.

India to replace diesel by renewable energy in agriculture by 2024, says Power minister

India will replace use of diesel in farming with renewables by 2024, union power and renewable energy minister R K Singh said.

Govt approves ₹26,275 cr central financial outlay from 2021-22 to 2025-26 for modernisation of police forces

The Union government has approved the continuation of a police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with a financial outlay of ₹26,275 crore.

Govt. bans 54 new Chinese mobile apps

The Union home ministry has recommended a ban on 54 Chinese mobile applications that pose a threat to India's security.

India launches Earth-observing satellite and 2 others in first space mission of 2022

Marking the first launch mission of the year 2022, Indian Space Research Organisation's earth observation satellite EOS-04 and two small satellites were successfully placed into the intended orbit by the PSLV-C52 rocket.

Mumbai International Film Festival to be held from May 29 to June 4

The 17th edition of Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022) will be held from 29th of May to 4th of June this year.

Union Cabinet approves setting up of G20 Secretariat to implement overall policy decisions and arrangements for India's G20 Presidency

Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures. The Secretariat will be responsible for the implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming G20 Presidency. India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December this year to 30th November 2023.

India to make digital maps of all villages

India plans to prepare digital maps of all its 6,00,000 villages and pan-India 3D maps will be prepared for 100 cities, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said.

Govt launches scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of (De-notified Tribes)DNTs in New Delhi for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes.

Government approves New India Literacy Programme for Financial Years 2022 to 2027

The Union government approved a new scheme New India Literacy Programme for the period Financial Years 2022 to 2027 to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22.

NITI Aayog and PhonePe launches Fintech Open Hackathon

NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe launched the Fintech Open Hackathon. The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amends safety norms, use of safety harness and crash helmet must for children below four years

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and prescribed safety norms for children below four years of age riding or being carried on a motorcycle. It specifies use of a safety harness and crash helmet.

Govt approves continuation of Capacity Development Scheme till March 2026

The Union government has approved the continuation of the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme till 31st of March, 2026. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said that the outlay approved for the continuation of the Scheme during 15th Finance Commission cycle is 3 thousand 179 crore rupees.

Kerala village Aymanam among 30 best places to visit

Aymanam, a picturesque village beside the backwaters near Kottayam in Kerala, is among the 30 best places featured for visit in 2022 in an international travel magazine.

SC lifts stay on Haryana quota for private jobs

The Supreme Court of India has lifted a stay on the Haryana law, which sets aside 75% of class III and IV jobs for locals, allowing the law to come into effect.

Ministry of Power notifies Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy to replace fossil fuels

Ministry of Power has notified Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy for production of Green Hydrogen or Green Ammonia using renewable sources of energy. Hydrogen and Ammonia are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels.

PM Modi virtually inaugurates Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Feb 19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant at Indore in Madhya Pradesh. This Bio CNG plant will be operated from 100% wet waste.

Tourism Ministry and Alliance Air Aviation Limited sign MoU to promote domestic tourism

Tourism Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Air Aviation Limited to boost cooperation for the promotion and marketing of domestic tourism throughout the country.

India's first water taxi service inaugurated in Maharashtra

India's first water taxi service was inaugurated in Maharashtra connecting the Navi Mumbai area to mainland Mumbai.

India, UAE sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a Virtual Summit. A major highlight of the Virtual Summit was the signing and exchange of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, CEPA. It is expected that the CEPA will lead to increase in bilateral trade from the current \$60 billion to \$100 billion in the next five years.

Government approves Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan scheme to continue till 31st March 2026

The Union Government has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till 31st March 2026. The proposal entails an expenditure of over 12 thousand 929 crore rupees.

Over one lakh seven thousand crore rupees of claims paid under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: Govt

The Union government has said that over one lakh seven thousand crore rupees of claims have been paid under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to date.

Govt approves implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System project

The Union government has approved the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project during the period 2022-23 to 2025-26. The ICJS is a national platform for enabling integration of the main IT system used for the delivery of Criminal Justice in the country.

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

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) Programme.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers setting up production plant that will produce one lakh 50 thousand bottle Nano urea per day

Minister for Chemical and Fertilisers, Mansukh Mandaviya said that the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers is setting up a production plant that will produce one lakh 50 thousand bottle Nano urea per day.

A Nation to Protect by Priyam Gandhi launched

The book titled "A Nation To Protect" authored by Priyam Gandhi Mody was launched by the Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

PM Modi flags off 100 kisan drones

The Prime Minister flagged off 100 kisan drones in different cities and towns. He said, at present, drones are being used in many different areas including mapping of land, supply of medicines and vaccines, and spraying of pesticides.

Centre's doorstep distribution drive for crop insurance to start

As the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) enters the seventh year of implementation with the upcoming Kharif season, the government said it will launch a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers. The doorstep campaign 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' aims to ensure all farmers are well aware and equipped with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under the PMFBY.

India registered 136 cybercrime cases every day in 2020: NCRB data

Cybercrimes in the country have increased four times or 306 per cent in the past four years. In 2016, 12,317 cases of cybercrime were registered and in 2020 this number increased to 50,035.

India's first Biosafety Level 3 Mobile Laboratory inaugurated in Nashik

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated the first Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) containment Mobile Laboratory of South Asia in the Nashik district of Maharashtra.

Corbevax gets nod for use in 12-18 age group

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given emergency use authorisation (EUA) to vaccine maker Biological E's COVID-19 vaccine "Corbevax" for the 12 - 18 age group.

Lalu gets 5 years in jail in fifth fodder scam case

A special CBI court has announced a 5-year jail sentence and ₹60 lakh fine for Lalu Prasad Yadav in the fifth fodder scam case. Lalu Yadav was declared guilty.

Assam Becomes First State To Launch Night Navigation Mobile App In Rivers

The Assam government launched the country's first night navigation mobile application in rivers for ferries on the Brahmaputra River.

Tata Power, RWE sign MoU to explore offshore wind energy

Tata Power, German electricity generating company RWE have agreed on a partnership to explore the potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India.

DRDO participates in 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujate', organizes exhibitions in 16 cities

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is participating in 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujate' being held across the country on the occasion of 75th year of India's Independence, 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujate' is a pan-India programme to showcase science, technology, and innovation from every part of the country from 22nd February to 28th February.

Women and Child Development Ministry extends PM CARES for Children Scheme till February end

Women and Child Development Ministry have extended the PM Cares for Children Scheme till the end of this month. Earlier the scheme was valid till 31st December 2021.

Centre approves continuation of NMMSS for EWS students for five years

The Centre has approved the continuation of the Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) over the 15th Finance Commission cycle for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

MSDE under 'SANKALP' starts initiative to fund 1,000 apprentices stipend across Central Ministries

Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry under its SANKALP programme has brought an initiative to fund a stipend for one thousand apprentices across Central Ministries for one year.

Sanyal inducted into PM's economic advisory council

The Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal has been inducted into the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister as a full-time member.

SC warns pharma firms on freebies

The Supreme Court of India held that "extravagant freebies" given to doctors, obviously in exchange for prescribing expensive medicine, cannot be used by pharmaceutical companies to claim benefits under the Income Tax Act.

Centre informs SC that 18 thousand crore rupees returned to banks in Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi cases

The Centre has informed Supreme Court of India that 18 thousand crore have been returned to the banks in Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi cases.

DRDO and IIT Delhi successfully demonstrates Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal

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

India grants extension of two months to delimitation commission to redraw J&K's electoral map

The Government of India has granted an extension of two months to the delimitation commission constituted by it in 2020 to redraw J&K's electoral map. The panel is headed by former Supreme Court Judge Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Desai.

Govt approves continuation of Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management till 2025-26

The Union government has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management from 2021-22 to 2025-26 at a cost of 13 thousand 20 crore rupees.

WEF, National Institute of Urban Affairs sign MoU to collaborate on jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'

The World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on a jointly designed Sustainable Cities India program. The program is aimed to create an enabling environment for cities to generate de-carbonization solutions.

Govt launches Ombudsperson App for smooth functioning of MNREGA scheme

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh have launched Ombudsperson App for MNREGA. This app will facilitate hassle free reporting, categorization of grievances and disposal of complaints by Ombudsperson.

MoD signs contract worth ₹1075 crore with BEL for retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks T-90

The Acquisition Wing of the Defence Ministry has signed a contract for 1075 crore rupees with Bharat Electronics Limited for the retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks-T-90.

Navy gets 12th P-8I aircraft from Boeing

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered the 12th P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy. This completes the follow-on clause for four additional P-8I aircraft contracted in 2016.

Union Law Secretary elevated as Delhi HC judge

In a first, Union Law Secretary Anoop Kumar Mendiratta was elevated as a judge of the Delhi High Court.

Latest edition of Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 commences in Visakhapatnam

The latest edition of Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 has commenced from in Visakhapatnam. The theme of the MILAN, 2022 exercise in 'Camaraderie - Cohesion- Collaboration' which aims to project India as a responsible maritime power to the World at large.

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

A joint military exercise, EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022, between India and Japan will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi in Karnataka from 27th February to 10th of March.

Education Ministry launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign

Ministry of Education has launched a Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Transport ministry allows vehicles to have maximum of 3 decks to transport 2-wheelers

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification for rigid vehicles and trailers for having maximum of three decks to transport two-wheelers.

Union Cabinet approves national rollout of central sector scheme-ABDM

Union Cabinet has approved the national roll-out of Central Sector Scheme, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with a budget of 1,600 crore rupees for five years. The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Cabinet approves supply of coal through common e-auction window

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved offering of coal by coal companies through a common e-auction window instead of sector-specific auctions.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022 by administering polio drops to children below five years of age in New Delhi.

Fourth Operation Ganga flight with 198 Indian evacuees from Ukraine reaches Delhi from Bucharest

A fourth evacuation flight carrying 198 Indians from Romanian capital Bucharest left for India on Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

BANKING & ECONOMY

₹1,38,394 crore gross GST revenue collected for January 2022

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of January, 2022 is one lakh 38 thousand 394 crore rupees.

Neelachal Ispat sale to Tata arm gets govt. nod

The Union government has approved the sale of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) to Tata Steel Long Products Ltd. at an enterprise value of ₹12,100 crore.

Core sectors grow 3.8%

Output from India's eight core sectors grew 3.8% in December 2021, accelerating marginally from the 3.4% increase recorded in November

FDI in pharma jumped 53% in April-Sept. period

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the pharma sector in the first half (April-September) of this fiscal increased 53% to ₹4,413 crore from the year earlier.

Vedanta ties up ₹8,000-crore facility with Union Bank to take over majority of syndicated facility

Vedanta has tied up a facility of ₹8,000 crore with Union Bank of India to take over a majority of the syndicated facility after multiple discussions with potential lenders.

Survey pegs growth at 8-8.5% in 22-23

The Economic Survey for 2021-22, tabled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha, expects the GDP to grow by 9.2% this year and 8% to 8.5% in 2022-23.

Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23

India's economic growth estimated at 9.2 percent, the highest among all large economies.

Outlay for Capital expenditure in Union Budget hiked by 35.4 percent.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) extended up to March 2023. The guarantee cover will be expanded by 50,000 crore rupees.

Four hundred new-generation Vande Bharat Trains to be developed over the next three years. National Highway network to be expanded by 25 thousand kilometres in 2022-23.

A Digital University to be established to provide access to students across the country for world-class quality universal education.

Government to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts of the country by Scheduled Commercial Banks.

100 per cent of post offices to be brought under core-banking system.

Digital Rupee, using blockchain and other technologies to be issued by RBI from 2022-23.

Auction of spectrum for rollout of 5G mobile services to be taken up in 2022.

Revised Fiscal Deficit during current year is estimated at 6.9 percent

Alternate Minimum Tax for cooperative societies reduced from 18.5 to 15 per cent.

Virtual digital asset to be taxed at the rate of 30 per cent.

Indian economy contracts by 6.6 pc in 2020-21

Indian economy contracted by 6.6 per cent in 2020-21 as against the earlier estimate of 7.3 per cent decline.

India's EXIM Bank, Sri Lanka sign \$500-mn loan agreement

The Export Import Bank (EXIM) of India and the Government of Sri Lanka signed a \$500-million Line of Credit agreement aimed at helping Sri Lanka cope with its current fuel shortages, amid one of the worst economic meltdowns facing the island nation.

RBI cancels licence of Independence Co-operative Bank Limited

The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Nashik based Independence Co-operative Bank Limited.

Indian Chamber of Commerce organises outreach programme on Export Controls focusing on start-ups

The Ministry of External Affairs, in cooperation with the Indian Chamber of Commerce organised an outreach programme on Export Controls focusing on start-ups in various sectors of the economy.

LIC ties up with Policybazaar.com for distribution of its products

state-owned insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), has tied up with insurance aggregator Policybazaar.com for distribution of its products.

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

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

IndiGo appoints Co-founder Rahul Bhatia as Managing Director

The Indian airline, IndiGo has appointed its co-founder and promoter Rahul Bhatia as the Managing Director (MD) of the company with immediate effect.

Indian Companies ECB Jumps 19 Percent to USD 23.28 Billion in 9M FY22

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the overseas borrowings of Indian companies stood at USD 23.28 billion in the first 3 quarters of the FY22 (April, 2021 -December, 2021) as against USD 19.53 billion during FY21 (April-December, 2020).

PESB recommends BK Tyagi for the post of CMD Shipping Corporation (SCI)

Binesh Kumar Tyagi is set to be the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), a PSU under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

SBI lines up 6 NPA accounts for sale to recover ₹406 crore

Country's largest lender SBI has lined up six non-performing assets (NPAs) for sale to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to recover dues of nearly ₹406 crore.

ADB lends record USD 4.6 bn loans to India in 2021

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

EU joins chips race with €43-billion bid to rival Asia

The EU unveiled a plan to quadruple the supply of semiconductors in Europe by 2030, hoping to limit the bloc's dependence on Asia for a key component used in electric cars and smartphones.

Ashok Leyland to supply 200 trucks to Bangladesh as part of USD 2 billion Line of Credit announced by PM Modi

Indian commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland is supplying 200 trucks to the Bangladesh government as part of the USD 2 billion Line of Credit (LOC) announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bangladesh GDP grows at 6.91 percent, per capita income USD 2591

The Bangladesh economy registered an impressive 6.91 percent growth in the Financial Year (FY) 2020-21 exceeding the provisional estimate by 1.51 percent, according to the report of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BSS).

Bosch to invest ₹2,000 cr. in India in next five years

Technology and services supplier Bosch said it would invest a total of ₹2,000 crore in India, in the next five years, in addition to the ₹8,000 crore it had already pumped into the country over the past decade.

Amazon announces season 2 of start up mentoring program

Amazon India announced the launch of the second season of its support programme for Indian start-ups aiming to reach customers around the world. The Global Selling Propel supports early-stage start-ups in the consumer products space to get into international markets and create global brands.

RBI extends liquidity window for healthcare

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed to extend the term-liquidity facility of ₹50,000 crore offered to emergency health services by three months till June 30.

French mobility solutions firm Alstom to hire 1,500 people in India in 2022

Alstom, a French manufacturer of smart, sustainable and green mobility solutions, said it would hire 1,500 people in India in 2022, as part of its global workforce expansion plan to onboard 7,500 new employees.

RBI announces Bi-monthly policy

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at 4% to keep the stance accommodative. MSF rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25%. Reverse repo rate will also remain unchanged at 3.35%. CPI inflation for 2022-23 was projected at 4.5%.

N Chandrasekaran's term as Tata Sons chairman renewed for another 5 years

The salt-to-software Tata Group will see continuation of leadership as N Chandrasekaran remains executive chairman for another five years.

FM Sitharaman launches first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra' on the occasion of 17th foundation day of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL).

IIT-M Research Park, Saint-Gobain India sign MoU on renewable energy

Saint-Gobain India and the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, Research Park have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a 100 per cent renewable energy, research park.

Foreign investors pull out nearly ₹15,000 cr from Indian capital markets so far in February

Foreign investors pulled out nearly 15,000 crore rupees from the Indian capital markets so far in February.

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

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

LIC files Draft Red Herring Prospectus with SEBI seeking approval for its IPO

LIC has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus with SEBI, seeking approval for its Initial Public Offering, IPO. The IPO is 100 per cent Offer for sale by government of India and no fresh issue of shares by LIC.

CPI inflation jumps to 6.01% in January 2022, highest in seven months

India's headline inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) jumped to 6.01 percent in January 2022, as per data released by the National Statistical Office.

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

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

January wholesale price inflation slows a tad to 12.96%

India's wholesale price inflation fell marginally to a four-month low of 12.96% in January from 13.56% in December 2021, driven largely by a drop in manufactured products' inflation to below the 10% mark for the first time since April.

Vedanta, Foxconn plan JV to produce chips

Vedanta Group and Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) have signed an MOU to form a joint venture (JV) to manufacture semiconductors in India.

India bagged \$4.5 bn PE/VC deals in Jan

India captured private equity and venture capital investments worth \$4.5 billion across 117 deals in January, according to the IVCA-EY monthly PE/VC roundup data.

Yes Bank launches Agri Infinity program

Private sector lender Yes Bank announced the launch of an annual startup enabler program "Yes Bank Agri Infinity", that seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the sector.

Exports rise 25% to \$34.5 bn in Jan.

India's exports in January 2022 rose 25.28 per cent to \$34.50 billion from \$27.54 billion in January 2021.

RBI launches Financial Literacy Week

The Reserve Bank of India's Regional Office launched a 'Financial Literacy Week 2022'. It will be organized from February 14 to 18. This year the theme is "Go Digital, Go Secure"

Separation of chairperson, MD positions at listed companies will be voluntary, not mandatory: Sebi

In a significant move, markets watchdog Sebi has decided to implement the requirement to separate the

positions of Chairperson and Managing Director at listed companies on a voluntary basis and not make it mandatory for now.

RBI extends timeline by six months for NBFC's to adhere new NPA recognition norms

The Reserve Bank of India extended the timeline by six months for Non-Banking Financial Companies to adhere to the new NPA recognition norms. Earlier the regulator had set March 31 deadline for non-bank lenders to upgrade NPAs only after all arrears and principal dues are paid.

Foodgrains production of over 316 million tonnes is estimated for 2021-22 in the country

The Central Government has said that record foodgrains production of over 316 million tonnes is estimated for 2021-22 in the country. This is higher by 5.32 million tonnes than the production of foodgrain during 2020-21.

Aditya Birla Group invests undisclosed sum in Zand in UAE

The Aditya Birla Group has invested an undisclosed amount in Zand, an upcoming digital bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change: Report

Indian businesses have ranked fifth based on their concern for climate change and Indian companies are more likely to be implementing tougher climate actions compared with their global counterpart, advisory firm Deloitte said in a report.

LIC sits on over ₹21,500 cr unclaimed funds

State-owned insurance LIC had unclaimed funds to the tune of ₹21,539 crore as of September 2021, according to draft prospectus filed for IPO with market regulator Sebi.

Global trade in 2021 rises 25 per cent to touch record high of \$28.5 billion: UNCTAD

Global trade in goods and services touched a record high of \$28.5 billion in 2021 boosted by increases in commodity prices, subsiding pandemic restrictions and a strong recovery in demand due to economic stimulus packages, according to UNCTAD.

Iraq strengthens grip on India oil market, with highest volumes in 29 mths

India's imports of oil from Iraq surged in January to a 29-month high of about 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd), making up nearly a third of the supplies to Asia's third largest economy, data from shipping and industry sources show.

No switch auctions in February and March 2022: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Government of India, has decided not to conduct the Government Security (G-Sec) switch auctions scheduled to be held in February and March 2022.

BSE EBIX to distribute LIC products

BSE EBIX Insurance Broking has signed an Insurance Broker Agreement for distribution of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India products.

Nepal govt to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface as payments platform in the Himalayan nation

Nepal will become the first country outside of India to adopt Unified Payments Interface or UPI as the payment's platform in the Himalayan nation. National Payments Corporation of India NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

Vedanta to invest up to \$20 bn in semiconductor, display units

Indian conglomerate Vedanta has earmarked \$15 billion for its foray into the electronic chip and display manufacturing space, and plans to scale up the investment to as much as \$20 billion (about ₹1.5 lakh crore).

IndiGo's co-founder Rakesh Gangwal resigns from InterGlobe board with immediate effect

Budget carrier IndiGo has informed the stock exchanges that its promoter and co-founder Rakesh Gangwal has resigned from the board as non-executive, non-independent director with immediate effect.

India's GDP likely grew 5.8% in Q3, says SBI's economics team

India's gross domestic product (GDP) likely grew by 5.8% in the third quarter of fiscal 2022, SBI's economics researchers projected.

RBI cancels licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Mantha in Maharashtra's Jalna district.

TransUnion Cibil partners Ficci on MSME consumer education program

TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education program to support MSME.

SBI, BoB, PNB and Canara Bank pick up stake in IDRCL

State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) have announced their subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).

NHPC incorporates subsidiary for renewable energy business

State-owned hydro power giant NHPC has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary for clean energy business, including green hydrogen.

Bharti, Jio embark on undersea cable voyage

With 5G commercial services expected to be rolled out in the next fiscal, telecom operators Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio in India have started to prepare the infrastructure, including enhancing the capacity of submarine cable systems, as it will be key to support low-latency 5G networks.

Societe Generale sells HDFC shares worth ₹1,730 crore

Societe Generale offloaded shares of Housing Development Finance Corp (HDFC) worth nearly ₹1,730 crore through an open market transaction.

Reserve Bank asks NBFCs to implement core financial services solution by Sept. 2025

Reserve Bank of India asked certain class of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) to mandatorily implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' by September 30, 2025 in order to provide seamless customer interface as well as have a centralised data base.

IBM sets up a key cybersecurity hub for the entire Apac region in Bengaluru

IBM said it set up a cyber security hub in Bengaluru to help businesses across the Asia Pacific region to manage and combat the growing threat of cyberattacks.

Indian PC market grew 44.5% in 2021

India shipped 14.8 million units of personal computers (PCs) in calendar 2021, registering a 44.5% year-on-year growth, according to International Data Corporation (IDC) data.

Moody's raises India's growth forecast to 9.5% for 2022

American credit rating agency, Moody's Investors Service has raised India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent from 7 per cent for the calendar year 2022.

India ends tax row with Cairn, pays ₹7,900 cr.

The Union Government has paid Cairn Energy Plc ₹7,900 crore to refund taxes it had collected to enforce a retrospective tax demand, ending a seven-year-old dispute that had tarred the country's image as an investment destination.

April-Dec. FDI equity inflows dip 16%: DPIIT

Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 16% to \$43.17 billion during the April-December 2021 period, according to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data.

Finance ministry releases ₹1348 crore to six states for providing grants to Urban Local Bodies

The Finance Ministry today released 1348 crore rupees to six states Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tripura, and Tamil Nadu for providing grants to Urban Local Bodies.

Bharti to buy 4.7% in Indus from Vodafone

Bharti Airtel said it has entered into an agreement with Vodafone Group Plc to buy 4.7% equity in Indus Towers.

Pak. National Bank fined \$55 mn by U.S.

The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) had reached an agreement with U.S. regulators to pay \$55 million in fines imposed on its New York branch for non-compliance and violating rules against money laundering.

Govt allows up to 20% FDI in LIC under automatic route

The cabinet approved a proposal to allow up to 20% foreign direct investment (FDI) in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through the automatic route, a move that will facilitate the insurer's upcoming initial public offer (IPO).

Standard Chartered tie up with IATA for payment platform for airline industry

Global banking group Standard Chartered has partnered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to

launch a payment platform for the airline industry in India.

Sebi proposes to allow FPIs to participate in commodity derivatives market

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed allowing foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to participate in the exchange-traded commodity derivatives market.

In its consultation paper, the regulator has suggested that FPIs should be allowed to trade in all.

Foreign investors pull out nearly ₹35,500 cr from Indian capital markets so far in February

Foreign investors pulled out more than 35,500 crore rupees from the Indian capital markets so far in February.

Export of guavas from India sees growth of 260 % since 2013

The export of guavas from India sees a growth of 260 per cent since 2013. Exports grew from 0.58 Million US dollar in April-January 2013-14 to 2.09 Million dollar in April 2021-22.

AWARDS

PR Sreejesh wins World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 Award

Indian Hockey goalkeeper P R Sreejesh has won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade.

Daryl Mitchell wins ICC's 'Spirit of Cricket' award

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell is the recipient of the ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for 2021 for his sportsmanlike gesture in the T20 World Cup semifinal against England in Abu Dhabi last November.

Bangladesh: 24 eminent persons to get Ekushey Padak 2022

The government of Bangladesh announced the names of 24 eminent personalities for the award of the country's second highest civilian honour- Ekushey Padak.

Karnataka Bank gets digital transformation award

Karnataka Bank has been awarded the digital transformation award, 'DX 2021 Awards', in recognition of the "innovative" best practice 'KBL VIKAAS', by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for Best Practice in Digital Transformation.

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022

Film of the Year Award: Pushpa: The Rise
Best Film Award: Shershaah
Best Actor Award: Ranveer Singh for film 83
Best Actress Award: Kriti Sanon for film Mimi

CIL for 'Most Dependable Public Sector in India' Award

Coal India Ltd (CIL) was awarded the "Most Dependable Public Sector in India" award. The Award was conferred on CIL by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata in "Energy Meet & Excellence Awards function.

PERSONS IN NEWS
(National and International)

Queen Elizabeth

Queen Elizabeth marked 70 years on the British throne, a milestone never reached by any of her predecessors over the last 1,000 years, and one which only a few monarchs across the globe have ever achieved.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Frank-Walter Steinmeier was elected for a second term as Germany's President. The incumbent won 77% support at the Bundesversammlung (Federal Convention) in Berlin.

Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba

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

Jens Stoltenberg

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) chief, Jens Stoltenberg will take over as Norway's central bank Governor at the end of the year.

K.N. Raghavan

K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Indian Rubber Board, has been elected the new Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG).

Ketanji Brown Jackson

President Joe Biden has nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. She will be the first black woman to serve in the court's 233-year history if confirmed.

Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi

The leader of the Islamic State (IS/ISIS), Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, died in a U.S. counterterrorism operation in Idlib province, in northwestern Syria.

Christos Sartzetakis

Former Greek President Christos Sartzetakis, a judge widely respected for resisting pressure from military dictators who ultimately imprisoned him without trial in the late 1960s, has died.

Ibrahim Sutar

Padma Shri awardee social activist and spiritual thinker Ibrahim Sutar, fondly known as 'Kabir of Kannada' passed away in Mahalingapur of Karnataka's Bagalkot district.

Lata Mangeshkar

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar passed away at the age of 92. For her exceptional talent, she was honoured with Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Praveen Sobti

Actor Praveen Kumar Sobti, popular for essaying the role of Bheem in BR Chopra's Mahabharat, has died. He was a former BSF soldier and also won four medals, including two gold, in the Asian Games for India in 1966 and 1970.

Rahul Bajaj

Industrialist and former Chairman of Bajaj Group, Rahul Bajaj passed away. Rahul Bajaj acted as the chairman of the Bajaj Group for 50 years. He was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 2001 and served as a Rajya Sabha MP also.

Sandhya Mukhopadhyay

Legendary Bengali singer Sandhya Mukhopadhyay passed away in Kolkata after a brief illness. She was 90.

Channaveera Kanavi

Eminent Kannada litterateur Dr Chennaveera Kanavi passed away. Kanavi had penned more than 15 books, which were compilation of poems, collection of essays and various other books.

Bappi Lahiri

Music composer and singer Bappi Lahiri passed away at a Mumbai hospital. Bappi da as he was fondly called by film fraternity can be called as the father of Disco music in India.

Surajit Sengupta

Former India footballer Surajit Sengupta passed away. He played for both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal and represented India at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games.

Ravish Tiwari

Senior journalist, Ravish Tiwari has passed away. He was the national bureau chief of Indian Express.

Shakuntala Choudhary

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

Sonny Ramadhin

Former West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin, a part of the side that won a first away series in England in 1950 and described as "pioneer" of the game, has died aged 92.

SPORTS

Neeraj Chopra for Laureus award

Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards.

Government approves continuation of scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations

The Union government has approved continuation of Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations with an outlay of one thousand 575 crore rupees for 15th Finance Commission Cycle 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Centre implementing Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons Scheme

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said that the central government is implementing the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons Scheme. The Scheme provides for grant of suitable financial assistance to outstanding sportspersons now living in indigent condition, medical treatment, procurement of sports equipments, participation in national and international events.

ICC U-19 World Cup: India lifts a record fifth title

In the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, India lifted a record fifth title after beating England by four wickets in the summit clash at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

Dhull is skipper of ICC's 'Most Valuable Team'

India's Yash Dhull has been chosen captain of ICC's 'Most Valuable Team' of the Under-19 World Cup. Raj Bawa and Vicky Ostwal also found a place in the squad.

Tata Open Maharashtra: Bopanna-Ramkumar duo reigns

India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won their second ATP World Tour title together after pipping the top-seeded Australian pair of Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra.

AFCON championship: Senegal beat Egypt in penalty shoot-out to win maiden title

In Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) football championship, Senegal beat Egypt in the final on penalties and won the title.

Centre released ₹87.65 crore for development of National Sports University in Manipur

Youth Affairs and Sports minister Anurag Thakur has said that his ministry has released a total of 87 crore 65 lakh rupees to date including 5 crore 49 lakh rupees during the current Financial Year for the development of National Sports University in Manipur.

Austrian Skier Mayer Makes It 3 Golds in 3 Straight Olympics

Matthias Mayer became the first man to win gold medals in Alpine skiing at three straight Olympics after finishing first in the super-G at the 2022 Beijing Games.

India beat West Indies by 96 runs in 3rd ODI to sweep series, 3-0

India defeated West Indies by 96 runs in third and final ODI in Ahmedabad to complete a 3-0 series whitewash.

Havertz's late penalty seals world club crown for Chelsea

Chelsea was crowned as the FIFA Club World Cup champion for the first time as Kai Havertz struck home a penalty deep into extra time to break the hearts of Brazilian club Palmeiras.

Auger-Aliassime beats top-seeded Tsitsipas to win first title

Felix Auger-Aliassime won his first career title at the ninth attempt, upsetting top-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-2 in the Rotterdam final to deny his opponent an eighth title.

Ranji Trophy: Shakibul Gani of Bihar becomes first to score triple hundred on First-Class debut

Shakibul Gani became the first cricketer to score a triple hundred on his First-Class debut. He made his debut for Bihar against Mizoram in Kolkata.

India wins right to host 2023 IOC session in Mumbai

India won the right to host the 2023 IOC session in Mumbai. This will be the second time India hosts an IOC session, having done so in 1983 in New Delhi.

India beat West Indies by 17 runs in third & final T20 to clinch series 3-0

India have become the number one team in the Men's ICC T20 International team rankings for the first time in six years after its 3-0 series win over West Indies in Kolkata.

R Praggnanandhaa defeats world champion Magnus Carlsen at Airthings Masters

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters competition. He became only the third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna to beat Carlsen.

Nagaland: SAAF, 56th National Cross country Championship to be held on March 26

Nagaland is all set to host South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF) cross country championship and 56th National Cross-Country athletics championships from 26th of next month in Kohima.

IPL President Brijesh Patel confirms 2022 edition to begin on 26th March

Indian Premier League (IPL) President Brijesh Patel has confirmed that the 2022 edition will begin on March 26th. The final of the cash-rich league will be played on May 29. Maharashtra will host the entire IPL season.

Medvedev is World No. 1 as Djokovic loses

Novak Djokovic lost his Dubai quarterfinal and his World No. 1 ranking in one go as he suffered a 6-4, 7-6(4) reverse at the hands of Czech World No. 123 Jiri Vesely.

Dabang Delhi wins PKL8, beats Patna Pirates 37-36 in final

Dabang Delhi pulled off a coup as it beat Patna Pirates 37-36 to clinch its maiden ProKabaddi League title.

Mirabai Chanu secures Gold Medal in Singapore Weightlifting International

Mirabai Chanu is set to represent India at the Commonwealth Games 2022 after securing a gold medal in the 55 kilogram category by lifting a total of 191 kilograms in the Singapore Weightlifting International.

India defeats Sri Lanka by six wicket in third T-20 Match; white wash series 3-nil

India defeated Sri Lanka by six wickets in the third and final T-20 match in Dharamsala to clean sweep the series 3-0.

Wushu Player Sadia Tariq Wins Gold At Moscow Tourney

In a major achievement in the sports field, Indian wushu player Sadia Tariq won the gold medal at a junior tournament being held in Moscow.

Rafael Nadal wins Mexican Open title

Rafael Nadal defeated Cameron Norrie to win the Mexican Open title in straight sets by 6-4, 6-4.

Nikhat and Nitu strike gold

Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) struck gold at the 73rd Strandja Memorial tournament in Sofia by notching up comprehensive victories in their respective finals.

Liverpool beats Chelsea 11-10 on penalties to win Carabao Cup

Liverpool won its first domestic final in a decade after beating Chelsea 11-10 on penalties to clinch the League Cup on Sunday.

PSL Finals: Shaheen Afridi becomes youngest captain to win T20 league

Left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi became the youngest captain to win a major T20 league title when his team Lahore Qalandars beat Multan Sultan in the Pakistan Super League final in Lahore. Afridi is 21.

Prime Volleyball PVL 2022: Kolkata Thunderbolts wins PVL 2022

The Kolkata Thunderbolts emerged as the winners of the Prime Volleyball League after taking down Ahmedabad Defenders 15-13, 15-10, 15-12 in the final at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad.

MISCELLANEOUS

India joins global movement to raise awareness on Neglected Tropical Diseases

India has joined a global movement to illuminate 100 landmarks across the world to raise awareness on Neglected Tropical Diseases, NTDs.

Taliban killed more than 100 former Afghan officials: UN

The United Nations has said that more than 100 former members of the Afghan government, its security forces and those who worked with international troops have been killed since the Taliban took over the country.

Saudi Arabia organizes first-ever yoga festival

Saudi Arabia has organized the first-ever yoga festival on Bay La Sun Beach near Jeddah, which drew over 1,000 yoga practitioners from throughout the kingdom.

World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat to be made in Dubai

The Jet, the world's first clean-energy, hydrogen-powered flying boat, is set to be launched in Dubai. The Swiss based startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and DWYN to manufacture and operate The Jet.

Chinese, French firms ink Uganda oil deal

Chinese and French oil giants sealed a landmark \$10 billion deal to develop Uganda's energy resources and build a vast regional oil pipeline, a megaproject that has incensed environmental groups.

Hoysala Temples in Karnataka finalised as India's nomination for World Heritage List for 2022-2023

The Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura in Karnataka have been finalised as India's nomination for World Heritage List for the year 2022-2023, the Union Culture Ministry said.

Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index, 2022: India tops on readiness

India scored the highest on digital readiness among the 19 countries surveyed as part of the Salesforce Global Index. India has the Index's highest digital readiness score at 63 out of 100.

Sri Lanka to launch its own 'Aadhaar'

India has agreed to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card.

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

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

India ranks third globally in forest area gain: Survey

India has increased its forest area in the past decade and ranks third globally in average annual net gain in forest area from 2010-2020, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) said in the annual Economic Survey.

Koalas: Australia lists marsupial as endangered species

Australia has listed the koala as an endangered species across most of its east coast, after a dramatic decline in numbers.

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

India has ranked in 46 out of 167 countries surveyed in the latest iteration of the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) 'Democracy Index 2021'. Topping the list were Norway, New Zealand and Finland, while the UK ranked 18th.

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

Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drones in civilian airspace. The country's first certification for unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) to operate in civilian airspace.

India sends medical supplies to Pacific island nation of Kiribati

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

US adds e-comm sites operated by Tencent, Alibaba to 'notorious list'

E-commerce sites operated by China's Tencent Holdings Ltd and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd were added to the U.S. government's latest "notorious markets" list.

Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 46th Raising Day

Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day on February 1. From just seven surface platforms in 1978, the Indian Coast Guard, (ICG) has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory.

World Wetlands Day: Wetlands action for people and planet

February 2 is World Wetlands Day. This Day is observed every year to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet.

World Cancer Day 2022:4th February

World Cancer Day is annually observed across the globe on 4th February to create awareness about Cancer and prevent the millions of deaths due to cancer.

International Day of Human Fraternity 2022:4th February

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Human Fraternity is annually observed across the globe on 4th February to honour religious and cultural diversity.

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation: 6th February

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female is observed on 6th February globally. This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.

February 10 is World Pulses Day

February 10 is World Pulses Day. Pulses are important for their nutritional value, food security and environmental benefits such as nitrogen fixation and promoting biodiversity.

World Radio Day: 13 February

World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe.

National Women's Day: 13 February

Indian National Women's Day is observed every year on 13 February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.

World Radio Day being celebrated across globe

World Radio Day is celebrated every year on February 13 worldwide. The day was first observed in 2012 after UNESCO announced the celebration of the day in 2011 in its 36th conference.

Soil Health Card Day: 19th February

Every year India observes the Soil Health Card Day on 19 February to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme.

World Pangolin Day 2022: 19th February

World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the "Third Saturday of February" every year. In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on 19 February 2022.

World Day of Social Justice: 20th February

World Day of Social Justice is celebrated annually all over the world on 20 February. World Day of Social Justice 2022 theme is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".

International Mother Language Day is being observed globally on February 21

International Mother Language Day is being observed globally on February 21 (Monday) to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

National Protein Day: 27th February

In India, February 27th is celebrated as the National Protein Day, to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include of this macronutrient in their diet.

World NGO Day 2022: 27th February

World NGO Day is celebrated every year on 27th February in several countries across the world. Non-Governmental Organizations or NGOs work in the upliftment of society.