

INTERNATIONAL

S. Africa says its Omicron wave has peaked

South Africa, where the Omicron variant was detected last month, says its latest coronavirus wave has peaked without a surge in deaths or hospitalisations, enabling the country to lift a nightly curfew for the first time in 21 months.

Germany shuts down three of its six nuclear power plants

Germany has shut down three of its six nuclear power plants, as part of the country's phase-out of nuclear energy and turned its focus to renewables.

Israel Detects First Case of Florona

Israel has recorded the first case of "florona" disease, a double infection of COVID-19 and influenza.

FDA expands boosters for more U.S. teenagers

The U.S. is expanding COVID-19 boosters as it confronts the Omicron surge, with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allowing extra Pfizer shots for children as young as 12.

Nationwide emergency declared in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan declared a nationwide state of emergency. The step was taken after protests over fuel price hike erupted into clashes and even involved protesters storming government buildings.

N. Korea fires ballistic missile in first test in two months

North Korea fired a ballistic missile into the sea, the U.S. military said, its first weapons launch in about two months.

Antigua and Barbuda joins India led International Solar Alliance

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA), making it the 102nd country to join this agreement.

New Covid-19 Variant 'IHU' More Infectious Than Omicron Discovered In France

Scientists have identified a new strain of the COVID-19 causing virus in Southern France. Known as 'IHU', the B.1.640.2 variant has been reported by researchers at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection in at least 12 cases and has been linked to travel to African country Cameroon.

Maldives, China ink key deals, agree on visa exemption

Maldives and China signed key bilateral agreements during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit, on developing and maintaining infrastructure in the Indian Ocean archipelago, besides agreeing on a visa-free travel arrangement for Maldivians intending to travel to China.

164 dead, nearly 6,000 held after Kazakhstan protests

More than 150 people have died and almost 6,000 have been arrested in Kazakhstan following violent riots in Central Asia's largest country.

U.S. announces \$308 mn in aid for Afghanistan

The US has announced \$308 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, offering new aid to the country as it edges toward a humanitarian crisis since the Taliban takeover nearly five months ago.

Zelensky calls for international summit to end Ukraine crisis

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for a new summit with France, Germany and Russia to resolve the conflict in his country.

Sri Lanka seeks new China loan

Sri Lanka ruled out an IMF bailout and said it plans to seek another loan from China to address an economic crisis that has led to food and fuel shortages.

Tonga hit by tsunami after volcanic eruption

The Pacific country of Tonga experienced a large volcanic eruption followed by a tsunami that flooded parts of the capital, Nuku'alofa, which lies just 65 km north of the volcano.

China's population records slight growth in 2021 as birth rate sinks further

China recorded a population of 1.4126 billion at the end of 2021, a slight increase from 1.4121 billion in 2020 as population growth rate sunk to another record low in 2021.

U.S. clears Baltic states to send U.S.-made weapons to Ukraine

The U.S. State Department has cleared Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to send U.S.-made missiles and other weapons to Ukraine, as President Joe Biden predicted Russia would move on Ukraine.

Afghan acting PM calls for Muslim Nations to officially recognise Taliban

The Taliban's acting Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Akhund called on Muslim nations to be the first to officially recognise the administration that seized power in Afghanistan in August

10 killed, over 500 displaced by storm in Madagascar capital

At least 10 people have died and more than 500 were displaced by a storm in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo following heavy rains.

Indonesia names new capital, approving shift from Jakarta

Indonesia has named its new capital Nusantara, as lawmakers approve the shift from Jakarta to Kalimantan -- a jungle-covered area on the east of Borneo island.

Iran, Russia and China begin naval drill

Iran, Russia and China have begun a joint naval drill in the Indian Ocean aimed at boosting marine security.

Chile president-elect Gabriel Boric unveils women-majority cabinet

In Chile, left-wing president-elect, Gabriel Boric has announced his first cabinet giving a majority of the posts to women. Fourteen of the 24 new ministers announced are women.

Peru declares environmental emergency following oil spill

The Peruvian government declared a 90-day "environmental emergency" in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea.

Burkina Faso President held by mutinous soldiers

Mutinous troops in restive Burkina Faso arrested President Roch Marc Christian Kabore and detained him in army barracks a day after staging an uprising.

Assange can appeal against U.S. extradition

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has won the first stage of his effort to overturn a U.K. ruling that opened the door for his extradition to U.S. to stand trial on espionage charges.

PM Modi to host first meeting of India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format

Prime Minister Narendra Modi 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 participate.

European Parliament approves initial proposal to ban some targeted ads

The European Parliament voted to approve the initial draft of a bill that aims to curb Big Tech's invasive advertising practices.

EU launches WTO case against China for 'targeting' Lithuania

The European Union angered China by launching a case against Beijing at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for targeting Lithuania over its stance on Taiwan.

Ukraine-Russia crisis: US rejects Russia's demand to bar Ukraine from NATO

The US has rejected Russia's demand to bar Ukraine from Nato, amid warnings Russia might invade its neighbour.

70 dead from Tropical Storm Ana in Southern Africa

The death count from a storm that struck three southern African countries rose to 70 as emergency teams battled to repair damaged infrastructure and help tens of thousands of victims. Tropical Storm Ana made landfall in Madagascar before plunging into Mozambique and Malawi.

Australia announces billion-dollar package to protect Great Barrier Reef

Australia unveiled a billion-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.

Starvation in Afghanistan, people sell children and body parts: WFP

The UN Head of World Food Program (WFP) has again expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and added that the Afghan people have resorted to selling their children and parts of their bodies to survive.

Portugal's ruling Socialist Party secures absolute majority in Parliament

Portugal's ruling Socialist Party (PS) has secured an absolute majority in Parliament as a result of the snap elections. Led by Prime Minister Antonio Costa, PS got 42 per cent of the votes and won 117 out of the 230 mandates thus Costa will retain the post.

China constructing bridge on Pangong lake

Continuing with infrastructure build-up on its side of the area near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, China is building a new bridge on Pangong Tso which will provide an additional axis to deploy troops faster between the north and south banks of the lake, and closer to the LAC.

North Korea conducts its biggest missile launch

North Korea conducted its largest missile test since 2017 on Sunday, sending a suspected intermediate-range ballistic missile soaring into space, seen as taking the nuclear-armed country a step closer to resuming long-range testing.

Israeli president on first-ever visit to UAE

Israel's President Isaac Herzog started his first visit to the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, the latest high-profile diplomatic trip since the countries normalised ties.

NATIONAL

Renaming Arunachal locations, a ridiculous exercise, says India

China renaming various locations in Arunachal Pradesh is a "ridiculous exercise", according to the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi.

Centre extends validity of FCRA registration of NGOs till March 31

The ministry of home affairs extended the validity of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of non-government organisations (NGOs) by three months till March 31. The validity was slated to expire on December 31.

GST Council defers tax rate increase on textiles

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in its 46th meeting, decided to defer the proposed hike in tax rate for the textiles sector to 12 per cent from 5 per cent, which was to be implemented from January 1.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches nationwide 100 days reading campaign - Padhe Bharat

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a nationwide 100-day reading campaign - Padhe Bharat. The campaign will also focus on Indian languages and in this regard, the 21st of February which is celebrated as International Mother Tongue Day has also been integrated with this campaign.

India, Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations and facilities

India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities, covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan.

Semiconductor mission launched by IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the India Semiconductor Mission. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a specialised and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation.

Govt notifies norms for fly ash utilisation by coal-fired power plants

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified the latest amendments to the Environment (Protection) Act for better monitoring and utilisation of fly ash by coal-based thermal power plants (TPPs) in the country.

Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches NEAT 3.0

Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched NEAT 3.0, which is a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country.

Centre sticks to 8 lakh rupees annual income criteria for reservation to Economically Weaker Section candidates

The Centre has told Supreme Court that it has decided to retain the existing 8 lakh rupees annual income criteria for candidates of Economic Weaker Sections for NEET-PG counselling.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut in UP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st LPG enabled & smoke free Indian state

Himachal Pradesh has become the first LPG enabled and smoke free state in the country due to Ujjwala scheme of the Centre and Grihini Suvidha Yojana of the state government.

Use drones more effectively: Civil Aviation Ministry

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has called for more effective utilisation of drone applications and urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to deploy unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance, situational analysis, crime control, VVIP security, disaster management, etc.

Land in Gulmarg, Sonamarg notified as 'strategic areas'

The Jammu and Kashmir government has declared around 1,358 kanals (169.75 acres) as "strategic areas" in the tourist hotspots of Gulmarg and Sonamarg in north and central Kashmir.

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.

Expenditure limit for LS, Assembly candidates hiked

Ahead of Assembly polls in five States, the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha constituencies was increased to ₹75 lakh from ₹54 lakh and ₹95 lakh from ₹70 lakh, depending on the State, while the spending limit for Assembly constituencies was hiked from ₹20 lakh to ₹28 lakh and ₹28 lakh to ₹40 lakh.

Assam govt partners with NDDB to set up ₹2,000-cr dairy joint venture

The Assam government and National Dairy Development Board signed an agreement to create a ₹2,000-crore joint venture for holistic development of the sector in the state.

24th National Conference on e-Governance 2021 concludes at Hyderabad

The 24th National e-Governance conference in its Hyderabad declaration has resolved to bring citizens and governments closer through digital platforms and transform citizen services through use of technology.

MEA inks pact with TCS for 2nd phase of Passport Seva Programme

The Centre inked an agreement with Tata Consultancy Services Ltd for the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme (PSP-V2.0) that envisages rolling out chip-enabled e-passports, increasing data security and ensuring the next level of customer experience.

KVIC launches 'Mobile Honey Processing Van' to support farmers and beekeepers

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena has launched the country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad.

Hyderabad gets India's first Open Rock Museum

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first Open Rock Museum in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Central Govt Announces First-Ever Startup India 'Innovation Week'

The Centre will organise the first-ever Startup India "Innovation Week" from January 10 to 16. To bring together the country's key startups, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, funding entities, banks, policymakers, etc under one platform to celebrate entrepreneurship and promote innovation

Indian mangoes & pomegranates get market access in USA

India's Department of Agriculture and farmer's welfare and US Department of Agriculture have signed a framework agreement for implementing the "2 Vs 2" Agri market access issues. With this, Mangoes and pomegranates from India will soon be available in the USA while the American Alfalfa hay and cherries will be sold in the Indian market.

Veer Baal Diwas to be observed on Dec. 26: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that December 26 shall henceforth be marked as Veer Baal Diwas to pay homage to the courage of the Sahibzades, four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the last Sikh guru.

AYUSH Ministry holds global Surya Namaskar event on Makar Sankranti

The Ministry of AYUSH organised a global Surya Namaskar demonstration programme for 75 lakh people on January 14, the day of Makar Sankranti.

Kochi to become the first city with water metro project with launch of electric boats

Kochi has become the first city with a water metro project as it launches the first in a series of battery-powered electric boats in the city. The new project by the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd will likely have an integrated water transport system with 15 identified routes.

India, South Korea discuss trade barriers

India and South Korea held discussions on bilateral trade and agreed to fast track negotiations to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

SC Holds Suspension of 12 BJP MLAs by Maha Assembly 'Unconstitutional'

The Supreme Court of India held that a resolution suspending 12 BJP MLAs from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for a period of one year since July 2021 is "unconstitutional and irrational".

Safeguard transgender prisoners: Centre

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all States to ensure separate accommodation for transgender persons in prisons.

PM Modi participates in 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry

On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, which is observed as the National Youth Day all over India on January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry.

BrahMos advanced variant test fired

An extended range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was test fired from the recently commissioned stealth guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam.

SC appoints 5-member panel headed by ex-judge Indu Malhotra to probe PM security breach

The Supreme Court of India appointed an inquiry committee under its former judge Justice Indu Malhotra

to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab on January 5.

Assam, Meghalaya to end border dispute by Jan. 21

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to seal the final agreement to end the dispute in six areas of the Assam-Meghalaya boundary ahead of Meghalaya's 50th Statehood Day celebration on January 21. There are 12 areas of differences along the inter-State border.

ISRO successfully conducts qualification tests of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan

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 and met the test objectives.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav releases India State Of Forest Report 2021

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released India State Of Forest Report 2021. In 2021, the total forest and tree cover in India is 80.9 million hectares. This is over 24.60 percent of the geographical area of the country.

Indian Army to introduce light, climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel

Indian Army will introduce a light and more climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel on Army Day. The new Army Combat Pattern Uniform has been developed with the help of NIFT after going through options of 15 patterns, eight designs, and four fabrics.

Election Commission to double telecast time allotted to political parties in poll bound States

Election Commission of India has decided to double the broadcast and telecast time allotted to each National Party and recognized State Parties in poll bound states.

Indian Naval Ships undertake Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force Ships

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal.

World's largest Khadi flag displayed along Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan's Longewala

The world's largest national flag, the Indian Tricolor made from Khadi, was displayed along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Longewala, on the occasion of 74th Army Day. The flag is 225 feet long, 150 feet wide and weighs around 1 thousand 400 kilogram, while the Ashoka Chakra in the center has a diameter of 30 feet.

Centre promulgates revised consolidated Guidelines for Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles

Centre has promulgated revised consolidated Guidelines and Standards for Charging Infrastructure for Electric. These guidelines are exhaustive and include provisions for individual owners of Electric Vehicles as well as Public Charging Stations.

R-Day celebrations to begin every year from Jan 23 to include birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Republic Day Celebrations will now begin every year from 23rd January instead of 24th. The step was taken to include the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose. Birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose is celebrated as Parakram Divas across the country.

10th century stone idol of Goat Head Yogini being returned to India: Culture Minister

Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy announced that a 10th century stone idol of Goat Head Yogini that had been illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari, Banda, Uttar Pradesh is being returned to India.

Union Health Minister launches postage stamp on Covaxin to mark one year of COVID-19 vaccination drive

Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released a commemorative Postal Stamp on COVID-19 Vaccine to mark the first anniversary of India's National Covid-19 Vaccination program. This stamp signifies the remarkable work done by the frontline healthcare workers and scientific community across the country in protecting the people against the COVID pandemic.

MeitY invites applications under Chips to Startup Programme from academia, R&D organisations, startups and MSMEs

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has sought applications from 100 academia, Research and Development organisations, start-ups and MSMEs under its Chips to Startup Programme. The Chips to Startup, C2S Programme aims to train 85 thousand high-quality and qualified engineers in the area of Very large-scale integration and Embedded System Design.

In a first, India to export BrahMos missile to Philippines

In a major boost to India's defence export plans, the Philippines has accepted Indian BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd's proposal worth \$374.9 million to supply a Shore-based Anti-Ship Missile System Acquisition Project for its navy.

Indian destroyer INS Kochi conducts PASSEX with Russian Navy

Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, exercised with Russian Federation Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs in the Arabian Sea.

New Disinfection technology is being installed to combat pandemic in railway coaches, AC buses: Jitendra Singh

Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh said, CSIR's newly developed Disinfection technology is being installed to combat pandemic in railway coaches, AC buses, and closed spaces.

MeitY organises 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organising 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.

Narendra Kumar Goenka appointed as new chairman of AEPC

Textile Ministry has said that Narendra Kumar Goenka has been appointed as new chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC.

Fifth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha to be held in February

The fifth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha will be held in February. The Pariksha Pe Charcha contest has been launched from 28th December last year till 20th January at MyGov portal.

Anadrome Systems to deliver aerial targets for Indian Army

The Indian Army has signed a contract, worth \$12.88m (₹960 million), with Anadrome Systems for

the manoeuvrable expendable aerial target (MEAT). The contract to procure the aerial target systems is the first to be signed by the army under the Make-II category.

PM Modi, Mauritius counterpart to jointly inaugurate India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will jointly inaugurate the India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius virtually. An Agreement on extending a 190 million US dollar Line of Credit from India to Mauritius for the Metro Express Project and other infrastructure projects will be exchanged.

HAL Signs Contract for Export of ALH to Mauritius

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

India, Denmark agree to initiate joint research & development on green fuels including green hydrogen

India and Denmark have agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen.

Cabinet approves infusion of ₹1500 Cr in IREDA; also approves extension of tenure of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for 3-years

The Union Cabinet approved infusion of one thousand 500 crore rupees in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, IREDA. He said, this will enhance its net worth which will help it in additional Renewable Energy financing. The Cabinet also approved extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, NCSK for three years beyond 31st March 2022.

Experts deliberate on widening scope of India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund

Experts from India and Israel have deliberated on widening the scope of India-Israel Industrial Research and Development and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) at its 8th Governing Body meeting.

India, Sri Lanka extend existing Science & Technology cooperation for three more years

India and Sri Lanka have extended the existing Science and Technology cooperation for three more years, with focus on new areas like waste-water technologies, sustainable agriculture, aerospace engineering, robotics and artificial intelligence.

India test-fires BrahMos missile

India successfully test-fired a new version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile off the coast of Odisha in Balasore. The missile was equipped with new technological developments which were successfully proven.

SC upholds OBC quota in NEET

The Supreme Court of India upheld the constitutional validity of reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates in the All India Quota seats for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses.

Natco, 9 others chosen to supply COVID-19 drug

United Nations (UN)-backed public health organisation Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) has signed sublicense agreements with 10 generic drugmakers in India for the manufacture of COVID-19 antiviral oral drug molnupiravir and its supply to 105 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Govt orders blocking 35 Pakistan- based youtube channels, Twitter, Instagram accounts for spreading fake news

The Central government has struck hard on anti-India fake news factories. It has ordered blocking of 35 Pakistan-based YouTube channels and two websites that were involved in spreading anti-India fake news in a coordinated manner over digital media.

Department of Food and Public Distribution develops roadmap to roll out Online Storage Management

Department of Food and Public Distribution, with its principal agency, Food Corporation of India, has developed a roadmap to roll out Online Storage Management (OSM) in the country. The OSM envisages putting in place a single source of information for the food grains stored in the country for central pool through integrating State portals with the central portal.

Govt to promote Drone use in Agriculture for precision farming in the country

In a major boost to promote precision farming in India, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has issued guidelines to make drone technology affordable to the stakeholders of this sector.

HP-Haryana sign pact for dam to revive Saraswati river

The governments of Himachal and Haryana signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the construction of a dam on 77 acres in Himachal near the Adi Badri area of Yamunanagar for the revival of the Saraswati river. The project is estimated to cost ₹215.35 crore.

Republic Day celebrations begin with Parakram Divas to mark 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Republic Day celebrations in the country began on January 23rd with Parakram Divas to mark 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Prime Minister unveiled the hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate in New Delhi.

Omicron in community transmission: INSACOG

The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium, INSACOG had warned that Omicron was now in community transmission in India and had become dominant in Delhi and Mumbai, where new cases have been rising exponentially.

India, Israel launch commemorative logo to mark 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties

India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. 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.

Electronics & IT Ministry releases 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for Electronics sector

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with ICEA released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for the electronics sector. It is titled "300 billion dollar Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026".

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

India and France have signed an MoU with a scope for cooperation in health research. Science and Technology

Ministry said, the MoU was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR and Institut Pasteur, France.

IRS officer Vinodanand Jha appointed chairman of PMLA Adjudicating Authority

Vinodanand Jha has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority, for a period of 5 years. Jha is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer, who was serving as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Pune before this.

India's first graphene innovation centre to come up in Kerala

India's first innovation centre 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 ₹86.41 crore.

Govt notifies drone certification scheme to make certification of drones simpler, faster and transparent

The Union Government has notified drone certification scheme to make certification of drones simpler, faster and transparent.

India Celebrating 73rd Republic Day on 26 January 2022

India is celebrating the 73rd Republic Day on 26 January 2022. The celebrations this year are special as India is in the 75th year of Independence – being celebrated as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Republic Day marks the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950.

Union Budget 2022-23 to be presented on Feb 1 in paperless form

The Union Budget 2022-23 will be presented by the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 1st of next month in paperless form.

National Drugs Regulator approves conditional Market Authorization of Covaxin and Covishield

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has now upgraded the permission for COVAXIN and Covishield from restricted use in emergency situations to normal new drug permission in adult population.

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.

Google to invest up to \$1 bn in Bharti Airtel

Google will invest up to \$1 billion in Bharti Airtel through a mix of equity and commercial partnerships in areas like affordable smartphones, networks, and cloud.

6% of MSMEs owned by SC entrepreneurs

Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises. Generally, the proportion of enterprises owned by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%.

Indian StartUp "Botlab" will fly 1,000 Drones in "Beating Retreat" ceremony: Jitendra Singh

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 "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.

Navy inducts two indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters ALH-DHRUV MK III in Port Blair

The two indigenously made Advance Light Helicopters ALH-DHRUV MK III were inducted in the fleet of Andaman Nicobar Command in Port Blair.

Govt proposes to allow modification in replacement of diesel engines with CNG and LPG engines in BS-VI vehicles

Government has proposed to allow modification in replacement of diesel engines with CNG and LPG engines, in case of Bharat Stage, BS-VI vehicles less than 3.5 tonnes. As of now, retro fitment of CNG and LPG kit is permissible in motor vehicles under the BS-IV emission norms.

Govt issues notification for Fire Alarm system and Fire protection system in passenger compartment in buses

Government has issued notification for Fire Alarm system and Fire protection system in passenger compartment in buses. Road Transport and Highways Ministry said, at present, fire detection, alarm and suppression systems are notified for fires originating from the engine compartment.

India helps Afghanistan by sending 4th batch of medical assistance

India has supplied three tonnes of essential life-saving medicines to Afghanistan in the fourth batch of medical assistance to the war-torn country and will provide further humanitarian help to the people there in form of medicines and foodgrains in coming weeks, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Telcos told to store call details for two years

The Union government has mandated storage of data on international calls, satellite phone calls, conference calls and messages over normal networks and on the Internet for a period of at least two years, according to circulars issued by the Department of Telecom (DoT).

Meta and FICCI partner to empower 5 lakh women-led SMBs

Meta announced that it will support 5 lakh women-led small businesses across India under its #SheMeansBusiness program in partnership with FICCI's 'Empowering the Greater 50%'.

Mentally retarded child entitled to family pension: Dr Jitendra Singh

The Union Government has said that mentally retarded child of a deceased government employee or Pensioner is entitled to Family Pension.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Foreign-owned assets in India rose by \$37 bn in Q2: RBI data

Foreign-owned assets in India increased by \$37.3 billion during the July-September quarter (Q2), according to RBI data. Indian residents' overseas financial assets rose \$31.9 billion, almost three-fourths of which came from build-up in reserve assets.

Core sector output rose 3.1% in November

Output of eight core sectors rose by 3.1% in November as against a contraction of 1.1% in the same month last year.

RIL unit to buy U.K.'s Faradion for £100 mn

Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd. (RNESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd., said it had agreed to acquire 100% in Faradion Ltd. for £100 million (about ₹1,000 crore).

SBI to acquire 10% stake in India International Clearing Corporation

SBI announced its intention to acquire approximately 10 percent of the capital of India International Clearing Corporation.

Current account slips to deficit in Q2

India's Balance of Payments (BoP) position moved to a deficit of \$9.6 billion in the quarter ended September (Q2), as widening trade deficit weighed.

Tech Mahindra to acquire 100% stake in Allyis India, Green Investments

Tech Mahindra (TechM) had approved a proposal for the acquisition of a 100% stakes in Allyis India and Green Investments, for up to \$125 million.

LIC unveils digital zone in Mumbai

The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has set up an 'LIC Digi Zone' in Mumbai to enhance digital operations in sales and services for its customers.

Asian Paints second most valuable paints company in the world

Asian Paints has emerged as the second-most valuable paints company in the world. The company's market capitalisation has soared 22 per cent to \$43.7 billion from \$35.6 billion a year ago. It now ranks 450th in the world in terms of m-cap.

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. The panel will now be chaired by S Sahoo, Professor at National Law University.

NTPC plans to acquire 5 per cent equity in PXIL

State-run power giant NTPC is mulling acquiring 5 per cent equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL) that provides various electricity trading options.

India, Israel in talks for free trade agreement

India is in dialogue with Israel for concluding a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said. The announcement coincides with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

December goods exports touch \$37.3-billion high: Goyal

India's merchandise exports in December touched \$ 37.29 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure. Export figures for December, reflected a 37% increase from \$27.22 billion a year earlier.

RBI gives approval to Fino Payments Bank's international money transfer service

Fino Payments Bank has received approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for starting international remittance business under the money transfer service scheme (MTSS).

RBI approves small, offline e-payments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with the framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode, a move that would promote digital payments in semi-urban and rural areas.

Omicron covered under health policies: IRDAI

Insurance policies that cover COVID-19 treatment costs will also cover the cost of treatment of the Omicron variant, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said.

Nippon India MF launches country's first auto ETF

Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited, asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), has announced the launch of India's First Auto sector ETF - Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF.

Airtel Payments Bank gets permission to function as scheduled bank from RBI

Airtel Payments Bank has been categorized as a scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). With this, Airtel Payments Bank can now pitch for government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and primary auctions.

India spends record \$55.7 billion on gold imports in 2021: Report

India splurged a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports in 2021, buying more than double the previous year's tonnage as a price drop favoured retail buyers and pent up demand emerged for weddings that were delayed when the pandemic first hit.

HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI are domestic systemically important lenders: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) or institutions which are too big to fail.

Bharat BillPay launches UPMS to simplify recurring bill payments

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL), launched a Unified Presentation Management System (UPMS), which will enable users to set up standing instructions on their recurring bill payments across all modes of digital payments.

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.

Online IMPS up to ₹5 lakh is free, says SBI

To encourage customers to adopt digital banking, State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to not levy any service charges on IMPS transactions of up to ₹5 lakh, done through Internet and mobile banking.

RBI promotes Kumar, Choudhary as EDs

The Reserve Bank of India has elevated Deepak Kumar and Ajay Kumar Choudhary as Executive Directors (EDs) with effect from January 03.

Hughes, Bharti form JV for VSAT services

Hughes Communication India Private Limited (HCIPL) and Bharti Airtel announced the formation of a joint venture to provide satellite broadband services in India.

Cairn drops all lawsuits against India

Britain's Cairn Energy has dropped all lawsuits against the Indian government and its entities in courts from the U.S. to France and to Singapore, to now be entitled for about ₹7,900 crore in tax refunds that were collected to enforce a retrospective tax demand.

Reliance raises \$4 bn in foreign currency bonds

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has raised \$4 billion in long-term debt of up to 40 years through the largest-ever foreign currency bond issuance by an Indian company. RIL has joined a select group of issuers from Asia to have made jumbo bond issuances.

RIL's retail unit buys \$200 mn stake in Dunzo

Dunzo, a delivery service provider had raised \$240 million, including \$200 million from Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd., in its latest round of funding to expand into new geographies. Reliance Retail will own 25.8% stake (on a fully diluted basis) in Dunzo, following its investment.

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.

NPCI sets standardised limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements on AePS transactions

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements which needs to implement by the acquiring banks by January 15, 2022.

As per the guidelines, the acquiring banks will have to implement a maximum limit of five approved cash withdrawal transactions per customer per terminal per day.

India to overtake Japan as Asia's 2nd largest economy by 2030: IHS

India is likely to overtake Japan as Asia's second-largest economy by 2030 when its GDP is also projected to surpass that of Germany and the UK to rank as world's No.3, IHS Markit said in a report.

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

As per the report of State Bank of India's (SBI) economic research team Ecowrap, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in FY22 was estimated to be revised to around 9.5 percent.

Sri Lanka asks China to restructure debt

The president of crisis-hit Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa has asked China to restructure its debt repayments as part of efforts to help the South Asian country navigate its worsening financial situation.

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed vice-president of Beijing based AIIB

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as a vice-president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a Beijing based multilateral development bank.

Outward FDI dipped 8% to \$2 bn in Dec.

Outward foreign direct investment (FDI) by Indian companies fell by over 8% to \$2.05 billion in December in the current fiscal, as per the RBI data on Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) for December 2021.

RBI to set up new fintech department to push innovation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an internal fintech department to focus on the dynamically changing financial landscape in the country.

Pay customs duty online through KVB

Private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.'s customers can now remit customs duty payment electronically by

selecting the bank's link in 'ICEGATE' portal of Central Board for Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

BSE's India INX ties up with Sova Capital to facilitate investing in Russian stock market

Sova Capital, a London-based emerging markets broker-dealer has concluded an agreement whereby it will offer members of India INX and their client's access to the Russian market.

Govt. set to hold 35.8% in Vodafone Idea

The board of directors of Vodafone Idea Ltd. approved the conversion of interest related to spectrum auction instalments and on AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues to the government — into equity. This means that after conversion, the government would own 35.8% of the telecom carrier.

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.

India agrees to allow import of U.S. pork products, says Tai

The U.S. administration announced that India will permit the import of American pork and pork products into the country following the re-engagement of the two governments via the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in New Delhi in November.

Axis Bank issues first LC on dedicated govt-backed platform

Axis Bank issued industry's first letter of credit (LC) on the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE), a government-backed blockchain-enabled platform.

Retail inflation accelerates to 5.59%

Retail inflation rose to 5.59 % in December, mainly due to an uptick in food prices, government data showed. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.91 % in November 2021 and 4.59 % in December 2020.

NSE received approval to launch derivatives on Nifty Midcap Select Index

National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received capital markets regulator SEBI approval to launch derivatives on Nifty Midcap Select Index.

Adani Group, South Korea's POSCO Sign Pact To Develop Steel Mill In Gujarat

Industrialist Gautam Adani-led Adani Group has signed a pact with South Korea's POSCO to explore business opportunities in sectors like steel, renewable energy among others.

HCL Tech to acquire Hungary-based Starschema in a \$42.5-mn deal

HCL Technologies announced that it has signed a definitive agreement for the acquisition of Starschema, a leading provider of data engineering services, based in Budapest, Hungary in a \$42.5 million deal.

India grants over \$900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis

India has announced financial assistance of USD 900 million loans to Sri Lanka to help the island nation in building up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.

RBI proposes adding corporate bonds in banks' HTM category

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed allowing banks to keep corporate bonds, or even equity shares of

subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in the held-to-maturity category (HTM) of their investment books.

China's trade surplus hits a record \$676 billion in 2021
China posted a record trade surplus in December and in 2021, as exports outperformed expectations during a global pandemic. The trade surplus hit \$676.43 billion in 2021, the highest since records started in 1950, up from \$523.99 billion in 2020.

State Bank of India taps Taiwanese market for \$300 mn via Formosa bonds

State Bank of India has raised \$300 million from the Taiwanese market through maiden issue of Formosa bonds at a coupon of 2.49 per cent.

Bilateral trade between India, China crosses 125 billion USD in 2021

Bilateral trade between India and China crossed 125 billion USD in 2021, according to Chinese customs data.

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ittira Davis as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a one-year term effective January 14.

Paytm Payments Bank became most preferred UPI beneficiary bank in India

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) became the largest and fastest-growing UPI beneficiary bank in India. It becomes the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve the landmark of over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month.

India's first crypto ETF to be launched by ex RCap CEO's blockchain firm

Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC, a company backed by former Reliance Capital CEO Sam Ghosh, said that it will launch India's first crypto exchange-traded fund (ETF) by the end of the current financial year.

UN forecasts lower global economic growth for 2022 and 2023

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022 report which has lowered the global economic growth projections to 4% in 2022 and 3.5% in 2023 due to new waves of coronavirus infections.

Flipkart Group acquires electronics recommerce firm Yaantra

E-commerce giant, the Flipkart Group has acquired Yaantra, an electronics recommerce company, to strengthen its recommerce business and enhance after-sale offerings for its customers in the smartphones segment.

Reliance signs MoU to invest ₹5.95 lakh crore in green energy projects in Gujarat

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat of investment ₹5.955 lakh crore in various projects as part of the Investment Promotion Activity (IPA) for Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2022.

Bengaluru outstrips Chinese cities in tech VC funding in 2021: Report

With \$18.6 billion in investments, Bengaluru made it to the top-five leading VC funding hubs across the world in 2021 — following San Francisco Bay Area, New York, Greater Boston Region and London.

India, UK start FTA negotiations to double bilateral trade by 2030

India and the United Kingdom (UK) formally launched negotiations for an ambitious free trade agreement (FTA) with an aim to first complete an interim agreement by mid-April and subsequently a comprehensive deal by the end of the year, which could double the bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030.

Indifi, GPay join hands to offer instant digital credit to SMEs

Small businesses-focused online lending platform Indifi Technologies has collaborated with Google Pay to provide instant loans to eligible medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) merchants through the Google Pay platform.

HDFC Bank reports 18 per cent yoy increase in Q3 net profit

HDFC Bank reported an 18 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) increase in standalone net profit in the third quarter on the back of healthy growth in net interest income and other income even as loan loss provisions declined.

China now 18 trillion USD economy

According to the China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data, China's full-year GDP came in at 114.4 trillion-yuan (USD 18 trillion) in 2021. China's GDP grew 8.1% in 2021.

Textiles Ministry clears 20 strategic projects worth ₹30 cr under National Technical Textiles Mission

Textiles Ministry cleared 20 strategic research projects worth 30 crore rupees in the areas of specialty fibers and geotextiles. These strategic research projects come under the flagship programme National Technical Textiles Mission.

TechM acquires European tech firm for €310 million

Tech Mahindra announced that it has acquired 100 per cent stake in European engineering firm Com Tec Co IT (CTC) and a 25 per cent stake each in insurtech SaaS ventures SWFT Technologies and Surance Ltd.

NTPC taps foreign markets to raise ₹5,500 crore for power, renewable energy projects

State-owned NTPC floated a request for proposal (RFP) to raise a total of \$750 million, or roughly ₹5,570 crore, through external commercial borrowings (ECB) in the form of a term loan.

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.

India extends \$500-mn credit to Sri Lanka for fuel imports

India extended a \$500-million Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for urgent fuel imports, just days after providing \$900 million relief to the island nation, which is facing one of its worst economic downturns.

Oil prices climb to highest levels since 2014

At close to 85 dollars per barrel, Oil prices climbed to the highest level since 2014. This has happened against the backdrop of rising global political tensions involving major oil producers such as the United Arab Emirates and Russia.

India Post Payments Bank's customer base crosses 5 crore mark

India Post Payments Bank, IPPB, has crossed the five-crore customer mark in just 3 years of commencement of its operations to become one of the fastest growing digital payments bank in the country.

Vikram Dev Dutt to head Air India

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Vikram Dev Dutt as Chairman and Managing Director of Air India. Mr Dutt is is a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.

India's apple exports have risen exponentially by 82 percent since 2014: Piyush Goyal

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has said that India's apple exports have risen exponentially by 82 percent since 2014.

Microsoft Acquires Activision Blizzard

Microsoft is buying Activision Blizzard in a \$68.7 billion (roughly ₹5,10,990 crore) all-cash acquisition, uniting two of the biggest forces in video games. Activision owns mobile-gaming studio King, maker of Candy Crush, one of the most popular mobile games of all time.

SEBI launches Saaṛthi mobile app on investor education

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched "Saaṛthi" – a mobile app on investor education in Mumbai. The new app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.

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.

India's oil production continues to decline

India's production of crude oil, which is refined to produce petrol and diesel, continued to decline in December, with lower output from the State-owned ONGC leading to an almost 2% drop.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman authorize release of advance installment of tax devolution to State Govts amounting to 47,541 crore rupees

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has authorized the release of an advance installment of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to 47 thousand 541 crore rupees.

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 M&A deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated, the UN trade body has said.

NSE largest derivatives exchange for 3rd year

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2021 by the number of contracts traded based on the statistics maintained by the Futures Industry Association (FIA), a derivatives trade body.

Over 2,250 startups added in 2021, raised \$24.1 bn: Nasscom-Zinnov report

More than 2,250 startups were added in the year 2021, over 600 more than what was added in the previous year, a report by Nasscom and Zinnov said. As per the report, startups raised USD 24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID levels.

India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber, gherkins in the world

India has emerged as the largest exporter of cucumber and gherkins in the world. India has exported cucumber

and gherkins to the tune of over one lakh 23 thousand Metric Tonnes with a value of 114 million US dollar during April to October 2020-21.

ICICI Bank Q3 net profit rises 25 per cent to ₹6,194 crore

ICICI Bank reported a 25.4 per cent jump in its standalone net profit to ₹6,193.81 crore in the third quarter of the fiscal, led by buoyant growth in its net interest income.

India's first virtual platform for spice exporters launched

India's first virtual platform for spice exports 'Spice Xchange India' was launched. It was developed by the Spices Board, is a 3D virtual platform aimed at connecting India's spice exporters with buyers from around the world.

Exports of Engineering Goods registers 54 pc growth during April to December

Exports of Engineering Goods has registered a growth of 54 per cent during April to December 2021 as compared to the same period of the previous year.

Tata Tech to hire 3,000 innovators

Global engineering and product development digital services company Tata Technologies said it has expanded its talent acquisition programme to hire over 3,000 innovators over the next 12 months.

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)

Lendingkart partners with Bank of Maharashtra to disburse low-cost MSME loans

Lendingkart Technologies' subsidiary Lendingkart Finance has partnered with the Bank of Maharashtra to co-lend business loans to MSME borrowers across India at low interest rates.

Omicron effect: IMF cuts India's GDP forecast for FY22 to 9% from 9.5%

The International Monetary Fund cut its FY22 gross domestic growth product (GDP) forecast for India to 9 per cent from 9.5 per cent predicted in October, citing disruptions due to the Omicron wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

TCS world's second most valuable IT brand

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has become the second most valued brand in the information technology (IT) services sector globally, while Accenture retains the title of the world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand, according to Brand Finance.

Infosys has emerged as the fastest growing IT services brand following 52 per cent brand value growth since last year and 80 per cent since 2020 to \$12.8 billion, earning it third spot.

Intel wins EU antitrust appeal as court bids to annul \$1.2 billion fine

Intel Corp. won a historic victory in its fight in the European Union courts over a record 1.06 billion-euro (\$1.2 billion) antitrust fine.

RBI Conducts Overnight VRR Auction Of ₹75,000 Crore, Gets Bids Worth ₹1.37 Trillion

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) offered overnight liquidity to the banking system of India with ₹75,000 crore against banks bid of around ₹1.37 lakh crore through variable rate repo (VRR) auction under liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).

Airtel Africa inducted into London Stock Exchange's FTSE 100 index

Bharti Airtel said its subsidiary Airtel Africa has been inducted into the London Stock Exchange's (LSE) FTSE 100 index.

Apple dethrones Samsung to claim top spot in global smartphone sales

Apple has once again become the top-selling smartphone brand in top market China, along with the rest of the world.

Air India officially handed over to Tata Sons as disinvestment process completes

Air India has been officially handed over to the Tata Sons Limited. The Tata Group takes over the management and control of the airline. The transaction cover three entities, Air India, Air India Express and AI SATS.

Bad Bank received all necessary approvals to commence operations: SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara

Dinesh Khara, the chairman of country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), said the proposed Bad Bank had received all necessary approvals to start operations. In the initial phase, around 15 cases worth ₹50,000 crore will be transferred to the proposed bad bank in this fiscal

Gold demand rose 79% in 2021: WGC

Gold demand in India is expected to increase between 800 and 850 tonnes in 2022, having posted a 79% rise in 2021, Somasundaram PR, Regional CEO, India, World Gold Council (WGC) said.

SBI lists maiden issue of \$300-mn Formosa bonds on India INX

The State Bank of India listed its 1st USD 300 million Formosa bonds on India International Exchange IFSC (India INX). SBI became the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond.

Ola to set up India's largest dark store network for its quick commerce biz

Ola, India's largest mobility platform has announced expansion plans of its quick commerce service- Ola Dash. In next six months, Ola Dash aims to expand its dark store network to 500 dark stores spread across 20 cities, making it the largest dark store network in India.

RBI Imposes Restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, including a cap of ₹1 lakh on withdrawals.

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

The Union government has extended the tenure of chairman of IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by one more year with a view to facilitate smooth listing of the insurance behemoth. With the extension, M R Kumar will continue as chairman of LIC till March 2023.

AWARDS

South Indian Bank wins UiPath Automation award for work on robotics

Kerala-based lender South Indian Bank (SIB) has won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for best automation under crisis for business continuity.

The Hindu Group wins five WAN-IFRA awards

Campaigns created by The Hindu Group bagged five awards at the WAN-IFRA South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021.

National Water Awards for the year 2020

Uttar Pradesh has been adjudged as the Best State in water conservation efforts in the National Water Awards 2020, then followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Kerala Arts & Crafts Village wins international award

Kerala Arts and Crafts Village near Kovalam has won the International Craft Award 2021 for the best craft village in the world.

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 (PWM).

Robert Lewandowski, Alexia Putellas take top FIFA 'Best' awards

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski has been crowned 'The Best FIFA Men's Player of Year 2021', winning the award for the second year in succession. In the women's section, Spain and Barcelona midfielder Alexia Putellas was named 'The Best FIFA Women's Player' for the first time.

Pfizer chief Albert Bourla wins \$1 million Genesis Prize

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.

ICC men's honours for 2021

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the complete list of winners of their yearly awards.

Men's Cricketer of The Year – Shaheen Afridi
Women's Cricketer of The Year – Smriti Mandhana
Men's Test Cricketer of The Year – Joe Root
Men's ODI Cricketer of The Year – Babar Azam
Women's ODI Cricketer of The Year – Lizelle Lee
Men's T20I Cricketer of The Year – Mohammad Rizwan
Women's T20I Cricketer of The Year– Tammy Beaumont
Emerging Men's Cricketer of The Year– Janneman Malan
Emerging Women's Cricketer of The Year – Fatima Sana Umpire of The Year – Marais Erasmus

Golden Globes 2022

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced the winners of the 2022 Golden Globes.

Best Film (Drama): The Power Of The Dog
Best Television Series (Drama): Succession
Best Director (Motion Picture): Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog)
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture (Drama): Nicole Kidman — Being the Ricardos
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture (Drama): Will Smith — King Richard
Best Picture (Musical or Comedy): West Side Story

SKOCH Award for Assam mission on malnutrition

A mission to combat malnourishment among children aged six months to 5 years has earned the SKOCH Award for southern Assam's Cachar district.

Indian film Koozhangal gets the best film award at Dhaka International Film Festival

P S Vinohraj directed film Koozhangal from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival.

The best actor award was given to Jayasurya for Ranjith Sankar-directed film Sunny.

Padma Award 2022

The Centre announced Padma Awards for 2022. This year's awards comprise 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 107 Padma Shri awards. Former Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh and former President of Gita Press Radheshyam Khemka will be honoured with Padma Vibhushan posthumously. Classical Vocalist Prabha Atre will also be honored with this award.

Prez Kovind approves conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards to 51 people

President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2021 to 51 persons. These Awards include Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to six persons, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 16, and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 29 persons.

Bangladesh: Rural hospital wins prestigious RIBA prize for most transformative building of the world

Friendship Hospital, in the southwestern town of Satkhira in Bangladesh has been adjudged the most transformative building of the world for the year 2021 by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Vinay Kumar Tripathi

Vinay Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board.

Abdalla Hamdok

Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has resigned after another day of mass protests rocked the capital Khartoum.

Ashok Elluswamy

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

Neil Nongkynrih

Shillong Chamber Choir founder and noted music composer Neil Nongkynrih died in Mumbai after a brief illness. Neil was awarded the Padma Shri, in 2015.

Novak Djokovic

Tennis World No. 1 Novak Djokovic fought against deportation from Australia after the government revoked his visa for failing to meet COVID-19 vaccine-entry requirements.

Sidney Poitier

Bahamian-American actor Sidney Poitier, who won an Academy Award for Best Actor in 1964, has died at the age of 94.

Aung Suu Kyi

A court in military-ruled Myanmar sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to four years in jail on charges including possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies.

Ortega Sworn

Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega was sworn in for a fourth consecutive term. Alongside him was first lady Rosario Murillo, sworn in for her second term as his vice president.

Alikhan Smailov

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

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

The International Monetary Fund has appointed Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as its next economic counsellor and director of the Research Department (RES). He will succeed Gita Gopinath, who assumed the office on January 1, 2019.

S.Somanath

Eminent rocket scientist S. Somanath has been appointed Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Space Secretary.

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita

Mali's former President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who led the West African country from 2013 until he was ousted in a coup in 2020, died at the age of 76 in Bamako.

Toshiki Kaifu

The former Prime Minister of Japan, Toshiki Kaifu who served the country for about two years, has passed away at the age of 91.

Birju Maharaj

Legendary Kathak dancer Brijmohan Mishra popularly known as Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away. A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan.

Saoli Mitra

Shaoli Mitra, an eminent theatre personality, died of heart ailments. Mitra, a gifted actor, director, and playwright. Mitra, who was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012.

Shanti Devi

Padma Shri awardee and social activist Shanti Devi passed away in Gunupur, Rayagada district of Odisha. She was known for her dedication towards the underprivileged community and restoring peace in the Maoist-affected areas in Odisha.

Roberta Metsola

EU lawmakers have chosen centre-right Maltese lawmaker Roberta Metsola, as only the third woman to head the European Parliament.

Dimitar Kovacevski

North Macedonia's parliament has elected Dimitar Kovacevski as prime minister of a Social Democrat-led government after two months of political crisis.

Major Ahluwalia

Founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), professional mountaineer, and Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri recipient — Major HPS Ahluwalia passed away. At the age of 26, Major Ahluwalia was part of the first Indian expedition to summit Mount Everest in 1965.

Narayan Debnath

Legendary cartoonist, noted illustrator and litterateur Narayan Debnath passed away in Kolkata. Mr. Debnath was the creator of some of immortal cartoon characters for Bengali readers such as Bantul the Great, Handa Bhonda, Nonte Fonte.

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has emerged as the most popular leader worldwide. According to a US-based global leader approval tracker, Morning Consult Political Intelligence.

Subhas Bhowmick

Former India footballer Subhas Bhowmick died following prolonged illness. Bhowmick was a striker and played for

East Bengal and Mohun Bagan and represented India in several international tournaments.

SPORTS

Mia Mottley

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has won a second term in office by a landslide after pulling the island's economy back from the brink and restoring economic stability during her first government.

Captain Harpreet Chandi

Captain Harpreet Chandi, a 32-year-old Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, also known as Polar Preet, has created history by becoming the first woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole.

Prajakta Koli

Content creator Prajakta Koli has been named youth climate champion by United Nations Development Programme - India. Koli is a YouTuber known for her channel Mostlysane featuring comedy videos.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Vietnamese monk-turned-peace-activist Thich Nhat Hanh, a hugely influential Buddhist credited with bringing mindfulness to the West, has died aged 95.

Bob Saget

The US actor and comedian Bob Saget, best known for starring in the sitcom Full House, has died.

Nagaswamy

R. Nagaswamy, the first Director of the Department of Archaeology, died of age-related complications. He had an authority in archaeology, architecture, epigraphy, numismatics, iconography, south Indian bronzes and temple rituals.

Ayesha Malik

Justice Ayesha Malik has recently taken oath as the first woman judge of Pakistan Supreme Court, a landmark occasion in a nation where activists say the law is often wielded against women.

Milena Salvini

Milena Salvini, an Italy-born dancer who was a great enthusiast of Indian classical art, especially Kathakali, passed away in France.

Xiomara Castro

Leftist Xiomara Castro was sworn in as the first woman President of Honduras, vowing to reform the crime-and-poverty-stricken nation into a "socialist and democratic state."

Anantha Nageswaran

Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran has been appointed Chief Economic Advisor to the government of India. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant.

Sindhutai Sapkal

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee Sindhutai Sapkal passed away. Popularly referred to as "Mai", Sapkal ran an orphanage in Pune where she adopted over 1,000 orphan kids.

Baba Iqbal Singh

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee Baba Iqbal Singh, in-charge of the Kalgidhar Trust, died at the age of 96 years at Baru Sahib in Sirmour district. Baba Iqbal Singh worked relentlessly towards imparting value-based education in rural India.

India wins U-19 Asia Cup title

The U-19 Indian cricket team lifted the U-19 Asia Cup beating Sri Lanka by nine wickets (DLS Method) in a match that was interrupted by rain in Dubai.

Vachier claims World blitz title

Eighth seeded Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave surprisingly stole a march over several stronger contenders before nailing local hero Jan-Krzysztof Duda 2-1 in the tie-breaker to claim the World blitz chess title in Warsaw.

Draft national air sports policy pushes for safety standards

The Union government released a draft national policy for air sports in the country that will require entities providing these services and their equipment to be registered, as well as be liable for penalties.

Mohammad Hafeez retires from international cricket

Veteran Pakistani cricketer Mohammad Hafeez announced retirement from international cricket. He drew curtains on his illustrious career after taking part in 55 Tests, 218 ODIs, and 119 T20Is for Pakistan.

Bangladesh scripts historic triumph

Fast bowler Ebadot Hossain took a career-best six for 46 as Bangladesh beat World Test Champion New Zealand by eight wickets in the first cricket test, capturing its first-ever win in New Zealand.

Sri Lanka Batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa Quits International Cricket

Sri Lanka batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect, citing family obligations.

South Africa create history in Johannesburg to level series

South Africa registered their first-ever win over India in Johannesburg with skipper Dean Elgar's unbeaten 96 leading the fourth innings run chase.

Four India games nominated for FIH award

Four games involving Indian hockey teams, including the men's historic Olympic bronze medal-winning contest in Tokyo, have been nominated by the world body (FIH) for the Favourite Match-of-the-Year 2021 award.

Rajnath Singh flags-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted in France

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in France.

Danushka Gunathilaka, 30, retires from Test cricket

Sri Lanka's aggressive opening batter, Danushka Gunathilaka, has decided to retire from Test cricket at the age of 30 to focus on the white-ball formats.

Rafael Nadal defeats Maxime Cressy to claim Melbourne title

Rafael Nadal defeated American Maxime Cressy, 7-6, 6-3 in the Men's Singles final of the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.

14-year-old Bharath Subramaniyam becomes India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster

Fourteen-year-old Bharath Subramaniyam has become the 73rd Grandmaster of India, the All India Chess Federation confirmed.

Rohan Bopanna-Ramkumar Ramanathan win Adelaide International doubles trophy

The unseeded pair of Rohan Bopanna-Ramkumar Ramanathan has won the Adelaide International doubles trophy in Australia.

World No.1 Ash Barty wins Adelaide International

In Tennis, World No.1 Ash Barty won the Adelaide International by crushing world No. 14 Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-2 in Women's Singles final at Cannebara.

Canada sweeps past Spain to win maiden ATP Cup

Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime stormed through a gripping clash with Spanish star Roberto Bautista Agut for a massive victory that earned his country a maiden ATP Cup title.

New Zealand squares series

Ross Taylor ended his 15-year Test career by taking a wicket with his part-time off-breaks that clinched victory for New Zealand over Bangladesh by an innings and 117 runs and tied the two-match series 1-1.

Tata Group is IPL title sponsor

The Tata Group has replaced Vivo as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League 2022 and 2023 editions.

Morris calls it quits

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

U-19 shuttler Tasnim ranked World No. 1

Tasnim Mir became the first Indian to grab the World no 1 ranking in under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings.

South Africa defeats India in 3rd test

South Africa defeated India in the third and final Test of the series at the Newlands in Cape Town to seal the series 2-1.

Virat Kohli steps down as Indian Cricket Team's Test Captain

Virat Kohli has stepped down as the Test captain of the Indian Men's cricket team. The decision comes after the series defeat against South Africa.

Ashes 2021-22: Australia win fifth Test and series 4-0 after England collapse

Australia completed a dominant 4-0 Ashes series victory over England by winning the fifth Test by 146 runs with two days to spare.

Lakshya stuns World champion Yew, clinches his maiden title

Lakshya Sen produced the strokes needed to stay out of trouble and finally nailed recently crowned World champion Loh Kean Yew to claim his maiden singles title in the \$400,000 India Open badminton.

India set to host football AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 from 20th Jan

India is all set to host the football AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 from 20th January. The tournament, which will be held in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Pune, will witness 12 teams competing for the trophy.

Doubles Pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty lifts Men's Doubles trophy

Badminton doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lifted India Open titles in New Delhi. They beat top seeds Hendra Setiawan and Mohammad Ahsan 21-16, 26-24 to win their second Super 500 title.

Cricket: Smriti Mandhana named in ICC T20I women's Team of the Year

India opener Smriti Mandhana was 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.

Sania Mirza: India tennis star to retire after 2022 season

Former Wimbledon doubles champion Sania Mirza, one of India's most celebrated sports stars, has announced that she will retire from tennis after 2022.

IND vs SA: India loses by 4 runs, suffer whitewash by South Africa

South Africa white washed the ODI series against India winning third and final match by 4 runs. India was all out at 283, four-run short of the victory target of 288 runs.

Syed Modi International: PV Sindhu wins Women's singles title

P.V. Sindhu has won the Women's singles title at the Syed Modi International tournament. Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash in Lucknow.

ICC Awards: Mohammad Rizwan Named Men's T20 Cricketer of the Year

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named the star Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan as the Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2021.

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

In Hockey, India beat China 2-0 to win a bronze medal in the Women's Asia Cup at Muscat in Oman. Sharmila Devi in the 13th minute and Gurjit Kaur in the 19th minute scored the goals for India.

Former Zimbabwe Captain Brendan Taylor Banned By ICC For Delay in Reporting Spot-Fixing Approach

Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor was banned for three and a half years by the ICC for failing to report a 2019 spot-fixing approach by an Indian businessman on time.

Ashleigh Barty wins her first Australian Open title

World Number one Ashleigh Barty, won her first Australian Open title after defeating Danielle Collins of the United States in the Women's Singles final at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.

Australian Open Tennis: Rafael Nadal creates history by winning record 21st grand slam title

In Tennis, Rafael Nadal created history by becoming the only player to win the most grand slam titles ie 21. The Spaniard defeated World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev in a thrilling 5-set Australian Open men's singles final.

Unnati claims women's singles title, becomes youngest Indian to win Super 100 tournament

Teenager Unnati Hooda became the youngest Indian to win a Super 100 tournament as she beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal in straight games to claim the women's singles title in the \$75,000 Odisha Open badminton tournament.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sri Lanka to ink pact with India to develop oil tanks

Sri Lanka announced its decision to sign three lease agreements on developing the strategic Trincomalee oil tank farm with India, after the Rajapaksa administration negotiated a "suitable" deal for 16 months.

Ban on plastic packaging covering fruit and vegetables comes into force from January in France

A new law banning plastic packaging on most fruit and vegetables comes into effect in France from New Year's Day. Cucumbers, lemons and oranges are among the 30 varieties banned from being wrapped in plastic.

Pig's heart beating inside human

U.S. surgeons have successfully implanted a heart from a genetically modified pig in a 57-year-old man, a medical first that could one day help solve the chronic shortage of organ donations.

India's passport rank improves to 83 from 90

India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021. It now ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year. Japan and Singapore top the index.

UNESCO agrees to publish Hindi descriptions of India's World Heritage Sites on its website

The UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC) has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on the WHC website.

Australia equals hottest day on record at 50.7 degree Celsius

Australia has equalled its hottest day on record after a remote coastal town reported temperatures of 50.7 degree Celsius. The temperature in Onslow, Western Australia, matched a record set in 1962 in South Australia.

Nigeria lifts Twitter ban after seven months

Nigeria has lifted its ban on Twitter - seven months after clamping down on the social networking site.

Global unemployment to reach 207 million in 2022: International Labour Organisation

The International Labour Organisation has projected global unemployment at 207 million in 2022, almost 21 million more than 2019.

Switzerland: WEF announces annual meeting to be held in person during Covid-19 pandemic from 22nd to 26th May at Davos

The World Economic Forum has announced that its annual meeting will be held in person for the first time during the Covid-19 pandemic, from 22nd of May till 26th of May this year at Davos in Switzerland.

Activities of 2022 discussed at BRICS STI Steering Committee: India to host 5 events

India will host five events in 2022, including BRICS Startups Forum meeting, Working Groups meetings on Energy, and Biotechnology and Biomedicine. The 15th meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation Steering Committee was held virtually.

UN confirms 2021 among seven hottest years on record

The past seven years have been the hottest on record, the United Nations confirmed, adding that 2021 temperatures remained high despite the cooling effect of the La Nina weather phenomenon. The warmest seven years have all been since 2015.

India ranks 85th out of 180 countries in Corruption Perceptions Index: Report

Transparency International has released the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 in which India has been ranked at 85th spot (Score of 40). The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88).

Oscar 2022: Suriya's Tamil socio-drama 'Jai Bhim' nominated for Best Featured Film

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revealed the list of 276 films that is eligible for consideration at the 94th Oscars. Among these films, Suriya's hard-hitting Tamil socio-drama Jai Bhim is India's entry into The Academy.

World Braille Day 2022: January 4

The United Nations (UN)'s World Braille Day is annually observed across the globe on 4th January.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2022 : 09th January

The Non-Resident Indian Day or also known as the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9th January.

Armed Forces Veterans Day: January 14

The 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day was observed on January 14, 2022 to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans in serving the nation. It was called Armistice Day when initiated in 2017.

Army day: January 15

Army day is celebrated on 15 January every year in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa's taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Francis Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India, on 15 January 1949.

Parakram Diwas: January 23rd

The Indian government has decided to celebrate January 23rd as 'Parakram Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

12th National Voters' day being celebrated on January 25

The 12th National Voters' Day is being celebrated on January 25. The theme for this year's voters' day is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative.

National Tourism Day being celebrated on January 25

National Tourism Day is observed on the 25th of January every year to celebrate the diversity of the country. The theme for this year is Rural and Community Centric Tourism.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day: 27 January

International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed on 27 January every year.

Anti-Leprosy Day: 30th January

In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year. This year, World Leprosy Day is also being celebrated on 30th January.

74th Martyrs' Day: 30th January

Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed every year on January 30 in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated at Gandhi Smriti in the Birla House by Nathuram Godse in 1948.