

Nicaragua's Ortega wins new term after opponents jailed



Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega clinched a fourth consecutive term, results showed on Monday, after jailing political rivals ahead of a vote that prompted threats of sanctions from the United States and international calls for free elections. Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council said that with nearly all the ballots counted, a preliminary tally had Ortega's Sandinista alliance winning with about 76% of votes.

Astronaut Wang Yaping Becomes First Chinese Woman To Walk In Space



Astronaut Wang Yaping became the first Chinese woman to walk in space, as her team completed a six-hour stint outside the Tiangong space station as part of its ongoing construction. Tiangong -- meaning "heavenly palace" -- is the latest achievement in China's drive to become a major space power, after landing a rover on Mars and sending probes to the Moon. Its core module entered orbit earlier this year, with the station expected to be operational by 2022.

India ranks 18 out of 30 countries in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index

RANKINGS OF SELECTED COUNTRIES

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
TOP 5		
1	Norway	74/100
2	New Zealand	71/100
3	Portugal	70/100
4	UK	69/100
5	Australia	65/100
18	India	46/100

BOTTOM 5

26	Mexico	35/100
27	Kenya	34/100
28	Indonesia	29/100
29	Uganda	28/100
30	Brazil	26/100

The inaugural Global Drug Policy Index, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium, ranks Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia as the five leading countries on humane and health-driven drug policies. The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries

The Index is composed of 75 indicators running across five broad dimensions of drug policy: criminal justice, extreme responses, health and harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines, and development.

UNESCO picks Srinagar as 'creative city'



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has picked Srinagar among 49 cities as part of the creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts category. The process of nomination of Srinagar under the UNESCO 'Creative City Network' was undertaken and funded under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project. The inclusion is likely to pave way for the city to represent its handicrafts on the global stage through UNESCO.

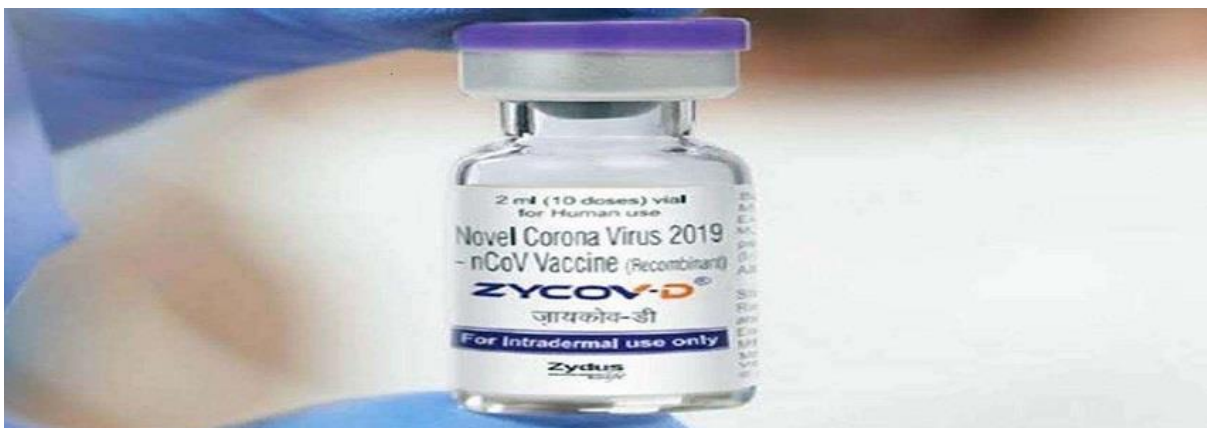
90 Zika cases in U.P.; Delhi too on alert



With a rise in the number of Zika virus cases in Uttar Pradesh, doctors have advised that people should avoid all non-essential travel to areas reporting cases. Currently close to 90 persons, including 17 children, have tested positive for the virus from the State. Delhi also has been placed on alert.

According to information released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), a majority of those infected with Zika virus disease either remain asymptomatic (up to 80%) or show mild symptoms of fever, rash, conjunctivitis, body ache, joint pains. The mosquito that transmits the Zika virus, the *Aedes Aegypti*, also transmits the dengue virus and is widely prevalent in India.

Zydus Cadila to supply one crore doses



Zydus Cadila has received an order to supply one crore doses of ZyCoV-D, the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine, to the Government of India at Rs. 265 per dose and the needle-free applicator being offered at Rs. 93 per dose, excluding GST," the pharma firm said. The pricing has been decided in consultation with the Central Government, it added. The vaccine will be administered using a needle-free applicator as opposed to traditional syringes.

Winter session of Parliament to begin soon



The winter session of Parliament will begin on November 29 and go on till December 23. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has approved the dates. There will be 20 working days in the session. Last year, the winter session could not be held due to the pandemic. The last three parliamentary sessions were also curtailed due to the COVID-19 scare. The coming session will also adhere to the COVID-19 protocols. Both Houses of Parliament — Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha — will hold proceedings simultaneously while ensuring that the members follow social distancing norms.

Govt. officials to be trained in handling disability issues



Government functionaries, from ASHA and anganwadi workers at the grassroots level to senior officers and MPs at the national level, would soon be trained and sensitised regarding Central sector schemes and facilities for persons with disabilities, Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry officials said. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry would be releasing five training modules for different categories of government officials.

The Rehabilitation Council of India would be the nodal agency to coordinate the training sessions for government departments, schools, colleges, health and allied professionals, ASHA workers and anganwadi workers through a network of 700 training colleges. The respective training modules would be shared with the stakeholders, who would also get financial support and the services of a resource person.

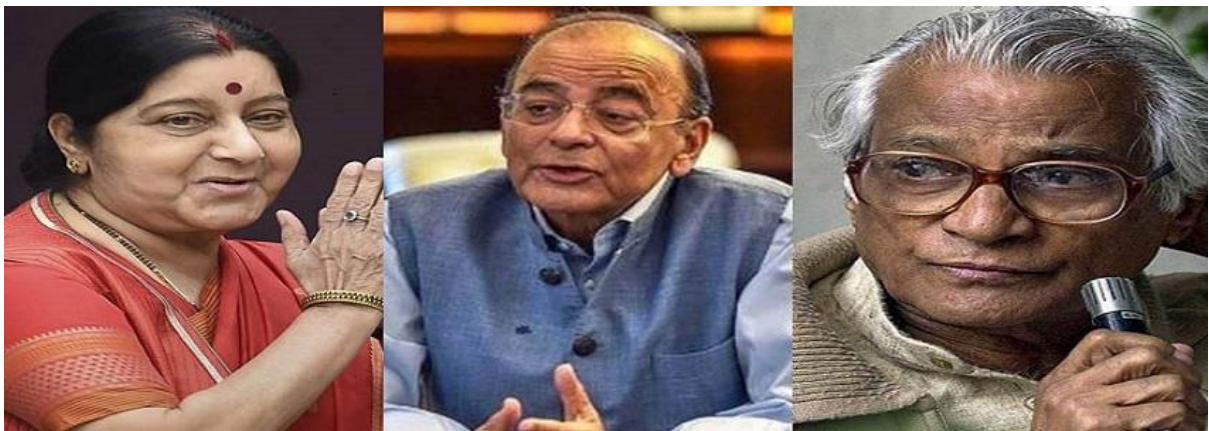
Gujarat ranks 1st for third consecutive year in logistics performance index



According to the Commerce Ministry's LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2021 report, Gujarat topped the logistics index chart, a marker of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth. This is the third year in a row that the state remained on top of the rankings. Gujarat was followed by Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

The LEADS report also aims to enhance focus on improving logistics performance across states which is key to improving the country's trade and reducing transaction cost.

Sushma, Fernandes, Arun Jaitley honoured



Former Union Ministers George Fernandes, Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, and former President of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth were on Monday given the Padma Vibhushan posthumously for exceptional and distinguished service. The awards were presented at two civil investiture ceremonies at the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the years 2020 and 2021, held in the morning and evening, respectively. A total of seven Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 122 Padma Shri awards were presented for the two years.

Amazon infuses Rs 1,000 cr into India payments unit



Amazon has infused Rs 1,000 crore into its payments unit in India, Amazon Pay. The fresh infusion is expected to help the company compete more aggressively against rivals like PhonePe, Google Pay and Paytm. In April this year, Amazon Pay had received an infusion of Rs 225 crore. Amazon has been pumping in millions of dollars across various operations like marketplace, wholesale and payments business as it looks to strengthen its position in the Indian market.

Amazon Pay's total income for fiscal 2021 grew over 30 per cent to Rs 1,782.6 crore from Rs 1,370 crore in fiscal 2020.

Karur Vysya Bank Q2 results: Net profit jumps 44% to Rs 165 crore



Private lender Karur Vysya Bank reported a 43.5 per cent jump in its net profit to Rs 165 crore in the quarter ended in September 2021 on improved credit off-take in retail and business segments as well as a fall in bad loan provisions. It had posted a net profit of Rs 115 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

The bank's total income from operations during the July-September quarter of 2021-22, however, was down at Rs 1,561.05 crore as against Rs 1,577.45 crore in the same period of 2020-21

BNY Mellon cuts ties with Adani mine



Bank of New York Mellon Corp has pulled out of providing financial services to Adani Group and its Carmichael coal mine in Australia, saying the venture is incompatible with its environmental, social and governance rules. The U.S. investment bank is the latest global financial institution to distance itself from the project after a campaign by local indigenous people.

Muthoot Finance Q2 net rises 11%



Muthoot Finance Ltd. reported standalone net profit rose 11% to Rs. 994 crore in the quarter ended September, compared with a year earlier. Loan assets stood at Rs. 55,147 crore compared to Rs. 47,016 crore in the same period last year, registering a growth of 17% YoY. Gold loan assets increased 5% to Rs. 2,613 crores.

Reliance exits shale gas in N. America



Reliance Eagleford Upstream Holding LP, a wholly owned step-down arm of Reliance Industries Ltd., has signed agreements with Ensign Operating III LLC to divest its interest in certain upstream assets in the Eagleford shale play of Texas, USA. With this transaction, Reliance has divested all its shale gas assets and has exited from the shale gas business in North America.

Sundaram Finance Q2 net profit rises 10%



Sundaram Finance Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the second quarter ended September 30, rose 10% to Rs. 211 crore from the year-earlier period. Total revenue increased to Rs. 1,022 crore from Rs. 993 crore, while other income contracted to Rs. 3.35 crore from Rs. 4.90 crore.

Watanabe re-elected as international gymnastics president



Morinari Watanabe was re-elected to a new three-year term as President of the International Gymnastics Federation. Watanabe, from Japan, won the vote 81 to 47 against Farid Gayibov of Azerbaijan at a conference in Turkey, the federation said.

Watanabe has a background in business and was first elected FIG president in 2016 for a four-year term. That was extended by one year when the coronavirus pandemic caused the Tokyo Olympics to be postponed. His new term is three years so the next elections coincide with the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

Sankalp Gupta is India's 71st GM



Sankalp Gupta has become India's 71st Grandmaster by scoring 6.5 points and finishing second in the GM Ask 3 round-robin event in Arandjelovac, Serbia. The 18-year-old secured the three required GM norms in just 24 days by playing three tournaments on the trot.

WTT Contender Lasko: Manika Batra, Archana Kamath Clinch Doubles Title



Indian pair of Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko. The Indian duo defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz in straight sets by 11-3, 11-8, 12-10.

T20 World Cup 2021: India beats Namibia as Kohli ends captaincy tenure with win



India comprehensively beat Namibia by nine wickets to give Virat Kohli a winning farewell in his last match as Twenty20 captain. India had bowed out of the tournament on Sunday after New Zealand's win against Afghanistan. India rode on a 87-run opening stand between Rohit Sharma, who hit 56, and KL Rahul, who made an unbeaten 54, to reach their target of 133 in 15.2 overs in Dubai. Indian spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin took three wickets each to set up the victory after they kept Namibia to 132 for eight.

This match also marks the end of the tenure of head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar.

Table Tennis: Manush, Reeth win titles



India's Manush Shah and T. Reeth Rishya bagged the men's and women's singles titles in the ITTF Ecuador International Open table tennis tournament held in Cuenca recently. Manush beat Juan Jesus Gomez of Mexico 11-7, 11-9, 11-13, 11-7, 11-9 in the men's final. Reeth, seeded fourth, became the first Indian woman to win a singles crown on the pro-tour when she beat compatriot Ankita Das 6-11, 11-4, 11-6, 16-18, 11-1, 11-6 in the women's final.