

## India to hold first 2+2 with Russia on December 6



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are likely to hold their first “2+2” format talks with their Russian counterparts Sergey Lavrov and Sergey Shoygu, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi for the annual summit on December 6, as well as the inter-governmental joint commission meeting.

The 2+2 format agreed to during a Modi-Putin phone conversation in April is particularly significant, given that India conducts joint foreign and defence ministerial only with its closest ‘Quad’ partners — the U.S., Japan and Australia.

## Taliban appeal to U.S. to release Afghan assets



The Taliban called on U.S. Congress members to release Afghan assets frozen after their takeover of the country, warning economic turmoil at home could lead to trouble abroad. The US has seized nearly \$9.5 billion in assets belonging to the Afghan central bank, and the aid-dependent economy has effectively collapsed — with civil servants unpaid for months and the treasury unable to pay for imports.

## Xi tightened control over the PLA



The new resolution on history passed last week by China's ruling Communist Party has said that President Xi Jinping had tightened control over the military to address the party's "obviously lacking" leadership of the armed forces under his predecessors. The full text of the resolution, released listed some of the actions taken by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) under Mr. Xi, who is also the chairman of the Central Military Commission. These included what the document described as "major operations related to border defence". Last week's resolution on history was only third such document putting forth the official view on party history, following resolutions passed by Mao Zedong in 1945 and Deng Xiaoping in 1981.

## UN flags rising arrests in Ethiopia after emergency



The UN voiced alarm at surging arrests in Ethiopia since the country introduced a state of emergency on November 2. The United Nations human rights agency said most of those detained in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa as well as in Gondar, Bahir Dar and other locations were of Tigrayan origin. According to reports, at least 1,000 individuals are believed to have been detained.

## **Cabinet nod for mobile services in 7,287 villages**



The Union Cabinet approved provisioning of mobile services in over 7,000 uncovered villages across five States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,466 crore. It added that the project envisages to provide 4G mobile services in the 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts in the five States at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,466 crore, including operational expenses for five years.

The project will be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and is targeted to be completed within 18 months after the signing of the agreement.

## **ED chief gets one-year extension of service**



The Enforcement Directorate chief, Sanjay Kumar Mishra, was given one-year extension in service, days after the Centre issued an ordinance increasing the agency head's tenure from two years to up to five years. The 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service officer was to retire on November 18. He will now remain the ED Director till November 18, 2022 or until further orders.

## **Technology Innovation Hubs Of IIT Delhi, IIIT Delhi To Jointly Set-up India's First Medical Cobotics Centre**



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Delhi) in partnership with Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT Delhi) will set up the country's first Medical Cobotics Centre. The centre which will come up at IIIT Delhi will facilitate the training of other healthcare professionals, paramedical staff, technicians, engineers, and researchers.

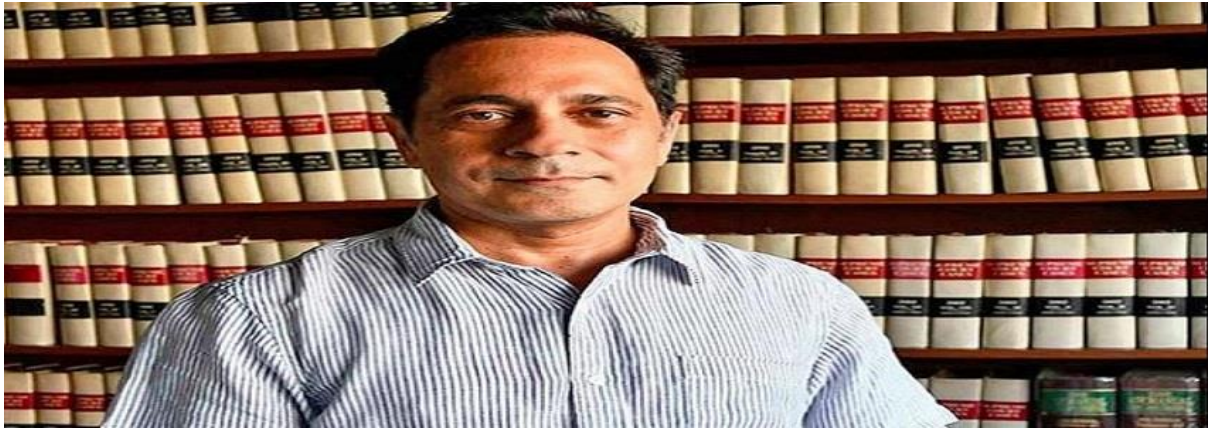
## **Kartarpur corridor reopens for pilgrims**



Pilgrims from India went to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib across the International Border in Pakistan's Narowal district across Ravi River through the Kartarpur corridor as it was reopened after 20 months. The movement of devotees to Kartarpur via the corridor was suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Union Government had announced the reopening of the corridor ahead of "Prakash Purb" (birth anniversary) of Guru Nanak Dev on Friday.

## Saurabh Kirpal Could Be India's First Gay Judge As SC Recommends Him For Delhi HC



A Supreme Court panel in India has recommended the name of an openly gay lawyer Saurabh Kirpal to be a judge in what is being described as a milestone for LGBTQ rights. The top court's collegium, a committee headed by the country's chief justice, has proposed senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal's name to become a Delhi High Court judge.

The process of appointing a judge in India involves recommendations from the collegium followed by a formal approval from the federal government.

## M.P. Govt. to give rations only to those fully vaccinated



The Madhya Pradesh Government has decided that the subsidised or free foodgrains at all fair price shops will be given only to those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. An order by the Food and Civil Supplies Department dated November 7, 2021, said “beneficiaries must be informed that to draw the benefit of the scheme both doses of vaccine is compulsory”.

## Pune Film Festival to be held in Dec.



After undergoing postponements owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pune International Film Festival (PIFF), Maharashtra's official film festival, is finally set to be held in its physical form from December 2 to December 9, 2021. The 19th edition of the popular film festival was earlier scheduled to be held in March this year (instead of its traditional commencement date in January), but had to be called off again in the wake of the second wave of the pandemic, which hit Pune district hard.

The film fest was then held in an online format in March, with only a select few films available for viewing.

## Financial bids for six CPSEs to be invited by January: DIPAM



The Centre will invite financial bids for privatising as many as many as six CPSEs, including BPCL, BEML and Shipping Corp., by January. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) also invited private players to bid for the CPSEs that are up for privatisation, along with transfer of management control.

### GDP likely to grow 10% in FY22, says Debroy



India's economy is moving towards a higher growth trajectory and is likely to grow at about 10% in 2021-22, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy said. At the beginning of FY22, forecasts for real growth were in the 8.5-12.5% range, he noted. However, high-frequency indicators including GST revenue, e-way bills, power consumption, vehicle registrations, railway freight, corporate profitability, foreign direct investment inflows and steel consumption had instilled confidence that the real rate of growth would be about 10% this fiscal. For FY23, he expects growth to be in the 6-7.5% range.

### SEBI unveils investor charter



Markets regulator SEBI came out with an investor charter aimed at protecting the interest of investors in the securities market. The vision of the investor charter is to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner. SEBI has also laid out responsibilities, and do's and don'ts for investors.

SEBI said it has put in place an alternate dispute redressal mechanism for grievances against brokers, depository participants at the level of stock exchanges and depositories.

## Sabeer Bhatia launches new social video messaging firm



Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia has unveiled a social video messaging platform, ShowReel. The firm aims to empower people to achieve their true potential by democratising free access to mentors and would link job-seekers with companies struggling to find talent, the company said. ShowReel aims to drive real value for job seekers and companies alike.

## Mahindra Finance enters vehicle leasing

**Mahindra** FINANCE

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (Mahindra Finance) has officially introduced its leasing and subscription business under the brand 'Quiklyz.' Quiklyz is the first-of-its-kind digital journey on car usership with which the customer can access a brand-new car without all the hassles of car ownership. The brand will take care of registration, insurance, scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, road-side assistance.



## India wins first T20 over New Zealand



Skipper Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav produced sublime knocks as India recorded a five-wicket win over New Zealand in the opening T20 International. Martin Guptill (70 off 42) and Mark Chapman (63 off 50) took New Zealand to 164 for six on a good batting surface. India's chase was set up by Rohit (48 off 36), who made his full-time captaincy debut, and Suryakumar Yadav (62 off 40) who came in at number three in place of rested Virat Kohli.

## India gets compound men's bronze



India beat Bangladesh 235-223 to take the compound men's team bronze medal at the Asian archery championships. Aman Saini, Abhishek Verma and Rishabh Yadav got the better of the host, comprising Mohammad Ashikuzzaman, Nawaz Ahmed Rakib and Mohammad Sohel Rana, in the clash for the third place.

## **Tennis: Muguruza, Kontaveit to vie for the crown**



Garbiñe Muguruza dominated Paula Badosa in a 6-3, 6-3 victory and will play Anett Kontaveit for the title at the WTA Finals. Eighth-seeded Kontaveit beat Maria Sakkari 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to advance, ensuring two first-time finalists at the women's season-ending championship.