

Amid Ukraine crisis, NATO sends planes, ships to eastern Europe



NATO allies have put forces on standby and sent ships and fighter jets to bolster Europe's eastern defences as tensions soar over Russia's military buildup around Ukraine, the alliance said. Tensions have soared over Russia's deployment of some 1,00,000 troops and heavy armour at its neighbour's borders, despite the Kremlin's insistence it is not planning a new incursion.

The U.S., Britain and Australia ordered diplomats' families to leave Kiev, while France told its citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Ukraine.

Taliban hail Oslo meet as 'success'



On their first visit to Europe since returning to power, the Taliban held landmark talks with Western diplomats in Oslo over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, a meeting the Islamist regime's delegation called an "achievement in itself". The international community has however insisted the Taliban must respect human rights before aid can be resumed to Afghanistan, where hunger threatens more than half population.

Having accepted a controversial invitation from Norway, the Taliban were holding talks with representatives of the U.S., France, Britain, Germany, Italy, the European Union and Norway.

Pakistan gets its first woman SC judge



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. Justice Malik attended a ceremony in the capital Islamabad where she now sits on the bench alongside 16 male colleagues at Pakistan's highest court.

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. Soldiers at several army bases across the country rebelled on Sunday, demanding the sacking of the military top brass and more resources to fight a bloody jihadist insurgency.

Mr. Kabore, first elected in 2015 before winning re-election five years later on campaign vows he would prioritise the fight against the jihadist insurgency, has faced rising public anger about the failure to stop the bloodshed.

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. The High Court in London gave Mr. Assange permission to appeal the case to the U.K. Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court must agree to accept the case before it can move forward.

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. Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29th of January 1992.

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”. This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document - the first of which was released in November last year. This report provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products that will lead India’s transformation into a 300 billion US dollar electronics manufacturing powerhouse, from the current 75 billion US dollar. The 300 billion US dollar electronics manufacturing comes on the back of 10 billion US dollar PLI Scheme announced by the government to propel forward the Semiconductor and Display ecosystem.

Centre Seeks More Time From Delhi HC To Put Forth Stand On Criminalising Marital Rape



Hearing petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape, the Delhi High Court told the Centre that the government may have its own approach but the court cannot keep the matter hanging beyond a particular period. The observation came after the central government reiterated its request seeking more time to file a fresh response to the petitions. The Centre told the Delhi High Court that the issue of criminalisation of marital rape involves “family issues” and the dignity of a woman and cannot be looked at from a “microscopic angle”. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, urged the High Court to allow a “reasonable time” to place the position of the government after consultation with the stakeholders.

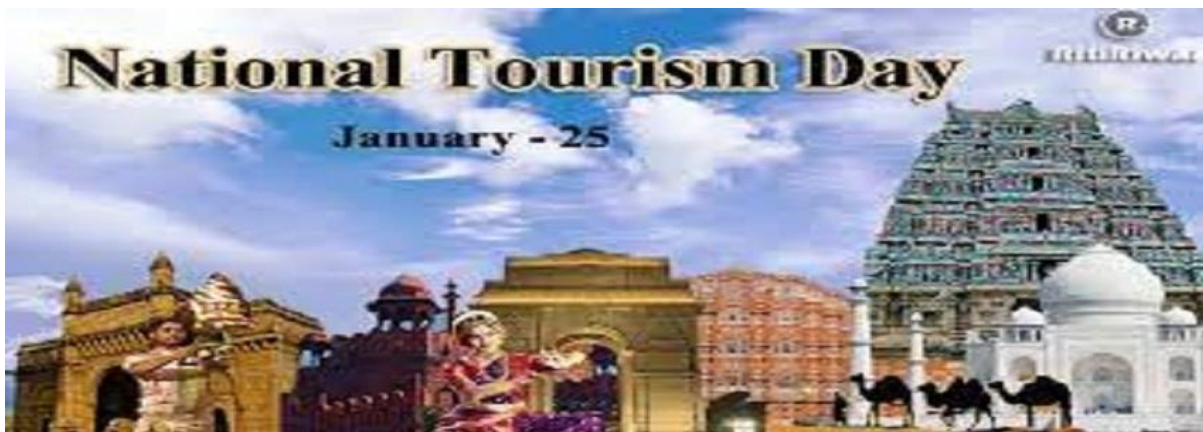
12th National Voters' day being celebrated on January 25



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'. On the occasion, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practises for the year 2021-22 will be conferred on State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres such as IT initiatives, Security Management, Election Management, Accessible Elections and contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach.

Since 2011, National Voters' Day is being celebrated all across the country on 25th of January every year, to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India.

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. The Ministry of Tourism is observing this day under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Worldwide, India has a remarkable position because of magnificent places that are famous as tourist destinations

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. As per provisional figures, exports of Engineering Goods was over 81 Billion US dollars during April to December 2021 as compared to over 52 Billion US dollars during the same period in 2020. India's top five export destinations of Engineering Goods during the period April to November 2021 were USA, China, UAE, Italy and Germany.

Axis Bank Q3 net surges on interest income



Axis Bank Ltd. reported third-quarter net profit grew more than threefold to Rs. 3,614 crore on account of a rise in net interest income and improvement in asset quality. Net Interest Income (NII) grew 17% YoY to Rs. 8,653 crore while fee income rose 15% YoY to Rs. 3,344 crore. The balance sheet grew 20% YoY and stood at Rs. 11,13,066 crore. Total deposits grew 20% YoY to Rs. 7,71,670 crore.

Govt receives Rs 148 cr dividend from DFCCIL, Rs 72 cr from Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd



Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Tuhin Kanta Pandey has said that the Centre has received about 148 crore rupees from Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited and 72 crore rupees from Rail Vikas Nigam Limited as dividend tranches. He added that the government has also received about 21 crore rupees from Bharatiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited and 15 crore rupees from Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited as dividend tranches.

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. The move comes amid accelerated investment in digital as manufacturing companies adapt to meet new and evolving customer needs. The company would be ramping up its workforce in all major markets globally as well as in India, including in States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Swiggy raises \$700 mn in Invesco-led funding



Swiggy had raised \$700 million in new funding led by Invesco. The round also saw participation from new investors such as Baron Capital Group, Sumeru Venture, IIFL AMC Late Stage Tech Fund, Kotak, Axis Growth Avenues AIF- I, Sixteenth Street Capital, Ghisallo, Smile Group and Segantii Capital.

Its food delivery business had almost doubled in gross order value (GOV) in the last year and the fund raise would enable it to further accelerate growth on the core platform and make meaningful investments to grow Instamart.

India defeat Singapore 9-1 to enter semifinals of Women's Asia Cup Hockey tournament



Defending champions India have entered the semifinals of the Women's Asia Cup tournament after defeating Singapore 9-1 in their last Pool A match in Muscat. With this win, India have also sealed a spot for the 2022 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup to be co-hosted by Spain and Netherlands later this year.

Afridi, Babar and Root take ICC men's honours for 2021



The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the complete list of winners of their yearly awards. Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi bagged the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy as he was picked for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year for 2021. Similarly, Indian opener Smriti Mandhana was the recipient of the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for Women's Cricketer of the Year.

Complete list of 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

Men's Associate Cricketer of The Year – Zeeshan Maqsood

Women's Associate Cricketer of The Year – Andrea-Mae Zepeda

Umpire of The Year – Marais Erasmus