

## Pakistan home to 12 foreign terrorist outfits: US Congressional report



Pakistan is home to at least 12 groups designated as ‘foreign terrorist organisations’ by the U.S., including five India-centric groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, said a Congressional report on terrorism. US officials have identified Pakistan as a base of operations or target for numerous armed and non-state militant groups, some of which have existed since the 1980s. These groups operating in Pakistan can be broadly categorised into five types -- globally-oriented, Afghanistan oriented, India- and Kashmir-oriented, domestically oriented, and Sectarian (anti-Shia).

## Taliban to ‘temporarily’ adopt 1964 monarchy Constitution



The Taliban said they will temporarily adopt a 1964 Constitution that granted women the right to vote, but eliminate any elements they disagree with. The Taliban’s Acting Justice Minister issued a statement saying the Islamists planned to introduce a Constitution used during Afghanistan’s short-lived golden age of democracy, but only briefly and with amendments. But anything in the text found to be in conflict with Sharia law and the principles of the Islamic Emirate would be discarded, he added.

Nearly six decades ago, Afghanistan enjoyed a brief period of constitutional monarchy during the reign of King Mohammad Zahir Shah.

## Home Ministry extends COVID norms till Oct. 31



The Ministry of Home Affairs issued fresh guidelines asking States for prompt and effective containment measures and to accelerate the pace of vaccination to prevent the potential rise in number of COVID-19 cases during the coming festival season. The guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 have been extended till October 31. The Ministry told States to take relevant action under various provisions of the Disaster Management Act for strict implementation of containment measures. The earlier guidelines issued in August are applicable till September 30.

## Deadline for promotion quotas for the disabled



The Supreme Court asked the Centre to issue instructions at the earliest and not later than four months for giving reservation in promotions to persons with disabilities (PwDs). A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao dismissed an application filed by the Centre seeking “clarifications” in a January 14, 2020 judgment of the apex court confirming that PwDs have a right to reservation in promotions.

The government’s applications wanted the court to clarify whether vacancies for promotion for PwDs would be computed only on the basis of the vacancies against the identified posts or against the vacancies in both identified and non-identified posts.

## **Schools can reopen in phases: ICMR**



Schools need to be reopened in a phased manner, starting with primary sections with proper implementation of multi-layered COVID-19 mitigation measures, according to experts at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). School teachers, staff and those involved in the transportation of children should be vaccinated on an emergent basis and continue to use a mask even after receiving the jabs, the experts underlined.

## **Solar open access installations in India up with 628 MW added in 1H 2021: Mercom**



Solar open access installations in India in the first half of 2021 totalled about 628 MW compared to 47 MW in the same period last year when projects were hit by the Covid pandemic outbreak, according to Mercom India Research report. Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of installations in the solar open access segment, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The cumulative solar installations in the open access market have now surpassed 4.5 GW as of June 2021, and there is a pipeline of over 1 GW under development and pre-construction.

As of June 30, Karnataka is the largest market for solar open access cumulatively, followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The top five States account for approximately 73 per cent of India's total solar open access market.

### Amazon to offer computer education to 1 lakh eligible students from 900 schools in India



E-commerce major Amazon India announced the launch of Amazon Future Engineer, its global computer science education programme, in India. According to the company, the programme will enable access to quality computer science education and career opportunities for students from underrepresented and underserved communities. In the first year of its launch, Amazon aims to enable and deliver learning opportunities to more than 1 lakh students from 900 government and aided schools across seven states in India.

Amazon is working with its global knowledge partner Code.org, a global non-profit organization dedicated to computer science education.

### Banks get RBI nod to use any other ARR in place of LIBOR



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks, which are authorised to deal in foreign exchange, to use any other widely accepted/alternative reference rate (ARR) in place of the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) for interest payable in respect of export/import transactions. The central bank has issued a circular in this regard to authorised dealer banks in view of the impending cessation of LIBOR as a benchmark rate.

## Centre dissolves OFB from Oct 1, transfers assets to 7 PSUs



The defence ministry has dissolved the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) with effect from October 1 and transferred its assets, employees and management to seven public sector units (PSUs). The name of the seven defence PSUs (also called DPSUs) are Munition India Limited, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited, Troop Comforts Limited, Yantra India Limited, India Optel Limited and Gliders India Limited.

The OFB is currently a defence ministry entity and supplies critical arms and ammunition to the three armed forces and the paramilitary.

## SEBI lays the framework for gold, social stock exchanges



SEBI announced a slew of big-ticket decisions, including a framework for setting up a gold exchange that will provide investors security in the form of electronic gold receipts (EGR). SEBI also approved the creation of a social stock exchange to enable non-profit organisations and for-profit enterprises raise funds.

Under the framework for gold exchange, EGRs will be available for trading on the existing stock exchanges. Like shares, these EGRs will be held in demat form and can be converted to physical gold when needed. EGR denomination and its conversion to gold will be decided by the stock exchange with the approval of SEBI.

SEBI also approved a separate framework for social stock exchange for the listing of non-profit organisation and for-profit social enterprises that are engaged in 15 broad eligible social activities approved by the market regulator. The social entities can raise funds through equity, issue of zero coupon zero principal bonds, mutual funds, social impact funds and development impact bonds.

## At 87%, fintech adoption in India higher than global average: FM



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India has the highest fintech adoption rate of 87% as opposed to the global average rate of 64%. She emphasized that there should be no compromise on data privacy and safeguard of client data with an increasing number of Indians now using digital mode of payment. Speaking at The Global FinTech Fest, the Minister said the value of digital transactions jumped to Rs 6 lakh crore in January-August 2021 from Rs 4 lakh crore in 2020 and Rs 2 lakh crore in 2019. India witnessed exponential growth in digital payments with 3.5 hundred crore transactions worth Rs 6 trillion between January and August

## NPCI, YES Bank launch RuPay On-the-Go



National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered Yes Bank to launch RuPay On-the-Go. The novel contactless payments solutions will allow customers to make small and large value transactions using daily wear accessories. RuPay On-the-Go is an interoperable, open-loop solution that customers can use at RuPay contactless-enabled PoS at retail outlets and pay up to Rs 5,000 without the need to input the PIN. For payments above Rs 5,000, customers will have to tap, followed by their PIN.

### Capital Float raises \$50 million funding from Lightrock India, others



Fintech major Capital Float has raised USD 50 million (about Rs 370.3 crore) in funding, led by Lightrock India. The funds raised will be used to strengthen and scale Capital Float's BNPL (Buy-Now-Pay-Later) platform and expand its partner ecosystem. The company said it has witnessed rapid growth over the past year, with 2.5 million customers now using its product to finance over Rs 2,000 crore of online purchases annually.

Founded in 2013, Capital Float is the trade name for CapFloat Financial Services Private Limited, a Non-Banking Finance Company registered with the Reserve Bank of India.

### Veteran umpire Badami Satyajji Rao passes away



Noted cricket umpire Badami Satyajji Rao passed away. He was 92. Rao became a First Class umpire in 1956 and served the game until 1981, and between 1960 and 1979 officiated in 17 Test matches, a then record. His debut Test was the India-Pakistan match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata in December 1960, with the last coming in Kanpur in February 1979 between India and West Indies.



## India seals quarterfinal berth



Victories for Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni paved the way for India's 2.5-1.5 victory over formidable Armenia in the third round league encounter in Group-A of the FIDE World women's team chess championship. The hard-fought win assured India of a place in the quarterfinals.