

## **BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS**

### **RBI to set up Automated Banknote Processing Centre in Jaipur**

With a view to effectively deal with increasing circulation of banknotes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes. The functions of the ABPC will also include processing of banknotes received from currency chests (CCs) and bank branches, and destruction of soiled banknotes in an automated manner, said the RBI's Request for Proposal (RFP) for engagement of consultant for comprehensive consultancy services for establishment of ABPC at Jaipur.

### **Hiranandani Group to invest Rs. 8,500 crore**

Hiranandani group plans to invest Rs. 8,500 cr over the next 3 years to develop data centres and industrial parks across various cities. Hiranandani Group had forayed into development of data centre parks with its new business venture Yotta Infrastructure in 2019.

### **Exim Bank extends \$448-mn line of credit**

Export-Import Bank of India has extended a USD 448-million line of credit for various infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan. The LOC has been extended on behalf of the Indian government. The LOC of USD 448 million to Uzbekistan has been extended for financing various projects in the roads and transport, water and technology and communication sectors in Uzbekistan.

### **SBI, PNB witnessing wilful defaults surge**

Eight of India's biggest banks have seen a significant jump in wilful defaults in the six months to September 2020, with such loans rising by over Rs. 37,000 crore to Rs. 1.5 trillion. These banks—SBI, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Union Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and AxisBank—account for 75% of all loans reported as wilful defaults as of 30 September 2020.

### **Auto-populated GSTR-3B return form enabled**

Businesses will now get complete auto-populated monthly sales return form GSTR- 3B. For ease of taxpayers, now the system will auto-populate GSTR-3B (monthly) on the basis of details filed in GSTR-1 and auto-drafted ITC statement GSTR-2B from November 2020 tax period onwards. Input tax credit (ITC) would be populated from system-drafted statement GSTR-2B.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

**81st Nupi Lan Day: 12 December**

In Manipur, 81st Nupi Lan Day 2020 was observed at the Nupi Lan Memorial Complex, Imphal on 12 Dec 2020. Manipuri women waged two historic wars in 1904 and 1939 known as Nupi Lal against the British.

### **14 December: National Energy Conservation Day**

Energy Conservation Day is observed every year on December 14. The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources. In India, the Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001.

## **SPORTS**

### **2021 European Karate Championships**

Croatia will host the 2021 European Karate Championships after the withdrawal of Sweden, the European Karate Federation has confirmed. The Istrian town of Poreč will host the event from May 19 – 23, 2021.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

### **Pramod Boro declared to be new BTC Chief**

The United People's Party Liberal, UPPL President Pramod Boro will be the new Chief Executive Member of the Bodoland Territorial Council, BTC. BJP along with Gana Suraksha Parishad will support the UPPL in the formation of the next council.

## **SCHEMES AND POLICIES**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

### **Prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib**

The UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Starting November 2021, the \$50,000 award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first President of Bangladesh and later served as the PM from 1971-1975.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Mumbai FASTag ready with three major tollways under electronic collection system: NPCI**

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Monday said Mumbai is now FASTag ready with three major toll plazas coming under the electronic collection system. Mumbai's

three of the major toll plazas - Airoli, Mulund Eastern Express Way and Mulund (LBS Marg) recently went live on NETC FASTag platform, NPCI said in a release. NPCI said that Rajiv Gandhi Sea link plaza and Vashi Toll plaza have already enabled the platform, providing seamless, on-the-go toll payments experience.

### **India to send 10 MT of life saving drugs to Sudan to help cope with COVID situation**

India on Monday informed Sudan that it would be sending 10 Metric Tonnes of life-saving drugs to the African nation in coming weeks to help it cope with the COVID situation. This was conveyed by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan to Sudan's Acting Foreign Minister Omar Gamar Aldin Ismail during a meeting held through video conferencing. The meeting afforded an opportunity to comprehensively review the bilateral relations since the transitional government took office in Sudan, a Ministry of External Affairs statement said.

### **Indian Embassy in Beijing launches cinemaSCOpe**

Indian Embassy in Beijing has launched a movie series "cinemaSCOpe" exclusively for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO. More than two dozen Indian films dubbed in Russian will be screened on a monthly basis. The movie screening began with 'Three Idiots' on 12 Dec 2020 and will continue till India's chairmanship of the SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023.

### **J&K achieves Neonatal Mortality Rate**

J&K has shown a record improvement in the last 3 years in key Maternal and Child health indicators as per the latest report of the National Family Health Survey. It was conducted by International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai. J&K has recorded 22 points decrease in Neonatal Mortality Rate from 23.1 to 9.8, 16 points and a decrease in Infant Mortality Rate from 32.4 to 16.3.

### **'Swadhinata Sarak' to be opened in March 2021**

The 'Swadhinata Sarak' between Bangladesh and India will be opened on 26 March 2021. The road is functional on the Indian side and it will be connected through Mujibnagar, Meherpur district in Bangladesh.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **DEFENCE**

### **Russia successfully test launches heavy lift space rocket after long hiatus**

Russia on Monday successfully test launched its heavy lift Angara A5 space rocket after a six-year hiatus in a project President Vladimir Putin describes as having huge significance for national security. First test-launched in 2014, it is being developed to replace the Proton M as

Russia's heavy lift rocket, capable of carrying payloads bigger than 20 tonnes into orbit. A launch pad for the new rocket is due to open in 2021. The Angara has however been dogged by manufacturing delays and technical issues, including the discovery last year of a defect in its engines that scientists said could destroy it in flight. The defence ministry and space agency Roscosmos said Monday's launch, from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the country's northwest, had been successful however.

### **1st service of Pawan Hans MI 17 helicopter**

In Kargil, the first service of Pawan Hans MI 17 helicopter between Kargil to Srinagar started on 13 December 2020. It lifted 13 passengers from Kargil to Srinagar and 14 from Srinagar to Kargil. The service will ease the issue of transportation during the winter season. The fare of this helicopter service is Rs 9,000 per passenger.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Coronavirus seroprevalence study in Gujarat**

In Gujarat, the Coronavirus seroprevalence study conducted by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation revealed that antibodies developed in women are marginally higher than men. A seroprevalence study conducted in October 2020 found only 54.5 per cent of the 1708 persons infected and recovered from the viral infection had antibodies by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> week.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Bannanje Govindacharya passes away**

Renowned Sanskrit scholar Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya passed away in Dec'20. Conferred with the Padma Shri in 2009, he was widely known for his translation of complete texts of Sri Madhvacharya, a philosopher and theologian of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### **South Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-Duk passes away**

Renowned South Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-Duk died in December 2020. The director who debuted with Crocodile in 1996, gained international fame with the 2001 film The Isle,

### **Country music legend Charley Pride passes away**

US Country music legend Charley Pride died in December 2020. Born on March 18, 1934, in Sledge, Mississippi, the singer was a sharecropper's son who rose to become country music's first black superstar.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Covid pandemic would lead to food insecurity; govt, businesses need to work together**

Covid pandemic is set to result into a financial crisis and see a rise in food insecurity businesses

and governments must work together to not only get through the crisis but also build resilience for the future, a report by management consultancy firm Karney said. Many global economies had never faced anything similar to Covid pandemic since the great depression, the report argues. Governments will have to focus on food security and try and push for self-sufficiency till 2025.

### **Twitter acquires screen-sharing app Squad**

Twitter has acquired the social media app Squad that lets people hang out with friends via video chat and screen-sharing. Alongside live video conversations, Squad specialised in allowing its users to share their screens via its mobile or desktop apps.

### **Bharti Axa starts #GotYouCovered campaign**

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has introduced #GotYouCovered campaign. It is a special initiative to appreciate frontline healthcare workers who are striving to protect people from the COVID-19 pandemic. Bharti AXA Life Insurance has joined hands with Primero Skills & Training to support its healthcare workers by masking them against life and health risks during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Hyundai to conduct 10-day service camp**

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) has announced the launch of 'Hyundai Smart Care Clinic' at 1288 Hyundai Service points across India. It is a 10 day Nationwide Service Camp for customers that will be held 14-23 December 2020. The camp will offer benefits such as complimentary 1 Year extended warranty for lucky 200 customers, 10% discount on mechanical parts, etc.

### **Foundation stone for NAEC Pvt Ltd laid**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for Nagpur Auto & Engineering Cluster Pvt Ltd in Nagpur on 13 Dec 2020. The cluster approved under Cluster Development Plan of MSME comprises Micro Small Enterprises in Auto & Engineering Sector.

## **IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES**

ABPC = Automated Banknote Processing Centre

RFP = Request for Proposal

NPCI = National Payments Corporation of India

HMIL = Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

ITC = Input tax credit

UPPL = United People's Party Liberal

UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BEE = Energy Efficiency Bureau