

BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS

Ewire Softtech ties up with YES Bank

Ewire Softtech, under Kerala Startup Mission, has launched a prepaid card in association with YES Bank. The co-branded digital banking mobile application will help the public and corporate houses with loans, insurance and CASA account through its channel partners. Ewire, which has four offices in India, provides solutions focused in the areas of credit, debit, ATM and commercial cards.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Minorities Rights Day – December 18

National Minorities Rights Day is celebrated annually on December 18. This day is celebrated by is celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities in India. The aim of this day is to educate people and focus on the rights of minorities in India. This day also focuses on bringing a better understanding and educating people about the issues related to minorities and their safety.

International Migrants Day: 18 December

International Migrants Day is observed every year on 18 December globally. The day was selected to mark the anniversary of the 1990 adoption by UNGA of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

SPORTS

Australian Open 2021 to start on February 8

Tennis Australia and the ATP have announced a revised schedule for the initial months of 2021. A major feature on the ATP's calendar as the first Grand Slam of the year, the Australian Open 2021 has been locked in to start on February 8 a delay of three weeks from its usual start in the first week of January.

Wellversed acquires SportFit

Cricketer Yuvraj Singh-backed nutrition company Wellversed has acquired Sportfit, a fitness coaching company that enables health outcomes through physical activities and diet counselling.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

IBM CEO A Krishna to take over as chairman

International Business Machines Corp Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna would take over as chairman from January 1, 2021. He will replace Ginni Rometty, who stepped down as its long-time CEO.

Salil Ankola named as Mumbai Chief Selector

Former India pacer Salil Ankola has been appointed Chairman of the senior selection committee by the Mumbai Cricket Association. In domestic cricket, Ankola played 54 matches and took 181 wickets with best figures of 6/47.

Ro Khanna named Democratic vice chair of CIC

Ro Khanna, who was elected for a third consecutive term from the congressional district representing Silicon Valley, has been named as the Democratic Vice Chair of the Congressional India Caucus.

SCHEMES AND POLICIES

Uttar Pradesh to launch 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' for the Welfare of Farmers

Uttar Pradesh State Government will launch 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' for doubling farmer's Income. Under this mission many departments of state such as agriculture marketing Mandi Parishad, Horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sugarcane food and supply and Panchayati Raj will work together.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

A Malik grabs silver at Wrestling World Cup

India's Anshu Malik won a silver medal in the 57kg category of women's wrestling at the Individual World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia. Anshu, who is coming up from the junior ranks, clinched her third medal at the senior level from as many tournaments

Indian entrepreneur wins an award

An Indian entrepreneur Vidyut Mohan is among the seven winners of the "Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize. The prize is given by the UN environment agency to global change-makers using innovative ideas and ambitious actions. Vidyut Mohan is the co-founder of "Takachar", a social enterprise enabling farmers to prevent open burning of their waste farm residues.

NATIONAL

Union External Affairs Minister launched India's Economic Diplomacy website

Union Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar has launched Ministry's Economic Diplomacy website. This website is launched with an aim to showcase India's economic strengths as well as

sectoral and state-wise strengths. The Website was launched in line with Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022, The Website has information on global mineral resources and governments and opportunities for agricultural exports

Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate 'Hunar Haat'

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the 23rd edition of Minority Affairs Ministry's 'Hunar Haat' at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh. It is being organized from December 18 to 27 at Numaish Ground, Panvadiya, Rampur. It would be an effective platform to provide large scale employment opportunities to master artisans and craftsmen from every corner of the country.

Odisha government launches PARESHRAM portal

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the PARESHRAM portal along with 22 online services of the Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) department. The portal and online services will be helpful in ease of doing business and contribute significantly to the industrial development of the State. It will provide around 52 services including registration certificate, license, etc.

Mega leather Park to come up in UP

A mega leather park will come up in Ramaipur village of Kanpur with an investment of Rs 5,850 crores. The park which is part of the mega leather cluster project is likely to create 50,000 jobs.

Braille version of Constitution unveiled

Maharashtra Social Justice Minister Dhananjay Munde unveiled a Braille version of the Indian Constitution at an event in Mumbai. A valuable work of making available the Indian Constitution in Braille script for the visually impaired has been done. The Braille version of the Constitution has been prepared on behalf of Thane-based NGO Astitva Foundation.

Yoga recognised as competitive sport in India

The Sports Ministry formally recognized yogasana as a competitive sport, which will enable the ancient practice to avail government funding. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Minister of AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik formally promoted yogasana as a competitive sport during an event.

Boat Ambulance service to start at Dal Lake

Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir has started its first floating ambulance to provide healthcare benefits to people living in the area. The floating boats which serve as ambulances are equipped with all the necessary health care facilities and will start their operations on Dal Lake soon.

Modi to be 1st PM at AMU event since 1964

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest at the centenary celebration of Aligarh Muslim University on December 22 via video link. PM Modi will be accompanied by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

Nehru Zoological Park gets ISO certification

Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, with its standard working procedures, has acquired ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from ASCB, UK. The Hyderabad Zoo has become the first zoo in the country to receive ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certificate.

INTERNATIONAL

India contributes \$1 million to WADA

India has pledged a sum of \$1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) towards its scientific research budget to ensure an atmosphere of Clean Sport globally. This will allow the global agency to develop innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods.

Google wins EU antitrust nod for Fitbit deal

Alphabet's Google won EU antitrust approval on December 17 for its \$2.1 billion bid for Fitbit. Fitbit, once the leader in the wearable devices market, has lost market share to Apple, Xiaomi, Samsung and Huawei. Google has agreed not to use Fitbit health data to target ads to EU users.

Google acquires Neverware

Google has acquired Neverware, a company that turns old PCs into Chromebooks. The New York-based firm announced this on its website, saying Neverware and CloudReady are now officially part of Google and the Chrome OS team.

DEFENCE

The 35th edition of IND-INDO CORPAT.

The 35th edition of India-Indonesia coordinated Patrol between the Indian navy and Indonesia begin. Indian Naval Ship Kulish, an indigenously built missile corvette along with P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft will undertake coordinated patrol with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Cut Nyak Dien. The 35th IND-INDO CORPAT will contribute towards the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate inter-operability.

India test-fires two Prithvi-2 missiles

India successfully testfires two Prithvi-2 ballistic missiles off the eastern coast of Odisha in Balasore. The Prithvi-2 missile is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kg of warheads and is powered

by liquid propulsion twin engines. Earlier BrahMos supersonic cruise missile developed by DRDO with a strike range of 300 kilometers successfully hit its target shipping a test fire.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO launches India's 42nd communication satellite CMS-01 from Sriharikota

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which is the national space agency of the Republic of India, headquartered in Bengaluru has launched the 42nd communication satellite of India name CMS-01 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Earlier ISRO has launched the EOS-01, an earth observation satellite, is intended to provide agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. It is the 77th launch for the national space agency ISRO.

ISRO launched Space Situational Awareness Control Center

ISRO has launched Control Center named NETRA for Space Situational Awareness with an aim to monitor, track and protect India's space assets. The control centre is envisaged to function as a hub of all SSA activities within India. The control centre was launched by Chairman, ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space K Sivan. The Centre was launched at ISTRAC campus at Peenya, Bengaluru.

Hybrid supercapacitors developed

Scientists at the International Advanced Research Center for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad have developed a facile, scalable, and cost-effective electrochemical route to synthesize electrodes made of Nickel cobaltite (NiCo_2O_4) containing nanosheet structures.

OBITUARIES

Businessman and philanthropist RN Shetty Dies

RN Shetty, an eminent businessman and philanthropist, passed away in December 2020. Rama Nagappa Shetty founded the RN Shetty and Company in 1961.

MISCELLANEOUS

Subhash Chandra Bose Museum to be set up in Kolkata in 2022

The Government of India is to set Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Museum on January 23, 2022. The museum is to be inaugurated on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji. The museum is to be inaugurated on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji. The Museum highlights the role of the people of Indian origin, especially in South East Asia and their contributions to the Indian National Army.

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

CASA = Current Account Saving Account

ESI = Employees' State Insurance

NGO = non-governmental organization

AYUSH = Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy

AMU = Aligarh Muslim University

ISO = International Organization for Standardization

ASCB = American Society for Cell Biology

WADA = World Anti-Doping Agency

EU = European Union

IND-INDO CORPAT = India-Indonesia coordinated Patrol

ISRO = Indian Space Research Organisation

NETRA = NETwork TRaffic Analysis

ISTRAC = ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network

ARCI = International Advanced Research Center



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