

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

NO MAJOR UPDATES

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Human Solidarity Day: 20 Dec**

International Human Solidarity Day is observed annually on December 20 by the UN General Assembly. The General Assembly, on December 22, 2005, by resolution 60/209 recognized solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values in the twenty-first century.

### **National Mathematics Day observed on 22 December**

India observes the National Mathematics Day every year on 22 December since 2012. The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. This year nation celebrates his 133rd birth anniversary of Ramanujan.

## **SPORTS**

### **4 Indigenous games approved by Sports Ministry**

The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four indigenous sports, including Gatka and Kalaripayattu, in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. The other two games included are Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba.

### **Women boxers Simranjeet, Manisha bag gold : Cologne World Cup in Germany**

Indian women boxers Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) and Manisha (57kg) notched up gold medals with contrasting final wins in the Cologne World Cup in Germany. Manisha defeated compatriot Sakshi 3-2, while Simranjeet got the better of German Maya Kleinhans 4-1 to finish on top in their respective categories. India came second overall after claiming three gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

(List of Medal Winners

Gold: The three gold medals for India were bagged by Amit Panghal (52kg), Manisha Moun (57kg) and Simranjit Kaur (60kg) in their respective categories.

Silver: Silver medals were claimed by Sakshi Choudhary (57kg) and Satish Kumar (91kg).

Bronze: Sonia Lather (57kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) Gaurav Solanki (57kg) and Mohamed Hussamudin (57kg) claimed the bronze medal in their respective categories.)

### **Dav Whatmore named as Nepal Head Coach**

Dav Whatmore, who guided Sri Lanka to its World Cup title win in 1996, has been named the head coach of Nepal cricket team. The Nepal Cricket Association confirmed that Whatmore will take charge of the season, with effect from January 1, 2021.

### **Chhetri becomes 1st Indian to register 50 goal**

Bengaluru FC forward Sunil Chhetri scripted history yet again when he became the first Indian to register 50 goal contributions (42 goals and 8 assists) in Indian Super League history in Dec

2020. Chhetri scored his team's opener against Odisha FC to reach the mark in his 80th ISL appearance.

### **Lewis Hamilton wins BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020**

Formula 1 world champion, **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020**. This is the second time that the 35-year-old Hamilton has been crowned Sports Personality of the Year. Prior to this, he won the award in 2014.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

### **Nand Kishore appointed Director of IL&FS**

Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) informed that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has approved the appointment of Nand Kishore as the group's Executive Director. Till now, Kishore was serving on the IL&FS board as a Non-Executive Director.

### **RK Sharma appointed as Delhi's chief coach**

The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) announced the appointment of Raj Kumar Sharma as the chief coach of its senior side for 2020-21 season. Gursharam Singh has been named as the assistant coach.

### **S K Singhal appointed DGP of Bihar**

Senior IPS officer S K Singhal has been made new Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar. Mr. Singhal is a 1988 batch Bihar cadre IPS officer. He will superannuate on August 31, 2021.

## **SCHEMES AND POLICIES**

### **Interest-free loans for vendors in MP**

MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan distributed an interest-free loan of Rs 10,000 each under the CM Rural Street Vendor Scheme to about 20,000 street vendors, on 21 Dec 2020. The scheme has been implemented on the line of PM Swanidhi in the rural areas of the state.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

### **IIT Roorkee startup wins Award**

Recogsquare, a start-up incubated and funded by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, has won the 'Most Innovative Digital Rollout Award' at the Global Fintech Innovation Awards.

### **First Filmfare OTT awards 2020**

The first-ever Filmfare Awards for OTT platforms were given out on 19 December 2020. 'Paatal Lok' won the Best Series Award while the Best Series (Critics) trophy went to team 'The Family Man's' kitty. Jaideep Ahlawat won the award for 'Paatal Lok' and Manoj Bajpayee took home the Best Actor in a Drama Series (Critics) award for 'The Family Man'.

## **NATIONAL**



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### **S. Jaishankar addresses 5th Annual Global Technology Summit**

The 5th edition of the annual Global Technology Summit (GTS) was organised virtually by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in collaboration with Carnegie India (CI). The theme of the 2020 GTS was “The Geopolitics of Technology”. The speakers from included the External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, and Dr K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

### **Hyundai India flags off 'Great India Drive'**

Hyundai Motor India Ltd flagged-off the 2020 chapter of the ‘Great India Drive’ on 20 Dec 2020. The new campaign is centered on Hyundai’s global vision of ‘Progress for Humanity’. This 4th Edition of ‘Great India Drive’ will focus on the importance of social values in the new world and new normal

### **IMS organizes TROPMET-2020**

Indian Meteorological Society in collaboration with North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, organised a four-day Virtual Symposium on Tropical Meteorology (TROPMET-2020). It was organised under the theme “Weather and Climate Services over Mountainous Regions” at NESAC, Shillong from 14-17 December 2020.

### **22nd meeting of high-level Group of Ministers**

Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan chaired the 22nd meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers (GoM) on COVID-19 by a video- conference in New Delhi on 19 Dec 2020. He informed that India’s COVID 19 pandemic growth has dropped to 2% and case fatality rate is amongst the lowest in the world which is at 1.45 per cent. He also informed that India’s recovery rate has peaked to 95.46 per cent.

### **5 states complete reforms in the EoD Business**

Five states have so far completed the stipulated reforms in the Ease of Doing Business. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have been granted permission to mobilize additional financial resources to the tune of 16,728 crore rupees through open market borrowings.

### **Western Railway creates a record**

In Gujarat, the Ahmedabad division of Western Railway has created a record by loading 10.06 crore liters of milk and running the highest milk special trains in Indian Railways during the current year.

### **UP Govt launches 'Varasat' campaign**

The UP govt has launched a special campaign 'Varasat' to curb property & land- related disputes in rural areas. This is a first of its kind campaign to end the nagging land-related issues in the rural areas.

### **2 Tribes India showrooms inaugurated**

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda inaugurated two Tribes India showrooms (Kolkata in person and Gwalior virtually) in a ceremony in Kolkata on 19 Dec 2020.

### **Rajgir in Bihar now has a 200-ft glass bridge**

Bihar has built an interesting 200 ft glass bridge which will be inaugurated by March 2021 in Rajgir, Nalanda district. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspected the 'nature safari' work at the tourists hotspot Rajgir.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Bangladesh will procure fighter planes**

The govt of Bangladesh will be buying ultra- modern and high-performance fighter planes. The Bangladesh Air Force is also soon going to acquire air defense system integration, unmanned aerial vehicle system, mobile gap filler radar, and ultra-modern air defense radar. The govt has signed an agreement to buy 5 ultra-modern C-130J transport aircraft out of which 3 have already arrived

## **DEFENCE**

### **Defence minister Rajnath Singh hands over 3 DRDO systems to chiefs of armed forces**

The Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh recently handed over three indigenously developed high technology systems to chiefs of the three armed forces: the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. The three systems namely, Border Surveillance System (BOSS), Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS) and ASTRA Mk-I Missile, have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Rajnath Singh inaugurates India's HWT test facility**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility. India is the third country after the US and Russia to have such a facility. The HWT test facility is 'pressure vacuum- driven enclosed free jet facility having nozzle exit diameter of 1 metre and will simulate Mach No 5 to 12.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Senior-most Congress veteran Motilal Vora passes away**

Veteran Congress leader, Motilal Vora has passed away following post-COVID-19 complications. He was born at Jodhpur in Rajasthan and began his career as a journalist. He served as MP CM twice, Governor of UP, Rajyasabha member 4 times and Loksabha Member once in Chattisgarh.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Pine Labs raises \$100 mn from Lone Capital**

Pine Labs has raised close to \$100 million from Lone Pine Capital as part of the secondary and primary share sale. This investment round has taken the company's valuation from \$1.6 billion to \$2 billion within a year. With this, Pine Labs becomes the third most-valued fintech in the Indian startup ecosystem after Paytm-parent One97 Communications Ltd and PhonePe.

### **Singapore's 'Hawker' Culture gets UNESCO recognition**

The Hawker Culture of street food in Singapore has been inducted by UNESCO in its prestigious 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. The Hawker Culture is a popular Singaporean style of street dining and culinary practices in a multicultural urban environment. Hawker centres are naturally-ventilated premises with stalls selling food from various cultures like Chinese, Malay, Indian, among others. The Hawkers of Singapore are known to master a variety of cuisines which they serve at the 'community dining rooms

### **World Bank Approves Four India Projects Worth over \$800 million**

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved four India projects worth over \$800 million. The projects support a range of development initiatives – strengthening India's social protection architecture, promoting nutrition-supportive agriculture for tribal households in Chhattisgarh, enhancing quality education in Nagaland and improving the safety and performance of existing dams across various states in India.

## **IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES**

FC = Football Club

BBC = British Broadcasting Corporation

IL&FS = Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services

DDCA = Delhi and District Cricket Association

DGP = Director General of Police

IPS = Indian Police Service

IIT = Indian Institute of Technology

OTT = Over-The-Top

GTS = Global Technology Summit

MEA = Ministry of External Affairs

CI = Carnegie India



NESAC = North Eastern Space Applications Centre

GoM = Group of Ministers

EoD = Ease of Doing

IMSAS = Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System

DRDO = Defence Research and Development Organisation

HWT = Hypersonic Wind Tunnel



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