

BANKING / FINANCIAL / ECONOMICAL NEWS

Tata Sons buys shares in Tata Chemicals

=> Tata Sons Pvt Ltd has bought more than 25 lakh shares of Tata Chemicals via open market transaction.

=> According to the bulk deal data available on NSE (National Stock Exchange), Tata Sons bought 25,71,651 shares of the company at an average price of Rs.471.88.

=> This took the total deal value to Rs.121.35 crore.

Ajay Banga named by Fortune in its list

=> Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga have been named by Fortune among the Businessperson of the Year 2020.

=> The list has been topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk for the second time.

=> Narayen was ranked 8th in the list, while Banga was ranked 9th.

=> Banga, who had been Mastercard's CEO for 10 years, will step down from his role and Michael Miebach will be the new CEO.

'Global Consumer Trends Fund of Fund' launched

=> Invesco Mutual Fund has launched its new fund Invesco India - Invesco Global Consumer Trends Fund of Fund.

=> The fund will invest 95% - 100% of its assets in shares of Invesco Global Consumer Trends Fund.

=> The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open for subscription and will close on December 18, 2020.

=> The fund covers a wide range of investment themes including e-commerce, entertainment, etc.

IFSCA gets membership of IAIS

=> The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has obtained membership of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Volunteer Day: 5 December

=> International Volunteer Day is observed on December 5 every year.

=> The day was designated by the United Nations in 1985 as an international observance day to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism.

=> The theme for International Volunteers Day 2020 is 'Together We Can Through Volunteering'.

World Soil Day: 5 December

=> World Soil Day is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil.

=> In Dec 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 5 Dec 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

=> This date was chosen because it corresponds with the birthday of the late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of this initiative

SPORTS

CAB announces insurance

=> The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) on 3 Dec 2020 observed World Disability Day 2020.

=> Around 30 differently-abled cricketers of all three categories -- hearing impaired, visually challenged and physically challenged visited Eden Gardens for the celebrations.

=> The CAB also announced that it would be facilitating 30 differently-abled cricketers with insurance cover for a year.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

Kuldeep: Fit India Movement Ambassador

=> First Dronacharya awardee from J&K, Kuldeep Handoo has been appointed 'Fit India' Ambassador.

=> Handoo, who is Wushu Coach of Team India is serving as Inspector in Jammu and Kashmir Police Department.

=> The 'Fit India Movement' was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the year 2019.

=> Its purpose is to make every section of the country health conscious.

Vivek Murthy selected as Surgeon General

=> US President-elect Joe Biden has selected his key Covid-19 advisor, Dr Vivek Murthy, as the next Surgeon General.

=> The Indian-American doctor is one of the three co-chairs of the Biden's coronavirus Advisory Board.

=> The Surgeon General serves a four-year term and is the top government official on public health issues.

=> Jerome Adams is the incumbent Surgeon General. HCs of 80 countries to visit Hyderabad

=> A group of Ambassadors and High Commissioners of around 80 countries will be visiting Hyderabad on 9 Dec 2020.

=> They will visit some key research and development institutions.

=> The External Affairs Ministry is organising the high-profile visit to familiarize the foreign envoys about some key research and development activities being done in the country.

Uday Shankar: President-Elect of FICCI

=> Uday Shankar is the President-elect of leading industry body FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) for the year 2020-21.

=> He will succeed Sangita Reddy during FICCI's 93rd annual general meeting being held from 11-14 December 2020.

=> He is the President of Walt Disney Company for Asia Pacific, and Chairman of Star and Disney India.

SCHEMES AND POLICIES

UP CM disburses loan to 3.54L MSME units

=> UP CM Yogi Adityanath disbursed a loan of Rs 10 thousand 390 crores to 3.54L MSME units during the MSME loan fair in Lucknow.

=> Chief Minister disbursed the loan to the newly established units along with the new MSMEs under the self-sufficient India package.

=> Chief Minister also distributed advanced tool kit related to their business to the trainees of the 'One District One Product Scheme'.

WB CM announces free tabs for students

=> West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that her government will provide free tabs to 9.5 lakh students in government schools and madrasas to facilitate online education.

=> In Bengal, there are 36,000 government and government-aided schools, 14,000 higher secondary schools, and 636 madrasas.

NATIONAL

Odisha CM launches 15 online services

=> Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched 15 online services of the Dept of Fisheries and Livestock Development.

=> In addition, MoUs were signed with various entrepreneurs for Cage Culture in the Hirakud Reservoir.

=> The online applications will provide a number of very useful services to fishers and farmers including registration of fishing boats, registration of brackish water farms, etc.

Tata Power Co. Ltd receives Letter of Intent

=> Tata Power Co. Ltd has received the Letter of Intent (LOI) for supplying electricity to the consumers of two electricity distribution companies (discoms) in Odisha.

=> These are Western Electricity Supply Company of Odisha Ltd (WESCO) and the Southern Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha Ltd (SOUTCO).

=> Tata Power will hold 51 per cent equity with management control.

'Smuggling in India Report 2019-20'

=> Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the Smuggling in India Report 2019-20 on 4 Dec 2020.

=> The report analyses organised smuggling trends on gold and foreign currency, narcotic drugs, security, environment and commercial frauds.

=> She released the report on 63rd Founding Day celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

Maharashtra gets 10 new conservation reserves

=> The Maharashtra Wildlife Board has accepted suggestions to declare 10 areas of the state as conservation reserves.

=> It has also agreed to upgrade Kanhalgaon in Chandrapur to the level of a sanctuary.

=> The new conservation reserves are Amboli - Dodamarg, Chandgad, Aajra- Bhudargad, Gaganbawda, Panhalgad, Vishalgad, Jor Jambhli, Maini in western Maharashtra, and Mahendri and Munia in Vidarbha.

Roshni tops list of India's richest women

=> Roshni Nadar Malhotra of HCL Technologies, followed by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon and Leena Gandhi Tewari of USV have topped the list of wealthiest women in India.

=> This was shown in the second edition of 'Kotak Wealth Hurun—Leading Wealthy Women' report, compiled by Kotak Wealth Management.

=> The listing is based on the net worth of women as on September 30, 2020.

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh sends Rohingyas to Bhashan Char

=> The govt of Bangladesh sent a batch of 1642 Rohingyas to the newly developed facility at Bhashan Char on 4 Dec 2020.

=> Another 3500 Rohingyas will be sent to the Bhashan char and the relocation will be completed within a few days.

=> Currently, more than 1 mn Rohingyas are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh after fleeing the military crackdown in the Rakhine province of Myanmar in Aug'17.

India is the biggest buyer of COVID-19 vaccine

=> India is the largest buyer of COVID-19 vaccines in the world with 1.6 billion doses.

=> The doses could cover 800 million people, or 60 per cent of its population, and will be enough to develop 'herd immunity'.

=> India has purchased 500 mn doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, 1bn from the US company Novavax and 100 million doses of the Sputnik V candidate from Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute.

Bahrain: 2nd to grant authorisation of vaccine

=> Bahrain has become the second nation in the world to grant an emergency-use authorization for the coronavirus vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech.

=> The immediate challenge for Bahrain would be the conditions in which the vaccine must be kept.

=> They must be stored and shipped at ultra-cold temperatures of around minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 degrees Fahrenheit).

DEFENSE

PASSEX conducted by Indian and Russian Navy

=> The Indian Navy (IN) is undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from 4-5 Dec 2020.

=> IN is being represented by indigenously constructed guided-missile frigate Shivalik and anti-submarine corvette Kadmatt along with integral helicopters.

=> The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability.

'Gaurav Stambh' dedicated to the nation

=> Flag Officer Commanding in Chief of the Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar dedicated the 'Gaurav Stambh' to the nation on 4 Dec 2020.

=> Set against the ramparts of Bombay Castle in the Naval Dockyard, the monument depicts a submariner, a surface warrior and a naval aviator to represent all three dimensions of the Indian Navy and is inscribed with a Sanskrit shloka.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Doctor's prescription not required for RT-PCR

=> In Gujarat, the doctor's prescription will not be required henceforth for the RT-PCR test.

=> This was announced by the State Health Department on 4 Dec 2020.

=> Now the public can directly approach any government or private laboratory for getting their RT-PCR test.

=> The state government is already providing Rapid Antigen Test facility free of cost throughout the state.

IIT Kharagpur develops AI based device

=> IIT Kharagpur researchers have developed a portable Artificial Intelligence-based device for automatic inspection of goods manufactured in MSMEs.

=> The portable device will click pictures of products when set up on a batch of goods and send the feed to the AI-based software for quality control.

OBITUARIES

Veteran Rashid 'Ram' Salojee passes away

=> Dr Rashid Ahmed Mahmood, a prominent Indian- origin South African activist who participated in the anti-apartheid movement, died in December 2020.

=> Mahmood was fondly called Rashid 'Ram' Salojee.

=> He lived and worked as a surgeon in Lenasia, a township that was created to resettle migrants from India.

Former Pakistan PM Zafarullah Jamali dies

=> Former Pakistan Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali passed away in December 2020.

=> He had served from November 2002 until June 2004.

=> Jamali, Pakistan's first and only elected Prime Minister from Balochistan, had served during the military regime of Gen Pervez Musharraf.

=> However, Gen Musharraf sought his resignation in 2004 and he was replaced by Shaukat Aziz.

Dineshwar Sharma passes away

=> Dineshwar Sharma, Administrator of Lakshadweep and former Director of the Intelligence Bureau, passed away in December 2020.

=> He was appointed as the Administrator of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in October 2019.

=> In 2017, he was appointed as the union government's representative for peace talks with various groups in North-Eastern states on May 30, 2017.

TMKOC co-writer Abhishek Makwana dies

=> Abhishek Makwana, one of the writers of popular sitcom Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, died in December 2020.

=> Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah is the longest- running sitcoms of Indian television.

=> The series, produced by Asit Kumarr Modi, stars Dilip Joshi, Amit Bhatt, Shailesh Lodha, Munmun Dutta and Mandar Chandwadkar, among others.

MISCELLANEOUS

I&B Ministry issues an advisory

=> Information and Broadcasting Ministry has issued an advisory on advertisements on online gaming, fantasy sports and others.

=> It has issued guidelines which will be effective from 15 Dec 2020.

=> As per the guidelines, no gaming advertisement may depict any person under the age of 18 years doing online gaming for real money winnings, or suggest that such a person can play these games.

Prayagraj Student becomes PETA's 'VoTY'

=> The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has named O P Jindal Global University's student Ayan Banerjee as its 2020 'volunteer of the year'.

=> Ayan, an 18 year old student from Prayagraj, is a vegan and he joined PETA India's volunteer ranks two years ago.

=> During the pandemic, he encouraged students to join PETA Youth's online webinar on vegan eating. New campus of NIN to be called 'Nisarg Gram'

=> The upcoming new campus of the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune will be called 'Nisarg Gram'.

=> This decision has been taken to invoke recollections of Mahatma Gandhi's famous nature cure campaign of 1946 at the 'Nisarg Upchar' Ashram in Uruli Kanchan village near Pune.

Telangana ACB observes Anti-Corruption Week

=> The Anti-Corruption Bureau, Telangana, is observing Anti Corruption Week 2020, from 3-9 Dec'20.

=> On this occasion, K.Srikanth, DSP City Range II, ACB, Telangana released a poster, requesting the citizens to join hands to eradicate corruption.

=> These posters with the details of the Anti- Corruption Bureau Office are being displayed at Public places and at Government Offices to create awareness.

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IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)

Western Electricity Supply Company of Odisha Ltd (WESCO) and the Southern Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha Ltd (SOUTCO)

New Fund Offer (NFO)

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Russian Federation Navy (RuFN)

Passage Exercise (PASSEX)

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB)

Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL)

FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry)

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)



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