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

### **Govt, World Bank ink \$250 mn loan**

The government has inked a USD 250 million loan pact with the World Bank, and the funds will be used to make the existing dam infrastructure safe in the country. The Central Water Commission as well as the government representatives from 10 participating states are also part of the loan agreement. The project will encompass around 120 dams across Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha, Manipur etc.

### **CBIC launches Compliance Information Portal**

The Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has launched the Indian Customs Compliance Information Portal (CIP) at [www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP](http://www.cip.icegate.gov.in/CIP). It will provide free access to information on all customs procedures and regulatory compliance for nearly 12,000 customs tariff items. Another important feature of CIP is a pan India map showing all the customs seaports, airports, etc.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **SPORTS**

### **India wins bronze medal in hockey**

Indian men's hockey team defeated Germany to win the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics on 5 August 2021. This is India's first Olympic medal in hockey since they won the gold medal in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. This is India's fourth medal in Tokyo so far. Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya has also confirmed a medal and will compete in the gold medal bout.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

### **Eurosport appoints John Abraham as ambassador**

Eurosport India, the sports channel from Discovery, has appointed actor John Abraham as the brand ambassador for their flagship motorsport property - MotoGP. He will be seen promoting MotoGP to a wider audience base in India through a campaign. Prior to the association, the

actor has shared the stage with MotoGP legend "The Doctor"-Valentino Rossi and has frequented many MotoGP races.

### **Dhriti: 1st woman Dir. of Zoological Survey**

Dhriti Banerjee has become the first woman to be appointed as Director of the 105-year-old Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). She has been co-ordinator of ZSI's Digital Sequence Information Project since 2012. ZSI is headquartered in Kolkata with 16 regional centres under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

### **Retired Justice V M Kanade appointed Lokayukta**

Maharashtra Governor B S Koshiyari has approved the appointment of retired Bombay high court judge Justice V M Kanade as the new Lokayukta of Maharashtra. The previous Lokayukta, (retd) Justice M L Tahaliyani had completed his tenure in August 2020. The Lokayukta acts like a watchdog and plays a key role in fighting against corruption and brings transparency.

## **SCHEMES, MoU's AND POLICIES**

### **Cabinet approves continuation of a scheme**

The Cabinet has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for fast track special courts for a further two years till 31st March 2023. 1,023 fast-track special courts have been given get a two-year extension. The central share of the outlay will be funded from the Nirbhaya fund. This will provide speedy justice access to justice to victims of sexual crimes.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

### **Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal for Bhagwati**

The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) Trust has conferred the inaugural Prof CR Rao Centenary Gold Medal (CGM) to two distinguished Indian scholars — Dr Jagdish Bhagwati and Dr C Rangarajan. The award has been constituted by the TIES to commemorate the contribution of Prof Rao, who is the founder President of the Society, and is the doyen of mathematical statistics.



## NATIONAL

### US Army Chief on a visit to India

Chief of Staff of US Army General James C McConville arrived in India on 4 August 2021 on a two-day visit. He met Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane and discussed issues of mutual interest. In October 2020, India and the US had sealed the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement), the last of four foundational agreements for strategic ties.

## INTERNATIONAL

### UNSC to meet on 6 August

The UN Security Council, under the Presidency of India, will meet on 6 August 2021 to discuss the worsening security situation in Afghanistan. The fighting between the Taliban and Afghanistan's government forces has intensified over the past few months. The Council also declared that it does "not support the restoration of the Islamic Emirate."

## DEFENCE

### US approves arms sales to Taiwan

The United States has approved its first arms sale to Taiwan amid rising tensions with China. US State Department has approved an arms deal worth 750 million dollars to Taiwan. The decision also allows Taiwan to maintain rock-solid self-defense, regional peace, and stability. The move comes at a time when tensions between China and Taiwan are growing.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## OBITUARIES

### Dogri writer Padma Sachdev passes away

Noted author and Padma Shri awardee Padma Sachdev passed away on 4 August 2021. She was the first modern woman poet of the Dogri language. She authored many books in Dogri and Hindi, and her poetry collections, including 'Meri Kavita Mere Geet', won her the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971. She was also awarded the Kabir Samman for poetry for 2007-08 by the Madhya Pradesh government.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### HCL becomes the fourth-largest IT company

HCL Technologies Ltd overtook Cognizant Technologies Solutions Corp. on 5 August 2021 to become the fourth-most valuable India-centric information technology (IT) services company. Its market capitalization surpassed Cognizant. Noida-headquartered HCL Technologies reported a 2.4% growth in the year ended 31 March 2021, on the back of a 15% growth in 2020.

### Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy joins Koo App

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has joined Koo, a leading Indian micro-blogging and social networking platform that enables users to interact in their mother tongue. The app was previously known as the Ku Koo Ku app, and it had also won the government of India's Aatmanirbhar App Innovation Challenge in August 2020.

## IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

CBIC = Central Board for Indirect Taxes & Customs

CIP = Compliance Information Portal

TIES = The Indian Econometric Society

ZSI = Zoological Survey of India

CGM = Centenary Gold Medal

BECA = Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement



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