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

### **India's exports up 6.16 pc in January**

India's merchandise exports rose for the second consecutive month in January and at a faster pace than seen in preliminary estimates released earlier this month, official data released Monday showed. In an indicator of the recovery in domestic demand, imports increased and the country's trade deficit narrowed to \$14.54 billion. The trade gap was \$15.3 billion in January 2020 and 15.44 billion in December.

### **World Bank signs project with Chhattisgarh**

The Government of India, the Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank have signed a \$100 mn project. It is titled 'CHIRAAG – Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth'. It has been signed to develop sustainable production systems that allow tribal households in remote areas of Chhattisgarh to practice round-the-year production of diversified and nutritious food.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **National Women's Day: 13 February**

National Women's Day in India is celebrated on 13 Feb every year. It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of the nightingale of India, Sarojini Naidu. She is one of the most recognised persons in the Indian freedom movement. She made history by becoming the first woman Governor in India. In 1947, she became the Governor of the United Province, which is now known as Uttar Pradesh

## **SPORTS**

### **Rahul climbs to second spot, Kohli remains at 7th in ICC T20I rankings for batsmen**

India's KL Rahul moved up a place to second, while his captain Virat Kohli retained the seventh spot in the latest ICC men's T20I rankings for batsmen released on Monday. With 816 rating points, Rahul is behind leader Dawid Malan (915) of England, while Kohli has 697 points in his kitty. Australia white-ball skipper Aaron Finch (808) also improved a rung to be placed third while Pakistan captain Babar Azam (801) slipped to fourth place.

### **Ravichandran: First to take 200 wickets**

In cricket, Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen. He achieved the feat during India's second Test against England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai. Stuart Broad was the

200th left-hander to be dismissed by Ashwin. Ashwin has picked 391 wickets in his career so far.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

### Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala appointed WTO Director-General

Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was appointed the seventh Director-General of the World Trade Organization on Monday, making her the first woman and the first African to head the multilateral trade body from March 1, 2021 to August 31, 2025. Okonjo-Iweala is the former Finance Minister of Nigeria and World Bank economist.

### Mario Draghi, Italy's new Prime Minister

Former Chief of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi is formally sworn in as Italy's new Prime Minister on 13 February 2021. He succeeded Ex-PM Giuseppe Conte who has resigned in January'21 due to the collapse of a coalition government. Draghi's government is the 67th to take office since 1946 and the seventh in the last decade alone.

### Muskan, Himachal's Youngest ZP Chairperson

Muskan, 21, is the youngest person to be elected as Zila Parishad Chairperson from Bilaspur dist, Himachal Pradesh. In Panchayati Raj Institution polls held in hilly state, over 68% of the representatives elected to zila parishads, panchayats & urban bodies are below the age of 40 years.

## SCHEMES AND POLICIES

NO MAJOR UPDATES

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

NO MAJOR UPDATES



## **NATIONAL**

### **Vaccine diplomacy: 37% doses exported by India are grant**

Between mid-January and the second week of February, India exported more than 1.6 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines to 20 countries, helping save lives. The exports went to countries in the immediate neighbourhood to West Asia Africa and the Americas. About 62.7 lakh doses (or 37%) of these exports are gifts to friendly countries. Data made public by the Union ministry of health shows India will earn revenue from shipments of about 63% of the vaccines sent to UAE, Kuwait, South Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Brazil and Bangladesh. Together, these countries received more than 1 crore doses, all supplied between January 25 and February 2.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **India, Japan push connectivity with SE Asian & East Asia via Assam**

India and Japan on Monday pushed for greater connectivity to SE Asia and East Asia through Assam, pivotal state in the region. "The advent of colonialism and the subsequent emergence of nation-states effectively disrupted what was a very seamless connection between eastern India and Assam and the world to our East. This may have been a phenomenon for everybody in Asia, but for India and Assam, that disruption was also aggravated by the Partition of India.

### **Pak approves China's CanSinoBIO COVID vaccine**

Pakistan has approved China's CanSino Biologics Inc's (CanSinoBIO) COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. Pakistan is the second country to approve CanSinoBio after Mexico. Earlier, Pakistan has also approved vaccines developed by China's Sinopharm, Oxford-AstraZeneca, and Russia's Sputnik V.

## **DEFENCE**

### **India keeps close watch on Turkey-Pakistan's joint military exercises**

India is keeping a close watch as Turkey and Pakistan launch joint military exercises this week in areas bordering Afghanistan, as the move is expected to create a strategic alliance with implications in South Asia. The joint exercise, named 'Ataturk XI-2021', is aimed at focusing on counter-terrorist operations but this signals an emergent strategic alliance between these two countries, with implications for South Asia including Kashmir.

### **Sniffer dogs participate in Navy's exercise**

2 explosive sniffing dogs, named Minki and Mukti, were slithered down from a naval helicopter onto the offshore oil platform Neelam as part of a simulated bomb threat during Exercise Prasthan and Sea Vigil held in Feb'21.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## OBITUARIES

NO MAJOR UPDATES

## MISCELLANEOUS

### India gifts 2K metric tonnes of rice to Syria

The Government of India is gifting 2000 MT of rice to strengthen food security in Syria. GOI has taken this step, as the Government of Syrian Arab Republic approaches with the request for emergency humanitarian assistance. The first consignment of rice was handed over by Indian ambassador to Syria while remaining to reach Syria on 18 February'21.

### Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021

The Union Culture Ministry's flagship festival, the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2021 is going to held in West Bengal. 11th edition of program has started with inauguration by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar on 14 Feb 21 and will be celebrated up to 22 Feb 21. RSM will enhance mutual understanding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity integrity of India.

## IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

'CHIRAAG = Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth

WTO = World Trade Organisation.



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