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

### **RBI announces government bond purchase**

The RBI will purchase government securities worth Rs. 20,000 crores through open market operations (OMOs) to keep the yields in check. It will purchase long-term securities maturing in 2024, 2028, 2030, and 2034. So far this fiscal, RBI has undertaken OMO purchases of government securities worth Rs. 3.57 trillion and OMO purchases of state development loans worth Rs. 300 billion.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **SPORTS**

### **England set India 420-run target after scoring 178 in second innings**

England set India a daunting 420-run target to win the first Test after scoring 178 in their second innings on day four here on Monday. England found the going tough in their second essay after the visitors bowled out India for 337 in their first innings to take a 241-run lead. If India manage to chase the target it will be highest ever successful run chase in Test cricket history. The previous best is 418. The Indians, especially Washington Sundar, were fluent in stroke-making after the hosts resumed at overnight score of 257 for six.

### **Root becomes first player to score 200 in Test**

England's Joe Root became the first cricketer to score 200 in his 100th Test, touching the milestone on the second day of the first Test against India, on 6 Feb 2021. Former Pakistan skipper Inzamam ul Haq, who hit 184 against India in Bengaluru in 2005, held the previous best score in the 100th Test. This was Root's fifth double century.

### **Drass Red wins 13th CEC Cup Ice Hockey C'ship**

The 13th CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2021, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kargil concluded at Ice Hockey Rink Biamathang, in Ladakh on 7 Feb 2021. In the final of the men's category, Drass Red won over Chiktan Ice Hockey Club with a margin of 3-2 goals. In the women's category, Chiktan Women Ice Hockey Club won over Wakha Mulbekh Club with a margin of 1-0 goal.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **SCHEMES AND POLICIES**

### **91 lakh guarantees issued till Jan 25 under ECLG scheme**

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee (ECLG) Scheme, around 91 lakh guarantees have been issued till January 25 this year. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, he said during the current financial year (April-December), a total number of 31,923 units were setup under the ongoing Prime Minister Employment Generation programme (PMEGP) and 5,21,746 guarantees were issued under another ongoing scheme - Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

### **Assam CM launches schemes for college students**

Assam CM has launched two schemes to provide monetary assistance to college students and literary bodies of the state. Under Pragyam Bharati scheme, 3,26,046 college students were given Rs. 1,500 each for purchasing textbooks. The 2nd scheme is Bhasha Gourab, under which the govt provided 21 Sahitya Sabhas (literary bodies) with a total of Rs. 43 crore as contribution towards their corpus funds.

### **Delhi Cabinet approves a scheme**

The Delhi cabinet has approved 'Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha'. Under this, Rs 5,000 will be provided to 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship. The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes.

### **Govt allocates 16000 cr for Fasal Bima Yojna**

Union government has allocated Rs. 16,000 crores for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the fiscal year 2021-22. This is a budgetary increase of around Rs. 305 crores as against the previous fiscal year 2020-21. On January 13, 2016, the Government of India approved this flagship crop insurance scheme.

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **NATIONAL**

### **Assam government provides smartphones, solar lights for anti-poaching camps**

Guwahati: Assam government has started providing Smart Phones and Solar lights for Anti-Poaching Camps under various Protected Areas of Assam to facilitate the forest protection field staffs that perform their duty deep inside the forests and wildlife areas. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Institute of Wildlife Health & Research (IWH&R) at Dinjan, Dibrugarh.

### **Glacier burst in Uttarakhand**

An avalanche/Glacier burst occurred near Rishiganga Power Project at Raini village, Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. A massive flood has been reported from Uttarakhand's Chamoli district where the water level in Alaknanda and Dhauliganga river suddenly rose. 100 to 150 casualties are feared in the flash flood. Srinagar, Haridwar and Rishikesh have been put on alert as well.

### Kerala's first human milk bank opened

The Health Minister of Kerala, KK Shailaja inaugurated the state's first Human Milk Bank at the Ernakulam General Hospital on February 5, 2021. It will ensure the breast milk for the newborn babies in the hospital, who are not being breastfed by their own mothers who may be deceased or sick. It has been set up with the support of the Rotary Club of Cochin Global.

### SSPM Medical College inaugurated in Sindhudurg

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the SSPM Medical College at Kudal, in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra on 7 Feb 2021. The college has been founded by a trust chaired by the former CM and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Narayan Rane. Rane had undertaken the development of the Sindhudurg Shikshan Prasarak (SSP) Mandal Medical College four years ago on a 70-acre private land.



## INTERNATIONAL

### European Union after trade talks with India

The European Union has said its first high-level dialogue on trade with India saw interest by both sides in resuming negotiations for an ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade and investment pact once their respective approaches and positions are "close enough". It said the two sides had "open and constructive" exchanges on a broad range of issues with an aim of enhancing EU-India bilateral trade and investment relations.

### China claims India creating disputes, causing border tensions

China on Monday blamed India for creating "disputes and frictions" and alleged that this is the "root cause of the tensions at the China-India border". Responding to a query about Union Minister of State for State Transport and Highways VK Singh's remarks that India has transgressed more times than China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said there is a need to follow agreements and uphold peace and stability in the border region.

### **New Zealand suspends ties with Myanmar; to ban visits from military leaders**

New Zealand is suspending all high-level contact with Myanmar and imposing a travel ban on its military leaders following last week's coup, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Tuesday. New Zealand will also ensure its aid programme will not include projects that are delivered with, or benefit, the military government, Ardern told a news conference.

## **DEFENCE**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **OBITUARIES**

*NO MAJOR UPDATES*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Afghanistan receives vaccine from India**

Afghanistan received 500,000 doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine from India on 7 Feb 2021, the first to arrive in the country. The vaccines were produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII), which is producing the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine for mid-and low-income countries.

## **IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES**

OMOs = Open Market Operations

ECLG = Emergency Credit Line Guarantee

PMEGP = Prime Minister Employment Generation programme

PMFBY = Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

PMFBY = Institute of Wildlife Health & Research

BJP = Bharatiya Janata Party

BJP = Sindhudurg Shikshan Prasarak

BJP = Line of Actual Control



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SII = Serum Institute of India



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