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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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27/12/2021 to 02/01/2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2021

Sports News

National news

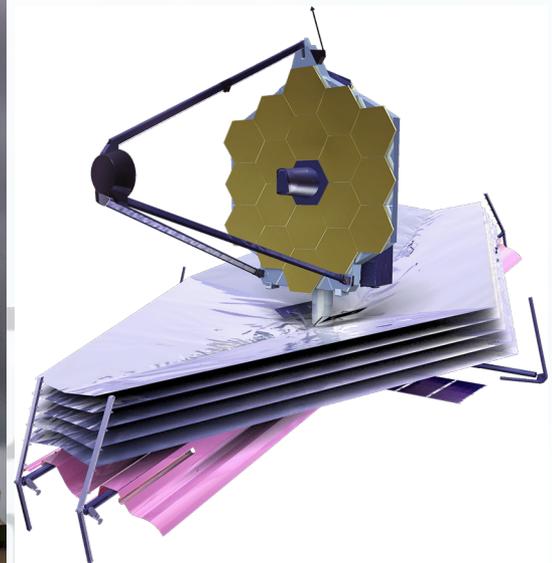
1. KERALA BEST STATE ON HEALTH PARAMETERS, UTTAR PRADESH WORST: NITI AAYOG



- Kerala has again emerged as the top performer in terms of overall health performance among larger States, while Uttar Pradesh is the worst, according to the fourth Health Index launched by NITI Aayog.
- The fourth round of the Health Index took into account the period 2019-20 (reference year).
- The report by the government think tank said Tamil Nadu and Telangana have emerged as the second and third best performers, respectively, on health parameters.
- Bihar and Madhya Pradesh were the second and third worst performers, respectively, on health parameters.

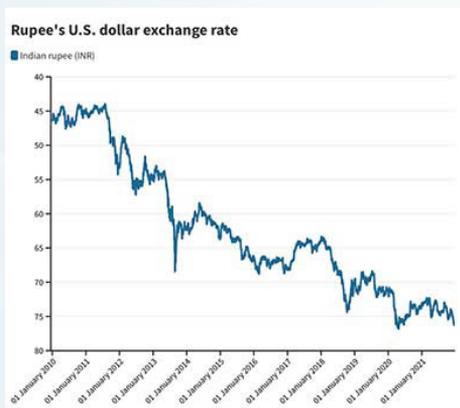
- The health index comprises select indicators in three domains —health outcomes, governance and information, and key inputs and processes.
- The report has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with technical assistance from the World Bank.

THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL SPACE TELESCOPE HAS LAUNCHED AT LAST



- most complex space observatory ever assembled—the mammoth James Webb Space Telescope finally launched on December 25.
- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a space telescope developed by NASA with contributions from the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- To discern the universe's first, faint stars, Webb requires the largest mirror ever launched for astronomy. The mirror spans more than 21 feet (6.5 meters), yet is lighter than Hubble's
- The telescope will also help study the atmospheres of potentially habitable exoplanets orbiting other suns, in addition to giving a detailed view of objects within our own solar system.
- The telescope has been named after James Webb, who led Nasa from 1961 to 1968, presiding over Projects Mercury and Gemini, and the early phase of Apollo's moon-landing program. In 2002, a decade after Webb's death, Nasa chose his name for the new telescope.

WHY IS THE INDIAN RUPEE WEAKENING



- The rupee breached the 76-to-a-dollar mark on December 16, an 18-month low.
- IFA Global Research Desk, in a report, stated that there are multiple reasons for the rupee's fall. The first and foremost is the high oil prices that led to a record trade deficit of nearly \$23 billion in September.
- Reason for the rupee's fall is the dovishness of RBI in comparison to other central banks of emerging markets. "The RBI is therefore trailing other EM central banks as far as removal of exceptional monetary policy accommodation is concerned.

BOB FINANCIAL, INDIAN NAVY UNVEIL CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARD



बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

- BOB Financial Solutions Ltd. (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and the Indian Navy have introduced a co-branded credit card for the personnel of the Indian Navy. The card will be equipped with contactless features and offered on the RuPay platform.
- Indian Navy personnel up to the age of 64 would be eligible to choose from three variants of the card.
- The specially curated co-branded credit card with the Indian Navy has been launched as a contactless offering on the RuPay network. The co-branded credit card will be offered in 3 variants to the Indian Navy personnel; each variant comes with unique features and benefits.
- About BOB Financial Solutions Limited
- BOB Financial Solutions Limited was established in the year 1994. It is a Non-Banking Financial Company, wholly owned by Bank of Baroda.
- About NPCI: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. NPCI has created a robust payment and settlement infrastructure in the country. It has changed the way payments are made in India through a bouquet of retail payment products such as RuPay card, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), BHIM Aadhaar, National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC Fastag) and Bharat BillPay. NPCI also launched UPI 2.0 to offer more secure and comprehensive services to consumers and merchants. NPCI is focused on bringing innovations in the retail payment systems through the use of technology and is relentlessly working to transform India into a digital economy. It is facilitating secure payments solutions with nationwide accessibility at minimal cost in furtherance of India's aspiration to be a fully digital society.

PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK, MONEYGRAM PARTNER TO OFFER INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE DIRECTLY TO PAYTM WALLET

- This is MoneyGram's first mobile wallet partnership in India
- Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of Paytm, and Nasdaq-listed MoneyGram, a global leader in digital P2P payments, have entered into a partnership to enable MoneyGram customers globally to send money in real-time to a Paytm Wallet user in India.

- MoneyGram transactions in India received digitally currently represent nearly 50 per cent of all transactions received in the country. The number of transactions sent directly to bank accounts is up about six times from just under 10 per cent two short years ago



INS KHUKRI DECOMMISSIONED AFTER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE



- The ship was decommissioned after 32 years of service to the nation, Visakhapatnam at Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.
- The corvette was built by the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders and commissioned on August 23, 1989.
- During her service, the ship was commanded by 28 commanding officers and traversed a distance of over 6,44,897 nautical miles.

Sports News

1. VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY 2021: HIMACHAL PRADESH BEATS TAMIL NADU



- Himachal Pradesh beat Tamil Nadu by 11 runs (VJD Method) in the final to win their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.
- Batting first, Tamil Nadu posted a challenging total of 314 in 49.4 overs. In reply, Himachal were 299 for 4 in 47.3 overs when bad light stopped play and the chasing side were declared winners via the VJD (V Jayadevan rule) method.
- The V Jayadevan system, also known as the VJD method, is a proposed method for calculating target scores in interrupted one-day and Twenty20 cricket matches. The method was devised by V. Jayadevan, an Indian engineer.

2. PANKAJ ADVANI WON NATIONAL BILLIARDS TITLE 2021



- Pankaj Advani has defended his National Billiards Title by winning his 11th tournament, after defeating his PSPB teammate Dhruv Sitwala in a 5-2 game final that was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- He represented the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) team in the National Billiards Championship.
- The 88th National Billiards and Snooker Championships 2021, organised by Cue Sports India at Bhopal, MP.

3. UTTAR PRADESH CROWNED 11TH HOCKEY INDIA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS



- In Hockey, Uttar Pradesh were crowned the winners of the 11th Junior National Men's Championship following a 3-1 victory over Chandigarh in the final at Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu yesterday.
- Tournament top-scorer Sharda Nand Tiwari opened the scoring for Uttar Pradesh in the 15th minute with a trademark penalty corner, before Arun Sahani in 16th and 34th minutes, stretched the lead further with a brace.
- Raman pulled one goal back for Chandigarh in the 51st minute, but Uttar Pradesh held on to the lead to be crowned champions of the tournament.
- In the 3rd/4th place playoff match, Odisha edged out Haryana 3-2 in a closely contested affair to clinch third place in the competition.
- Odisha took the lead in the match through Deepak Minz in 27 minutes, only to be pegged back by two goals from Rohit in 34 minute and Deepak in 36 minutes, who put Haryana in the lead in the third quarter.

National News

4. UNION MINISTER ARJUN MUNDA LAUNCHES 'TRIFED VAN DHAN' A PICTORIAL CHRONICLE OF TRIBAL GRIT AND ENTERPRISE

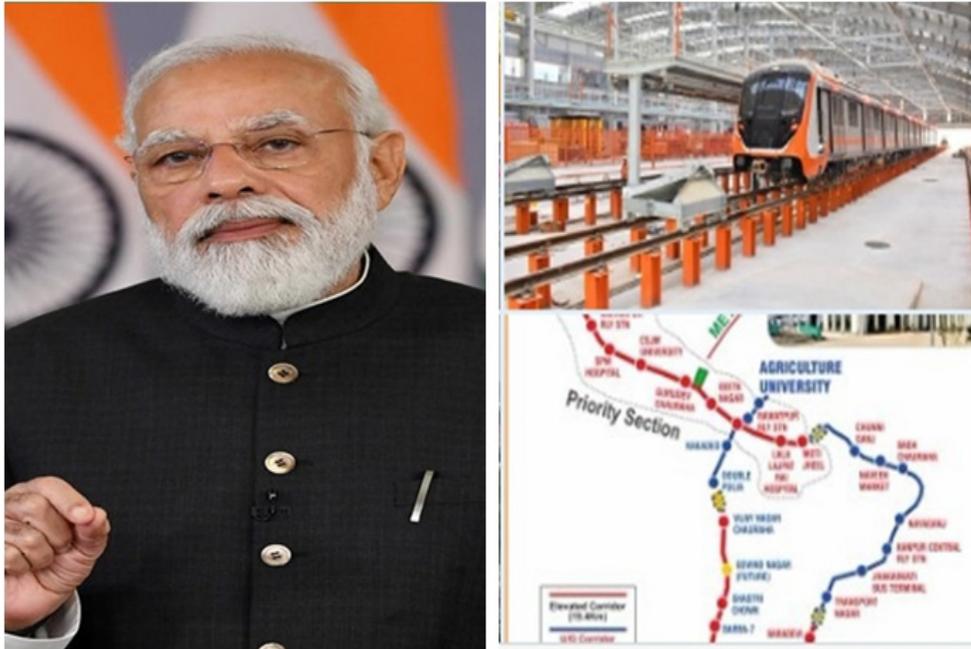


- Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda today launched 'TRIFED Van Dhan', a Pictorial Chronicle of Tribal grit and enterprise.
- It documents the work done for the promotion of tribal enterprise in the country and the achievements of tribal entrepreneurs under the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana.
- He also launched the formation of 14 Honey Farmer Producer Organizations, MIS Portal for MSP for Minor Forest Produces, communication campaign SAMVAAD and promotional videos for promoting TRIBES INDIA.
- Speaking on the occasion in New Delhi, Mr. Munda said Centre is reaching out to tribals through a multidimensional work plan for their upliftment.
- He stressed the need for effective connection and communication with tribal community.
- He said the launch of MIS portal will ensure ready availability of procurement data that can help in effective decision making and enhancing overall transparency.

5. PM MODI TO INAUGURATE COMPLETED SECTION OF KANPUR METRO RAIL AND BINA-PANKI MULTIPRODUCT PIPELINE TODAY

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Kanpur today and inaugurate the completed section of Kanpur Metro Rail Project. During the programme, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project.
- The completed section of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project is 9 Km long section from IIT Kanpur to Moti Jheel. The entire length of the Metro Rail Project in Kanpur is 32 Km and is being built at a cost of over 11,000 crore rupees.

- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project. Extending from Bina refinery in Madhya Pradesh to Panki in Kanpur, the 356 KM long project has a capacity of around 3.45 million metric tonne per annum.
- The project has been built at a cost of over 1500 crore rupees.
- Prior to this, the Prime Minister will be the Chief Guest of the 54th Convocation of IIT Kanpur.
- During the convocation, all the students will be issued digital degrees through an in-house blockchain-driven technology developed at the Institute under the National Blockchain Project.



6. TAMIL NADU CM LAUNCHED 'MEENDUM MANJAPPAI' SCHEME



- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched the 'Meendum Manjappai' scheme to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of plastic bags.
- This awareness campaign on using 'yellow' cloth bag or 'manjapai' as it is called in Tamil, is aimed at encouraging the people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.
- A government committee has identified the single-use plastic (SUP) items to be banned based on an index of their utility and environmental impact. It has proposed a three-stage ban:
- The first category of SUP items proposed to be phased out are plastic sticks used in balloons, flags, candy, ice cream and earbuds, and thermocol
- The second category proposed to be banned from July 1, 2022, includes items such as plates, cups, glasses and cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays; wrapping and packing films used in sweet boxes; invitation cards; cigarette packets; stirrers and plastic banners that are less than 100 microns in thickness.
- The third category of prohibition is for non-woven bags below 240 microns in thickness. This is proposed to start from September next year.

7. WORLD SANGEET TANSEN FESTIVAL ORGANIZED IN MADHYA PRADESH



- In Madhya Pradesh, the 97th edition of the World Sangeet Tansen festival started in Gwalior.
- A five-day World Sangeet Tansen festival starts from December 25 to December 30 in the city.
- The stage of the program has been constructed on the theme of the Siddhanath temple situated in Omkareshwar.
- Many artists not only from India but also from abroad will participate in the music festival.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

8. GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX 2021: GUJARAT TOPPED THE RANKING



- Good Governance Index 2021 was launched by Union Minister Amit Shah on the occasion of the Good Governance Day on 25 December 2021.
- GGI 2021 was prepared by the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The GGI 2021 framework covered 10 sectors and 58 indicators.
- The aim of the Good Governance Index is to create a tool that can be used uniformly across the states for assessing the impact of various interventions that are taken up by Central and State Governments.
- Good Governance Index is an implementable and comprehensive framework that assesses the state of Governance across the Indian States and Union Territories enabling ranking of States and districts.

International News

9. NASA LAUNCHES WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL SPACE TELESCOPE TO SCOUR UNIVERSE FOR HINTS OF LIFE

- World's largest and most powerful space telescope has been launched successfully into orbit to make breakthrough discoveries on the origins of the Universe and Earth-like planets beyond our solar system.
- The James Webb Space Telescope, NASA's premier space observatory of the next decade, launched in an Ariane rocket from the European Space Agency's base in French Guiana on Christmas Day.
- The Webb telescope will reach its destination in solar orbit some 1.5 million km from Earth - about four times farther away than the moon.
- And Webb's special orbital path will keep it in constant alignment with the Earth as the planet and telescope circle the sun in tandem.
- It will see farther into our origins, from the formation of stars and planets, to the birth of the first galaxies in the early Universe. It intends to show humans what the Universe looked like even closer to its birth nearly 14 billion years ago.



Appointment News

10. KAMLESH GANDHI NAMED NEW CO-CHAIRMAN OF FIDC



- Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) has announced fresh appointments to its board of directors.
- Kamlesh Gandhi, CMD of MAS Financial Services has been appointed as Co-Chairman, FIDC in addition to Umesh Revankar, CEO and MD of Shriram Transport Finance Group.

- Sanjay Chamria has resigned as the Co-Chairman and Director, FIDC.
- Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), which is a representative body of asset and loan financing NBFCs, has announced fresh appointments to its board of directors. Dinanath Dubhashi, MD and CEO, L&T Finance Holdings has been appointed as an additional Director of FIDC.
- FIDC was founded in 2004
- FIDC is Headquartered in Mumbai.

11. MOHAMMED BEN SULAYEM ELECTED FIA PRESIDENT



- Mohammed Ben Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates has been elected successor to Jean Todt as the first non-European president of motorsport's world governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA).
- The FIA is the governing body for Formula One, the World Rally Championship, World Endurance and Formula E among other series.
- The 60-year-old Dubai-born former rally driver was standing against British lawyer Graham Stoker, who has been Todt's deputy president for the sport since 2009.
- International Automobile Federation Headquarters location: Paris, France
- International Automobile Federation Founded: 20 June 1904.

Books and Authors

12. FORMER CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF, GEN. NIRMAL CHANDER VIJ RELEASES HIS NEW BOOK

- A new book by former Indian Army Chief of Staff Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij (ret) claims to offer a "full picture" of the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir and the way forward.

- The book published by HarperCollins India, the book of General Vij, The riddle of “Kashmir: the quest for peace in a troubled land”.
- In the book, General Vij argues that the conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir are “symptomatic of Indo-Pakistani rivalry” after the partition, and contextualizes the issue by beginning the book with a summary of the history of the region.
- General Vij had been Director General of Military Operations during the Kargil War.

By Sameer Singhal

Sports News

1. MOHAMMAD SHAMI BECOMES FIFTH INDIAN PACER TO TAKE 200 TEST WICKETS



- Mohammed Shami has established himself among the greats of Indian cricket by becoming only the fifth Indian pacer to take 200 Test wickets.
- Shami achieved the feat on Day 3 of the first India-South Africa Test match in Centurion.
- Shami has joined Kapil Dev, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, and Ishant Sharma in the elusive list.
- Shami reached the milestone in 55 Test matches and is the third quickest Indian after Kapil and Srinath to join the list.
- Shami took a five-wicket haul at the SuperSport Park to reach 200 Test wickets.
- Shami’s exceptional bowling effort helped India bowl South Africa out for a score of 197 in the first innings.

2. FORMER ENGLAND TEST CAPTAIN RAY ILLINGWORTH PASSES AWAY



- Ray Illingworth, a former England cricket captain, has died. He was 89.
- Illingworth, who led England to a test series victory in Australia in 1970-71, had been undergoing radiotherapy for esophageal cancer.
- Yorkshire, the English county Illingworth played for, announced his death.
- “Our thoughts are with Ray’s family and the wider Yorkshire family who held Ray so dear to their hearts,” Yorkshire tweeted.
- Illingworth played 61 test matches for England between 1958 and 1973, scoring 1,836 runs at an average of 23.24 and he claimed 122 wickets.
- He captained England 31 times, winning 12 of those matches.

National News

3. RAJNATH SINGH INAUGURATES BRAHMOS MISSILE MANUFACTURING UNIT IN LUCKNOW

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation stone of the BrahMos Aerospace cruise missile manufacturing unit in Lucknow.
- He also laid the foundation of DRDO Defence Technology and Test Centre in Lucknow.
- BrahMos Project will help in creating 5,500 fresh job opportunities.
- BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the NPOM of Russia.
- BrahMos missile derives its name from the Brahmaputra river of India and the Moskva river of Russia.
- Recently, India successfully test-fired the air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the integrated test range of Chandipur.



4. NITI AAYOG HEALTH INDEX 2021



- Government think tank Niti Aayog on Monday released the fourth edition of its health index, which ranked states based on overall health performance.
- Kerala was ranked as the best performer on top, while Uttar Pradesh was the worst.
- The report was divided in three parts - larger states, smaller states and union territories.
- Among the smaller states, Mizoram was the best performer and Nagaland was at the bottom.
- Among the union territories, Chandigarh was on top, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli at number 2 and Delhi at number 3. Puducherry was the worst overall performer, according to the Niti Aayog report.

International News

5. SOMALIA'S PRESIDENT SUSPENDS PM MOHAMED HUSSEIN ROBLE



- Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble has been suspended.
- Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo has suspended the Prime Minister, who is facing allegations of involvement in the theft of land.
- Mr Farmajo said he was suspending the Prime Minister pending the outcome of an investigation into the corruption allegations.
- Mohamed Hussein Roble accused the President of trying to stage a coup and said he would continue in office. He urged the security forces to take orders from him rather than Mr Farmajo.
- Somalia Capital: Mogadishu
- Somalia Currency: Somali shilling.

6. CEBR: INDIA TO BECOME 3RD LARGEST ECONOMY IN 2031

- The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) from the United Kingdom has predicted that the Indian economy will become the world's third-largest by the year 2031.
- In the year 2022, India is set to regain its sixth position in World Economic League Table (WELT) from France, as per CEBR.
- The annual league table also predicted that China will overtake the US to be the largest economy in 2030 (two years later than the forecast in 2021).
- The world economy is set to surpass \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022.
- Center for Economic and Business Report Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

Ranking	2021	2022	2026	2031	2036
China	2	2	2	1	1
US	1	1	1	2	2
India	7	6	5	3	3
Germany	4	4	4	5	4
Japan	3	3	3	4	5
UK	5	5	6	6	6
France	6	7	7	7	7
Indonesia	16	16	15	14	8
Brazil	11	11	10	8	9
Russia	12	12	13	13	10

Source: CEBR World Economic League Table

7. JAPAN LAUNCHES INMARSAT-6 F1 COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE



- Japan has launched Inmarsat-6 F1, a communication satellite, through a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) H-IIA204 rocket from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center that will enter geostationary orbit, about 22,240 miles (35,790 kilometres) above the earth.

- It is developed by the London-based company Inmarsat as a part of its next-generation satellite broadband service.
- The satellite is 12,060-pound (5,470 kilograms) and is the first of two 'I-6' spacecraft.
- It is the world's largest and most sophisticated commercial communications satellite ever launched.
- H-IIA is Japan's longest-serving liquid-fueled rocket (since 2001) and currently largest rocket operated by MHI for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Awards and Honors

8. VIRAL DESAI BAGGED “GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION CITIZEN AWARD 2021”



- Viral Sudhirbhai Desai, an industrialist from Surat, who is popularly known as the Greenman or green man of Gujarat has been honoured with the Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award 2021.
- Among the 28 personalities from 11 countries (which includes the United Kingdom(UK), the United States(US), New Zealand, France, and Malaysia,) who were honoured with this award, Viral Desai was the only Indian to win the honour for climate change.

9. PETA: ALIA BHATT INDIA'S 2021 PERSON OF THE YEAR



- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has named Bollywood star Alia Bhatt its 2021 Person of the Year. She is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets.
- This year, Alia Bhatt invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which is a vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers.
- Dr Shashi Tharoor, for supporting Compassionate Citizen, PETA India's humane education programme for children, as well as other education on animal protection;
- Former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, for the landmark judgement against the use of bulls in performances;
- Cricketer Virat Kohli, for calling for the release of an abused elephant and stronger penalties for animal abusers
- Comedian Kapil Sharma, for encouraging people to adopt dogs

10. GOI APPOINTS ATUL KUMAR GOEL AS NEW MD & CEO OF PNB

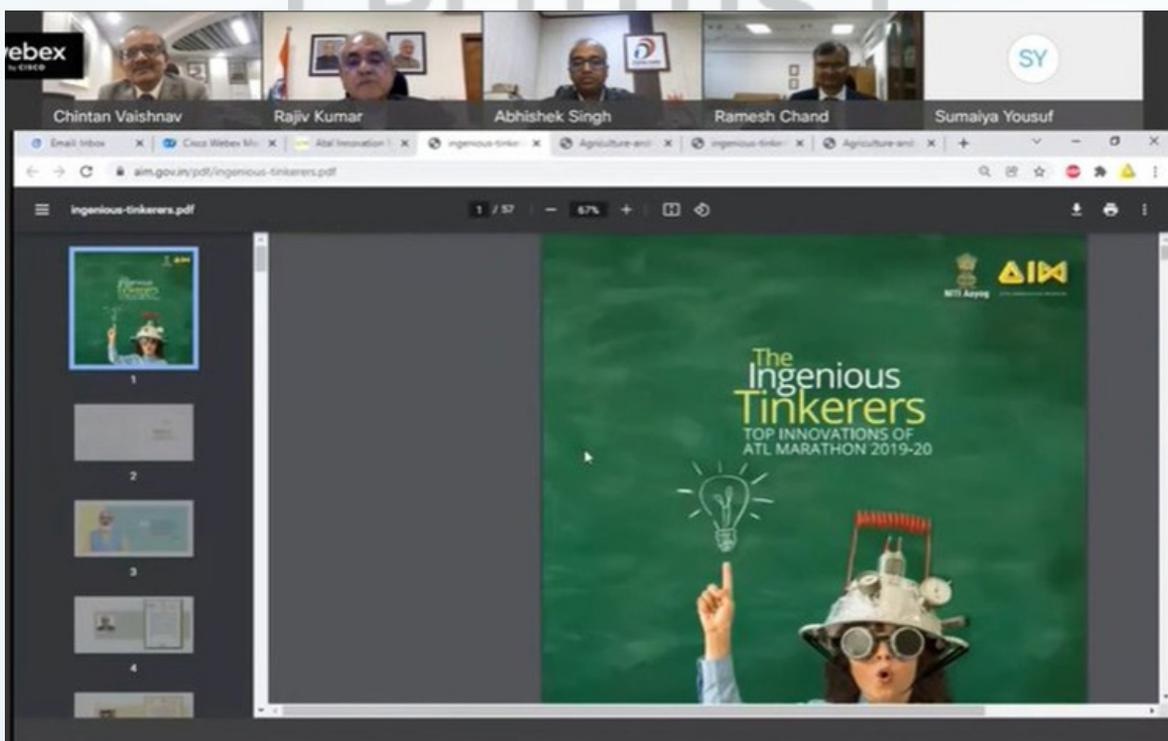


- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of UCO Bank, as MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) with effect from February 1 next year.
- Goel will serve as PNB chief until December 31, 2024, which is his attaining the superannuation age.
- Goel will replace Mallikarjuna Rao, incumbent MD & CEO of PNB. Rao was given a three-month extension that will end on January 31, 2022.
- Meanwhile, the ACC has appointed Soma Sankara Prasad, currently Deputy Managing Director at State Bank of India, as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in UCO Bank.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. AIM AND NITI AAYOG RELEASES 2ND EDITION OF 'INNOVATIONS FOR YOU' AND 'THE INGENIOUS TINKERERS'



- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog today released the second edition of Innovations for You and The Ingenious Tinkerers.
- Innovations for You is a compendium of innovations focused on agriculture featuring 70 start-ups supported by Atal Incubation Centres of Atal Innovation Mission.
- The Ingenious Tinkerers is a compendium on the innovations in technology featuring 41 innovations from Atal Tinkering Lab.
- The Digi-books were unveiled virtually today in the presence of Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Member (Agriculture) Professor Ramesh Chand, Chief Executive Officer of MyGov Abhishek Singh, and Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission Dr. Chintan Vaishnav.

- Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, congratulated entrepreneurs saying that stories and ideas behind every innovation inspire millions of other start-ups, innovators, and young tinkerers across the country.
- CEO of MyGov Abhishek Singh

2. INDIA WELCOMES EGYPT AS 4TH MEMBER OF BRICS NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK



- India has welcomed Egypt as the fourth new member of BRICS New Development Bank.
- The External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Arindam Bagchi said, Bangladesh, UAE, and Uruguay joined in September this year.
- Mr. Bagchi said, membership expansion enables New Development Bank to position itself as a premier development institution for emerging economies.
- The New Development Bank aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies, and developing countries.

3. PM MODI LAUNCHES RS 11,000 CR HYDROPOWER PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation of the hydropower projects worth Rs 11000 crore in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
- He inaugurated the Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project, a 111 MW Project which has been built at a cost of around Rs 2,080 crore.
- He also laid the foundation stone of the Renukaji Dam project which has been kept pending for around 3 decades.
- The 40 MW project will be built at a cost of around Rs 7,000 crore. Other Projects are: Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project and the Dhaulasidh Hydro Power Project, the first hydropower project of the Hamirpur district.

- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur.

4. PARAS DEFENSE GETS DRDO CONTRACT FOR BORDER SURVEILLANCE TECH



- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) selected Paras Defence and Space Technologies for handing over the technology of border surveillance systems as developed by Instruments Research & Development Establishment and DRDO.
- This technology has been transferred by a licensing agreement for the transfer of technology (ToT) for border surveillance systems entered between the company, Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- This system shall provide all-weather surveillance for day and night monitoring of the border areas, it shall consist of Radar, EO sensors etc., mounted on Pan Tilt platforms.
- With this ToT, Paras Defence and Space Technologies shall be serving the requirement of the Armed Forces of the nation.

International News

5. CHINA LAUNCHES NEW CAMERA SATELLITE WITH 5M RESOLUTION

- China has launched a new satellite with a camera capable of taking photos of the ground with a resolution of five meters, according to the National Space Administration of China (CNSA).
- The satellite, called “Ziyuan-1 02E” or “Five Meter 02 Optical Satellite”. Beijing time by a Long March-4C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Beijing Province, Shanxi (northern China).
- This is the 39th launch of the Longue Marche-4C rocket and the 403rd launch of the entire Long March series.
- The Ziyuan-1 02E weighs approximately 2.5 kilograms and is equipped with infrared, near-infrared and hyperspectral cameras.
- The cameras can take panchromatic color images of the Earth.



Sports News

6. UTTAR PRADESH WON 11TH HOCKEY INDIA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



- Uttar Pradesh has crowned the winners of the 11th Junior National Men's Hockey Championship following a 3-1 victory over Chandigarh in the final at Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu.
- Tournament top scorer Sharda Nand Tiwari opened the scoring for Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh Hockey maintained its unbeaten record.
- In the 3rd/4th Place playoff match, the Hockey Association of Odisha edged out Hockey Haryana 3 – 2 in a closely contested affair to clinch 3rd place in the competition.

7. PARA-BADMINTON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: NITESH KUMAR WINS DOUBLE GOLD



- The pair of Nitesh Kumar and Tarun defeated World No 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar in straight sets 21-19, 21-11 to win the gold medal in the 4th Para-Badminton National Championship, here on Monday.
- Before this, Nitesh also won the gold medal in Men's SL3 category.
- In the Women's Wheelchair 1 category, Alpha James from Kerala secured gold, while the silver went to Neerja Goyal. Nirmala Mehta and Ranjeeta Maurya secured the bronze.
- In Women's Wheelchair 2 category, Ammu Mohan from Karnataka secured gold while silver was bagged by Shabana from Punjab and Prema Biswas and Suman Rawat had to settle for bronze.

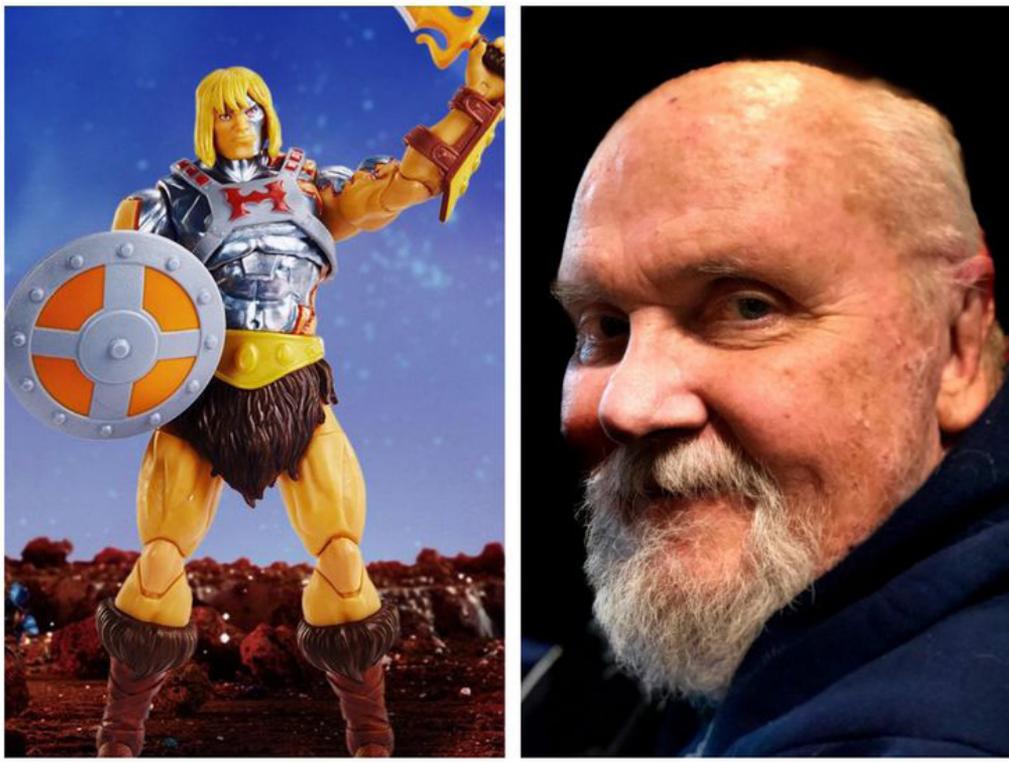
8. HDFC LIFE SIGNED BANCASSURANCE PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH INDIAN BANK



- HDFC Life signed a bancassurance (Bank-Insurance) agreement with South Indian Bank to enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life's life insurance products and services to the customers of South Indian Bank.
- This bancassurance arrangement will enable customers of the South Indian Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.
- This bancassurance partnership will further strengthen HDFC Life's business across India.
- South Indian Bank Founded: 29 January 1929
- South Indian Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala

Obituary News

9. HE-MAN' ARTIST AND TOY DESIGNER MARK TAYLOR PASSES AWAY



- Mark Taylor, artist and toy designer for the He-Man and the Masters of the Universe franchise as well as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, passed away.
- Taylor began his career with Mattel in 1976 as a packaging designer. He-man was the muscled frontman for toy manufacturer Mattel's Masters of the Universe franchise.
- He-Man was the epitome of a hulking superhero warrior but also became an icon within the LGBTQ+ community.

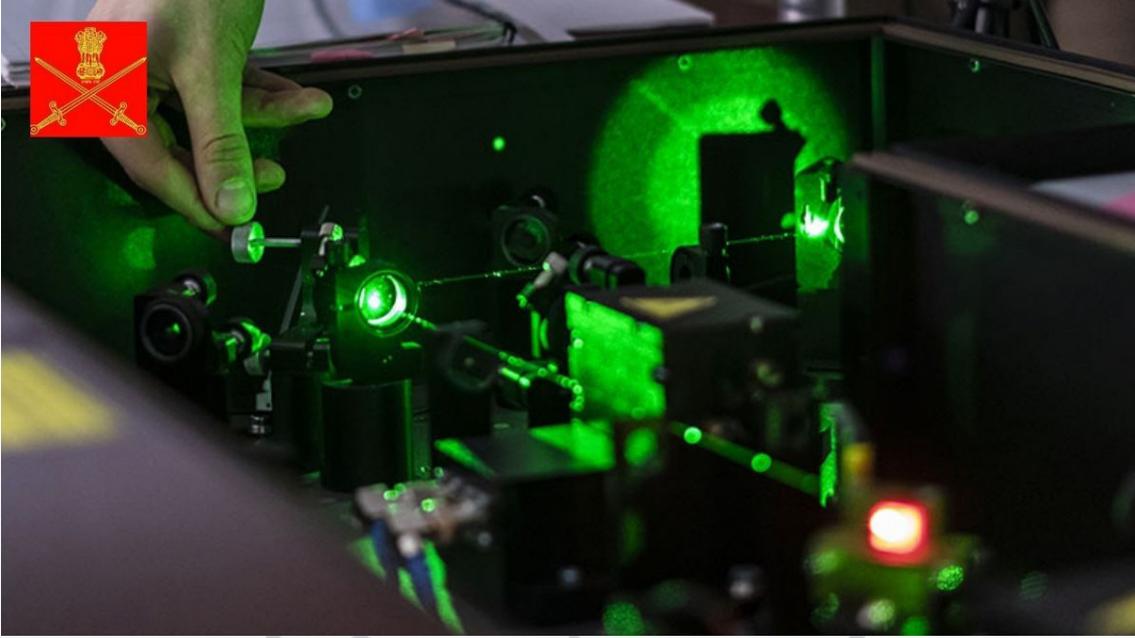
By Sameer Singhal

Defense News

1. INDIAN ARMY ESTABLISHES QUANTUM LABORATORY IN MHOW, MADHYA PRADESH

- The Army, with support from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) has recently established the Quantum Lab at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow in Madhya Pradesh to spearhead research and training in this key developing field.
- Army Chief Gen M M Naravane was briefed on the facility during his recent visit to Mhow.
- The Army has also established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center at the same institution with over 140 deployments in forward areas and active support of industry and academia.
- Training on cyber warfare is being imparted through a state of art cyber range, and cyber security labs.

- Research undertaken by the Indian Army in the field of Quantum Technology will help leapfrog into next-generation communication and transform the current system of cryptography in the Indian Armed Forces to Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC).



Academy
National News

2. SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS IN 20 LANGUAGES ANNOUNCED TODAY



- Sahitya Akademi has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 20 languages today.
- Seven books of poetry, two novels, five short stories, two plays, one biography, one autobiography, one critique and one Epic Poetry have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021.
- Awards in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date.
- Assamese writers Anuradha Sarma Pujari and Namita Gokhale have won the award in the novel category.
- Awardees for Poetry category include Mwdai Gahai in Bodo, Sanjiv Verenkar in Konkani, Hrushikesh Mallick in Odia and Vindeshwari Prasad in Telugu.

3. PM MODI INAUGURATED BINA (MP)-PANKI (UP) MULTIPRODUCT PIPELINE PROJECT



- The Multi Product pipeline from Bina Refinery (MP) to POL Terminal at Panki, Kanpur (UP) was today dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. 356 Km long project has a capacity of around 3.45 million metric tonne per annum.
- This Project also includes augmentation of Tankage capacity and construction of Rail Loading Gantry at Panki POL Terminal. Total cost of the project is Rs.1524 crore (Rs. 1227 crore in UP and Rs. 297 crore in MP).
- The project will cover 5 districts of UP: Lalitpur, Jhansi, Jalaun, Kanpur Dehat and Kanpur Nagar, and 2 of MP: Sagar and Tikamgarh.
- PM has also inaugurated the completed section of the Kanpur Metro Rail Project and undertook a metro ride from the IIT metro station to Geeta Nagar.
- The entire length of the Metro Rail Project in Kanpur is 32 Km and is being built at a cost of around ₹11,000 crores.
- PM also attended the 54th Convocation Ceremony of IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Kanpur.

4. ARIIA RANKINGS: IIT MADRAS BAGS NO. 1 SPOT FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR



- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras bagged the top position among the centrally funded technical institutes in the Centre's Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021 released on Wednesday.
- IIT Madras was recognised as the most innovative technical institute for the third consecutive year.
- This 3rd edition of ARIIA has introduced a special framework for non-technical institutions that further strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Indian higher education institutions.

Appointment

5. CP GOYAL APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FORESTS & SPECIAL SECRETARY



- Indian Forest Service officer, Chandra Prakash Goyal has been appointed as the Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
- Goyal, a 1986 batch IFS officer was previously the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest under Uttar Pradesh Department of Forest.
- The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the appointment of the IFoS officer. He had returned to UP after being on central deputation as Joint Secretary in the Indian Department of Biotechnology

Banking News

6. AXIS BANK IS 2ND LARGEST IN POS MACHINES

- Axis Bank has become the second-largest merchant-acquiring bank in the country, leapfrogging two spaces during 2021 by installing over two lakh card-swipe machines during the year.
- This is part of the bank's 'Axis One' strategy where it approaches the customers by offering its entire gamut of products instead of a standalone service.

- Axis Bank's strategy to increase the number of merchants is to offer the latest in technology to them and address pain points.
- For instance, the bank installs Android PoS machines and has also come out with a printer-less compact machine.



7. INDUSIND BANK LAUNCHED 'GREEN FIXED DEPOSITS'

IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'green fixed deposits', whereby the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- A green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in environmentally friendly projects.
- These deposits will be offered to both retail & corporate customers.
- The Bank will use the proceeds from these deposits to finance a wide array of sectors falling under the SDG category including, energy efficiency, renewable energy, green transport, sustainable food, agriculture, forestry, waste management and greenhouse gas reduction.

Books and Authors

8. A BOOK TITLED 'DR V L DUTT: GLIMPSES OF A PIONEER'S LIFE JOURNEY' BY V L INDIRA DUTT

- Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the book titled 'Dr V L Dutt: Glimpses of a Pioneer's Life Journey' authored by Dr V L Indira Dutt, Chairperson and Managing Director of KCP Group, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The book is based on the life of Late Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt (V.L. Dutt), the former Chairman of KCP Group.



By Sameer Singhal

Sports News

1. INDIA LIFT U-19 ASIA CUP BEATING SRI LANKA BY 9 WICKETS IN DUBAI



- In cricket, India lifted the Under-19 Asia Cup by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain-interrupted One-Day International final in Dubai through Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.
- Earlier, Sri Lanka opted to bat first and scored 106 for nine in the stipulated 38 overs.
- Angkrish Raghuvanshi smashed a fifty while Shaik Rasheed scored 31* as India defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup here on Friday.

2. QUINTON DE KOCK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM TEST CRICKET



- South Africa wicketkeeper-batsman, Quinton de Kock, announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect on Thursday.
- The announcement comes on the backdrop of South Africa's defeat in the first Test match against India in Centurion, where the visitors won by 113 runs and took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.
- De Kock, 29, made his Test debut against Australia in Port Elizabeth in 2014.
- In 54 matches, he has scored 3300 runs with the highest score of 141 not-out, at an average of 38.82 and strike rate of 70.93. He also has six centuries and 22 half-centuries under his belt.
- Behind the stumps, he has 232 dismissals, including 221 catches and 11 stumpings.
- De Kock has also taken the third-most catches in the inaugural ICC World Test Championship – 48 in 11 matches (47 catches and 1 stumping) and has a personal best of six dismissals in an innings, against England in Centurion in 2019.

3. ROSS TAYLOR ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT



- New Zealand batter Ross Taylor has announced he will retire from international cricket following the conclusion of the upcoming home Test series against Bangladesh, and six ODIs against Australia and the Netherlands next year.
- Taylor retires as the most prolific New Zealand batter across formats having made his debut back in 2006 and amassing 18,074 runs in 445 appearances - also the most by anyone from his country.
- The 37-year-old said it's been an honour to have represented New Zealand while thanking fans for support through his international journey.
- "Today I'm announcing my retirement from international cricket at the conclusion of the home summer, two more tests against Bangladesh, and six odi's against Australia & the Netherlands.
- Thank you for 17 years of incredible support. It's been an honour to represent my country

4. JASPRIT BUMRAH ACHIEVES MILESTONE OF PICKING 100 TEST WICKETS



- Jasprit Bumrah has achieved the milestone of picking 100 wickets away from home in 22 Test matches.
- Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions.
- The 28-year-old now has 105 wickets, out of which 101 have come away from home.
- Bumrah, who made his Test debut in South Africa in 2018, has played 25 Tests, 23 of which have come on the road.
- Fewest wickets in Test career while reaching 100 away Test wickets:
- Jasprit Bumrah (India): 104
- Mohammad Amir (Pakistan): 118
- Michael Holding (West Indies): 136
- Zaheer Khan(India): 137

5. MOHAMMED SHAMI BECOMES 11TH INDIAN BOWLER TO TAKE 200 WICKETS IN TEST CRICKET



- Mohammed Shami achieved the milestone of 200 Test wickets after removing Kagiso Rabada on Day 3 of the first Test against South Africa at the SuperSport Park in Centurion on Tuesday.
- The 31-year-old pacer is third-fastest among Indian pacers to reach the landmark, achieving it in his 55th Test match.
- Rabada's wicket was also Shami's fifth of the innings. He is the 11th Indian bowler to pick up 200 or more wickets and only the fifth fast bowler to reach the milestone.
- Shami is only behind Kapil Dev (434), Ishant Sharma (311), Zaheer Khan (311), and Javagal Srinath (236), at the moment.

Important Days

6. DRDO CELEBRATES ITS 64TH FOUNDATION DAY TODAY

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is celebrating its 64th foundation day today.
- It was on this day in 1958 when DRDO was formed to make India strong and self-reliant in terms of science and technology and especially in military technologies.
- In the span of 63 years the organization has transformed the landscape of defence research and development in the country.
- Talking exclusively to All India Radio, the Chairman of DRDO Dr G. Satheesh Reddy said that the last year was the year of major breakthroughs and accomplishments even under the difficult situation posed due to COVID 19.



7. JANUARY 1- GLOBAL FAMILY DAY



- Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, is celebrated every January 1 in the United States as a global day of peace and sharing.
- Global Family Day grew out of the United Nations Millennium celebration, “One Day In Peace”.
- Originally supported in the United States by Linda Grover, the efforts to promote the date included a 1996 children’s book One Day In Peace, January 1, 2000 by Steve Diamond and also Robert Alan Silverstein, which was translated into 22 languages, and a utopian novel Tree Island by Grover herself.

Appointment

8. VINAY KUMAR TRIPATHI APPOINTED AS NEW CHAIRMAN, CEO OF RAILWAY BOARD



- Vinay Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board.
- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr Tripathi who is presently working as General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- Mr Tripathi belongs to 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.
- Before him the Holder of this Post is Suneeet Sharma

9. ITBP DG SANJAY ARORA TO HOLD SSB ADDITIONAL CHARGE



- ITBP director general Sanjay Arora will hold the additional charge of another border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) as the latter's chief Kumar Rajesh Chandra is set to retire on December 31.
- Arora, a 1988-batch officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, was appointed the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG in August and he took charge of the India-China LAC guarding force on September 1.
- The SSB is primarily tasked to guard unfenced Indian borders with Nepal and Bhutan.

10. VIJAY RAAZ & VARUN SHARMA NAMED AS BRAND AMBASSADORS OF EASEMYTRIP



- Bollywood actors Vijay Raaz & Varun Sharma have been named as brand ambassadors for EaseMyTrip.com (Easy Trip Planners Ltd), an online travel company based in India.
- EaseMyTrip founded by Nishant Pitti and Rikant Pitti in 2008 was started as the Business-to-Business (B2B) portal and entered into the business-to-consumer (B2C) segment in 2011.
- Raaz and Sharma will be coming together as a duo for the first time for any brand campaign.
- The actors with their mass appeal and strong connection with the audience will complement the brand's image.

International News

11. RUSSIA'S LATEST NUCLEAR POWERED ICEBREAKER TO BOOST INDIA'S ARCTIC PLANS VIA NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

- Russia has launched its first in the series Project 22220 versatile nuclear-powered icebreaker known as 'Sibir'.
- This icebreaker will support the growing fleet of icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the Arctic and enable a wider presence of India in the arctic region.
- The construction of Sibir was started in 2015 and the icebreaker was floated on 22nd December 2017.

- Sibir was handed over to the Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation for exploitation; the Delivery-Acceptance Act was signed on 24th December at Baltic Shipyard, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Russia Currency- Rouble
- Russia Capital- Moscow



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