

Weekly Current Affairs PDF February 27 to March 05, 2022

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NATIONAL

India & US hold 19th Military Cooperation meeting in Agra to strengthen defence cooperation

- The 19th edition of the India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was conducted in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The discussion was co-chaired by Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), and Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka, Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, represented the US side.
- The conference took place when Russia was engaged in a significant military operation in Ukraine. Western countries, such as the United States, have implemented severe economic sanctions against Russia.
- Around 70% of India's defence equipment is made in Russia.
- According to the Defence Ministry, the India-US military cooperation group was established to advance defence collaboration between the two nations through regular meetings at the strategic and operational levels between the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff and the US Indo-Pacific Command.

'Sagar Parikrama' from March 5 to showcase marine fisheries sector wealth

- Marine fisheries sector wealth would be showcase by 'Sagar Parikrama' from 5th March. Oceans, the world's largest ecosystem, covering nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface, are critical to the economies, security, and livelihoods of lakhs of people in India, which has a 8,118-kilometre coastline spanning nine states and four Union Territories, according to an official statement.
- It is at the forefront of reforming the fisheries sector by developing fisheries management plans and a legislative framework for effective fisheries governance in order to promote sustainable and responsible development through an ecosystem approach.
- An evolutionary journey of 'Sagar Parikrama' is being planned around the coastal belt to demonstrate unity with all fisherfolk, fish growers, and stakeholders concerned in the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat.'
- The 'Sagar Parikrama' trip will focus on achieving a sustainable balance between the use of marine fisheries resources for national food security and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities, as well as the protection of marine ecosystems, according to the statement.

Rajasthan govt announces Rs 10 crore budget to promote cattle rearing

- Rajasthan, the state government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23. According to the government figures, less than two lakh camels are left in Rajasthan and in the entire country, the number of camels has reduced by 1.5 lakh since 2012. There were about 2.5 lakh camels left when counted last in 2019.
- Camel is the state animal of Rajasthan and their number is continuously decreasing. The Rajasthan government had declared the camel as the state animal in 2014. About 85 per cent of

the country's camels are found in Rajasthan followed by Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

SPORTS

2022 Women's Cricket World Cup

- The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 has kicked off on March 04, 2022, in New Zealand. This is the 12 edition of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, being held in New Zealand from March 04 to April 03, 2022. The opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 was held at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui between West Indies and New Zealand, in which West Indies women beat New Zealand by 3 runs. India will open against Pakistan on the 6th of March.

OBITURY

Shane Warne, Australia's legendary legspinner, dies aged 52

- Legendary Australia spinner, Shane Warne has passed away at the age of 52. Shane Warne, one of the greatest-ever cricketers to have played the sport, picked up 708 wickets in 145 Tests. His career spanned over 15 years from 1992 to 2007. He was also a World Cup winner with Australia in 1999. He is regarded as one of the greatest-ever bowlers in the history of the sport as he was an integral part of the dominant Australian sides in the 1990s and early 2000s.
- Shane Warn took more wickets than any other bowler in Ashes cricket, the tally standing at 195. In 2013, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. He also won the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League as the captain of Rajasthan Royals. He is regarded as the greatest captain that Australia ever had.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Obesity Day 2022 : 4th March

- World Obesity Day is observed every year on March 04. It is observed to spread awareness about obesity and encourage action towards its elimination. The day is organised by the World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body that is in official relations with the World Health Organisation.
- The theme of World Obesity Day 2022 is 'Everybody Needs to Act'. The campaign aims to improve the world's understanding, prevention and treatment of obesity.
- Obesity is one of the biggest health crises in the world, affecting 800 million people with millions more at risk, according to worldobesity.org. To spread awareness about the same and encourage action towards its elimination.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

HPCL signs MoU with SECI for renewable energy, electric mobility, alternative fuels

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on February 24, 2022 in New Delhi between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to accomplish green energy targets and the Government of India's efforts towards a carbon-neutral economy.
- Shuvendu Gupta who is the Chief General Manager of HPCL for Biofuels and Renewables, and Sanjay Sharma who Executive Director of SECI, signed the MoU.

- The Memorandum of Understanding envisions cooperation and collaboration in the fields of renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuels, as well as the development of ESG Projects.
- HPCL plans to diversify further in the RE and Electric Mobility sectors, as well as pursue the development of ESG projects, in order to meet the Government of India's target to increase the RE capacity and accelerate the adoption of electric mobility in India.

DST collaborates with Intel India to boost AI readiness among high school students

- 'Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators', a program by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with Intel India, was launched by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (I/C). The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST's INSPIRE-Awards MANAK scheme.
- The flagship program of DST reaches out to students pan India with an aim to create a culture of creativity and innovative thinking. Intel said its commitment to promoting AI readiness in the country is in synergy with the government's vision of leveraging AI to make India a leader in the field while utilizing the technology to address its socio-economic challenges.
- The program will bring both these together and seek to build an AI-ready generation by empowering the students with the knowledge and skills to leverage AI in an inclusive way.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras and NIOT conduct OCEANS

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, are jointly conducted OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition, the bi-annual event for global marine researchers, technologists and engineers, students, and policymakers. It is being in India for the first time and coordinated by the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, on behalf of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society (IEEE OES) and Marine Technology Society (MTS). The conference is being held in a hybrid model.
- Inspire-Innovate-Sustain' is the main theme of the conference. The delegates will be sharing their experiences on topics related to climate change, global warming, vagaries of weather, combating coastal erosion, marine pollution and microplastics through nearly 400 presentations.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI cancels licence of Maharashtra-based Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank

- Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects. With the cancellation of the licence, Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank Ltd has ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business hours on 2 March. The bank is not complying with various sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

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NATIONAL

Assam government has declared the entire State of Assam as 'disturbed area' up to 6 months

- The Assam government has extended the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months. The notification came into effect from February 28. Initially, it was the Assam Disturbed Area Act of 1955 during the agitation by Nagas in undivided Assam. This Act gave freehand to some extent to the Army that was repealed with the incorporation of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958. AFSPA was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a review by the government.
- AFSPA, which gives sweeping powers to the security forces to maintain public order in 'disturbed areas', has been a contentious issue in the north-east states. Civil society members and activists have claimed that AFSPA gives security personnel a free hand to carry out excesses.

SPORTS

Strandja Memorial: Nikhat Zareen and Nitu clinch gold medals at Europe's oldest competition

- Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) has won gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, held in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with three medals including two golds and one bronze.
- Nikhat bagged her second gold medal at Europe's oldest international boxing tournament with a 4-1 win in the women's 52kg final. She had previously won the Strandja Memorial title in 2019.
- Nitu outpunched the reigning Youth World Championships bronze medallist Italy's Erika Prisciandro 5-0 without breaking a sweat in the women's 48 kg final.
- With Nandini also finishing on the podium in the 81kg category and signing off with a bronze medal, the Indian contingent concluded their campaign with three medals at the tournament, which was part of India's first exposure trip this year.

ISSF World Cup: India's Shri Nivetha, Esha, Ruchita win gold in women's 10m air pistol team event

- India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar have won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt. With this win, India is leading the medal table with three medals, including two gold and silver. Andrea Katharina Heckner, Sandra Reitz and Carina Wimmer of Germany settled for the silver medal.
- Germany and Italy are joint seconds on the table with one gold, two silver and one bronze medal each. A total of 17 countries have won medals so far.

OBITURY

Noted film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey dies at 82

- Film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey has passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 82 years. He has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state Congress chief Kamal Nath and several other leaders condoled Chouksey's death.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

LIC Mutual Fund names TS Ramakrishnan as MD and CEO

- LIC Mutual Fund has announced the appointment of TS Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO, effective. Ramakrishnan, as the MD and CEO, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO.
- Ramakrishnan is a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) and PGDIM and has been awarded Fellowship from the prestigious Insurance Institute of India. He has experience of over 34 years at LIC and its subsidiaries/associate companies, the release said. He joined LIC Mutual Fund AMC on April 28, 2021.
- LIC Mutual Fund is one of the oldest and leading mutual funds operating in India. offer a complete basket of 26 products covering debt, equity, hybrid, passive and solution-oriented schemes. The Average Assets under Management (AAuM) is Rs 18,625.52 crores as on January 31, 2022.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Safety Day 2022 : 4th March

- The National Safety Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on the 4th of March to commemorate the foundation of the National Safety Council (NSC) of India. The day aims to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety. The year 2022 marks 51st NSD.
- Every year, this day is celebrated with a different theme. This year, the National Safety Council of India announced the theme to be 'Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture'.

National Security Day 2022: 4th March

- In India, March 4 is celebrated as National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) every year, in the honor of the Indian Security Forces. The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country. Apart from this, National Security Week 2022 is being celebrated from March 4 to March 10, 2022.
- 4 March also marks the day when the National Security Council (NSC) of India was established, in 1966 by the Ministry of Labour under the Government of India. The first National Security Day (NSD) was held in 1972.

RANKING

Floods, droughts making India, Pak most vulnerable to climate change: IPCC report

- Extreme climatic conditions are threatening the food security in South Asia with escalated floods and droughts making India and Pakistan the most vulnerable to climate change, cautioned the latest IPCC report released.
- If emissions are not dramatically reduced, 'wet bulb' temperatures in India, which measure both heat and humidity, will exceed 31 degrees Celsius, which is fatal for humans, according to the paper. Despite the fact that India is one of the South Asian countries with the greatest urban adaptation measures, these plans are hampered by inequitable funding and "priority," with larger cities receiving more attention.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

GST collections in Feb stand at ₹1.3L cr, a slight dip from Jan

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection crossed the Rs 1.30-lakh crores mark for the fifth time in February 2022. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of February 2022 is Rs 1,33,026 crore of which CGST is Rs 24,435 crore, SGST is Rs 30,779 crore, IGST is Rs 67,471 crore (including Rs 33,837 crores collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,340 crore (including ₹638 crores collected on import of goods).
- The February mop-up was impacted by the Omicron wave that swept through the country and hence, the gross sales tax collection was lower than the record Rs 1,40,986 crore netted in January. The revenues for the month of February 2022 are 18% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and 26% higher than the GST revenues in February 2020.

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NATIONAL

International Monsoons Project Office launched

- On the occasion of National Science Day 2022, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) through a high-level virtual event.
- For the first five years, the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be housed at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, which is part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Indian government.
- The establishment of the IMPO emphasises the importance of monsoons to the country's economy. Under the guidance of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme, it would cover activities and relationships relating to international monsoon research that would be recognised and supported.

SPORTS

Australian Open : Rafael Nadal Book & Record 2022

- Rafael Nadal was two sets down in the final of the Australian Open 2022. But he came back strongly to win a long five-set single match with Daniil Medvedev and claim a record 21st Grand Slam men's title in the Australian Open final.
- Rafael Nadal won the war of attrition to move ahead of rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer on the a list of men's Major winners.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

World Bank's India head Junaid Ahmad appointed vice president of operations

- Junaid Kamal Ahmad, the World Bank's India Director, has been named a Vice President of the international lending agency. Ahmad, who will lead the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) as Vice President, Operations, is only the second Bangladeshi to be chosen to such a high position in the bank's history. He will start his new job on April 16, according to a press statement.

- On the operational side, Faisal Chaudhary was the first Bangladeshi native to hold the position of vice president.
- Ahmad will work to advance and enhance MIGA's brand partnering across the World Bank Group as well as with financial institutions, private investors, and development actors; originate and pursue meaningful, impact-driven projects; and lead the Operations team to deliver on MIGA's mandate of mobilising private finance for development projects in Emerging Market Developing Economies, according to a statement from the bank.

Ashneer Grover resigned as BharatPe MD & Director

- Ashneer Grover, co-founder and Managing Director (MD) of BharatPe, a leading Indian fintech company, has resigned as the MD and director of the board of BharatPe. Ashneer Grover, who owns a 9.5% stake worth Rs 1915 crore in BharatPe, will continue as the single largest individual shareholder of the company. BharatPe became the 19th Indian startup to become a unicorn in 2021.
- Shashwat Nakrani, the co-founder of BharatPe, owns 7.8% and Sequoia Capital India, a venture capital (VC) investor and the largest shareholder of BharatPe, holds 19.6%, followed by Coatue at 12.4% and Ribbit Capital at 11%. As of August 2021, Tiger Global, Steadview Capital, and Beenext together hold a 60.4% stake in BharatPe.

Yash Raj Films names Akshaye Widhani as CEO

- Film production and distribution company Yash Raj Films (YRF) has named Akshaye Widhani as chief executive officer. Widhani was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business Affairs and head of operations at YRF Studios. He used to head corporate and business development activities for YRF, including finance, business extensions, strategic alliances, joint ventures, co-productions.
- Widhani joined YRF 17 years ago, has been responsible for setting up and running several business verticals for the company. His first stint was as studio manager, in charge of setting up operations for YRF Studios in 2005. Later, he took up leadership roles in corporate finance, strategy and operations. A graduate from Kelley School of Business, Indiana University with a dual major in finance and entrepreneurship, Widhani has also been spearheading recent initiatives for The Yash Chopra Foundation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hearing Day 2022: 3rd March

- World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year by World Health Organisation (WHO). The day aims to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course. In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss. It highlighted noise control as one of the seven key H.E.A.R.I.N.G. interventions and stressed the importance of mitigating exposure to loud sounds.
- The World Hearing Day 2022 with the theme "To hear for life, listen with care" will focus on the importance and means of hearing loss prevention through safe listening.

World Wildlife Day 2022 : 3rd March

- The World Wildlife Day is observed every year on March 3 to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora. The day also reminds us of the need to fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species causing various wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.
- World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2022 under the theme "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration", as a way to draw attention to the conservation status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and to drive discussions towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve them.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

National ICT Award 2022: MoS for Education Annapurna Devi to felicitate school teachers today

- Smt Annapurna Devi, who is the union MoS for Education has given National ICT Awards to 49 teachers from all over the country. In her speech on this event, she told that the NEP-2020 emphasizes on the efficient use of technology in the field of teaching, which will remove the language barriers and increase access for DIVYANG students.
- The Information and Communication Technology [ICT] intervention under Samagra Shiksha also has inclusions to provide technological upgradations to schools and Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs).
- DIKSHA, school MOOCs on SWAYAM, PMeVIDYA, ePathshala, ICT Curriculum for Teachers and Students and National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement integrated teacher training programme through online mode are among the flagship projects to bridge the digital divide.
- The role of teachers in nation-building is appreciable and a Guru (teacher) is given the most respectful person in Indian Society.
- The recent budget announcements by the Govt. of India have provided the impetus to each and every digital education initiative.

RANKING

India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally: Knight Frank

- India is ranked 3rd in terms of most number of billionaires' population globally in 2021, as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022. The number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% YoY in 2021 to 145 billionaires, the highest percentage growth in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region. UHNWIs are individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m or more (Rs 226 crore).
- The list has been topped by the United States (748) and China (554) respectively.
- Bengaluru recorded the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs in 2021 at 17.1% to 352 billionaires. It was followed by Delhi (12.4% to 210) and Mumbai (9% to 1596) in 2021.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Union Cabinet approves FDI of up to 20% in LIC of India

- As per the sources, the Cabinet approved up to 20% FDI in the LIC's IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) via the automatic route on Saturday, February 26. The government hopes that by doing so, it will make it easier for India's largest insurer to be disinvested.

- The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made the decision to approve 20% FDI via the automatic method.
- The government has approved the listing of LIC shares on the stock market through an initial public offering (IPO) in which it would sell a portion of its investment in the insurer and raise new equity capital.
- Foreign investors may be interested in taking part in this mammoth IPO. The existing FDI laws, on the other hand, include no special provision for foreign investment in LIC, a statutory corporation constituted under the LIC Act, 1956.

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INTERNATIONAL

China launches national record 22 satellites on Long March 8 commercial rideshare

- China's second Long March 8 rocket launched carrying a domestic record 22 satellites for a range of commercial Chinese space companies. The Long March 8 lifted off from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center at 10:06 p.m. Eastern Feb. 26, with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) later confirming launch success.
- These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation. The mission marked the 409th flight of the Long March carrier rockets.

US, EU, UK agree to remove selected Russian banks from SWIFT

- Canada, U.S.A. and their European allies have come to a conclusion to remove the key Russian banks from the Interbank messaging system (IMS) of SWIFT. This is a very big step that will cut off the country from much of the worldwide financial system.
- The major global powers issued a joint statement announcing this significant retaliatory measure. It said, "This will ensure that these banks are disconnected from the international financial system and harm their ability to operate globally".
- Russia's removal from SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) will mean that the Russian banks will not be able to communicate securely with foreign banks.
- Previously, Iran has been removed from SWIFT in 2014 following developments to its nuclear program in Tehran.
- The announcement will follow several rounds of joint sanctions that will be imposed on Russia for its unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

NATIONAL

Now Chennai's street animals get an ambulance of their own

- India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization "Four Paw". Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth launched the ambulance. The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an onboard veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
- Apart from the veterinarian, the animal ambulance will also include a para veterinary-worker-cum-driver. The ambulance will include a treatment table, two fans, an inverter, a fridge, and

drawers for sterile products and bandages. It will also come with a washbasin, an anti-skid shock-absorbing mat, a stretcher trolley, a retractable doctor's seat, a retractable tarpaulin, dog-catching equipment, two movable cages to hold dogs, and overhead cupboards. There will also be a provision to administer intravenous fluids and oxygen on board.

President Kovind inaugurates 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in presence of PM Modi

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a newly developed 'Arogya Vanam' at the President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi. The objective of this Arogya Vanam is to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body. The concept of Arogya Vanam has been conceived with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.
- Spread in 6.6 acres, the Arogya Vanam has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra. It consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda. Some of the other features of this Vanam are water fountains, Yoga platform, water channel, lotus pond and a viewpoint. This Vanam will be now open for public viewing.

SPORTS

Dabang Delhi wins PKL8, beats Patna Pirates 37-36 in final

- Dabang Delhi K C defeated Patna Pirates by 36-37 in the final of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Dabang Delhi beat three-time champion Patna Pirates. Pawan Sehrawat was awarded with the Raider of the season award for his 304 raid points in 24 matches. The winner of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 got a cash prize of 3 crores.

31st Southeast Asian Games to open despite Covid-19 in Vietnam

- The 31st Southeast Asian Games will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23, 2022. It is the biggest sporting event of Southeast Asia and is a biennial event. The event was originally scheduled to take place in November 2021 however it was postponed due to the Covid pandemic. The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants, organisers announced at a press conference here.
- The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh, Xinhua news agency reported. Moto of 31st Southeast Asian Games- "For a Stronger South East Asia".

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Deepak Dhar First Indian To Get Boltzmann Medal

- Physicist Professor, Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics. The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August this year. He shares the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.
- Prof Dhar is presently the emeritus faculty at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.
- Prof Dhar was born in 1951 and completed his graduation in Science in 1970 from the University of Allahabad, then Masters's in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1972.

RANKING

Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index

- NITI Aayog is in the process to develop a National Gender Index. The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions. It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India's States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.
- Niti Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on indicators such as discoms' viability and competition; access, affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; generation capacity; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives. The index will help states to efficiently manage their energy resources and provide better access to energy to the people.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota released a book

- Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota has released the book "Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki" by Captain AD Manek in a glittering program organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd in Mumbai. The author of this book is Mithilesh Tiwari. This book is about the life journey of Captain AD Manek, how he travelled from zero to pinnacle in his career graph.
- The family of Captain AD Manek is also known as the Flying Family of India. His wife is a hobby flyer while his two sons are professional pilots. One daughter-in-law is the air hostess and the other daughter-in-law is the aircraft dispatcher. All 6 members of this family are serving in the Indian Aviation Industry. They also help aspiring pilots financially. Her students include India's first woman helicopter pilot Captain Aruna Dukhande and India's youngest commercial pilot Ms. Maitri Patel (19 years) and India's first youngest glider pilot Richa Waiker (15 years old).

Rahul Gandhi Releases CM Stalin's Autobiography 'Ungalil Oruvan', First Volume Traces Early Years

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You) in Chennai. The first part of the autobiography contains his early life experiences. In it, he traces his school and college days, adolescence, early political contributions, marital life and the MISA struggle, recalling 23 years up to 1976.

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INTERNATIONAL

World's largest cargo plane destroyed by Russian strikes in Ukraine,

- Russian invasion to Ukraine, Russia destroyed the largest plane in the world called "Ukraine's Antonov-225 cargo plane". The plane was destroyed outside Kyiv. According to weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom, restoring "AN-225 Mriya" would cost over USD 3 billion and could take over five years. The aircraft was unique to the world. The An-225 aircraft was located at Hostomel Airport when Russia launched an attack on the Ukrainian airport on February 24, 2022. It was destroyed on February 27.

- The aircraft was designed to airlift Energia rocket's boosters and Buran-class orbiters for Soviet space program. It was developed to replace the Myasishchev VM-T.
- The original mission and objectives of An-225 are almost similar to that of the United States' Shuttle Carrier Aircraft. The lead designer of the An-225 was Viktor Tolmachev.
- It was 84 meters long and could transport up to 250 tonnes of cargo at a speed of 850 kilometres per hour.

International Olympic Committee Withdraws Top Olympic Honour From Vladimir Putin

- The International Olympic Committee has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine. International Olympic Committee urged sports federations and organisers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia's participation in the World Cup play-offs next month is also in doubt after FIFA plans to allow them to play on neutral territory were dismissed as "unacceptable" by rivals. The IOC last week urged all international sports federations to cancel forthcoming events in Russia, angry at Moscow violating an "Olympic Truce" with its attack on Ukraine.

NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates seminar "Industry Connect 2022": Industry and Academia Synergy in New Delhi

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers has inaugurated the seminar on "Industry Connect 2022": Industry and Academia Synergy. The stress is on the importance of innovation & technology for the progress of the country and it is for the greater industry-academia partnerships. The innovative zeal and manufacturing quality products at scale will help the Prime Minister's vision of Make in India and Make for the World.
- During the Seminar, there were two technical sessions organised. Many officials from the CIPET, TDB (Technology Development Board) and various industry associations were also present on in this seminar.

SPORTS

Pooja Jatyan wins silver at Para Archery World Championships

- Para-archer, Pooja Jatyan has scripted history as she became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE. She lost to Italy's Patrilli Vincenza in the final to be content with the silver medal. India ended its campaign with two silver medals, a first for the country.
- India has won 2 Silver medals for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship. The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamyand Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India's account by winning a silver medal.

OBITUARY

West Indies spin legend Sonny Ramadhin passes away at 92

- West Indies spin legend, Sonny Ramadhin has passed away at the age of 92. He was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950. He made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950. Ramadhin ended up playing 43 Tests and taking 158 wickets at an average

of 28.98. Ramadhin played 184 first-class matches and scalped 758 wickets at an average of 20.24. He moved to England after taking retirement from the sport in the late 1960s.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day 2022: 01st March

- The Zero Discrimination Day is held every year on the 1st of March. The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.
- The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws.

Janaushadhi Diwas week 2022: 1st March to 7th March

- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022. On 7th March 2022, the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated. The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: “Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi”. The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.
- To create awareness about the usages of generic medicines and the benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November 2008 to provide quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

International Women’s Day Week 2022 begins

- The Women and Child Development Ministry celebrates the International Women’s Day week from the 1st of March as an Iconic Week as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. As a part of the week-long celebration, the Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns covering a variety of themes related to women’s safety and empowerment.
- This will mark an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equity and women’s empowerment but also to critically reflect on accomplishments and strive for a greater momentum towards gender equality. It will kick off tomorrow in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development to raise awareness on the safety and security of women.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

28th DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit 2022 Held virtually

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Gol hosted the 28th edition of the DST – CII Technology Summit on 23rd and 24th of February 2022. The Summit was held virtually. Singapore is the Partner Country for this year’s Technology Summit. Technology Summit has been very crucial in providing significant opportunities to build and improve bilateral technology partnerships over a period of more than two decades. Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon’ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of Science and Technology, Gol.

- This Technology summit will provide the right platform to further improve the interaction; will help to explore more opportunities in the businesses and investment areas, and to upgrade the bilateral cooperation.
- It is expected that the summit is going to be a turning point by leading to interaction amongst a big and important group of technology experts, government leaders, elite scholars, industry stalwarts and start-ups from both countries.
- The focus of the summit would be making Smarter Cities, Space, Industry 4.0 and Advanced Engineering, Healthcare, Precision Medicine, etc.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Indias GDP growth slows to 5.4% in Q3, estimated to rise 8.9% in FY22

- National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the second advance estimates of national accounts. The GDP growth rate projection as per NSO for 2021-22 (FY22) and 2020-21 (FY21) is given below:
- For 2021-22 (FY22)= 8.9% (earlier it was 9.2% in first advance estimates)
- For 2020-21 (FY21)= -6.6% (earlier it was -7.3%)
- According to NSO data, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector growth remained almost flat at 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2021-22, compared to a growth of 8.4 per cent a year ago.

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INTERNATIONAL

Canada clears world's 1st plant-based C-19 vaccine

- Canada became the first country in the world that has authorized the use of a plant-based C-19 vaccine. The two-dose vaccine of Medicigo Inc. (a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris), can be given to adults who are aged between 18 to 64, but little data is available on the shots received by people aged 65 and above.
- The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on a study conducted on 24,000 adults that showed the efficacy rate of the vaccine is 71% at preventing C-19 – although the tests were conducted before the omicron variant emerged. Covifenz is the name given to this vaccine. Canada agreed to buy 20 million doses of this plant-based vaccine, with an option to purchase 56 million additional doses.

NDB first multilateral agency to open office in Gift City

- New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift). New Development Bank (NDB) has received the approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City. The Indian office will help identify suitable projects and try to create a pipeline of potential financing for the bank. NDB also expects to partner with the newly launched National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) to support crucial infrastructure projects in India.
- NDB was set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) with the objective of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the

BRICS as well as other emerging markets in 2014. It became operational in 2015 and is headquartered in Shanghai, China. All the founding members equally own the bank.

NATIONAL

C-19 Reports via ICMR approved Laboratories 2022

- C-19 tests should only be done at ICMR-approved laboratories, as cyber fraudsters are exploiting the pandemic by impersonating workers of lesser-known labs and issuing false reports.
- The ICMR has released the list of the laboratories that are approved for the testing procedure. You can find the details of the ICMR approved laboratories here [ICMR approved laboratories](#).
- As many residents are opting for private labs for various C-19-related tests due to excessive traffic at civic and state-run hospitals.
- Many of them use their mobile phones, laptops, and computers to make appointments at neighbouring private labs online, allowing cyber thieves to take advantage of them.

Delhi Cabinet approves e-waste eco park

- The Delhi Cabinet has approved setting up India's first of its kind electronic-waste eco-park. It has also agreed to devise 'Delhi Film Policy 2022', as a thrust to promote tourism. The electronic waste eco-friendly park is to be built on 20 acres of land in Delhi. Nearly, 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste are thrown by Delhi every year. This eco-park will recycle, refurbish and dismantle e-waste in a scientific and safe way.
- This eco-park will act as an Integrated Facility, by engaging in dismantling, segregating, refurbishing, material-wise storage, testing and plastic recycling. It will also have precious metal extraction facilities, especially from Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) through high-end technologies.
- The Delhi Film Policy 2022 is to promote tourism in Delhi, making the National Capital- a Brand. It will also make it a hub for modern film-making, meeting European Standards.
- The government is to create an 'e-Film Clearance Portal' and provide aid of Rs 3 crores for film production. It has also decided to incentivize hiring locals in the cinema industry.

27th Chief of the Army Staff: M M Naravane will retire shortly

- In April, 2022, General Manoj Mukund Naravane will be retiring from the post of 27th chief of the Indian Army. General M M Naravane will be leaving behind a strong legacy that would be clear only with time. He worked as an Army Chief without any showoff or publicity, even though he was directly responsible for many important strategic decisions and tactics that will be changing the shape of the Army's outlook in the coming years.
- General MM Naravane (PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC) has done his schooling from Pune's Jnana Prabodhini Prashala. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Military Academy (IMA). Gen. Naravane was commissioned in the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in June 1980. He is also an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Higher Command Course. He has a Master's Degree in Defence Studies, M.Phil Degree in Defence and Management Studies, and is at present pursuing his Doctorate.

SPORTS

Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre lifts Second LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2022

- The finals of the 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship, 2022 were played between the teams of ITBP and Ladakh Scouts at the Ice Hockey Rink which is at NDS Sports Complex in Leh.

It was a very competitive game and full effort was put in by both the teams, but there's only one winner. The Ladakh Scouts won in the end and they lifted the 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship 2022.

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur has presented the trophies to the finalists in both men's and women's categories of this edition of LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship. Prizes were presented, and the chief guest praised the players and officials at the end. The tournament was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in Leh in collaboration with the Leh-based "Ladakh Winter Sports Club."

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed first woman chairperson of Sebi

- Former ICICI Banker, Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman, replacing Ajay Tyagi. She is the first woman chief of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body. She has over three decades of experience in the financial markets and was SEBI whole-time member (WTM) between April 5, 2017, and October 4, 2021. During her tenure at SEBI, she handled portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes and investment management.
- Buch is an alumna of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad and has a graduate degree in mathematics from St Stephen's College, New Delhi. She has nearly three decades of financial market experience.
- She started her career in 1989 with ICICI Bank where she worked in corporate finance, branding, treasury and loans, before moving to ICICI Securities. She was also a consultant to the New Development Bank, set up by the BRICS bloc of nations.

Twitter India Appoints Samiran Gupta To Lead Public Policy For Twitter In India

- Samiran Gupta will lead microblogging platform Twitter's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia. Prior to joining Twitter, Gupta was the head of stakeholder engagement in South Asia for ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).
- Gupta was associated with The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit organisation. He served there for seven years. He was also briefly the firm's head of stakeholder engagement for the South Asia market. The news of the appointment comes almost a year after the former Public Policy Director for India and South Asia Mahima Kaul resigned.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

NSE, BSE to introduce T+1 stock settlement from Feb 25

- India has become the second country after China to implement the T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner from 25 February. The system will be starting with select stocks and then gradually adding others to the fold. Instruction regarding this was issued by SEBI on January 01, 2022. Before this, the settlement period of stocks in India was T+2, i.e. two days after the actual buy/selling of stock.
- T means the trade/transaction day i.e. the day on which stock is brought/sold. and here T+1 means that the actual stock settlement will happen on the next day i.e +1 day. Ex: You buy a stock on Monday, you will get it in your Demat account Tuesday.

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INTERNATIONAL

Air Force Pulls Out Of Multilateral Air Exercise In UK Amid Ukraine Crisis

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided not to send its aircraft in the multilateral air exercise 'Cobra Warrior-22' in the United Kingdom, due to the deepening crisis in Ukraine, arising out of the Russian military attack in that country. The exercise is scheduled to take place from March 6 to 27, 2022, at Waddington in the United Kingdom. The announcement by the IAF comes just three days after it confirmed its participation in the drills.
- The announcement by the IAF came hours after India abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution on the Russian military aggression against Ukraine. India retained the option of reaching out to all relevant sides to find a middle ground and foster dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis.

NATIONAL

Mansukh Mandaviya launches ICMR/DHR Policy on Biomedical

- For medical professionals, scientists, and technicians in medical, dental, and paramedical institutes, the Union health ministry has launched the ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship. By promoting the Government of India's Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, it would assure multidisciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and establish an innovation-led ecosystem at medical institutes across the country."
- "This Policy will ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and develop an innovation led ecosystem at Medical Institutes across the country by promoting Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives," said Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, speaking at the policy launch. This policy is in line with Prime Minister Harper's motto of "Innovate, Patent, Produce, and Prosper."

Kochi airport to become power-positive with new solar plant from March 6

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is set to commission a 12 MWp solar power plant on March 6 near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala. With the commissioning of the new solar power plant, CIAL will get the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport. In 2015, CIAL became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy.
- The power plant boasts of 12 megawatt capacity on a 35-acre land where CIAL introduced a concept of terrain-based installation where the geographical characteristics of the area are retained and no changes are made in the gradient of the land.

Ministry of Education launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign

- The Ministry of Education has launched a campaign titled 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie'. The aim of this campaign is to promote the Bhasha Sangam mobile app, launched by the Ministry under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism. Bhasha Sangam mobile app was launched on October 31, 2021, by Minister of Education and Skill Development Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, to lay emphasis on the promotion of Indian languages.

- The app has been developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India and allows users to learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages. The 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfie with the certificate using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie.

'Operation Ganga': Evacuating Indians from Ukraine

- The government of India has launched an evacuation mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension. Due to the ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the safety and security of the nations. Due to this many Indian nationals were left stranded in Ukraine. To help the Indian citizens come back to the country, the government of India decided to conduct a special evacuation mission named Operation Ganga. The government will bring back Indian nationals via flight.

SPORTS

RAFAEL NADAL WINS 15TH CONSECUTIVE MATCH IN 2022 TO CLAIM MEXICAN OPEN WIN OVER CAMERON NORRIE

- In tennis, Rafael Nadal (Spain) beat British number one Cameron Norrie 6-4 6-4 to win the singles title of Mexican Open 2022 (also known as Acapulco title). This is the 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season. This is the fourth time that Rafael Nadal has won the Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020. Men's double title winners are Feliciano Lopez (Spain) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).

India secures 8 medals at Singapore Weightlifting

- India concluded its campaign at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 with eight medals, including six golds and a silver and bronze each. Each of the eight Indian lifters who registered for Singapore International won medals and secured their spots at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, scheduled to be held in July-August. India now has total of 12 weightlifters qualified for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.

India's Sadia Tariq wins gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship

- Indian Wushu player Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in the junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022. The 15-year-old Sadia Tariq hails from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. The Wushu Stars Championship is being held in Moscow, Russia from February 22 to 28. From India, 38 players, including 23 junior and 15 senior participated in the championship.
- Earlier in the day, former Sports Minister and Athens Olympics medalist Rajyavardhan Rathore took to social media and laud the gold-winning effort from Sadia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took to social media to wish the young Wushu champion.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Polio National Immunization Day 2022 :27th February

- In 2022, the Government of India has organised the Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID) (also known as "Polio Ravivar") on February 27, 2022, to give two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child in the country under the age of five. Over 15 crore children will be covered under the drive across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts. The National Polio Immunization

Drive for 2022 was launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandavia on February 26, 2022.

- In India, one nationwide NID and two Sub-National Immunization Day (SNIDs) for polio is held every year to maintain population immunity against wild poliovirus and to sustain its polio-free status.
- India was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries in 2012 and in 2013 the entire Southeast Asia Region was declared Polio free.

