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News in Short





KARNATAKA ISSUES

- **Ramanagar** district administration is planning to launch “**seri-tourism**” in association with the tourism department
- Karnataka Forest Department has deployed a **sniffer dog** to detect wildlife crimes in **Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve** in Chamarajanagar. The German Shepherd named Jhansi underwent a seven-month training at Chandigarh by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force.
- The High Court of Karnataka quashed the State Government’s 2019 notification of handing over **Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake Bird Conservation Reserve** to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for maintenance. Court is of the opinion that Chief Wildlife Warden is the competent authority to control, manage and maintain the bird conservation reserve who is appointed under Wildlife Protection Act
- **'Grama One' service** was launched in 100 villages in Karnataka’s Davanagere district as a pilot project and now it is expected to be launched in more villages by the e-governance department and revenue department. It is Envisaged to be a single-point assistance centre for all **citizen-centric activities** at the village level which include G2C services, banking services, RTI queries and so on
- Bengaluru residents complain about glitches in **Sahaya 2.0 redressal app**. It is a app by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike where citizens to register their grievances where the grievance modules of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, BESCOM, BWSSB, BMTCL, BMRCL, BMRDA and BDA
- Karnataka Chief Minister told the Centre that the state is opposed to the implementation of the **Kasturirangan Committee report on Western Ghats**. The committee recommended instead of the total area of Western Ghats, only 37% (i.e. 60,000 sq. km.) of the total area be brought under ESA
- The **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** is in charge of 204 lakes here, of which only 20 lakes are free from any encroachments, data released by the civic body itself revealed
- The **State Election Commission (SEC)** moved the Karnataka High Court against the state government for passing the **Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2021**. The new law takes away powers earlier conferred on SEC for fixing the number of seats, carrying out the exercise of delimitation, and fixing the reservation of seats for TPs and ZPs
- Around 130 contractual employees of the **Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI)** have been agitating against the company after they were terminated from service. The ITI is a



public sector undertaking (PSU) company headquartered in Bengaluru under the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication, Government of India.

- The **Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA)** will soon start a Legal Services Clinic in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to resolve grievances related to property khata and other issues by offering free legal assistance to citizens.
- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc.)** and their collaborators have identified a key role played by hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) gas in suppressing the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Increased H₂S was found to have a direct effect on reducing the rate at which the virus multiplies in HIV-infected human immune cells.
- The BMTc, in collaboration with the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Board, is issuing **Sahayahasta bus passes**, which can be used for free travel, to **construction workers** registered with the board.
- With 94.57% of the 4.89 crore eligible population in the State having been jabbed with the first dose, **Karnataka has moved up to the first position among larger States in terms of first dose vaccination.** Karnataka, which stood in the third position in first dose administration till a week ago, is now followed by Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh where 94.46% and 93.83% of the target population has been covered with one dose, according to data from CoWIN.
- To ease tax burden on industries and encourage entrepreneurs to set up units, the State Cabinet decided to create a **separate slab of property tax to be levied on industries/industrial areas** developed by KIADB and KSSIDC falling under urban local bodies (ULBs) This will be done by bringing in amendments to the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, and the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964
- Noted Kannada writer **Rajeshwari Tejaswi**, wife of renowned literateur late KP Poornachandra Tejaswi passed & The daughter-in-law of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu, Rajeshwari (84)
- The **Karnataka Appellate Tribunal (KAT)** should try to adjudicate cases filed before it as quickly as possible, especially in matters pertaining to notices against illegal constructions, the High Court of Karnataka has said. KAT is established under K.A.T Acts of 1976, is Common Appellate Authority for the Revenue Department, Department of Co-operation & the Commercial Taxes Department attached to the Revenue Department.
- Sandur Tahasildar was relieved under premise of **Breach of Privilege.** Right and immunity enjoyed by legislatures, in which legislators are granted protection against civil or criminal liability for actions done or statements made in the course of their legislative duties. It is decided as per **Article 194 in State legislatures.**
- Karnataka, unveiled the e-sahamathi platform, a consent-driven system that authorities say will give citizens complete control on sharing their personal data with private



companies. Private or public companies and nonprofits willing to use the **e-sahamathi platform** to access citizen data will have to pay a one-time registration fee of Rs 50,000.

- Prize money for gallantry awardees hiked fivefold in Karnataka. Prize money for **Paramveer Chakra awardees** that was earlier Rs 25 lakh has been increased to Rs 1.50 crore
- **BBMP** has drawn out a **Index** to highlight the **roads that need repair**. It is a colour-coded index based on the extent of damage and present condition.
- **Dharwad tops Karnataka with maximum area-wise crop loss due to heavy rains** followed by Belgaum and Tumakuru
- Karnataka recorded a sudden rise in the number of **adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)**. AEFI is Any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine.
- **Tata Group** may lose control over 942-acre tea estate in Karnataka. It is in accordance with a local court judgement. Tata Coffee's petition to get the description of the land reversed to '**redeemed sagu**' in revenue records from its 2008 entry as 'forest' was dismissed recently
- Karnataka has begun issuing **BH ('Bharat') series** of registration numbers for a select group of vehicle owners, to enable smooth transfer of government employees from one state to another. A vehicle bearing BH registration mark shall not require assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one State to another
- The Karnataka Assembly passed four Bills, including one that proposes to **upgrade the iconic University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) into an autonomous institution like an IIT**. Sir M Visvesvaraya in 1917, is currently a constituent college of the Bangalore University.
- The **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)** has been re-accredited for five years by **EQUIS**. EQUIS is an institutional assessment, improvement and accreditation system for business and management schools This is the second time that IIMB has received accreditation for five years, the longest period that EQUIS offer
- **Karnataka** ranked among the **top states** for the **highest disposal rates** of workplace sexual harassment cases filed against government officials. Complaints were registered at the **Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (SHe-Box)**, the online complaint system mandated under the 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013
- The BBMP, which has resumed repairing broken roads after a long gap, plans to use the **micro-surfacing technology** to improve the **motorability of six stretches**. The new method of road repair, touted to provide a smooth road surface, involves a mixture of just three to six millimetres of bitumen aggregate along with asphalt emulsion.



- Government of Karnataka would **increase the compensation for crop loss in dry land** from ₹6,800 to ₹13,500 per hectare while the compensation for irrigated crops would go up from ₹13,600 to ₹25,000 per hectare. The compensation for horticultural crops would increase from ₹18,000 to ₹28,000 per hectare.
- Karnataka government to convince Centre on **ST tag for Kaadu Gollas**. It is as per Article 340
- **BMTC** started **VANITA SANGATI** programme. It is a scheme by state government to issue **Free bus pass for garment workers**
- Two **earthquakes** of magnitude 2.9 and 3.0 were recorded in Chickballapur by the **Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre**
- The **Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM)** has launched the 'EV Mithra' app to help residents locate electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations in the city.
- The **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** has accredited city-based **Kristu Jayanti College** (Autonomous) with A++ grade. It is the second institution in the country and the first in Karnataka to have achieved the highest CGPA.
- Centre has asked the Karnataka government to complete the construction of 2.02 crore houses under **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin** (PMAY-G), by August 15, 2022
- The Karnataka government announced a reduction of the tax levied on **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)** from the existing 28% to 18%.
- Plans afoot to **uproot Invasive lantana bushes from BRT reserve, Bandipur** in Karnataka. They are native of America
- **Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL)** was awarded the first prize in National Energy Conservation 2021 in the category of State performance awards (Group-1) sector.
- A new technology accelerator and incubation centre was launched at the **CSIR-NAL campus in Bengaluru** to nurture aerospace start-ups.
- **Sachivalaya Vahini portal** of Karnataka government taken down. It will be replaced soon. It was used by legislators to address issues of locals
- **BMTC** to induct **E-Buses** and **BSVI buses** to its fleet
- State government has decided to extend the **Raitha Vidya Nidhi scheme** for girl students of Classes VIII and IX standard. Launched in August 2021 the scheme supports the children of farmers in the state for higher education
- The **animal adoption fee** in zoos across Karnataka has been hiked. A decision in this regard was taken at the 149th board meeting of the **Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK)**, which controls the zoos in the State. The species have been categorized in diamond class, gold class, silver class, and bronze class. The adoption is possible for a sum of ₹1,000 to ₹3,00,000 per annum.
- Karnataka has designed a new technology platform that will not only allow online applications for welfare schemes, but also score citizens to determine who needs a benefit the most, a move that will come in handy when there are too many applicants. The platform is named **Suvidha**, functions directly under Chief Minister



- In a move that will help thousands of families living in protected forest areas that are not declared as tiger reserves, the Forest Department of Karnataka has proposed to enhance the **relocation package** per family from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh. As per the guidelines issued by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, families choosing to move out of a core area can opt for a financial package or accept the rehabilitation arranged by the Forest department. This is to avoid Man-animal conflict
- Governance department of Karnataka has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and State Bank of India (SBI) for enabling and implementing 'e-RUPI'. E-RUPI is a electronic voucher based digital payment system “e-RUPI” developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- The draft active mobility Bill has been published by the **Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT)**. It aims to protect the rights of pedestrians and cyclists to safe, accessible, and connected pedestrian and cycling networks in urban areas in the State
- Birth anniversary of **Kuvempu** recently celebrated(29 December)
- Efforts are on to include the Buddhist site excavated in and around **Sannati**, on the banks of the Bhima in Chittapur taluk of Kalaburagi district, in the **World Heritage site** list of UNESCO
- S.T. Bhoopal, former Mysore University footballer and well-known administrator, passed away
- Former Karnataka chief justice N K Sodhi passes away



NATIONAL ISSUES

- More than six lakh Indians **renounced citizenship** in the past five years, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** informed the Lok Sabha. It is done in accordance of **Citizenship Act, 1955**
- The **Uttarakhand Government** recently withdrew the **Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act**. It was legislated in 2019 for management of char dham temples through the board
- **Admiral R Hari Kumar** took charge as the **new chief of the Indian Navy** after incumbent Admiral Karambir Singh retired from service.
- An international team of researchers has discovered a **new marine reptile**. The specimen, a metre-long skull, has been named **Kyhytysuka sachicarum**.
- **Twitter's new CEO Parag Agrawal**, at 37 years of age, has become the **youngest CEO leading an S&P 500 company**, only slightly younger than Meta Platform Inc CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Agrawal, a graduate from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay's 2005 batch, replaced Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey, who stepped down from the executive role.
- The average contribution of stubble burning to **Delhi's PM2.5 level** in November was 14.6%, according to data from the government-run monitoring agency **SAFAR** (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research).
- The World Health Organization has classified a new variant of the novel coronavirus, which belongs to a lineage named B.1.1.529, as a 'variant of concern', and named is **Omicron**.
- **Nagaland** is celebrating its **59th Statehood Day** this year 2021. Nagaland was granted statehood on **December 1, 1963**, with Kohima being declared as its capital. The state has experienced insurgency, as well as an inter-ethnic conflict, since the 1950s.
- PM condoles the passing away of renowned **Telugu film lyricist Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry**
- On **1 December 1965**, India's first line of defense, the **Border Security Force (BSF)** was formed.
- **Gujarat** has pipped Maharashtra to emerge the **largest manufacturing hub** in the country
- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated a scheme "**SMILE – Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**", which includes sub-scheme – "Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging". This scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons, who are engaged in the act of begging. The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages and so on.
- As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – to celebrate 75 years of Independence, REC Limited, a public infrastructure finance company under the Ministry of Power organized a '**Bijli Utsav**' in **Sonapur village of Kamrup district and adjoining villages in Assam**



- Chief Minister has sought the NITI Aayog's assistance in getting **special status for Andhra Pradesh**. Special Status is guaranteed by the Constitution through an Act that has to be passed by 2/3rds majority in both the houses of Parliament that empowers legislative and political rights
- The Centre has **extended the timeline** for the implementation of the **Smart Cities Mission to June 2023**. Reason cited being Pandemic. It was launched by MOHUA in 2015 for Developing **citizen-friendly and self-sustainable urban settlements**
- **Victory of India in 1971 war** is being commemorated. This war led to creation of **independent country of Bangladesh**
- President of India Pays Homage to **Dr Rajendra Prasad** on His Birth Anniversary. He was first President of India
- Indian-American Gita Gopinath, the chief economist of International Monetary Fund, is being promoted as IMF's First Deputy Managing Director
- PM inaugurated **INFINITY FORUM**, a fintech initiative of International Financial Services Centres Authority. It is a Flagship financial technology event uniting the world's leading minds in policy, business, and technology to explore and advance the biggest ideas in FinTech
- An increase in discharge of sewage from cities and towns has resulted in the **deterioration of water quality** in the Periyar, according to the Kerala State Pollution Control Board. It is the **longest river of Kerala** and called as **Lifeline of Kerala**
- Longest migration route of **lesser florican** from Rajasthan tracked. The latest instance of migration detection is that of a male lesser florican covering a distance of 1,000 km from its breeding ground was recorded.
- Opening Ceremony of **Gateway of India** is being celebrated. The gateway was opened on **4th December 1924**, by the Viceroy, the **Earl of Reading**
- **Cyclone Jawad** to bring heavy rain to Odisha, Bengal and A.P.
- Every year the **Indian Navy Day** is celebrated on **December 4**. This year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated on the following theme " Indian Navy – Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive".
- Centre has refused to accept Odisha state demand of declaring **Paika revolution** as first war of independence. Paikas were peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who offered military services to the king.
- Prime Minister has greeted the **people of Goa** on the day of the **Feast of St. Francis Xavier**.
- A well-organised **Argentina** defeated six-time champion Germany 4-2 and won the title after a 16-year gap in the men's Junior hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium .



- Event to **commemorate 100 years of Public accounts committee** celebrated. The committee is entrusted with duties of accounting.
- Veteran journalist **Vinod Dua** passes away. He was a pioneer in broadcast journalism with stints in Doordarshan and NDTV.
- 11th Edition of **Exercise EKUVERIN** between **India & Maldives** will be conducted at Kadhdhoo Island, Maldives from 06 to 19 December 2021.
- PM condoles the passing away of **former Andhra Pradesh CM Shri K. Rosaiah**
- Buoyed by the success of its innovative **Project RE-HAB** (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) in Karnataka, **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has now replicated the project in Assam. **“Bee-fences”** are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.
- A copy of the Bhagavad Gita, a Parker pen, a Gandhi topi (cap) and a tulsi mala are some of the personal effects of **former Prime Minister Morarji Desai** that will make their way to the Museum of Prime Ministers, New Delhi
- **Kazhuveli** notified as **16th bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu**. It is declared by Governor on advice of State government as per recommendations of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden under **Wildlife conservation act 1972**
- A tiny snail with a golden-yellow shell found in the Edappally canal in Kochi has been flagged as an invasive species. It is named as **PHYSELLA ACUTA**. A invasive species is one that is not native to a specific location and has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health.
- Researchers have developed a chewing gum that they say can potentially reduce transmission of the **SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus**. The chewing gum is laced with a plant-grown protein, which serves as a **“trap” for the virus**. The chewing gum targets the virus in the saliva, and does so by trapping it with the ACE2 protein.
- **Afforestation funds** released to States by CAMPA. Every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land. The funds can be used for various purposes
- Nagaland CM calls for scrapping of **AFSPA** that gives armed forces power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”
- President of India visits **Raigad fort** and paid tributes to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**. It was power centre of Shivaji and holds tomb of Shivaji
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issues advisory for the General Public on **PM Kusum Scheme**. The scheme under ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022



- A Curtain Raiser Event for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise, **PANEX-21**, for the member nations of BIMSTEC countries, was held recently
- To improve leadership skills of grassroots women political leaders, the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** launched a pan-India capacity building programme, 'She is a Changemaker' for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered on 2nd November, 2021 between Ministry of Rural Development and Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd. to allow the Self Help Groups (SHGs) producers including the artisans, weavers and craftsmen to access national markets through the Flipkart Samarth programme.
- **Bhasha Sangam** is a mobile app, developed in both Android and iOS platforms, to give users familiarity with common expressions of daily conversation in Scheduled Indian languages. The app aims to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat by enabling people across India to learn different languages of different states of India and come closer to their culture.
- Cabinet extends **PMAY-Rural plan till March 2024**. It aims at providing a pucca house, with basic amenities, to all houseless householder and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated house
- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India **kept key policy rates unchanged**. Policy rates include repo rate, reverse repo rate etc
- The **Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru**, (IIPMB), celebrated its 29th foundation day. HQ in Bengaluru, it is an **autonomous institution under Ministry of Commerce**, Government of India set up in 1993 to provide professional management education in the field of plantations and associated agribusiness sector
- Two species of plants first collected by botanists more than 125 years ago from Meghalaya and the Andaman Islands are now extinct in the wild.
- The Union Cabinet approved the funding and implementation of the **Ken-Betwa river interlinking project**. The Project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP
- **NASA** launched its new **Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD)** — the agency's first-ever laser communications system — from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- The Prime Minister has paid tributes to **Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji** on his martyrdom day. He was the 9th sikh guru
- Chief of Defence Staff **General Bipin Rawat** and his wife Madhulika Rawat have been confirmed to be among the 13 people who died in the IAF Mi-17V5 helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu
- Assamese poet **Nilmani Phookan Jr** has won the **56th Jnanpith Award**, and Konkani novelist **Damodar Mauzo** has won the **57th Jnanpith Award**. It is the highest literary award of India
- PM congratulates **H. E. Olaf Scholz** on being elected as **Federal Chancellor of Germany**



- Ahmedabad-based **Balkrishna Doshi** will receive the **Royal Gold Medal 2022 by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)**, the world's highest honour for architecture.
- The performance of Centre's **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme** in the states has not been up to the mark, the Committee on Empowerment of Women has said in its latest report. The scheme was started in 2015 to promote gender equality
- More than One Lakh pensioners are currently being serviced by Principal Controller of Communication Accounts/ Controller of Communication Accounts offices all over India via **SAMPANN project** that provides direct credit of pension into the bank accounts of pensioners
- India's **retail inflation** accelerated in Nov. to 5.1%. Retail Inflation, refers to the rate of inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is an index that tracks the daily consumption of households and the change in the price of the goods and services these households spend on.
- **H5N1 influenza** outbreak reported in Kerala. H5N1 virus causes a highly infectious, severe respiratory disease in birds
- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** virtually launched "**Certification Course on Home Energy Audit (HEA)**". A Home Energy Audit (HEA) enables appropriate accounting, quantification, verification, monitoring, and analysis of energy use of various energy-consuming equipment and appliances in a house
- PM pays tributes to **C. Rajagopalachari** on his Jayanti
- **South Western Railway (SWR)**, which was the first railway zone in the country to implement **UTS mobile app ticketing** (for other than suburban trains), has seen good response to the initiative and the application has slowly gained popularity.
- NITI Aayog in partnership with Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, launched **Convoke 2021-22**. Convoke is a National research Symposium which aims at addressing challenges in imparting education and strengthening its quality with special focus on all teachers, educationists, heads of schools across India.
- Union Law Minister told the Lok Sabha that the Ministry of Home Affairs had no proposal under consideration to scrap **Section 124A of IPC** that deals with sedition. Bring or attempt to bring hatred or contempt, or attempt to excite disaffection towards the government is called **Sedition** and it attracts punishment of imprisonment for life or three years
- **NEDFI** Announces **Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme** for the Artisans under Ministry of Doner. It is to develop the petty artisans of the North Eastern Region. North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDF) is a premier financial institution in the North-Eastern Region with its head office at Dispur, Guwahati



- Union Government is working on a plan to use stubble as a **biofuel** and manure as part of an effort to deal with stubble burning. Biofuels are hydrocarbon fuel produced from an organic matter
- The **UN General Assembly** has conferred **Observer Status** on the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. It is a Alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India with most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn
- **Karnataka won** in Elite Group B of the **Vijay Hazare Trophy cricket tournament**
- **Kerala Governor** has expressed desire to quit as **chancellor of a state university**. In most cases, the Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state.
- An ancient Indian idol of a goddess missing from a temple in Uttar Pradesh, presumed stolen over 40 years ago, will soon find its way back home to India after it was discovered in a garden in a country home in England. The Yogini, which refers to the divine feminine in Hinduism, dates back to the 8th century and went missing from the village of Lokhari in Banda district around the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- Prime Minister paid **deposit insurance** to depositors who could not access their money as their banks faced financial crises. It is providing insurance protection to the depositor's money by receiving a premium by **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** under RBI to protect depositors if a bank fails.
- **India International Science Festival (IISF)** is an annual event considered to be the biggest platform in the country which brings together students, the public, researchers, innovators and artists from around the globe. IISF 2021 is being organised jointly by the MoES, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, in collaboration with Vijnana Bharati.
- **National Highway 334B** targeted for early completion. NH-334B which starts at UP/Haryana border (Baghpat) and ends at Rohna will provide seamless connectivity from UP to Rajasthan border via Haryana ensuring users can bypass Delhi traffic.
- An increase in the forest density and the big cat prey base, especially deer, had attracted a **Royal Bengal tiger**, a first such sighting in 23 years, to the **Buxa reserve** in Airpurduar district in north Bengal. It is believed that a favourable habitat at the tiger reserve would invite more tigers, which had migrated to neighbouring Bhutan. The state shares a contiguous range of the protected area with Bhutan.
- **Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)** designed for Indian Naval warships was successfully flight tested. It was designed by DRDO. It is designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40 to 50 km and at an altitude of around 15 km.



- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** tested several weapons over the last three days including the extended range **Pinaka missile** with the Army and a flight test of the indigenously designed and developed **Stand-off Anti-Tank Missile (SANT)**
- The **400-metre-long Kashi Vishwanath Corridor** in Varanasi connecting the ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva to the banks of the Ganges was inaugurated by Prime Minister
- President of India pays homage to **Pranab Mukherjee** on his Birth Anniversary
- The **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021** was passed by Lok Sabha. Seeks to rectify details of list of Drugs
- **Wholesale price inflation** spikes in India to a record as food, fuel surge. Wholesale price inflation is measured by Wholesale price Index. WPI measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses
- The Reserve Bank of India announced a **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), to strengthen applicable supervisory tools. PCA was introduced by RBI in 2002 is structured early-intervention mechanism for banks that become undercapitalised due to poor asset quality, or vulnerable due to loss of profitability.
- The Centre has approached the Supreme Court seeking modification of its order directing that all transmission cables in the habitat of the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** be laid underground. It is state animal of Rajasthan
- Supreme Court of India permitted the Central Government for double lane widening of the roads for the **Char Dham Project**. The project aims at providing all weather-connectivity to four holy towns in Uttarakhand- Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath
- PM congratulates **Harnaaz Sandhu** on being crowned Miss Universe
- The Prime Minister has greeted the people on **Gita Jayanti**. The day symbolises the birth of Srimad Bhagavad-Gita, the sacred text of the Hindus.
- December 15 marks the death anniversary of the great “unifier of the nation”, **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel**
- **India votes against UN draft resolution on climate change**. It Aims to link UNSC to climate change
- The Cabinet has given its approval to extend **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** for another five years till 2026. PMKSY was initiated in 2015 with a aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation
- **Durga Puja in Kolkata** has been included by **UNESCO** in its representative list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. As per UNESCO Intangible Heritage Includes



traditions or living expressions inherited from ancestors such as oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, social practices, festive events and knowledge and practices concerning nature, universe or traditional crafts

- An internet-based platform called **'VIHANGAM'** integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was inaugurated recently
- December 16, **"Bijoy Dibosh"**, is celebrated in **Bangladesh** as the day marking the country's formal victory over **Pakistan** with help of India
- The Sir Arthur Cotton Atreyapuram Pootharekula Manufacturers Welfare Association, which operates from East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, has filed an application seeking **geographical indication (GI)** tag for the famous **Atreyapuram Pootharekulu**, also known as paper sweet.
- The Supreme Court allowed **Maharashtra to hold the traditional bullock cart** racing event, saying there was no reason to disallow it in the state when similar sports were going on in other places across the country.
- The **Jharkhand government** launched the **Safe and Responsible Migration Initiative (SRMI)** to enable systemic registration of migrant workers for monitoring and analysis in the source as well as the destination districts. To begin with, the government will have two help desks—which will be known as 'labour consulates'—in Ladakh Union Territory as well as in Kerala.
- With an aim to strengthen the cyber security ecosystem in Government organizations in the country, the National e-Governance Division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is conducting a deep dive training program for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)
- To create awareness and emphasize such strategies of natural farming, the Government of **Gujarat is organizing the National Conclave on Natural Farming**
- IMD has predicted a **cold wave** in Northwest India. IMD defines a cold wave qualitatively as **"a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed."**
- The centre has given "in-principle" approval for setting up of **six nuclear power reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra**. It is built in cooperation of **France**
- On the lines of Delhi, preparations are underway to implement the **'happiness curriculum'** in primary schools of Uttar Pradesh under a pilot project. Curriculum calls for schools in India to promote development in cognition, language, literacy, numeracy and the arts along with addressing the well-being and happiness of students
- **Loss of Aravalli hills** because of unchecked mining activities would result in the **sandstorms travelling to NCR and Delhi** according to new study
- An **Indian desert cat** has been spotted for the first time in **Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR)**. They are cats found in deserts and can survive without water
- Nearly 2,000 pet and stray dogs in Amravati city were affected by **canine parvovirus virus**. Highly contagious viral disease with no vaccine
- **DRDO** successfully tests nuclear-capable **Agni Prime missile** from APJ **Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha**. New generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles. It is Surface-to-surface ballistic missile



- One-year celebrations of the **Bodoland Territorial Region Council (BTR)** was recently held. The **second Bodo accord, 2003** led to the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) under the provisions of the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**
- 60th anniversary of the **liberation of Goa** was celebrated. The Liberation of Goa was a military action undertaken with code-named **Operation Vijay** by the Indian Armed Forces involved air, sea and land strikes for over 36 hours during which Goa, territories of Diu, Daman were liberated from 450 years of Portuguese rule in 1961
- **Delhi** hosted the Grand Finale of **All India Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav**. Objective is to Select the top dancing talent from across the country and Provide them the opportunity to perform during the Republic Day Parade 2022
- India's **K. Srikanth's** won **Silver BWF World badminton championship**. He is the **first male to win the title**
- Peregrine Racing's **Kyle Aditya Kumaran** did India proud by winning the silver in the **Rotax Max Challenge Grand Final**, the annual karting competition for Rotax National champions from over 100 countries, at the Bahrain International karting circuit
- **Hyderabad Strikers** won **Tennis Premier League** of India
- The draft paper of the **Delimitation Commission** has proposed seven additional Assembly seats for **Jammu and Kashmir** — six in Jammu division and one in Kashmir valley. For the first time, the commission proposed reserving nine seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) on the basis of population. Seven seats are proposed for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community. Delimitation is act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in population done as per **Article 82**
- Centre has decided to amend the **Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002** to plug the loopholes in the Act. Act was passed to govern cooperatives that are spread across more than one state
- A committee examining the income criteria for determining **EWS** is likely to submit its report to the Centre soon. It was set as per **103rd Amendment to the Constitution**
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** issued an order **suspending futures trading** in paddy (non-basmati), wheat, Bengal gram (chana dal), mustard seeds and its derivatives, soyabean and its derivatives, crude palm oil and green gram (moong dal) for a year, in a move believed to stem rising prices.
- Ministry of External Affairs said **Pradeep Kumar Rawat**, a Mandarin-speaking career diplomat, will take over as **envoy in Beijing**.
- **India's biggest drone show** organised in **Lucknow** as part of Amrit Mahotsav series of events on First War of Independence of 1857
- The **Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021** was recently passed in Union Legislature. The main aim of the bill - Enables the **linking of electoral roll** data with the Aadhaar ecosystem. It is not compulsory or mandatory
- **Chillai Kalan**, harshest 40 days of winter begins in Kashmir
- **Albino Indian Flapshell** turtle was recently spotted in Sirnapalli forest in Telangana. It is a subset of Flapshell turtle with genetic disorder



- **National Mathematics Day** is observed every year on December 22 to celebrate the life and work of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, a great mathematician who was born on this day in 1887.
- Raksha Mantri witnessed a Multi-Agency Exercise (MAE) and inaugurated an equipment display of **PANEX-21**, a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise for BIMSTEC member nations, organised at College of Military Engineering in Pune, Maharashtra
- Taking the Prime Minister Modi's unique school visit campaign ahead, Indian wrestler and Tokyo Olympics Bronze Medallist **Bajrang Punia** will visit Haryana's Aarohi Model School in Panipat on December 23rd and meet the young students to talk about the importance of **Santulit Aahaar** (Balanced Diet), Fitness and Sports. The special school campaign is jointly being organized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and was started by Neeraj Chopra
- The first batch of next-generation **Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicles (AERV)** was formally inducted into the Indian Army. It was Indigenously designed and developed by **DRDO**
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the maiden flight test of indigenously developed **surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay'**, from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- **National Farmers' Day** is celebrated across the country on **December 23** to honour India's farmers. It marks the birth anniversary of the nation's fifth **PM Choudhary Charan Singh**.
- Scientists have resumed tagging of **Olive Ridley turtles** at **Rushikulya** rookery along the Odisha coast, which would help them identify the migration path and places visited by the marine reptiles after congregation and nesting. Researchers of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) are carrying out tagging of the Olive Ridelys at three mass nesting sites — Gahirmatha, Devi River mouth and Rushikulya.
- The **Maharashtra** Assembly unanimously cleared the **Shakti Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020**, on crimes against women and children.
- The **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** has regained the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accreditation. NDTL is the only sports dope testing agency in India functioning under Ministry of Youth Affairs
- The **DRDO** has successfully flight-tested **ABHYAS - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of the Bay of Bengal in Odisha.
- President of India Unveils a Statue of Late Shri **P.N. Panicker**. Known as the Father of the Library Movement of Kerala, his death anniversary, has been observed in Kerala as Vayanadinam (Reading Day) since 1996.
- The Indian Army launched a contemporary messaging application named, **ASIGMA (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application)** which is a new generation, state of the art, web based application developed entirely in-house by team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army. The application is being deployed on the Army's internal network as a replacement of Army Wide Area Network (AWAN) messaging application



- According to a recent statement issued by RBI, **Financial Inclusion** has helped monetary policy transmission in India. Financial Inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way
- **INS Khukri**, the first of the indigenously built Missile Corvettes, was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has extended the implementation date of **card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation norms** by six months. Tokenisation means replacement of actual card details with an alternate code dubbed as “token”. The token will be unique for a combination of card, token requestor and device. This token is used to do card transactions in contactless mode at point-of-sale terminals, code payments and quick response.
- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, VSM assumed charge as Director General, **Project Seabird**. Project seabird is codename of construction of **INS Kadamba at Karwar**
- Union home minister will inaugurate the **Bharat Darshan Park** in Punjabi Bagh area of **South Delhi** built with **scrap and waste material**.
- PM pays tributes to **Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya** on his Jayanti
- Good Governance Index 2021 recently released. The index has been prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- India has imposed anti-dumping duty on Chinese products. Anti-dumping duties are levied on goods that are imported at a substantially low price in the originating or exporting country.
- The **increase in post-monsoon rainfall in Karnataka** has accentuated the growing concerns that the **shifting monsoon patterns** being witnessed in recent years is induced by climate change and, in turn, could have a bearing on agriculture and crop output.
- **Phishing** attacks on central ministry officials get sharper, targeted. It is Phenomenon where the attacker steals sensitive and confidential information from the user.
- As part of deployment undertaken by Indian Navy under **Mission SAGAR**, Indian Naval Ship Kesari entered Port of Maputo, Mozambique. It is Part of the government’s outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19.
- A recent high-level meeting in New Delhi decided to constitute a committee to study the possibility of withdrawing the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** from the State.
- Sail Training Ship **INS Sudarshini**, was deployed to the Gulf as part of Indian Navy’s endeavour to enhance maritime cooperation with the friendly navies in the region
- The Union Home Ministry has refused to renew the **FCRA registration** of Missionaries of Charity (MoC), a Catholic religious congregation set up by Nobel laureate Mother Teresa due to some adverse inputs. Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) ACT and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Minister for Road Transport and Highways asked automobile manufacturers to manufacture flex-fuel vehicles complying with BS-6 norms within six months. **FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLES (FFVS)** are Modified version of vehicles that run both on gasoline and



doped petrol with different levels of ethanol blends and have compatible engines to run on more than 84 percent ethanol blended petrol.

- **Vikram Misri** former Ambassador to China has been appointed Deputy National Security Adviser
- **NITI Aayog**, has released the **health index of States** and Union Territories taking 2019-2020 as the reference year. **Kerala** has again emerged as the top ranking state in terms of overall health performance
- **Rare black stick-like drawings of human beings** have been found in two caves at Paibogula village in **Kurnool district** close to the Kundu River. These sites have rock art in black, red, and white pigments, along with cupules or cup marks of varying sizes, which need to be studied further for the exact dating
- Seven-term **Rajya Sabha MP Mahendra Prasad** passes away. He was the founder of Aristo Pharmaceuticals
- **Edward. O. Wilson**, the trailblazing U.S. scientist, professor and author whose study of insects and clarion call to protect earth earned him the nickname “Darwin’s natural heir” passed away
- **Success of PMEGP** was discussed recently. The program was launched in 2008, aims at promoting self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises, where subsidy up to 35% is provided by the Government through Ministry of MSME for loans up to ₹25 lakhs in manufacturing and ₹10 lakhs in the service sector.
- **Stock markets regulator SEBI** recently approved a **ceiling on the Initial Public Offering (IPO)** proceeds to be used to make unspecified acquisitions. Initial Public Offering is a process by which a privately held company becomes a publicly-traded company by offering its shares to the public for the first time.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** handed over technology for indigenous **extreme cold weather clothing system (ECWS)** to 05 Indian companies. It will be used for Indian army
- Senior journalist **Prem Shankar Jha** and Reuters’ photojournalist **Danish Siddiqui**, who died while reporting in Afghanistan in July, will be awarded with the top two **RedInk Awards** by the **Mumbai Press Club**
- The total funds disbursed under **Rythu Bandhu**, **Telangana** government’s **direct benefit transfer scheme for farmers**, will soon touch Rs 50,000 crore. The scheme provides Financial aid of Rs. 4000 will be given to the farmers of Telangana before start of every sowing season
- The **State Government of Goa** approved a policy permitting mining companies to export **low-grade iron ore**, paving the way for resumption of mining activity that has been stalled since 2018.
- **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) Rankings** was recently released. It is initiative of the **Union Education Ministry** to rank systematically all major higher education institutions in India with indicators related to innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship development among students and faculty members. The top rank has been bagged by the IIT, Madras



- All-woman team performs **Tholpavakkoothu**, a first in history, breaking age-old conventions. Rajitha Ramachandra Pulavar, who led the performance at the District Panchayat Hall in Kerala's **Palakkad** on Christmas, aptly titled the show Penpavakkoothu, meaning women's Tholpavakkoothu.
- **Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB)** defeated Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) 2-1 to win the **Hockey India senior men's inter-department National championship**
- In order to preserve this important event in history, a **Sankalp Smarak** was dedicated to the nation at Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), exactly 78 years after **Netaji's arrival on 29 Dec**
- The **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** scheme has been rolled out in 34 states and Union Territories covering 75 crore beneficiaries by the Union Ministry of Food and Public Distribution. It is aimed at enabling migrant workers and their family members to buy subsidised ration from any fair price shop anywhere in the country under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- Centre notifies rules for Consumer Protection (Jurisdiction of the District Commission, the State Commission and the National Commission) Rules, 2021.
- The Government of India has notified Sale of **Electoral Bonds** at Authorised Branches of State Bank of India. Electoral bonds will allow donors to pay political parties using banks as an intermediary.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority recorded **126 tiger deaths** this year, the highest since it began collecting the data for the same a decade ago
- The **Sahitya Akademi** announced its prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Awards**, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 in various languages. It was instituted in **1964**
- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been extended in Nagaland for another six months
- The **Odisha Forest and Environment Department** has completed its first-ever radio-tagging of the **Indian pangolin** in an attempt to standardise the rehabilitation protocol for the animal in the State.
- Indian researchers have developed a high performance industry-standard model for **Aluminium gallium nitride (AlGaN/GaN)** High Electron Mobility Transistors (HEMTs) with simple design procedures which can be used to make high-power Radio Frequency (RF) circuits owing to its high breakdown voltage.



INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- Nearly 400 years after the country became a British colony, **Barbados** has become the world's **newest republic**
- **Lionel Messi** won **Ballon d'Or** award. The Ballon d'Or - "Golden Ball"- is an annual football award presented by French news magazine France Football that is one of the oldest and generally regarded as the most prestigious individual award for football players
- **World AIDS Day** is observed across the globe on **1st December** every year since 1988.
- Every year, the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** is marked on **December 3**.
- **Russia** wins **Davis Cup** after 15 years. It is related to **Tennis**
- **New Delhi** and **Colombo** have agreed on a four-pronged cooperation package comprising urgent food and health security, energy security, currency swap and Indian investments.
- Rescuers in **Indonesia** raced to find survivors in villages blanketed by molten ash after the **eruption of Mount Semeru** killed at least 14 persons and left dozens injured.
- **India and Russia** have signed a number of agreements, contracts and protocols covering small arms and military cooperation enhancing till 2031
- **Sunil Arora, former Chief Election Commissioner of India** has been invited to join the Board of Advisers for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). It is a Intergovernmental organization that works to support and strengthen democratic institutions and processes around the world to develop sustainable, effective and legitimate democracies Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden
- **U.S. President Joe Biden** kicked off **Summit for Democracy**, calling on countries to make “concrete commitments” to reaffirm their democratic values.
- The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), as a Knowledge Partner, organized Seminar on “Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment” for delegates from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States. dia assumed the Chairmanship of Council of **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO)** recently
- **NASA** launched a new mission named **Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer or IXPE**. It will study “the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe – supernova remnants, supermassive black holes, and dozens of other high-energy objects.”
- **10th December** celebrated as **International Human Rights Day**. It is to commemorate the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by United Nations General Assembly. **Theme 2021: “EQUALITY – Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights”**
- **Super Typhoon Rai hammers Philippines**. A Typhoon is a local name for Tropical storm in the Western Pacific and the South China Sea



- **India** signs loan agreements with **ADB** for various projects. It is Regional development bank established on 19 December 1966 **Headquartered in Manila**, Philippines
- British architect-urbanist **Richard Rogers** designer of the iconic Pompidou Centre in Paris, passed away
- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** unanimously passed a resolution permitting a carve-out in sanctions against the Taliban to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. It was put forward by USA
- **Joan Didion**, a U.S. literary icon credited with ushering in New Journalism with her essays on Los Angeles life in the tumultuous 1960s, died
- Symbol of its freedom of **Hong Kong Pillar of Shame**, a memorial to the victims of the Tiananmen crackdown, dismantled
- South African anti-apartheid icon and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop **Desmond Tutu** passed away. He fought to end Racial discrimination in South Africa
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