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Weekly Current Affairs: 22nd to 28th December 2020

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Mathematics Day is celebrated on 22 December

National Mathematics Day is celebrated on 22 December annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of the famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The day is important for mathematics teachers and students. It is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of Mathematics across the country. Another important aim to remember this day is for the development, production, and dissemination of teaching-learning materials (TLM) for Mathematics and research.

Kisan Diwas is celebrated on December 23

On December 23, to celebrate the birthday of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the 5th Prime Minister of India, Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day is observed across the country. From 2001, the government decided to observe the day as Kisan Diwas.

National Consumer Rights Day is observed on December 24

To protect customers from unfair trade practices, deficiency in services, or defective goods, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted. Hence, every year on December 24, National Consumer Rights Day is observed to highlight the importance of the consumer movement.

STATE NEWS

Meghalaya inaugurates much awaited facilitation centre in Umling, Ri-Bhoi district

Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya Prestone Tynsong inaugurated the much awaited facilitation centre (entry-exit point) in Umling, Ri-Bhoi district. The facilitation centre or infiltration checkpoint has been the demand for many NGOs and political parties. It will act as a mechanism to check the influx of illegal immigrants.



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Odisha MLAs spend 'A Day-at-Sea' as part of 1971 Indo-Pak War celebrations

A Day-at-Sea for members of Odisha Legislative Assembly was conducted onboard ships of the Eastern Fleet of Indian Navy off Paradip. The event is organised by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) as part of Fifty Glorious Years of victory of the 1971 Indo-Pak War celebrations and aimed to introduce the maritime domain to the peoples' representatives of the Odisha State.

Karnataka govt to provide fibernet in all higher primary govt schools

Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar has said that the department will tie up with Bharat net to provide fibernet in all the higher primary government schools. On starting of 10th and 12th standard offline classes from January 1, 2021, the minister said that all precautions are being taken to ensure that students attending the classes are safe from contracting the Covid 19 virus.

Tamil Nadu govt. grants permission to hold jallikattu next year with certain restrictions

The Tamil Nadu government has granted permission to hold jallikattu, the popular bull taming sport, next year with certain restrictions. An official press release said that bull taming sports like jallikattu, manjuvirattu and vadamadu would be permitted with a maximum of 300 tamers. The traditional events are held between January and May. In all these events, participants are permitted with a maximum ceiling of 50 per cent of the total capacity of the open spaces. The participants will be allowed only upon thermal screening.

Andhra Pradesh launches housing programme 'Pedalandariki Illu'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the flagship programme of Navaratnalu 'Pedalandariki Illu,' (housing for poor) at Komaragiri layout of Pithapuram Assembly constituency in East Godavari district. The government will take up the construction of 28.30 lakh houses at a total cost of ₹50,940 crore. In the first phase 15.60 lakh houses will be taken up at a cost of ₹28,000 crore and the work on the remaining 12.70 lakh houses will commence from next year.

NATIONAL NEWS

India becomes sixth country to manufacture high power electric locos indigenously

India has become the sixth country in the world to join the club of countries producing high horsepower locomotives indigenously. Indian Railways' completes five years of awarding the contract to Alstom for manufacturing the high-speed electric locomotives. Indian Railways will deploy these high speed locomotives for operations on major freight routes, including the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs).



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Jal Shakti Minister & Sports Minister launched JSA II: Catch the Rain Awareness Generation Campaign

National Water Mission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched the JSA II: Catch the Rain Awareness Generation Campaign in New Delhi. The campaign was launched jointly by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju. The launch event was attended by a large number of participants on digital platforms including field functionaries of NYKS in all the districts of the country.

India's first indigenous digital asset management platform launched by DigiBoxx

CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform DigiBoxx. The platform provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location.

Cabinet approves merger of Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, NFAI, and Children's Film Society with NFDC

The Cabinet approved merger of Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India with National Film Development Corporation. Briefing media in New Delhi after the Cabinet Meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar informed about it.

Centre and World Bank sign USD 500 million project to build Green National Highway Corridors

The Centre and the World Bank signed a USD 500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies. The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support the Road Transport and Highways Ministry to construct 783 kilometres of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts and other bioengineering solutions.

CSIR-NISCAIR, MoES, Vijnana Bharati jointly organise inaugural session of International Science Literature Festival

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati jointly organised the inaugural session of the International Science Literature Festival, Vigyanika. The literature festival was organised on the opening day of the India International Science Festival 2020 to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan.



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FASTag for all vehicles in country to be mandatory from January 2021

Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that FASTag is being made mandatory for all vehicles in the country from new year. Addressing a virtual function, Mr Gadkari said, FASTag will be enforced from 1st of January, 2021. Enumerating its benefits, he said, it is useful for the commuters as they will not need to stop at toll plazas for cash payments. It will also save time and fuel.

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launches DGNCC Digital Forum in New Delhi

The Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launched the DGNCC Digital Forum in New Delhi. This Digital Forum hosted on the DGNCC website, will provide a platform to National Cadet Corps cadets all over the country to share their experiences of various NCC activities.

SpiceJet inks MoU with GHAC for Covid-19 vaccine delivery from Hyderabad

SpiceJet has signed an agreement with the GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo (GHAC) to ensure seamless delivery of the coronavirus vaccine from the Hyderabad airport to domestic and international markets. The Hyderabad airport, which is managed and operated by the GMR group, is expected to be a key hub in transportation of COVID-19 vaccine domestically and globally.

Cabinet approves post matric scholarship scheme for more than four crore SC students

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has also approved Rs. 59,048 Crore post matric scholarship scheme for more than four Crore Scheduled Castes students in 5 years. Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawarchand Gehlot said, the Central Government will spend Rs. 35,534 Crore for it which is 60 percent and the balance 40 per cent will be spent by the State Governments. It is estimated that 1.36 Crore such poorest students, who are currently not continuing their education beyond 10th standard would be brought into the higher education system in the next 5 years.

Ladakh's Startsapuk Tso, Tso Kar lake complex added to list of Ramsar site

One more wetland in India has been added to the list of recognised sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention, taking the number of such wetlands in the country to 42, the highest in South Asia.

PM Modi to inaugurate New Bhaupur-New Khurja section of eastern freight corridor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'New Bhaupur – New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC). The 351 km New Bhaupur – New Khurja section of EDFC is situated in Uttar Pradesh and is built at a cost of Rs 5,750 crores. The section will open new vistas of opportunity for the local industries such as aluminium industry (Pukhrayan region of Kanpur Dehat district), dairy sector (Auraiya district), textile production/block printing (Etawah district), glassware industry (Firozabad district), pottery products (Khurja of Bulandshahr district), asafoetida or 'hing' production (Hathras district) and locks and hardware (Aligarh district).



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A statue of the legendary freedom fighter Bagha Jatin defaced by miscreants in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, a statue of the legendary freedom fighter Bagha Jatin was defaced by some miscreants in Kushtia district. The incident was reported from the Kaya college in Kumarkhali Upazila. Bagha Jatin was born at Koya village in the Kushtia district in 1879.

US President confers 'Legion of Merit' award to PM Modi

The President of the United States of America conferred the highest decoration, The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday. In a statement the Ministry of External Affairs said, the award is in recognition of the Prime Minister's steadfast leadership and vision for India's emergence as a global power and exemplary contribution made by him for the advancement of the India-United States strategic partnership and promoting global peace and prosperity.

Florin Citu becomes new PM of Romania

Former investment banker and finance minister Florin Citu became the new prime minister at a time when Romania is struggling against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout.

Indian naval ship conducts 'passage exercise' with Vietnamese Navy

Indian and Vietnamese Navy concluded the two-day passage exercise in the South China Sea as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries.

BANKING & FINANCE

Indian Army and Bank of Baroda enter into MoU for Baroda Military Salary Package

Indian Army and Bank of Baroda have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU for Baroda Military Salary Package. The MoU was signed by Lt Gen Ravin Khosla, DG (Manpower Planning and Personnel Services) and Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda. The MoU lays down the basis on which banking services would be provided by Bank of Baroda to serving and retired Army personnel.



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Telegram to launch 'pay-for' services in 2021

Telegram is set to launch pay-for services in 2021, its Russian-born founder Pavel Durov said, as the growing company needed "at least a few hundred million dollars per year". "Telegram will begin to generate revenue, starting next year," Durov said in a statement on his Telegram channel.

Axis Mutual Fund renames 'Axis Multicap Fund' to 'Axis Flexicap Fund'

Axis Mutual Fund, one of the best performing mutual fund houses in India, is in process of renaming 'Axis Multicap Fund' to 'Axis Flexicap Fund'. It will be an open ended dynamic equity scheme that invests across large cap, mid cap, and small cap stocks to facilitate capital appreciation over medium to long term. The same will be effective from January 30th 2021 onwards. The scheme, moving to the new category will continue to adopt a flexible approach to allocation and not be constrained by market cap restrictions.

RBI cancels the Licence of the Subhadra Local Area Bank, Maharashtra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, vide order dated December 24, 2020 cancelled the banking licence issued to Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd., Kolhapur, Maharashtra under Section 22 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on banking business in India. The order is made effective from close of business on December 24, 2020.

HDFC Bank Ranks Top among 100 BFSI Firms in India

HDFC Bank is the top ranked company among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies in the country, as per the BFSI Movers and Shakers 2020 report by Wizikey. HDFC Bank has topped because of its customer service, monetary management, and innovative offerings amid the coronavirus pandemic. 2nd Rank: ICICI Bank, 3rd Rank: State Bank of India (SBI).

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

ClearTax launches investment app 'Black'

Tax-filing portal ClearTax, which has a user base of five million, is entering the investment space with an app called 'Black.' The app has been launched with direct mutual funds but will eventually have stocks, national pension system (NPS), PPF and potentially, cryptocurrency. The company will charge a flat fee of ₹10,000-15,000 per annum for users with income above ₹15 lakh, while keeping the service free for lower-income users. It has obtained a Sebi Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) license to deliver this service.



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DFC to invest USD 54 million in India to support critical infrastructure projects

The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced to invest \$54 million in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DFC will invest this \$54 million in equity for the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) in India.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

ICC Awards Of The Decade 2020

- Virat Kohli (Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade).
- Virat Kohli (ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade).
- Steve Smith (ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade).
- Rashid Khan (ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade).
- Ellyse Perry (ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Decade).
- Ellyse Perry (ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade).
- Ellyse Perry (Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade).
- Kyle Coetzer (ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Decade)
- Kathryn Bryce (ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Decade)
- M S Dhoni (ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade).

Digital India Awards, 2020: Bihar wins in Pandemic category

The Chief Minister Secretariat of Bihar, National Informatics Centre and the Disaster Management Department have been jointly chosen as winners in "Pandemic Category" in Digital India Awards, 2020.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Godrej Appliances plans to launch -70 degree Celsius freezer

Godrej Appliances plans to launch in January a -70 degree Celsius ultra-low temperature freezer for storing vaccines. The ultra-low temperature freezers are crucial for storage of Pfizer's messenger RNA vaccine against covid-19, which requires conditions of -70 degree Celsius.



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ISRO to open Regional Academic Centre for Space at IIT Varanasi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will establish a Regional Academic Centre for Space at IIT-Varanasi to facilitate short and long term projects at the institute. ISRO and the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Wednesday and the move can help propel the culture of research and development among students.

DRDO conducts successful trial of Medium Range Surface to Air MR-SAM missile

DRDO conducted the successful trial of the Medium Range Surface to Air MR-SAM missile from Chandipur off the Odisha coast. This was the army version of the MR-SAM missile which has been designed jointly by India and Israel.

ISRO developing “Green Propulsion Technology”

ISRO is developing “Green Propulsion Technology”. The technology is being developed for the Human Space Flight Mission of India, Gaganyaan, that is to be launched in December 2021.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Devendra Fadnavis releases book 'Ayodhya' written by Madhav Bhandari

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Devendra Fadnavis released the book 'Ayodhya' written by BJP's State Vice President Madhav Bhandari in Mumbai. He said that the fight to build a Ram temple is a fight to awaken the Hindu community and the book will be used as a reference book.

Book titled 'Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan' written by Kailash Satyarthi

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi's new book titled 'Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat Aur Samadhan' (Covid-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions) was launched by former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh.



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SPORTS

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju virtually inaugurates 8 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence across India

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju virtually inaugurated 8 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence across India in the presence of State Sports Ministers. The 8 States include Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Kerala, Telangana, Nagaland, Karnataka and Odisha.

Dhoni Captain of ICC T20I, ODI Team of the Decade; Kohli for Tests

The ICC on 27th Dec announced the men's and women's teams for the T20Is, ODIs and Tests from the last decade. Former India captain MS Dhoni was named captain of the T20I and ODI Teams while current India captain Virat Kohli was picked to lead the Test side.

OBITUARY

Two-time Congress MP from J&K Madan Lal Sharma passes away

Two-time Congress MP from Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Madan Lal Sharma passed away at the age of 68. He represented Jammu-Poonch constituency in the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha.

Robin Jackman, Former England Bowler & Cricket Commentator passed away

Robin Jackman, Former England Bowler and Cricket Commentator, Dies At 75. Jackman played four test matches and fifteen one day internationals between 1974 and 1983.

Dance historian Sunil Kothari passes away

Padma Shri dance historian and critic Sunil Kothari passed away on 27th Dec at a Delhi hospital after he suffered a cardiac arrest a month after testing positive for coronavirus. He was 87.



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