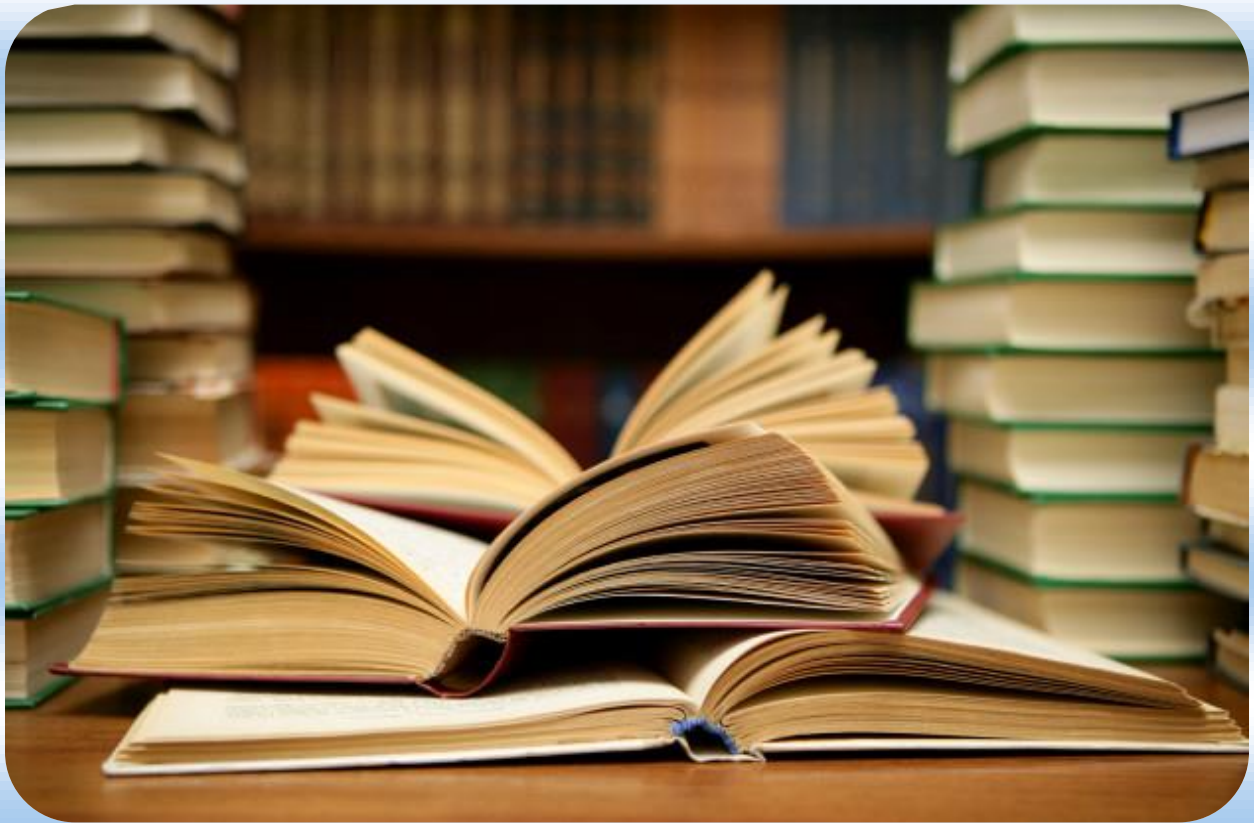


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



DECEMBER-2022

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Senior journalist Ravish Kumar resigns from NDTV following Adani acquisition

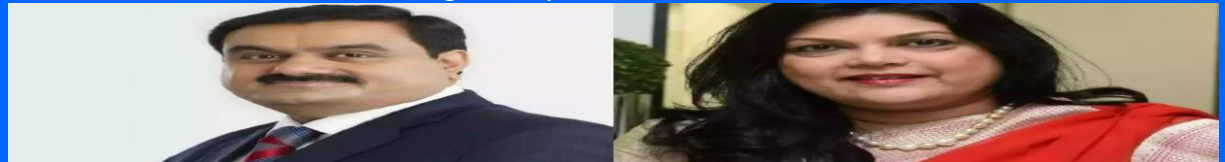
Ravish Kumar, a senior journalist has resigned from NDTV according to news sources. This comes just a day after the channel's founders and promoters Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy resigned from their positions as directors on the board of RRPR Holding Private Limited (RRPRH). In an announcement through an internal mail within the channel as reported by several news agencies, NDTV said that the resignation was effective immediately.

BIS signed MoU with top six Engineering Institutes of India

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with top six engineering institutes of the country for introducing Indian standards as an integral part of the curriculum. This initiative is aimed towards institutionalizing engagement of BIS with the eminent institutes for securing active participation of academia, according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

India's 100 Richest 2022: Gautam Adani tops Forbes rich list

New Delhi: The world economy may be slowing but India's richest have grown even richer this year. The Forbes India Rich List 2022 is finally here, according to which, the combined wealth of India's 100 richest grew by \$25 billion to touch a colossal \$800 billion.



NADA India to host Inclusion Conclave for the first time to focus on athletes with disabilities

Aiming for inclusivity in the anti-doping landscape of our country, National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has organized an inclusion conclave to sharpen the focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities.



DigiYatra facilities starts at the Delhi, Varanasi and Bangalore airport

The government has launched a new service called DigiYatra in India. DigiYatra services are currently available in the national capital, Bangalore, and Varanasi. This service aims to make the entry and embarkation processes seamless for travellers at the airports.

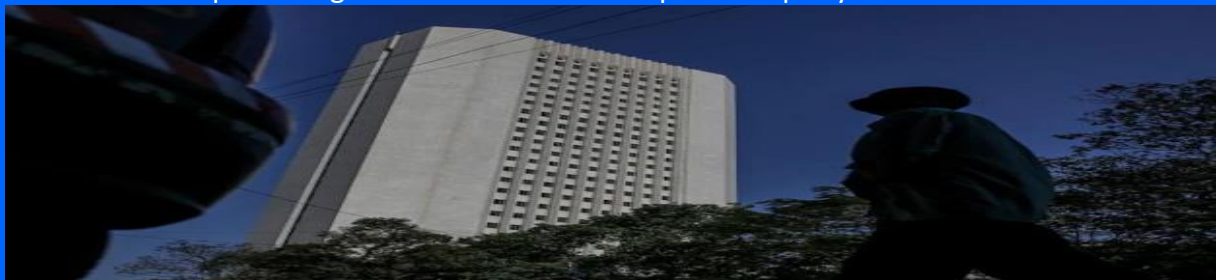


Rs. 1,45,867 crore gross GST revenue collected for November 2022

The gross GST revenue collection for the month of November accounted for Rs 1,45,867 crore, stated a press release on Thursday. The revenue collection has witnessed a surge of 11 per cent on an annual basis. The CGST accounted for Rs 25,681 crore and SGST for Rs 32,651 crore. The IGST accounted for Rs 77,103 crore (including Rs 38,635 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess for Rs 10,433 crore (including Rs 817 crore collected on import of goods).

Reserve Bank of India implements 4 tiered regulatory norms for UCB

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for categorisation of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). Besides, the central bank has come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks.



Spocto Introduces India's First Debt Collection Innovation Lab

A full-stack debt support and risk mitigation platform launches an Innovation Lab (SIL) catering to the debt collection segment of banking industries across India and MENA. SIL will be collaborating with multiple bank stakeholders to better understand the NPA crisis, and how the team might be able to use tech to resolve it. spocto will also enable digitisation in the ecosystem of the collection by employing technologies that drive hyper-personalization and data-driven tools to enable better repayments.

Indian tech brand Noise appoints Virat Kohli as new brand ambassador

Technology brand Noise has onboarded cricketer Virat Kohli as the brand ambassador for its smartwatches. According to the company, Kohli will be involved in a robust campaign that entails all touch points of the product. Noise's leadership in the smartwatch domain mirrors the journey that Kohli has undertaken, Gaurav Khatri, co-founder, Noise, said. " With our continuous zeal to listen to the noise within, coupled with the need to deliver a great performance, we are certain that this association with Kohli will further bolster our connect with the young audience in India and overseas," he added.

IDFC Mutual Fund to be Renamed Bandhan Mutual Fund

IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (AMC), one of the top 10 AMCs in the country, has received regulatory clearances from regulators for its proposed change in ownership. Securities market regulator SEBI granted the necessary no objection for IDFC AMC's acquisition by a consortium comprising Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), GIC (GIC), and ChryCapital (CC).



Reserve Bank of India Issues Framework for Indian Banks' Foreign Biz

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place a framework to allow overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions to undertake activities not specifically permitted in the Indian domestic market. The framework also specifies the applicability of these instructions to International Financial Services Centres in India, including Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

NSE Launches New Nifty Bharat Bond Index

The National Stock Exchange's subsidiary NSE Indices has said it has launched one more index under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series. The Bharat Bond Index series follows a target maturity date structure wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of 'AAA' rated bonds issued by government owned entities maturing in a specific year. Nifty Bharat Bond Index — April 2033 - has been launched within the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series, a release said on Thursday.

NPCI Extends UPI Volume Cap Deadline by 2 Years till Dec 2024

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Friday announced that deadline for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) players to limit to a market cap of 30 per cent by two years to December 31, 2024. In November 2022, the NPCI had proposed a 30 per cent volume cap for third-party app providers (TPAP). Currently, there's no cap on volume and Google Pay and PhonePe hold the market share of about 80 per cent.

IIFL Launches India's First Passive Tax-Saving Fund

IIFL Mutual Fund has launched the new fund offer (NFO) of IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund, India's first Tax Saver Index Fund. The NFO opens on December 1 and closes on December 21. The scheme will re-open for subscription and redemption on an ongoing basis from January 02. Parijat Garg will be the fund manager for IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund. Like other ELSS funds, the scheme will provide the dual advantage of tax saving.

India's Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup Kheyti won Earthshot Prize 2022

A Greenhouse-in-a-Box sustainable solution for small farmers devised by Telangana startup Kheyti has won the 1 million pounds Earthshot Prize, founded by Britain's Prince William and dubbed the Eco Oscars'.



Airtel and Meta collaborate to accelerate India's digital ecosystem

The telecom major on Monday (5 December 2022) announced that it has collaborated with Meta Platforms, Inc. (Meta) to support the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Meta builds technologies that help people connect, find communities, and grow businesses. When Facebook launched in 2004, it changed the way people connect. Apps like Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp further empowered billions around the world.

ESIC Can Invest Up to 15% Surplus Funds in Equity Through ETFs

In a bid to accrue better returns on its surplus funds, the government, on Sunday, allowed Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) to invest up to 15 per cent of its surplus funds into equity through exchange-traded funds (ETFs). The decision was taken at an ESIC meeting chaired by the Union labour minister Bhupender Yadav at the corporation's headquarters in New Delhi.

Adani Green becomes World's Largest Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Developer

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), the renewables arm of the Adani Group, said on Monday that it has commissioned its third wind-solar hybrid power plant of combined operational generation capacity worth 450 MW at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, thus becoming the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer. In a regulatory filing, the company said the plant has Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) at Rs 2.67/kwh for 25 years.

Hyderabad-based startup gets India's first real-time Gold ATM

Unlike usual ATMs that dispense money, the Goldsikka ATM dispenses Gold coins. In what is India's first gold ATM, people can insert their debit or credit cards into the Goldsikka and buy gold coins. The ATM has a capacity of storing 5kgs of gold. There are 8 available options for the quantity of gold starting from 0.5 grams to 100 grams. Goldsikka Pvt Ltd launched its first Gold ATM with Technology support from M/s OpenCube Technologies Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad-based startup company on December 3.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'One District One Sport' scheme

On the lines of "one district, one product", the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to promote one sport in one district. Under the One District, One Sport (ODOS) scheme, players will get training in the specified sport for their district to play both at national and international events, a government spokesperson said, adding the aim is to provide a platform for budding sportspersons to nurture their talents and skills so that they can participate in prestigious national and international championships and win medals.

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma becomes 6th-highest run scorer for India in ODIs

NEW DELHI: Skipper Rohit Sharma on Sunday achieved yet another feat in his illustrious career as he became sixth-highest run-getter for India in ODIs. Rohit also progressed in his quest of reaching the magical 10,000-run mark as he now needed only 597 runs to attain the feat.



Nagpur Metro successfully created a Guinness World Record

Nagpur Metro has successfully created a Guinness World Record by constructing the longest double-decker viaduct (metro) is 3,140 meters and was achieved by the Wardha Road in Nagpur. The double-decker viaduct of 3.14 km on Wardha Road has three metro stations – Chhatrapati Nagar, Jai Prakash Nagar and Ujjwal Nagar.



RBI Monetary Policy 2022: RBI Repo Rate Hike by 35 bps to 6.25%

On Wednesday, the Reserve Bank of India announced a 35-basis-point increase in the repo rate to 6.25 per cent. The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to raise the rate to bring elevated inflation back towards its target of 4 per cent, governor Shaktikanta Das said. The six-member MPC, which held its bi-monthly policy meeting from December 5 to 7, remained focused on withdrawing accommodation.

India to Become 8th Largest Advertising Market in 2023

Indian advertising industry's revenue growth will accelerate to 16.8 per cent in 2023, a report said on Monday. The advertising industry in the country, which has a relatively stronger economic outlook as compared to the world markets, will grow 15.8 per cent to USD 14.9 billion in 2022, the report by Group M said. "This growth (16.8 per cent in 2023) is led by pure-play digital advertising, which accounts for the largest share (48.8 per cent) in 2022 and is expected to continue rising above pre-pandemic levels," the report said.

Google Launches Anti-Misinformation Campaign in India

Google's Jigsaw subsidiary is launching a new anti-misinformation project in India, aimed at preventing misleading information that has been blamed for inciting violence, a top executive said. The initiative will use "prebunking" videos – designed to counter false claims before they become widespread – circulated on the company's YouTube platform and other social media sites. Google's efforts to challenge the spread of misinformation mark a contrast with rival Twitter which is cutting its trust and safety teams, despite new owner Elon Musk saying it will not become a "free-for-all hellscape".

Nirmala Sitharaman, Falguni Nayar in 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list

Maintaining her position for the fifth time in a row, Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, was featured in the Forbes' annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. In addition, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Nykaa CEO Falguni Nayar, and three more Indian women were also featured in the list. Nirmala Sitharaman stood at the 36th position on the list. She was featured in the 37th rank in 2021, 41st in 2020, and 34th in 2019. The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman, was also congratulated by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Country's Largest Business Jet Terminal Commissioned at Cochin International Airport

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday inaugurated a new Business Jet Terminal at Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL). With two majestic domestic and international travel terminals, CIAL is now home to the country's biggest Business Jet Terminal. With the commissioning of the new project, CIAL has now joined the elite club of four airports in the country which operate dedicated terminals for business jet operations.

Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

Congress's Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on December 11 took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, days after the Congress party edged the BJP out of power in the recently held Assembly election.



Hurun Global 500 rankings: India ranked 5th in the list of valuable companies

India has added nine new entities to take its tally to 20 in the list of top global 500 companies and moved up four places to the fifth rank in the Hurun Global 500 rankings released on Friday. Led by energy giant Reliance Industries with market capitalisation of \$202 billion, the list includes Tata Consultancy (\$139 billion) and HDFC Bank (\$97 billion). Billionaire Gautam Adani controlled Adani Group has debuted in the global top 500 companies list with four companies — Adani Enterprises (\$63 billion), Adani Transmission (\$44 billion), Adani Total Gas (\$43 billion) and Adani Green Energy (\$40 billion).

Hindustan Unilever Acquires D2C Brands OZiva And Wellbeing Nutrition

Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) announced the acquisition of two D2C brands - OZiva and Wellbeing Nutrition. With the acquisition, the company will foray into the health and well-being category. Investments into D2C brands continued throughout the year even as funding for start-ups dried up. HUL said the well-being category has a total potential market size of ₹30,000 crore.

Divya TS won gold in women's air pistol National Shooting Championship 2022

Divya TS beat Sanskriti Bana 16-14 to clinch the women's air pistol gold in the 65th National shooting championship that concluded at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal on Monday. It was a dominant performance by the 27-year-old Divya as she topped the second stage with 254.2, ahead of a string of top shooters like Rhythm Sangwan, Esha Singh and Manu Bhaker. "I am very happy. It does feel great to win gold, competing against such world class shooters.

India To Be First Country To Auction SatCom Spectrum

NEW DELHI: India will be the first country to auction spectrum for satellite communication or satcom, according to a top official of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chairman PD Vaghela said that the telecom regulator has also received a reference from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for the spectrum required to be put for auction, and other related aspects of satellite-based communication.

UN Ranks 'Namami Gange' Project Among World's top 10 Initiatives

The United Nations (UN) has recognised the Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate river Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships aimed at reviving the natural world and awarded the project's Director General, G. Asok Kumar. G. Asok Kumar was awarded for the Namami Gange initiative during a function at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15).



India ranked 3rd globally in the publication of scientific papers

India has jumped to the third position in the global ranking in scientific publications, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday after a review of the functioning of the ministry. Singh said that according to the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s Science & Engineering Indicators 2022 report of the United States, India's position globally in scientific publications, has improved from seventh position in 2010 to third position in 2020.

Sargam Koushal wins Mrs World 2022 title after 21 years

Sargam Koushal was named Mrs World 2022, beating contestants from 63 countries to bring the title back to India after 21 years. Mrs World 2021 Shaylyn Ford of the U.S. presented the crown to Mumbai-based Mrs. Koushal at a ceremony held at Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino on Saturday evening.



Russia Replaces Iraq as Top Oil Supplier to India in November

Russia has for the first time emerged as top oil supplier to India replacing Iraq as refiners last month snapped up oil from Moscow fearing a price cap from Dec. 5 could hit supplies and choke payment avenues, data obtained from trade sources showed. India's oil imports from Russia rose for the fifth straight month, totaling 908,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November, up 4 per cent from October, the data showed. The Group of Seven nations, Australia, and the 27 European Union countries have imposed a price cap of \$60 a barrel on Russian seaborne oil from Dec. 5 as the West tries to limit Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine.

IDFC FIRST Bank launched ZERO Fee Banking savings accounts

IDFC FIRST Bank on 17 December announced ZERO Fee Banking on savings accounts and waived fees on 25 commonly used banking services. The banking services include savings accounts such as cash deposit and withdrawal at branches, third party cash transactions, demand drafts, IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, cheque book, SMS alerts, interest certificates, insufficient balance for ATM transactions, international ATM usage and so on.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Indian-origin women scientists among Australia's "Superstars Of STEM"

Superstars of STEM 2022: Three Indian-Origin women are among 60 scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians who have been selected as Australia's Superstars of STEM. It is an initiative that aims to smash society's gender assumptions about scientists as well as increase the public visibility of females and non-binary people.



Shooter Rudranksh Patil Clinches ISSF President's Cup in Egypt

Indian shooter Rudranksh Patil has clinched the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup held in Cairo, Egypt. He defeated Italy's Danilo Sollazzo in the 10-metre rifle play-off by 16-8. Athletes from 42 nations representing 43 ISSF Member Federations from all continents are taking part in this competition, which is being held since November 28 and concludes tomorrow.



NDDB, Amul to Provide Technical Support to Enhance Milk Production in Sri Lanka

India will provide technical support to Sri Lanka to enhance its dairy industry and milk output, a move aimed at reducing the cash-strapped country's dependence on imported milk products, the Sri Lankan President's Office said on Monday. Officials of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk under the Amul brand, have taken steps to provide necessary technical support for the production of milk in Sri Lanka, the President's Media Division said in a statement.

India The First Country in The World to Receive \$100 billion in Remittances

Indians are set to receive \$100bn in remittances this year, according to a World Bank report - the first time a single country has reached that number. The increase was led by wage rises and strong labour markets in the US and other developed countries. In total, the amount of money sent back home by migrants around the world has grown by 5% in 2022.



US Unveils Its Newest Nuclear Stealth Bomber

The US Air Force has unveiled its newest nuclear stealth bomber, the B-21, which will gradually replace aircraft first flown in the Cold War. The first new bomber in 30 years could cost nearly \$700m (£569m) each and can carry nuclear and conventional weapons. As expected, specific details of the aircraft remain shrouded in secrecy.



BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List: 4 Indian women's in the list

Priyanka Chopra is among four Indians who have made it to BBC's '100 Women' list of influential figures of the year. She is the only Indian actor on the list which includes names like singer Billie Eilish, actor and disability activist Selma Blair and Hollywood icon Rita Moreno. The other three Indians on the list are aeronautical engineer Sirisha Bandla, Booker-winning author Geetanjali Shree and social worker Sneha Jawale.

Peru Gets its First Female President After Pedro Castillo is Impeached

The South American country, Peru, has just seen a significant political upheaval. Pedro Castillo has been impeached and arrested and Dina Boluarte, a 60-year old lawyer, has become the country's first female President. For the markets, the crisis in Peru may be important because it makes for nearly 15% of the world's copper exports as per 2020 data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.



Japan, Britain and Italy to Jointly Build Sixth Generation Fighter Jets

Britain's Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak has announced a partnership between the UK, Italy, and Japan in an ambitious project to develop the fighter jet of the future. It will be called the "Tempest." Due to fly by 2035, Tempest is conceived as a sixth-generation stealth fighter with a network of capabilities: The ability to operate manned or unmanned; control swarms of attack drones; present a low radar profile; have innovative data systems, and be armed with cutting-edge weapons such as hypersonic missiles.

US prints first banknotes with women's signatures

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec 8 (Reuters) - U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Thursday hailed fellow pioneers during the unveiling of the first U.S. banknotes printed with two women's signatures, while calling for "much more" work to advance equity for women and minorities. Yellen, the first woman to head the Treasury and chair the U.S. Federal Reserve, said the new banknotes being produced at the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) site in Fort Worth, Texas.



Japan's ispace Launches World's First Commercial Moon Lander

A Japanese space startup launched a spacecraft to the moon on Sunday after several delays, a step toward what would be a first for the nation and for a private company. ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R mission took off without incident from Cape Canaveral, Florida, after two postponements caused by inspections of its SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.



WHO names Sir Jeremy Farrar as its new chief scientist

Reuters, DEC 13 2022, 16:56 ISTUPDATED: DEC 13 2022, 17:26 IST WHO logo. Credit: Reuters Photo The World Health Organization said on Tuesday that Jeremy Farrar will become its new chief scientist as the agency prepares to cope with post-pandemic health challenges. He will join the WHO in the second quarter of 2023, replacing Soumya Swaminathan, who departed in November ahead of a broader shakeup at the health agency.



EU Adopts Global Minimum 15% Tax on Big Business

The European Union has adopted a plan for a global minimum 15% tax on big business. Leaders gave their final approvals on Thursday after months of political wrangling. The landmark deal between nearly 140 countries aims to stop governments racing to cut taxes in a bid to attract companies. It was praised by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen as "an historic agreement which helps even the playing field". Corporation tax is usually based on a company's profits. But often they might be able to pay less depending on where their offices are registered or how they invest in their business.

Global Trade Surges to \$32 Trillion Record in 2022 Says UN

The value of global trade is set to reach a new record this year, increasing by about 12 per cent to an estimated \$32 trillion, according to a UN report that signaled a slowdown heading into 2023. "The substantial trade growth during the last year was largely due to increases in the value of the trade of energy products," the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in the report released Tuesday.



G-7 Agrees \$15.5B Energy Deal with Vietnam to Cut Emissions

BERLIN (AP) — A group of nine rich industrialized nations approved a deal to provide Vietnam with \$15.5 billion to help the Southeast Asian nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution. The Group of Seven major economies, along with Norway and Denmark, said in a statement that the aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions to "net zero" by 2050, a goal which expert say needs to be met globally to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

US Announces Historic Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough

WASHINGTON: Energy secretary Jennifer Granholm announced a "major scientific breakthrough" Tuesday in the decades-long quest to harness fusion, the energy that powers the sun and stars. Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California for the first time produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, something called net energy gain, the Energy Department said.



Tokyo Makes Solar Panels Mandatory for New Homes Built After 2025

All new houses in Tokyo built by large-scale homebuilders after April 2025 must install solar power panels to cut household carbon emissions, according to a new regulation passed by the Japanese capital's local assembly Thursday. The mandate, the first of its kind for a Japanese municipality, requires about 50 major builders to equip homes of up to 2,000 square meters (21,500 square feet) with renewable energy power sources, mainly solar panels. Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike noted last week that just 4% of buildings where solar panels could be installed in the city have them now. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government aims to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared with 2000 levels.

New York, Singapore most expensive cities, List of top universities and tuition fees

This year's Worldwide Cost of Living Index, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), revealed that New York and Singapore are the most expensive cities in the world. There are some Indian students who wish to pursue their higher education in these cities. Here's a list of some of the popular colleges/ institutes in these expensive cities.



Rehan Ahmed Becomes England's youngest Cricketer to Debut in Test Cricket

As one international career comes to an end in Karachi, another dawns, with Pakistan's Azhar Ali announcing the series finale will be his final appearance, if selected, and England confirming a much-anticipated debut for 18-year-old Rehan Ahmed. Ahmed first, one of two changes to the England side that took an unassailable 2-0 lead in Multan.



Indian-origin Leo Varadkar is new Prime Minister of Ireland

Indian-origin Leo Varadkar, former Irish Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Fine Gael party, has been elected as the new prime minister of Ireland following a vote in the lower house of the Irish parliament. On Saturday, total of 87 members of the house voted in favour of his nomination as the new prime minister while 62 members voted against it, Xinhua News Agency reported.

