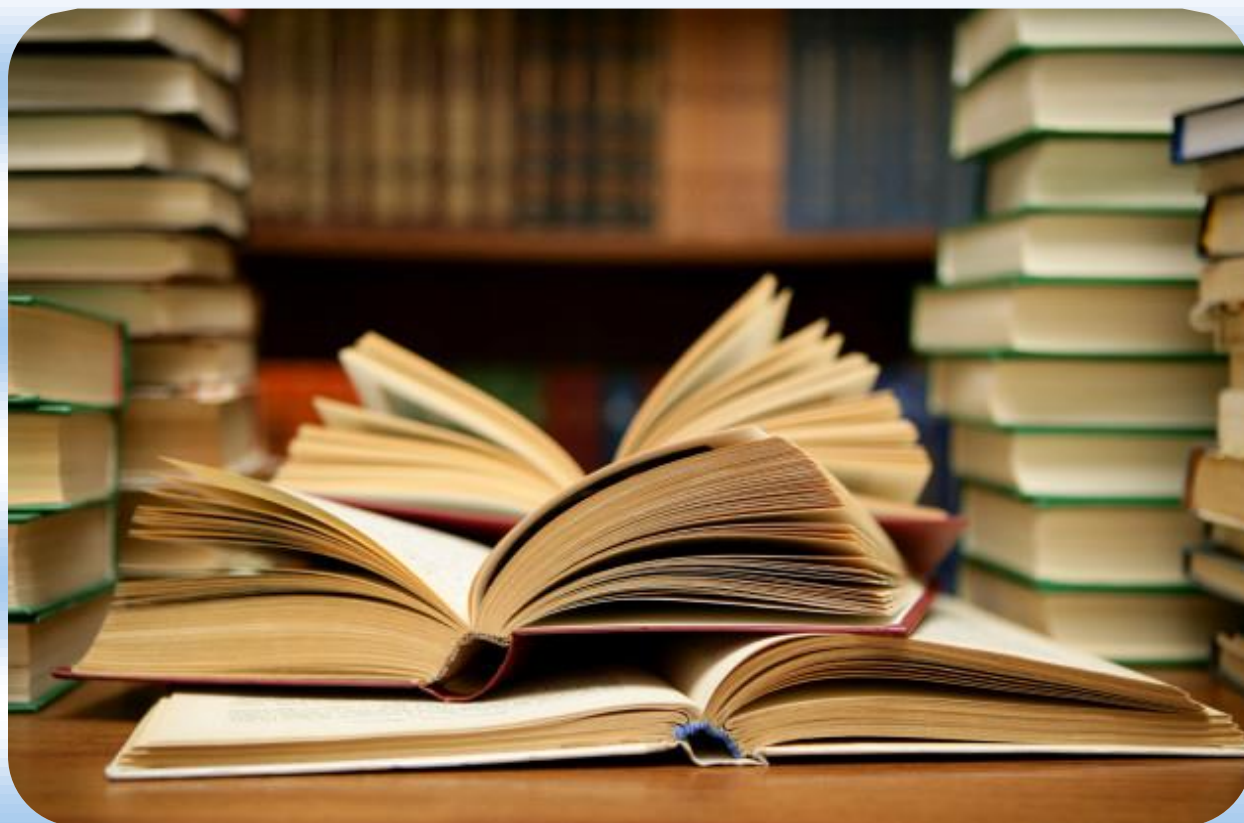


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



NOVEMBER-2022

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurates north India's first data centre at Greater Noida

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated North India's first hyper-scale data centre Yotta Yotta D1 built at the cost of Rs 5,000 crore and spread over an area of 3,00,000 square feet at the upcoming Data Centre Park in Greater Noida on Monday.



UP's Ranipur Tiger Reserve Becomes 53rd Tiger Reserve of India

The Ranipur Tiger Reserve in UP has become the 53rd tiger reserve of India, Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav said on Monday. The Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Chitrakoot district is the fourth in the state after Dudhwa Pilibhit and Amangarh.



What Is Digital Rupee, RBI launches Its First Pilot Project

India's first Digital Rupee pilot project will commence today. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will launch the pilot for a central-bank-backed digital rupee for the wholesale segment today, November 1. "...the first pilot in the Digital Rupee - Wholesale segment shall commence on November 1, 2022," the RBI said in a statement on 'Operationalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency-Wholesale (e ₹-W) Pilot'.



India's Defence Ministry Is World's Biggest Employer: 'Statista' report

India's Ministry of Defence is the world's biggest employer with 2.92 million people, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff, according to a report in 'Statista'.



Supreme Court Bans Two-Finger Test

The Supreme Court on Monday banned the decades-old “two-finger” test on rape survivors and said anyone violating the directive would be held guilty of misconduct. The two-finger test is conducted on victims of sexual assault and rape to determine whether they are habituated to sexual intercourse. Condemning the practice as “regressive” and “invasive”, a bench of Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli said: “The probative value of a woman’s testimony does not depend upon her sexual history.

Tata Steel Jamshedpur India's first to achieve ResponsibleSteel certification

Tata Steel’s Jamshedpur steel plant has become India’s first to achieve ResponsibleSteel certification. A company statement issued on Monday claimed that the steel major “received ResponsibleSteel certification for three facilities in Jamshedpur”. “Tata Steel today placed India on the global decarbonisation and sustainability map with three of its production facilities in Jamshedpur receiving the coveted ResponsibleSteel Certification.



Itanagar: Hollongi Greenfield Airport to be called 'Donyi Polo' Airport

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Arunachal Pradesh's first greenfield airport, Donyi Polo Airport, in Itanagar on Saturday. This is Arunachal's third airport after Tezu and Passighat and the 16th airport for the northeast. He also dedicated to the nation the 600 MW Kameng hydro power station in Itanagar. The airport located at Hollongi, near the capital city of Arunachal Pradesh will link the border state with other Indian cities with commercial flights as well as other parts of Arunachal Pradesh through helicopter services.

Indian Exim Bank Inks Pact With Southern Africa's Leading Bank to Boost India-Africa Trade

Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) has concluded a Master Risk Participation Agreement for supporting trade transactions with FirstRand Bank (FRB) Limited. The agreement was signed in Johannesburg on Monday on the sidelines of the India - Southern Africa Regional Conclave, in the presence of. Silvino Augusto Jose Moreno, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mozambique, Jaideep Sarkar, High Commissioner of India to South Africa and Busi Mabuza, Board Chairperson, Industrial.

GST collection over Rs 1.51 trillion in October: 2nd highest ever

The government collected Rs 1.52 trillion as goods and services tax (GST) in October, a 16.6 per cent rise year-on-year, driven by festival-related spending, higher tax rates, and better compliance. This was the second-highest monthly collection since the implementation of the indirect tax regime in July 2017. GST collection touched a record high of Rs 1.67 trillion in April. Of the total gross GST mop-up in October, central GST (CGST) was Rs 26,039 crore, state GST (SGST) Rs 33,396 crore, integrated GST (IGST) Rs 81,778 crore (including Rs 37,297 crore collected on import of goods).

UPI Transactions Grow 7.7% To 730 Cr in October

UPI transactions rose by 7.7 per cent in October to 730 crore. The total value for the month stood at more than ₹12.11 lakh crore. In September, UPI transactions stood at 678 crore with a total value of ₹11.16 lakh crore. The instant interbank fund transfer through IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) transactions in October stood at 48.25 crore and the value was at ₹4.66 lakh crore.



Subhrakant Panda named as President of FICCI

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Wednesday named Subhrakant Panda as its next president. Panda, the Managing Director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), currently serves as the senior vice-president of FICCI. In a statement, FICCI said Panda would succeed Sanjiv Mehta as president of the apex chamber at the conclusion of its 95th AGM to be held on December 16-17. Panda said, "I consider it a privilege to helm this great institution at a crucial time."

Chqbook and NSDL Payments Bank collaborate for digital current accounts

NEW DELHI: Chqbook, a neobank for small business owners, has launched a first-of-its-kind digital current account. Small business owners like kiranas, chemists, among others, can open a current account instantly on the Chqbook App from their smartphone and in a language they are comfortable with.



India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Finally Jump by \$6.56 billion, Largest Weekly Gain In Over A Year

After falling for two consecutive quarters, the country's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$6.56 billion, the biggest weekly gain in more than one year, to \$531.08 billion in the week ended October 28, the Reserve Bank's data showed on Friday. The reserves had declined by \$3.84 in the week ended October 21 and by \$4.5 billion in the week ended October 14. There was a marginally increase of \$204 million in the week that ended on October 7.

Tesla's Former India Policy Chief to Join e-Scooter Startup Ather Energy

Tesla Inc.'s former India policy chief is joining homegrown electric scooter startup Ather Energy Pvt, one of the best-funded fledgling firms in a sector attracting record investment. Manuj Khurana, who quit his post as Tesla's local head of policy and business development in June, will start next week at the firm based in the southern technology hub of Bangalore.



Hyderabad's Megha Ltd to Build Mongolia's First Greenfield Oil Refinery

HYDERABAD: Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has received the Letter of Award (LOA) for the Mongol Refinery Project, which entails building Mongolia's first oil refinery. According to the EPC deal, MEIL will build this new refinery in Mongolia.



Adani New Industries installed India's largest wind turbine

New Delhi: A wind turbine taller than the world's tallest Statue of Unity with blades spanning wider than the wingspan of a jumbo jet has been installed at Mundra in Gujarat by Adani New Industries Ltd as part of its renewable energy expansion plans. "Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) on Thursday announced the installation of country's largest Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) in Mundra, Gujarat," a company statement said.



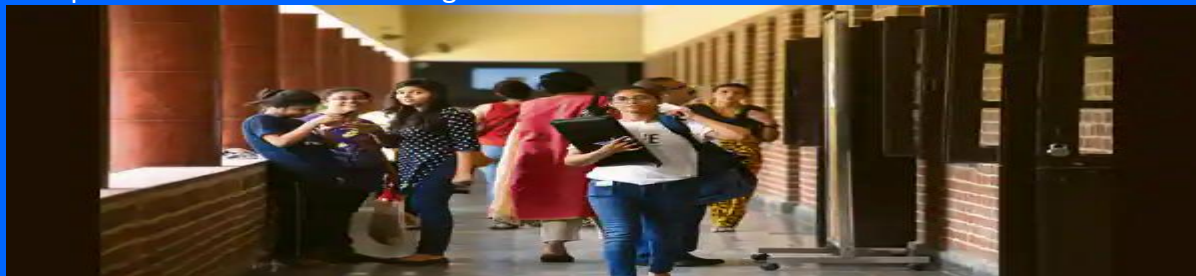
First time CRPF names two female cadre officers as IG of RAF

In a first, the CRPF has appointed two women officers from its cadre as Inspectors General (IG) of its specialised anti-riots unit RAF and the Bihar Sector. The proverbial glass ceiling in the country's largest paramilitary force with 3.25 lakh personnel has broken after a long wait of 35 years as the first women officers joined the Central Reserve Police Force in 1987.



Government Set Up Radhakrishnan Committee for Strengthening the Assessment & Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday set up a high-level panel to strengthen the assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions. The committee has been formed under the chairmanship of K Radhakrishnan, chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur. He is also the chairperson of IIT Council Standing Committee.



India Tops List of Countries With Cheapest Manufacturing Costs

India has been ranked as the nation with the cheapest manufacturing cost ahead of China and Vietnam, according to a report. According to the US News and World Report, out of 85 nations, India has bagged the 31st position in the overall Best Countries ranking.



Ujjain to Get World's First Vedic Clock

Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) [India], November 6 (ANI): The world's first Vedic Clock will be installed in Ujjain – the city of Lord Malakal. Madhya Pradesh state higher education minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday laid the foundation stone at the 300-year-old Jiwaji Observatory in Ujjain for this mega project, being taken up by the state government at an estimated cost of Rs 1.62 crore.



KV Kamath appointed as Independent Director of RIL

Reliance Industries on Friday appointed K V Kamath as Independent Director of the company for a period of five years. "The Board of Directors has, at its meeting held today, based on the recommendation of the human resources, nomination and remuneration committee considered and recommended to the shareholders for approval the appointment of Shri K. V. Kamath as an Independent Director of the Company for a term of 5 (five) consecutive years with effect from the date of assumption of office by Shri K. V. Kamath," the company said in its filing.

SBI Logs Highest-Ever Quarterly Profit in the 2nd Quarter

State Bank of India reported 74 per cent year-on-year increase in net profit at ₹13,265 crore for quarter ended September. This marks the highest ever quarterly net profit posted by the bank. The bank's net interest income rose by 13 per cent to ₹35,183 crore, while its operating profit expanded to ₹21,120 crore, up 17 per cent year-on-year. Robust growth in advances at ₹30,35,071 crore, up 20 per cent year-on-year boosted the bank's financials in the September quarter.

Supreme Court Upholds Constitutional Validity of EWS Quota In 3:2 Verdict

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday upheld the 10 per cent reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) among forward castes in government jobs and colleges across India. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI).



Mathura-Vrindavan to become a carbon-neutral tourist destination by 2041

Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India's largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041, Uttar Pradesh government officials have told The Hindu.



Gol appointed non-executive Chairman in four Public Sector Banks

Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank are the four banks where Non-executive Chairman has been appointed on their Boards. Non Executive Chairman has been appointed on the Boards of four Public Sector Banks — Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) respectively following approval given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

ADB Provides \$40 million Loan to GreenCell Express to Produce e-Busses

New Delhi: GreenCell Express Pvt Ltd will develop 255 e-buses with women-centric security features for the domestic market through a USD 40 million (about Rs 329 crore) loan from the Asian Development Bank. These buses will serve as many as 50 lakh people every year on 56 routes in India, having security features such as panic buttons connected to command controls for immediate response to enhance safety of passengers, especially women, a statement from ADB said on Monday.

Forbes: Reliance Industries India's best employer, in top 20 worldwide

Reliance Industries, the country's largest company by revenues, profits and market value, is India's best employer and the world's 20th best firm to work with, according to Forbes' World's Best Employers rankings 2022. The global ranking was topped by South Korean giant Samsung Electronics, followed by US giants Microsoft, IBM, Alphabet and Apple. US companies occupy rankings from 2nd to 12th, followed by German automaker BMW Group at 13th. The world's largest online retailer Amazon is ranked 14th in the list and French giant Decathlon is at 15th rank.

Kerala becomes 1st State to Introduce Uniform Gold Price Based on Bank Rate

Kozhikode, Kerala, India (NewsVair) Kerala becomes the first state in India to launch uniform gold price based on the bank rate. The decision to introduce uniform price on 916 purity 22 carat gold has been taken at a meeting between officials of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country and key members of All Kerala Gold and Silver Merchants Association which sets the board rate for gold.

BEE, SIDBI to Jointly Promote Energy Efficiency Financing for MSMEs

Sustainability for MSMEs: The government body for energy efficiency Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for MSMEs. The MoU will aim to promote energy efficiency financing for MSMEs and explore the internet of things (IoT)-based solutions, greening MSMEs, capacity building of various stakeholders, etc., BEE said.

LIC Buys Additional Stake in Voltas for Rs 635 Cr

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its shareholding in Voltas by buying an additional 2 per cent stake. LIC said it acquired Voltas' shares worth Rs 634.50 crore through open market transactions during the period from August 10 to November 4, 2022. The state-owned life insurer increased its shareholding from 2,27,04,306 shares (equivalent to 6.862 per cent) to 2,93,95,224 (8.884 per cent) in Voltas, according to a regulatory filing on Monday.

IT-giants Google launches 'FloodHub', a platform to forecast flood

Google, an American technology giant, has launched a platform that displays flood forecasts, namely 'FloodHub'. This platform shows the area and time where floods could occur, in order to inform people about the natural calamity and authorities can assist them with effectively. The technology giant has also expanded its AI flood forecasting services to 18 countries across Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. To recall, these flood forecasting services supported by AI were first introduced in India back in 2018.

India Will Become Third-Largest Economy By 2027: Morgan Stanley

India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, surpassing Japan and Germany, and have the third-largest stock market by 2030, on the back of global trends and key investments the country has made in technology and energy, according to a report by global investment bank Morgan Stanley. It said India is already the fastest-growing economy in the world, having clocked 5.5 per cent average gross domestic product growth over the past decade. Now, three megatrends—global offshoring, digitalization and energy transition—are setting the scene for unprecedented economic growth in the country of more than 1 billion people.

Reliance Jio True-5G services launched in Bengaluru and Hyderabad

After the successful Beta-launch of Jio True-5G services in six cities, Reliance Industries-backed Jio has now extended its 5G reach to Bengaluru and Hyderabad with effect from November 10. Jio believes that JioTrue5G in these two tech-centric cities will help realize the true potential of some of the latest technologies that will serve humanity and improve the quality of life of Indians.



Switzerland Tourism: Neeraj Chopra becomes 'Friendship Ambassador' of Switzerland

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], November 11 (ANI/NewsVoir): Switzerland Tourism has appointed Olympic Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as the 'Friendship Ambassador'. In his new role, the talented Indian sports superstar will showcase and promote the adventurous, sporty, and stunning outdoors of Switzerland to Indian travellers.



Moody's Cuts India's Economic Growth Projections to 7% For 2022

Moody's on Friday slashed India's GDP growth projection for 2022 to 7 per cent on expectation that global slowdown and high domestic interest rates would dampen economic momentum. This is the second time in as many months that Moody's Investors Service has cut India's growth estimates for 2022. In September, it had cut projection for the year to 7.7 per cent from 8.8 per cent pegged in May.

BHIM App Open Source License Model Launched by NPCI

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the launch of the BHIM App open-source license model. Under the new model, the source code of the BHIM app will be licensed to regulated entities participating in the UPI ecosystem. Further, new features that get launched on BHIM App in the future, will also be extended to these entities for them to continue. In the current scenario, many banks do not have their own mobile banking app.

Reliance Industries to make India's first multimodal logistics park in Chennai

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been awarded the project to build India's first multimodal logistics park (MMLP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A crucial cog in the Centre's logistics overhaul, the MMLP will be spread over 184 acres and cost Rs 1,424 crore, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said.



TRA Ranks Jio as Strongest Telecom Brand in India

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio is India's strongest telecom brand in India, ahead of Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd, according to brand intelligence and data insights company TRA. TRA, formerly Trust Research Advisory, in its 'India's Most Desired Brands 2022' ranked companies according to their brand strength. Reliance Jio topped the telecom category, followed by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea Ltd and BSNL. In the apparel category, Adidas was the top brand followed by Nike, Raymond, Allen Solly and Peter England.

BCCI prepares to Send SOS to MS Dhoni for a BIG ROLE with Indian T20 Set-Up

Restructuring of the Indian Cricket Team: MS Dhoni as T20 Cricket Director? The Indian cricket board is prepared to knock on the door of the person who easily won the World events after repeated failures at ICC competitions. Following the failure of the T20 World Cup in Australia, the BCCI is preparing to send MS Dhoni an SOS for a LARGE ROLE with the Indian T20 Cricket setup. Sources within the BCCI claim that the organisation is debating whether to offer Dhoni a permanent position with the Indian cricket team.

Power System Operation Corporation Limited is now renamed as Controller of India Limited

India's national grid operator 'Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO)' on Monday announced that it has changed its name to 'Grid Controller of India Ltd'. The name has been changed to reflect the critical role of grid operators in ensuring integrity, reliability, economy, resilience and sustainable operation of the Indian electricity grid, a statement said.



3 Indian Cities Among Largest Data Centre Markets in Asia-Pacific

Hyderabad, Chennai and New Delhi have emerged as one of the top Data centre markets in the Asia-Pacific region. These regions recorded a total supply of just under 700 MW five years ago, to over 3,000MW as of date, an over 300%, said Knight Frank. "In the first three quarters of 2022 alone, over 600MW of new IT capacity has been added due to an increasing trend towards greater localisation of data centre facilities," mentioned Knight Frank.

RBI Chooses 5 Banks for Retail Digital Currency Pilot

The RBI has roped in at least five banks to work with it on a pilot project for its digital currency -- the Digital Rupee -- for the retail market. According to a report in The Economic Times, these banks are State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and HDFC Bank. The report said, citing people familiar with the matter, that the Reserve Bank of India could add more banks to run the pilot, which is expected to launch soon.

Blackstone launches its Asian Data center business from India

Private equity player Blackstone said on Tuesday it is expanding its data centre business in India with the launch of Lumina CloudInfra. The company aims to add 600 megawatts of critical IT loads to its capacity in the next two years. Lumina CloudInfra is building two data centres in Mumbai and one in Chennai, aiming to make them operational by April 2023. The company will expand its data centre presence in three additional centres—Pune, Hyderabad and the national capital region (NCR)—within a year, said a senior executive.

Uttarakhand High Court to be shifted to Haldwani from Nainital

DEHRADUN: The state cabinet on Wednesday gave an "in-principle approval to shift the high court from Nainital to Haldwani", officials privy to the development said. They, however, added that "it is not a cabinet decision yet."



Wipro the First Indian Company to Set Up European Work Council

Wipro has allowed its employees to unionise in Europe. It has become the first IT company in India to do so, as reported by the Times of India (TOI). The employees will be allowed to set up a European Works Council (EWC) and encourage debates on their issues. Wipro's employees that have been allowed to unionise belong to 13 countries including France, Sweden, Finland and Germany. In Europe, the company has over 30,000 employees. The EWC will be led by elected or appointed employee representatives from the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA). The chair sponsorship will continue to remain with Wipro's CEO for Europe and a team of regional business heads.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Ghana to assume Presidency of UN Security Council

Ghana will assume the rotating monthly Presidency of the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday, 1st November 2022. During the month of November 2022, Ghana shall preside over the meetings of the Council (adoptions, debates and consultations) and, under its authority, shall represent the Security Council in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.



"Permacrisis" Is Collins Dictionary's Word Of The Year

It "sums up just how truly awful 2022 has been for so many people", said Alex Beecroft, head of Collins Learning. It led Collins's annual compilation of 10 words or phrases which "reflect our ever-evolving language and the preoccupations of those who use it". Quiet quitting also made the list. This phrase is "the act of doing one's basic duties at work and no more, either by way of protest or to improve work/life balance".

SpaceX Launches First Falcon Heavy Mission, After 3 Years

SpaceX launched its mega Falcon Heavy rocket for the first time in more than three years on Tuesday, hoisting satellites for the military and then nailing side-by-side booster landings back near the pad. Thick fog shrouded NASA's Kennedy Space Center as the rocket blasted off at mid-morning. The crowd at the launch site couldn't even see the pad three miles away, but heard the roar of the 27 first-stage engines.



Switzerland created record for operating the longest passenger train

In a feat, Switzerland has created a world record by operating the longest passenger train on the planet! The world's longest electric passenger train is designed to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the country's first train system. The longest passenger train, it ran in the Swiss Alps with 100 coaches!



Russia Becomes India's Top Oil Supplier In October

A few years ago, when top officials of Indian state-run refiners went to Dubai to negotiate a crude oil supply contract, a senior official from state-owned Saudi Aramco told them, "We can negotiate on anything, but I am the last man standing for you. Nobody can offer the range of crudes we do with certainty," an official who was part of the negotiating team recalls.



Netherlands Turns Top Buyer of Indian Petro-Products Amid Ukraine War

The Netherlands has emerged as the top destination for India's petroleum product exports such as petrol and diesel in the first half of the current fiscal year. This bump in exports has also resulted in the Netherlands becoming the third biggest market for India's overall exports, thereby replacing China. This change comes in the wake of the Ukraine war, with India continuing to buy discounted crude oil from sanctions-hit Russia. India is a key Asian refining hub, with an installed capacity of nearly 250 million tonnes per annum across 23 refineries.

IFFI 2022: Austrian film 'Alma and Oskar' to open film festival

Austrian movie "Alma and Oskar" will open the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28. The film will be screened at festival venue INOX, Panaji, the organisers said in a press release. Directed by Dieter Berner, "Alma and Oskar" is a biopic depicting the passionate and tumultuous relationship between the Viennese society Grand Dame Alma Mahler (1879-1964) and Austrian artist Oskar Kokoschka (1886-1980) .



Aruna Miller, 1st ever Indian-American to hold office in Maryland

On November 8, Aruna Miller wrote history when she became the first Indian-American politician to win the campaign for lieutenant governor in Maryland, a state that borders the US capital. Former Maryland House delegate Miller, 58, ran for lieutenant governor alongside Wes Moore, the incoming Democratic governor.



Saudi Arabia Commits \$2.5 bn for Middle East Green Initiative

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz announced that the kingdom will commit \$2.5bn for the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) over the next 10 years. The second edition of the MGI summit started in conjunction with the COP27 conference being held in Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh. It was launched by the Crown Prince last year as part of efforts to reduce regional carbon emissions.



IMF to Provide \$4.5 bn Loan for Bangladesh to Combat Economic Crisis

Bangladesh and the IMF on Wednesday reached a preliminary agreement under which the global lender will provide a \$4.5 billion support package to stabilise its economy and protect the vulnerable people. The IMF agreement came months after discussions between the global lender and Bangladesh officials.



US Treasury Removes India From Its Currency Monitoring List

The US Department of Treasury on Friday removed India along with Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam from its Currency Monitoring List. China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan are the seven economies that are a part of the current monitoring list, the Department of Treasury said in its biannual report to the Congress. The countries that have been removed from the list have met only one out of three criteria for two consecutive reports, it said.

India Announces Additional Contribution of '\$ 5 million' to ASEAN-India S & T Fund

India on Saturday announced an additional contribution of USD 5 million to the ASEAN-India science and technology fund to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture. The announcement came during the three-day visit of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Cambodia for ASEAN-India and East Asia summits. On Saturday, he addressed the ASEAN-India summit. Talking to reporters, Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Kabaddi World Cup 2025 to be Hosted by West Midlands in England

The 2025 Kabaddi World Cup will be hosted in the West Midlands, bringing the ancient Indian contact sport from 5,000 years ago that has teams broken down into raiders and blockers, with the aim of scoring points by entering opposition territory, tagging an opponent and making it back into their own half without being tackled to the ground. The UK region will become the first destination outside of Asia to host the tournament, which will feature leading men's and women's teams including India, Iran and Pakistan. Kabaddi is now played in more than 50 countries, having grown in stature as a mainstream sport.

Natasa Pirc Musar Elected Slovenia's First Female President

Slovenia has elected a lawyer linked to former US first lady Melania Trump as its first-ever female head of state. Natasa Pirc Musar is a journalist and lawyer who ran as an independent with the backing of Slovenia's centre-left government.



ASEAN Agreed to Admit East Timor as 11th member

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed in principle to admit East Timor as the group's 11th member, the bloc said in a statement on Friday. The half-island nation, officially called Timor Leste, will also be granted observer status at high-level ASEAN meetings, the bloc said after regional leaders met in Phnom Penh for a summit.

Pakistan and Bangladesh First to Receive G7 'Global Shield' Climate Funding

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (Reuters) – Pakistan, Ghana and Bangladesh will be among the first recipients of funding from a G7 'Global Shield' initiative to provide funding to countries suffering climate disasters, the programme announced on Monday at the COP27 summit in Egypt. The Global Shield, coordinated by G7 president Germany, aims to provide rapid access for climate-vulnerable countries to insurance and disaster protection funding after floods or drought.

Jeff Bezos Amazon Company Becomes the First Company in History to Lose \$1 trillion Market Cap

Amazon.com Inc. is the world's first public company to lose a trillion dollars in market value as a combination of rising inflation, tightening monetary policies and disappointing earnings updates triggered a historic selloff in the stock this year.



US Imposes \$1.4 mn Fine on Air India Over Delay in Refunds

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) has fined Air India \$1.4 million (around Rs 11.3 crore) for delaying refunds worth \$121.5 million (around Rs 985 crore) to passengers whose flights were cancelled during the Covid-19 pandemic.



US space agency NASA launches Artemis-1 rocket on a mission to the moon

NASA launched the Artemis I mission from Florida at 1:47 a.m. ET on Wednesday morning, with the agency's most powerful rocket ever kicking off a nearly month-long journey with a ground-shaking liftoff.

