



13.05.2021

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NEWS IN SHORT

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Cabinet approves MoU between ICAI and Qatar Financial Centre Authority

- The Union Government has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA).
- The MoU will endeavour to increase opportunities for members of ICAI to provide professional services and entrepreneurship in the state of Qatar in the areas of assurance and auditing, advisory, taxation, financial services and allied areas.

CJI NV Ramana launches a mobile app 'Indicative Notes' for journalists to cover proceedings of the apex court

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has launched an official mobile application called 'Indicative Notes' for Journalists to cover proceedings of the apex court.
- This new feature is aimed at providing concise summaries of landmark judgments in an easy-to-understand format.

Union Cabinet approves Rs. 18,100 crore PLI scheme for battery storage

- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Heavy Industry for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' for achieving the manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh of ACC and 5 GWh of "Niche" ACC with an outlay of Rs. 18,100 crores.

Indian Naval Ship Tarkash brings medical oxygen to Mumbai from Qatar under operation 'Samudra Setu II'

- Indian Naval Ship Tarkash brought two containers with 20 MT liquid medical oxygen each and 230 oxygen cylinders from Qatar to Mumbai under operation 'Samudra Setu II'.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue virtually held in New Delhi

- The 4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held virtually in New Delhi.
- Secretary Economic Affairs Ajay Seth led the Indian delegation. Daniela Stoffel led the delegation from the Swiss side.

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India will be the world's fastest-growing major economy in 2022: UN report

- United Nations (UN) stated that India will be the world's fastest-growing major economy in 2022.
- According to the **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)**, United Nations projected that the Indian economy would grow at **10.1 per cent** in the calendar year **2022 (CY22)**.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Jana Small Finance Bank launches 'I choose my number' feature

- **Jana Small Finance Bank** had launched the "I choose my number" feature for all its customers across India.
- This new feature gives the bank's **existing and new customers** the option to select their **favorite numbers** as the last 10 digits of their savings or current account.

Geojit inks pact with Punjab National Bank to offer three-in-one account

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Geojit Financial Services** joined hands to **tap retail customers**, who are aiming to save more and betting big on **capital markets** amid pay cuts and falling income levels.

PayPal introduces digital foreign inward remittance advice

- **PayPal** has introduced an automated process to obtain the monthly **Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA)**.
- At a zero-cost, **PayPal merchants** will now be able to download their **monthly digital FIRA** issued by the bank by logging into their PayPal account.

Google Pay launches international money transfers with Wise and Western Union

- **Alphabet Inc's Google** has launched **international money transfer partnerships** with remittances firms **Wise and Western Union Co** for users of its **US payments app**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA partners with Axiom for first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station

- **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** and private space infrastructure company, **Axiom Space** have signed an **order for the first private astronaut mission** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** to take place no sooner than **January 2022**.

IIT Ropar develops portable tech-traditional eco-friendly mobile cremation system

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar** has developed a **prototype of a moveable electric cremation system**, which claims to be using first-of-its-kind technology that involves **smokeless cremation** despite using wood.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Woman mountaineer from Himachal among first to summit Mount Pumori

- Two women mountaineers — **Baljeet Kaur from Himachal Pradesh** and **Gunbala Sharma from Rajasthan** become the first Indian women to **summit Mount Pumori (7,161 metres)** in **Nepal**.

Nutrition scientist Dr. Shakuntala Thilsted awarded the 2021 World Food Prize

- **Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted**, a **global nutrition expert** of Indian descent has won the prestigious **2021 World Food Prize** for her groundbreaking research in **developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

McDonald's India (North & East) appoints Rajeev Ranjan and Rajeev Goel as its COO and CFO

- **Connaught Plaza Restaurants Pvt Limited (CPRL)**, the master franchisee for **McDonald's India (North & East)**, has announced the appointment of **Rajeev Ranjan as Chief Operating Officer (COO)** and **Rajeev Goel as Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of the company.

Suzuki Motorcycle India appoints Satoshi Uchida as Company Head

- **Suzuki Motorcycle India Private Limited (SMIPL)** has appointed **Satoshi Uchida** as its **new Company Head** as part of a global revamp by the parent **Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC)**.
- He has succeeded **Koichiro Hirao**.

SPORTS

New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling to retire after World Test Championship Final

- **New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling** has announced he would be **retiring** from **international cricket** after the three Tests, including the **World Test Championship Final** against **India** to be held in **England**.
- He has played **73 Tests, 28 ODIs and 5 T20is**.

OBITUARY

Former National TT champion Venugopal Chandrasekhar passed away at 63

- **Veteran table tennis player and coach Venugopal Chandrasekhar** passed away at the age of **63**. He was a **three-time national champion**.
- He was honoured with the **Arjuna Award** in **1982**.