

22 डिसेंबर 2021 चालू

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1. PM Narendra Modi launched development projects in Goa

- On the occasion of **Goa Liberation Day**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth over 650 crores rupees in **Goa**.
- He felicitated freedom fighters and veterans of '**Operation Vijay**' at the function. He appreciated Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for keeping the pace of development up in the state.
- The re-development of **Aguada Fort Jail Museum** at a cost of over Rs 28 crore.
- The **New South Goa District Hospital**, built at a cost of around Rs 220 crore.
- The **Aviation Skill Development Centre** at the upcoming **Mopa Airport**, built at a cost of around Rs 8.5 crore.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Goa Capital: Panaji;
- #Goa CM: Pramod Sawant;
- Goa Governor: S. Sreedharan Pillai.

International News

2. Gabriel Boric elected as youngest-ever President-elect of Chile

- 35-year-old, **Gabriel Boric**, has won Chile presidential elections, to become the youngest-ever President-elect of **Chile**. He defeated his opposition **Jose Antonio Kast** in the elections. Gabriel Boric will assume office in March 2022, will become the youngest president in Chile's history.
- Official results gave Mr Boric **56%** of the votes against Mr Kast's **44%**. Mr Kast conceded defeat barely an hour-and-a-half after polls closed, and with around half of ballots counted.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chile Capital: Santiago;
- Chile Currency: Peso.

States News

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3. Punjab CM gave tag of 'state festival' to Jagannath Rath Yatra

- The Chief Minister of Punjab, **Charanjit Singh Channi** has declared **Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra** as an annual state festival.
- He also announced a grant of Rs 2.51 crore for the Iskcon Temple in Ludhiana, Punjab. Notably, Punjab Government is also developing the Bhagavad Gita and Ramayana Research Centre on a 20-acre land in Patiala.
- This was not the first time that the Rath Yatra of Ludhiana set the stage for the elections. Ahead of the

2017 Punjab elections, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia of AAP participated in the yatra. He also performed 'Maha Aarti' from the stage with party candidates.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Punjab Capital: Chandigarh;
- #Punjab Chief minister: Charanjit Singh Channi;
- Punjab Governor: Banwarilal Purohit.

4. UP govt to launch 'Free Smartphone Yojna' on Dec 25

- Under the scheme, the state government will distribute smartphones and tablets to final year students of graduation and above. On December 25, the chief minister will distribute 60,000 smartphones and 40,000 tablets to the youths. More than 38 lakh youths have registered themselves on the Digi Shakti Portal. Further registration is going on.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow;
- #Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath;
- Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel.

Appointments News

5. Pradeep Kumar Rawat appointed as India's new envoy to China

- Senior Indian diplomat **Pradeep Kumar Rawat**, who is well-versed in negotiating with Chinese diplomats, has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador to China**. Rawat's appointment comes amid the lingering

border stand-off in eastern Ladakh. Rawat is currently the country's envoy to the Netherlands.

- An Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, Rawat is currently the country's envoy to the Netherlands. He was joint secretary (East Asia) in the MEA when the Doklam border stand-off took place in 2017.
- Rawat served as India's envoy to Indonesia and Timor-Leste from September 2017 to December 2020. He had earlier served in Hong Kong and Beijing and speaks fluent Mandarin.

6. Harjinder Singh named India's Chef de Mission for Beijing Olympics

- The **Indian Olympic Association of India (IOA)** has appointed the Ice Hockey Association of India's general secretary, **Harjinder Singh**, as the **Chef de Mission of the country's** contingent for the upcoming **2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing**.
- Harjinder Singh is the general secretary of the Ice Hockey Association and has also led the Indian contingent at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, where India had two representatives – cross-country skier **Jagdish Singh**, and six-time Olympian luger **Shiva Keshavan**.

7. Atul Dinkar Rane appointed as BrahMos Aerospace CEO & MD

- **Atul Dinkar Rane** has been appointed as the new **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director** of the **BrahMos Aerospace Limited** that manufactures the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

- His pioneering contributions and techno-managerial leadership has been transformative for the successful development and induction of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile into Armed Forces.

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Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- BrahMos Aerospace Limited Founder: A. Sivathanu Pillai;
- #BrahMos Aerospace Limited Founded: 12 February 1998;
- BrahMos Aerospace Limited Headquarters: New Delhi.

Business News

8. GoI & German Bank signed Euro 442.26 mn loan for Surat Metro Rail Project

- **Government of India** and the **Germany Development Bank- KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)** signed a 26 million euros loan for a 40.35 km **Surat Metro Rail project** in Gujarat. The total cost of the project is Euro 1.50 billion, out of which KfW is financing Euro 442.26 million.
- The project is co-financed by French Development Agency, AFD (Agence Française de Développement) with Euro 250 million. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-II** and the Surat Metro Rail Project in January this year. The project is aimed at reducing traffic congestion and long delays on major travel corridors in Surat city and urban areas.

9. CCI approves acquisition of shareholding in Air India by Tata Sons

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of a shareholding in **Air India by Talace Private Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Tata Sons**.
- The regulator also approved stake acquisition by Talace in Air India Express and Air India SATS Airport Services along with the acquisition of shares in Air India. Currently, Air India is wholly owned by the government.
- Tata Sons' subsidiary Talace emerged as the highest bidder for AIR India, under the divestment process. Talace had quoted an enterprise value of **Rs 18,000 crore** for 100 per cent equity shareholding of the Centre.

Banking News

10. Equitas Small Finance Bank became Partner of Maharashtra state govt

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has empanelled as the **banking partner** of the **state government of Maharashtra** with an aim to offer its services to employees of the State Government.
- This partnership will enable the ESFBL to distribute salaries and allowances to the existing employees apart from making provision of pension to pensioners. The state government has authorised the Equitas SFB to open salary and pension accounts for the existing and retired employees across 58 branches of the bank across the state.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Founded: 2016;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd MD & CEO: Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan;
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Tagline: It's Fun Banking.

Defence News

11. Indian Navy's 2nd indigenous stealth destroyer 'Mormugao' sailed

- On Goa Liberation Day, Indian Navy's indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer '**Mormugao**' went for her maiden sea trials. This second indigenous stealth destroyer of the **Project 15 B (P15B) class**, is planning to be commissioned in **mid-2022**.
- INS Vela was also constructed at MDSL Mumbai in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France, and was delivered to the Indian Navy on November 9, 2021. A total of six submarines are to be built under the project.

Schemes News

12. PM Jan Dhan Yojna accounts surpass the 44-cr mark

- The total number of beneficiaries under the Centre's financial inclusion scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, has crossed the **44 crore mark**. The total number of accounts opened under PMJDY stood at 44.05 crores, with a total balance of ₹1,47,812 crore as on **December 8**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** tops the list with the highest number of accounts followed by **Bihar**. Since its launch in 2014,

the scheme has been steadily expanding its base.

The **PMJDY** was launched on **August 28, 2014**, with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India's** guidelines, savings and current accounts will be classified as dormant if there are no transactions in the account for two years. The average balance in Jan Dhan accounts hovers at about ₹2,700 across banks.

Ranks and reports News

13. Wizikey Report: Reliance is India's most-visible corporate in media

- **Reliance Industries Ltd**, India's largest corporate by revenues, profits and market value, topped the **2021 Wizikey News Score ranking** as India's most-visible corporate in the media. State Bank of India is a close second on the ranking, followed by **Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Tata Motors**.
- Others on the India list include HDFC at the sixth spot, followed by **HDFC Bank, TCS, Maruti Suzuki India, Vodafone Idea and ICICI Bank**.
- The highest-ranked state-owned firm is **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)**, at rank 13.
- On the global rankings chart for top Multinational Corporations(MNC), **Facebook** tops the index, followed by **Google's Alphabet Inc**.
- **Amazon** is ranked third, followed by **Apple Inc, Samsung Electronics, Netflix and Microsoft**.
- Notably, Reliance is ranked eighth on global rankings for top MNCs.

- **Tesla** is ranked 12 on the list with a news score of 82.3, while TATA Motors makes it to rank 18 with a news score of 80.26.

Awards News

14. IIT Roorkee bags first position among most innovative institutions by CII

- **#IIT Roorkee** has been selected by the prestigious **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for the **Industrial Innovation Awards**.
- IIT Roorkee bagged the first position under the Most Innovative Research Institutions category this year. Last year, IIT Roorkee was adjudged as ‘The Most Innovative Institute of the Year’ for its innovation quotient.

The following parameters define the innovation ecosystem:

- Institutional strategies and research depth.
- Innovation portfolios (sponsored research, IPR generation, translational research).
- Initiatives by the institution to promote and champion innovation.
- Innovation Impact (industry-academia partnership, international collaboration, technology transfer, societal impact, etc.)

15. PV Sindhu among 6 appointed members of BWF Athletes Commission till 2025

- Former world champion **PV Sindhu** has been appointed as a member of the Badminton **World Federation’s (BWF) Athletes’ Commission**, along with five other

people. The Chair and Deputy Chair will be decided among the six members.

- The Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission, following a vetting process as required for all Council members, will become a member of the Council until the next elections in **2025**.

Important Days

16. National Mathematics Day: 22 December 2021

- India observes the **National Mathematics Day** every year on **22 December** since 2012.
- This year nation celebrates his **134th** birth anniversary of Ramanujan. The main objective behind the celebration of National Mathematics Day is to make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.

Here is some information about Ramanujan's life:

- Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on **December 22, 1887** at Erode, Tamil Nadu in a Tamil Brahmin Iyengar family.
- Ramanujan studied at the **Government College in Kumbakonam in 1903**. In college, he failed exams due to his negligence for non-mathematical subjects.
- In 1912, Ramanujan started working as a clerk in the **Madras Port Trust**.
- Ramanujan joined **Trinity College** a few months before World War I began. In 1916, he received a **Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree**.
- Ramanujan returned to India in **1919**. A year later, he breathed his last at the age of 32.

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