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- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
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National & States Affairs

301. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, announced that “India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022” will be held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in January, 2023. IISF is the initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Science, in association with Vijnana Bharati. The IISF 2022 will be the 8th edition since its inception in 2015. The last edition of IISF was held in Goa. IISF 2022 will also witness “Vigyanika”, the Science Literature Festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India International Science Festival (IISF) 2022” – to be held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (in Jan 2023)
- IISF is the initiative of = Ministry of S&T + Ministry of Earth Science + Vijnana Bharati
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

302. On December 13, Ministry of Finance has directed all ministries and departments to scrap all 15-year-old vehicles that have become unserviceable. The existing provisions of condemnation of vehicles have been reconsidered in consultation with NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, considering the broad objectives of the government to reduce pollution and improve passenger safety and fuel efficiency. Scrapping of such vehicles will only be at registered vehicle scrapping facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance – directed all ministries/departments to scrap 15-year-old vehicles that have become unserviceable
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaudhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

303. On December 12, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the 5th edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India’s largest contemporary art exhibition, in Kochi, Kerala. With the theme “In Our Veins Flow Ink and Fire”, the amalgam of cosmopolitan art and culture, this time, will feature 200 major creative projects of 90 artists from over 24 countries that will be exhibited at 14 venues till April 10, 2022. The Students’ Biennale, encouraging young talents, and the Art By Children, aimed at reaching out to school students, ran parallel to the main event. The KMB was launched in 2012, and this year marks the 10th anniversary of the biennial event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of ‘Kochi-Muziris Biennale’, India’s largest contemporary art exhibition – held in Kochi, Kerala
- Theme – “In Our Veins Flow Ink and Fire”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

304. On December 9, University Grants Commission (UGC) released the detailed curriculum framework for the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP). As suggested under the new National Education Policy (NEP), under FYUP, students will have the option to choose between a three-year undergraduate degree and a four-year undergraduate degree with research specialisation. And, according to the latest UGC guidelines, students will now get an Honours degree in four years, instead of the current three. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- UGC released the detailed curriculum framework for the 'Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP)'
- According to the latest UGC guidelines, students will now get an Honours degree in 4 years
- [HQs of UGC – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – M. Jagadesh Kumar](#) | [Founded in – 1956](#)

305. On December 9, Telangana's CM and Telangana Rashtra Samiti's (TRS) Chief, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, officially launched the "Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS)" by signing the papers at the Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad. In October, Telangana CM formally renamed his political party Telangana Rashtra Samiti to Bharat Rashtra Samiti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Chandrasekhar Rao – officially launched the "Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS)" (renamed from Telangana Rashtra Samiti)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

306. On December 11, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin inaugurated the statue of Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar at the renovated house of Bharathiyar in Varanasi via video conference. Mr. Stalin also released a souvenir on Bharathiyar's 141st birth anniversary. C. Subramania Bharathi was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, social reformer and polyglot. He was bestowed the title 'Bharathi' for his excellence in poetry. He was born in Ettaiyapuram, a town in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu CM) – inaugurated the statue of Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyar in Varanasi, UP
- C. Subramania Bharathi – a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, social reformer & polyglot

307. On December 11, A seed farm, located in Aluva (Kerala) under the Agricultural Department, was declared as the first carbon neutral farm in the country by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The total amount of carbon emission from the farm, located at Thuruthu in Aluva, in the last one year was 43 tons but its overall procurement was 213 ton. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A seed farm located in Aluva (Kerala) – declared as the first carbon neutral farm in India
- The total carbon emission from the farm in the last one year was 43 tons & overall procurement was 213 tons
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

308. For conservation and development of art, culture and crafts across the country, the Ministry of Culture has set up 7 Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States throughout the year. Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) through these ZCCs where a large number of artists from all over India are engaged to showcase their talents. These ZCCs also organize minimum 42 Regional Festivals for promotion of art and culture every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture – set up 7 "Zonal Cultural Centres" for conservation & development of art, culture & crafts
- Locations: Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur & Thanjavur
- [Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy](#) | [Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi](#)

309. In December 2022, Ministry of Commerce & Industry allowed 100% work from home (WFH) for employees of IT and ITES special economic zones and extended the regime by one year to December 2023. The move is in line with IT and tech industry's demand for liberalisation of work from home rules. As per the latest rules, units will not need to take prior permission and only inform about it. The commerce and industry ministry has notified key changes to the rule 43A of the 'SEZ Rules, 2006'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I – allowed 100% work from home for employees of IT & ITES SEZ till December 2023
- For this, changes have been made in the rule 43A of the 'SEZ Rules, 2006'
- [Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash](#)

International Affairs

310. On December 13, G7 created an open, 'International Climate Club' for countries to cooperate in the fight against global warming. Germany held the presidency of the G-7 until the end of 2022 and then has been passed on to Japan. The climate club aims to support the rapid and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The club will work to help accelerate the industrial transition to cleaner forms of energy and to further develop emission-reduction measures. Moreover, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Energy Agency would establish a "climate change secretariat". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G7 – created an 'International Climate Club' for countries to cooperate in the fight against global warming
- [G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975](#)

311. The first Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to phase out plastic was held in Uruguay from November 28 to December 2, 2022. Kenya and South Africa have announced the "Just Transition" initiative to end plastic pollution. The initiative aims to create decent work opportunities for waste-pickers and other workers in the plastic value chain. International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAW) is a networking process that connects and supports thousands of waste picker organisations in over 28 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)" – held in Uruguay
- Kenya & South Africa – announced the "Just Transition" initiative to end plastic pollution
- [Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – William Samoei Ruto](#)
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)





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Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

312. On December 13, Universal Sampo General Insurance partnered with Zopper, an insurance infrastructure API platform, to roll out a special integrated offering for customers. Through this partnership, customers will have access to buy insurance seamlessly along with an option to purchase a protection plan. Universal Sampo is a joint venture of Indian Bank, IOB, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investment Corp, and a leading general insurer from Japan, Sampo Japan Insurance Inc. [{Read more}](#)

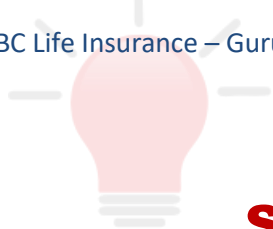
Key Points:

- Universal Sampo General Insurance + Zopper = partnered to roll out a special integrated offering for customers
- Universal Sampo is a JV between = Indian Bank + IOB, Karnataka Bank + Dabur Investment Corp + Sampo Japan
- [HQs of Universal Sampo Gen. Ins. – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [HQs of Repco Home Finance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#)

313. On December 14, Canara HSBC Life Insurance launched “Guaranteed Fortune Plan”, a non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan that is also a Point of Sale or PoS, life insurance product. The product offers two plan options: guaranteed savings option and guaranteed cash back option, with flexibility for customers. The plan also includes a one-of-a-kind feature called Care Pay Benefit, which is an in-built benefit that pays 100% of Total Premiums paid till the date of death on intimation of death. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara HSBC Life Insurance – launched “Guaranteed Fortune Plan”, a Point of Sale (PoS) life insurance product
- The plan includes a feature called ‘Care Pay Benefit’ which pays 100% of Total Premiums paid till the date of death
- [HQs of Canara HSBC Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [MD & CEO – Anuj Mathur](#)



Sports & Games

314. On December 11, Men’s badminton world number one Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated Indonesia’s Anthony Sinisuka Ginting at the “BWF World Tour Finals 2022” in Bangkok, Thailand. This is Viktor’s 8th title for 2022. Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi defeated Taiwan’s Tai Tzu Ying to claim the women’s singles crown. Indian Shuttler HS Prannoy finished 3rd on the BWF World Tour ranking. In the men’s doubles, Chinese pair Liu Yuchen and Ou Xuanyi won the title. While the women’s doubles title was won by Chinese duo Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan. And in the mixed doubles, China’s Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong won the title. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “BWF World Tour Finals 2022” – held in Bangkok, Thailand
- Men’s Singles – Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- Women’s Singles – Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
- Men’s Doubles – Liu Yuchen & Ou Xuanyi (China)
- Women’s Doubles – Liu Yuchen & Ou Xuanyi (China)
- Men’s Doubles – Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China)
- Mixed Doubles – Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China)

315. In December 2022, Indian hockey team beat Spain 1-0 in the “Women’s FIH Nations Cup 2022” final and earned themselves a place in the 2023-24 FIH Pro League. This was the inaugural season of the Women's FIH Nations Cup, with a promotion to 2023 Women’s Pro League. Total 8 teams participated in the Women’s FIH Nations Cup 2022 which was hosted by Spain in Valencia. Savita Punia won the ‘Best Goalkeeper Award’ at FIH Hockey Women’s Nations Cup 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian hockey team – won the “Women’s FIH Nations Cup 2022” hosted by Spain (defeating - Spain)
- ‘Best Goalkeeper Award’ at this tournament – Savita Punia (India)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924

316. Pakistan’s Sidra Ameen became the second successive winner of the ICC Women’s Player of the Month for November 2022. While England’s T20 World Cup-winning captain Jos Buttler has been named ICC Men’s Player of the Month for November 2022 for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jos Buttler (England) – named “ICC Men’s Player of the Month for November 2022”
- Sidra Ameen (Pakistan) – named “ICC Women’s Player of the Month for November 2022”

Appointments & Resignations

317. On December 12, Bhupendra Patel was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gujarat Governor Acharya Devrat administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Chief Minister and his Cabinet members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupendra Patel – sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat
- Acharya Devrat (Gujarat Governor) – administered the oath of office & secrecy to Chief Minister & his Cabinet members
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

318. In December 2022, Aam Aadmi Party candidate Bobby Kinnar became the first transgender councillor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Bobby contested from Sultanpuri 43 A ward. Bobby is the President of the Delhi unit of ‘Hindu Yuva Samaj Ekta Awam Anti-Terrorism Committee’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bobby Kinnar – became the first transgender councillor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

319. On December 13, The World Health Organization (WHO) announced to appoint Dr. Jeremy Farrar as its new chief scientist. Dr. Farrar will join the WHO in the second quarter of 2023, replacing Soumya Swaminathan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – appointed Dr. Jeremy Farrar as its next Chief Scientist for Q2 of 2023 (replacing - Soumya Swaminathan)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

320. On December 12, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) presented the 2022 Masters of the WGO award to Chennai-based gastroenterologist K. R. Palaniswamy for his contributions to the field of gastroenterology. Prof. Palaniswamy received the award at the World Congress of Gastroenterology held in Dubai. Masters of the WGO Award is the highest honour WGO bestows to individuals for their outstanding dedication to the mission of the organisation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. R. Palaniswamy – received the “2022 Masters of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) Award”
- [HQs of World Gastroenterology Organisation – Wisconsin, United States](#)

321. The Government of Goa, in association with the All India Deaf Arts and Cultural Society (AIDACS), New Delhi, and the Goa Association of the Deaf, is organising the 10th Miss and Mister Deaf India 2023, an annual beauty pageant for the deaf youth of India as part of the Purple Fest, from January 6 to 8, 2023 in Goa. The event, which will be held at the Gera School (TGS) Auditorium, will provide the deaf youth community of India with a national platform to showcase their talent and venture into the mainstream fashion industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th ‘Miss & Mister Deaf India 2023’, an annual beauty pageant for the deaf youth of India – to be held in Goa (in Jan)
- It will be organised by = Government of Goa + All India Deaf Arts and Cultural Society + Goa Association of the Deaf
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai](#)



Schemes & Initiatives

322. In December 2022, in an attempt to ensure that benefits of welfare schemes & government facilities reach people’s doorsteps, the Arunachal Pradesh Government conducted the ‘Seva Apke Dwar 2.0’ camp at Gossang village in Upper Siang District. Organized by the Upper Siang District Administration, the ‘Seva Apke Dwar 2.0’ is the second edition of the Sarkar Aapke Dwar (SAD) programme. ‘Sarkar Aapke Dwar’ scheme was passed in the 2018-19 budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – launched the ‘Seva Apke Dwar 2.0’ scheme
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

Important Days & Dates

323. December 10 is observed as ‘Swahid Diwas’ to commemorate those who lost their lives during the Assam movement. The Assam movement was an indigenous stir seeking identification and deportation of illegal immigrants in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – observed as ‘Swahid Diwas’
- The day commemorates the ones who lost their lives during the Assam movement
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

324. National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on December 14, 2022. The purpose is to showcase the achievements of the nation in energy efficiency and conservation. To raise awareness about energy efficiency and its conservation, the BEE, under the guidance of Ministry of Power, recognizes and encourages endeavours of industrial units, institutions, and establishments in reducing energy consumption by felicitating them with Energy Conservation Awards on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, celebrated on 14th December every year. On this occasion, 'EV-Yatra portal' and mobile app was also launched. The app is developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public charger for EV users. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – National Energy Conservation Day – by BEE
- 'EV-Yatra portal' & mobile app was launched on this day (developed by BEE)

325. Nobel Prize Day is observed on December 10 to honour the work of Alfred Nobel. The day also marks the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel, who created a series of award categories for achievements made for the benefit of humanity. The Nobel Prize is considered one of the most prestigious international awards given to people who gave their best contribution in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. Alfred Nobel was also known as 'Merchant of Death'. The reason behind his nickname was because of his inventions and the most prestigious award is given after his name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – Nobel Prize Day
- It is to observed to honour the work of Alfred Nobel and to mark the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel

326. Bodhi Day is an annual observance that is observed on December 8. The day is a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment. The word enlightenment is also known as bodhi in Sanskrit and Pali. Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was born in Lumbini (now in Nepal) to a Kshatriya family in 563 BC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – Bodhi Day (commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment)

327. The Border Security Force (BSF) celebrated its 58th Raising Day on December 1, 2022. Various programmes were organised at various battalions, sector headquarters and border outposts. After the Indo-Pak and Indo-China war, BSF was formed on December 1, 1965 as an integrated central agency so that security of borders of the country and related issues could be ensured. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 1 – 58th Raising Day of BSF
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Sujoy Lal Thakur (addi.) | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – "Duty Unto Death"

Obituaries

328. On December 13, Poland's only cosmonaut, Gen. Miroslaw Hermaszewski, who circled the Earth in a Soviet spacecraft in 1978, has died. He was 81. For nine days in June and July of 1978, Hermaszewski and Soviet cosmonaut Pyotr Klimuk circled the Earth in the Soyuz 30 spaceship that docked at the Salyut 6 orbital space station. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Miroslaw Hermaszewski – Poland's only Cosmonaut – passed away
- He circled the Earth in a Soviet spacecraft in 1978

329. On December 10, Renowned Lavani singer Sulochana Chavan passed away. She was 92. In 2022, Chavan was awarded the Padma Shri and also conferred the title of 'Lavani Samradnyi' (Queen of Lavani) for her contribution to the traditional Maharashtrian musical genre of Lavani. The dance format associated with Lavani is known as Tamasha. She was honoured with the Lata Mangeshkar Award, instituted by the Government of Maharashtra, in 2010. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2012. Chavan was awarded the Lokshahir Patthe Bapurao Puraskar instituted by the Pune Municipal Corporation in 2007. She was also bestowed with the Ram Kadam Puraskar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sulochana Chavan – a Lavani Singer – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri, Lavani Samradnyi, Lata Mangeshkar Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

330. The first meeting of G20 Development Working Group (DWG) under India's G20 Presidency held in Mumbai from 13-16 December 2022. India holds the presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant addressed delegates in an opening session. Indian government has tried to bring good data governance and brought several initiatives like Data Governance Quality Index. The meeting was held with a focus on India's key priorities relating to accelerating progress on the SDGs, Lifestyle for environment and data for development. In the context of Green Development, the concept of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) ties closely with India's G20 motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and theme 'One Earth One Family One Future'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st meeting of G20 Development Working Group – held in Mumbai
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' | Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future' | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

331. On December 10, Varanasi hosted the G-20 Development Ministers' Meeting 2022. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the meeting. The minister also visited the Kashi Tamil Sangamam Exhibition at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) during the programme. The G-20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Varanasi – hosted the "G-20 Development Ministers' Meeting 2022"
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam Exhibition – held at Banaras Hindu University
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil

332. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated the India Global Forum UAE 2022 in Dubai. It was a gala 5-day event that brought together leading political, business and cultural personalities from India, the UAE and across the world. This was the first major international event following India's ascendancy to the G20 Presidency, and was held in Dubai and Abu Dhabi from December 12 to 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated the 'India Global Forum UAE 2022' in Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Acquisitions & Mergers

333. On December 12, Jaypee Group signed an agreement to sell the group's cement business to Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd at an enterprise value of Rs 5,666 Cr. This is the second asset sale deal clinched by debt-laden Jaiprakash Associates with the Dalmia Group. The company had sold controlling stake in cement units with total capacity of 2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to the Dalmia Group in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dalmia Bharat – to acquire Jaypee Group's cement assets for Rs 5,666 Cr

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

334. On December 15, California-based Airbnb signed an MoU with the Department of Tourism of Goa to promote inclusive tourism in the state. This partnership is aimed at encouraging travel to unique destinations that are lesser-known and enabling economically regenerative community-led tourism in the state. The state also officially launched 'Rediscover Goa' to scale homestay capacity across the state, and provide support to Goan homestay Hosts in delivering quality tourism experiences to guests, both domestic and international. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airbnb (US) + Goa = an MoU to promote inclusive tourism in the state
- Goa – officially launched 'Rediscover Goa' campaign
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

335. Hyderabad-based Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL) partnered with the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) for the commercial development of India's first fish vaccine. The vaccine will be developed to protect freshwater fish against common bacterial diseases. CIFE, an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute, will provide technology for two inactivated bacterial vaccines, one for Columnaris Disease, and other for Edwardsielliosis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Immunologicals Ltd + CIFE (Mumbai) = partnership for the commercial development of India's first fish vaccine
- HQs of Indian Immunologicals Ltd – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Meenesh C. Shah

336. On December 12, Hyderabad-based MTAR Technologies has signed an MoU with Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) for design and development of a 'Two Stage to Low Earth Orbit All Liquid Small Satellite Launch Vehicle' powered by semi cryogenic technology with a payload capacity of 500 kg. Both the parties have entered into framework MoU for various requirements including avionics, sub systems testing, facilitation of launch etc. and any other requirements that might emerge during the course of design, development and launch phase. The MoU shall remain in force for three years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MTAR Technologies + IN-SPACe = an MoU for design & development of a 'Two Stage to Low Earth Orbit All Liquid Small Satellite Launch Vehicle'

337. On December 10, in a bid to promote Ayurveda across continents, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) signed an MoU with the University of Medical Sciences, Cuba, and extended the agreement with Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA), Germany, for 5 more years to take forward collaborative programmes. The AIIA and REAA had entered into a MoU in September, 2017 with a validity of five years. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo held in Goa. With these collaborations, AIIA has 15 international partners and 35 national partners under its collaborative activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIIA + University of Medical Sciences (Cuba) = an MoU to promote Ayurveda across continents
- AIIA + Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (Germany) = an MoU extended for collaborative programmes
- [HQs of AIIA – New Delhi](#) | [Director – Tanuja Manoj Nesari](#)

338. On December 12, Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) has formed a joint venture company with Kyrgyzindustry to construct rail road and other infrastructure projects in Kyrgyz Republic. Kyrgyzindustry is an Open Joint Stock Company. The joint venture namely "Kyrgyzindustry-RVNL" is a Closed Joint Stock Company (CJSC) in which RVNL will hold 50% stake. RVNL is a Category-I MiniRatna CPSE under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. RVNL can enter into and carry on business relating to creation and augmentation of capacity of rail infrastructure on fast track. As on 30 September 2022, the Government of India holds 78.20% stake in the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RVNL + Kyrgyzindustry = formed a joint venture to construct rail road & other infrastructure projects in Kyrgyzstan
- The JV will be called – "Kyrgyzindustry-RVNL" which is a Closed Joint Stock Company (RVNL will hold 50% stake in the JV)
- [HQs of RVNL – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & MD – Pradeep Gaur](#) | [Incorporated in – 2003](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som](#) | [President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov](#)

339. On December 13, The Embassy of India and Nepal government's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration signed a Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for undertaking three projects in Nepal, one each in education, healthcare and drinking water sectors. The three projects include the construction of the Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School building in the Udayapur district, the construction of Ngonga Thenchowk Chholing meditation centre in the Soulu khumbu district and the construction of Lisnekhola Tikasung Dangchet Jharlang water supply project in Dhading district shall be implemented at a cost of NRs. 101.79 million. India has taken up more than 532 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal and completed 476 projects in various sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = an MoU for undertaking 3 projects in Nepal
- The three projects are:
 - Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School building in Udayapur district
 - Ngonga Thenchowk Chholing meditation centre in Soulu khumbu district
 - Lisnekhola Tikasung Dangchet Jharlang water supply project in Dhading district
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba





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