

**RACE™****29.11.2021**

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INTERNATIONAL

1) B.1.1.529

World Health Organisation has classified the new COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 as Omicron. New COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529 was first reported to WHO from South Africa on 24 November 2021. According to WHO, the strain may spread more quickly than other forms.

NATIONAL

1) Kantar's BrandZ India 2021 report

According to Kantar's BrandZ India 2021 report, Amazon, Tata Tea and Asian Paints emerged as the most purposeful brands in India across technology, FMCG, and non-FMCG categories respectively. In technology ranking Amazon leads the index followed by Zomato, YouTube, and Google, and Swiggy jointly in 4th place.

2) Indian Railways Constructing World's Tallest Pier Bridge in Manipur

The Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in Manipur. The ambitious project of the Railways in Manipur is part of the Jiribam-Imphal railway line, which ultimately is part of a new broad gauge line being constructed to connect the northeastern state with the rest of the country.

3) Multi-dimensional Poverty Index

Niti Aayog has released the first-ever Multi-dimensional Poverty Index to measure poverty at the national, State/UT, and district levels. As per the inaugural index, Bihar has been adjudged as the state with the highest level of multidimensional poverty. 51.91 per cent of the state's population are multidimensionally poor.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) Drone Insurance product

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance announced its partnership with deep-tech startup TropoGo for the distribution of a drone Insurance product. With this Bajaj Allianz General Insurance becomes the 4th insurer to offer drone cover. HDFC Ergo was the first insurer to launch a drone insurance cover in June 2020, followed by ICICI Lombard.

2) RBI imposes Rs 1 Crore penalty on SBI

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on the State Bank of India. SBI held shares in the borrower companies of an amount exceeding 30 per cent of the paid-up share capital of those companies.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) 'Bangladesh Liberation @ 50 years: 'Bijoy' with Synergy, India-Pakistan war 1971'

General MM Naravane released a book 'Bangladesh Liberation @ 50 years: 'Bijoy' with Synergy,

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India-Pakistan war 1971', a compilation of personal accounts of the war by veterans from India and Pakistan. The book is an amalgamation of historical and anecdotal accounts of the 1971 War and comprises authors from both India and Bangladesh.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1) Dhawan-1

Skyroot Aerospace, a space technology startup, has successfully test-fired Dhawan-1, India's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine. This will power the upper stages of its upcoming Vikram-2 orbital launch vehicle. Dhawan-1 is a completely 'Made-in-India' cryogenic engine.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Rajnish Kumar

Hero MotoCorp announced the appointment of former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) Rajnish Kumar as an independent non-executive director on the board of the company. Kumar completed his three-year term as chairman of SBI in October 2020.

2) Petr Fiala

Petr Fiala has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the Czech Republic by President Milos Zeman. Fiala, which garnered 27.8% of the vote in early October. Fiala succeeds Andrej Babis. The centrist group of the Mayors and Independents and the left-wing Pirate Party joined with Fiala's coalition to remove Babis, who had served as prime minister since 2017.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) NCC Raising Day

The National Cadet Corps (NCC), observed the 73rd anniversary of its raising on November 28. NCC day is celebrated every year on the 4th Sunday in November. The raising day is being celebrated all over the country with cadets participating in marches, blood donation camps and social development programmes.

2) The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is an UN-organized day held every year on November 29. The day aims to educate the public on the question of Palestine and support a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.