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INTERNATIONAL

1) Oscars 2022

Indian Movie's Jai Bhim and Marakkar have been officially shortlisted for the Oscars 2022. Jai Bhim is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan. Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham has been also nominated for the Global Community Oscar Awards 2021.

NATIONAL

1) RT-PCR diagnostic kit, 'Om'

CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, 'Om', for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus. It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron.

2) 20th Dhaka International Film Festival

P S Vinohraj directed film Koozhangal from India won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition section at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival. The best actor award was given to Jayasurya for Ranjith Sankar-directed film Sunny.

3) Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for the year 2022 has been conferred to 29 children. The PMRBP award is given by the Government of India to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments in 6 categories. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-.

STATE NEWS

1) Adi Badri Dam

Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana have signed an MoU at Panchkula, for the construction of Adi Badri Dam that would come upon 77 acres in Himachal Pradesh near the Adi Badri area of Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana. The proposed dam aims for the rejuvenation of the Saraswati river.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) 'Platina Fixed Deposit'

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched 'Platina Fixed Deposit', offering interest of 15 basis points higher than the regular term deposit rates provided by Ujjivan SFB. The Platina FD is a non-callable deposit, where partial & premature withdrawal is not applicable.





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2) AIIB is investing USD 150 million

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a multilateral development bank has committed USD 150 million to invest in the development of data centres that mostly serve emerging Asia. This project is being AIIB's 1st data centre project. India is a key founding member of AIIB.

3) Swiggy- now a decacorn

Food-ordering and instant grocery delivery platform, Swiggy has signed a \$700 million funding round led by asset manager Invesco. With this, the total valuation of Swiggy has reached to \$10.7 billion i.e. it is now a decacorn. A decacorn is a startup with a valuation of more than \$10 billion.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Vinodanand Jha

Vinodanand Jha has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority, for a period of 5 years. Jha is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) "National Voter's Day"

India observes "National Voters' Day" every year on January 25 to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process. Election Commission of India is celebrating 12th National Voters Day on 25th January 2022. The theme for this year's NVD, 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.

2) National Tourism Day

The Indian government established January 25 as the National Tourism Day to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.

OBITUARY

1) Ramachandran Nagaswamy

Noted Indian historian, archaeologist and epigraphist from Tamil Nadu, Ramachandran Nagaswamy, has passed away. He was 91. He first director of the Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology.