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INTERNATIONAL

1) "Ziyuan-1 02E"

China has launched a new satellite with a camera capable of taking photos of the ground with a resolution of five meters, according to the National Space Administration of China (CNSA). The satellite, called "Ziyuan-1 02E" or "Five Meter 02 Optical Satellite".

2) World's first dual-mode vehicle

Japan has introduced a minibus lookalike world's first dual-mode vehicle in its town of Kaiyo. The vehicle can run on normal rubber tyres on the road but its steel wheels, which are in its underbelly, descend when it hits the rail tracks. It runs on diesel.

NATIONAL

1) "Healthy States, Progressive India"

NITI Aayog has released the fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20 that provides incremental performance in health outcomes and status. The index is developed by: NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The report, titled "Healthy States, Progressive India", ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) "Green Fixed Deposits"

IndusInd Bank launched "Green Fixed Deposits" where the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs). With this, the bank has entered the list of few global banks which offer integrating SDG into a regular FD product.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Radhika Jha

Radhika Jha has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer in state-run Energy Efficiency Services (EESL). EESL is a joint venture between NTPC, Power Grid, Power Finance Corp and REC, working to promote energy efficiency in the country.

2) Atul Kumar Goel

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Atul Kumar Goel as MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank with effect from February 1, 2022. Goel will serve as PNB chief until December 31, 2024, which is his attaining the superannuation age. Goel will replace Mallikarjuna Rao.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) PETA - 2021 Person of the Year

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India has named Bollywood star Alia Bhatt its 2021 Person of the Year. She is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets. This year, Alia Bhatt invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which is a vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers.

OBITUARY

1) E.O. Wilson

E.O. Wilson (92), the former Harvard University biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner whose study of ants and human behaviour made him one of the world's most influential scientists and prompted his calls for action to protect millions of species on the planet, has passed away. To protect Earth earned him the nickname "Darwin's natural heir". He was also known as "father of biodiversity".

2) Karolos Papoulias

Greek politician Karolos Papoulias, who served as president at the height of the economic crisis of the 2010s, died. Papoulias, a longtime socialist lawmaker and minister, was close to Andreas Papandreou, the founder of the Socialist PASOK party.

SPORTS

1) 4th Para-Badminton National Championship

Nitesh Kumar (Haryana) won doubled gold at the 4th Para-Badminton National Championship, which concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Nitesh along with his partner Tarun Dhillon defeated World No. 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar