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INTERNATIONAL

1) Google acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify

Google has acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify, in a deal worth \$500 million. This acquisition will expand the U.S. tech giant's security offerings in the country amid rising cyber-attacks. Siemplify will be integrated into Google Cloud's Chronicle operation.

NATIONAL

1) 25th National Youth Festival

Puducherry has been handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to host the 25th National Youth Festival. The 25th National Youth Festival is going to be held in Puducherry from 12th to 16th January 2022. The festival has been organised as part of the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav marking the 75th year of Independence.

2) Automatic Generation Control

Power and new and renewable energy minister, Raj Kumar Singh has dedicated Automatic Generation Control (AGC) to the nation. The AGC sends signals to power plants every four seconds to maintain the frequency and thereby reliability of India's power system.

3) India's first paperless court

The Kerala High Court is all set to become India's first paperless court. Cases e-filed will be processed, verified and cured through e-mode, stakeholders can avail the option of hearing of cases in hybrid mode involving physical hearing as well as through videoconferencing, and orders and judgments will also be delivered through e-mode.

STATE NEWS

1) Himachal Pradesh became the first smoke-free state

Himachal Pradesh became the first LPG enables, also, smoke-free state. This milestone was achieved due to the Ujjwala Scheme and Grahini Suvidha Yojana by Centre. The Ujjwala scheme was introduced by the government to get rid of the smoke. The Grahini Suvidha Scheme was introduced to assist the women of rural areas.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) India exported goods worth \$37.29 billion

The preliminary data released by the commerce and industry ministry, India exported goods worth \$37.29 billion in December, the highest ever in a month, as demand for items such as engineering products, petroleum items, and gems and jewellery continued to soar. India's export has increased by 37 per cent from the figures of December 2020.



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2) Framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode

Reserve Bank of India has issued a framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode using cards, wallets, mobile devices, etc, to push digital transactions in rural and semi-urban areas. The upper limit of an offline payment transaction was fixed at Rs 200, with a total limit of Rs 2,000 at any point in time.

3) 'Unified Presentment Management System'

NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd., has introduced a functionality called 'Unified Presentment Management System'. NBBL through UPMS will enable the customers to set up standing instructions – from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) Trek to the South Pole

Captain Harpreet Chandi, Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, also known as Polar Preet, has created history by becoming the first woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole.

OBITUARY

1) Viktor Danilovich Saneyev

The Olympic triple jump 3-time gold medalist and former world record holder, Viktor Danilovich Saneyev passed away in Australia. He was a triple long player who represented the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) in the Olympic games. He secured gold medals in European Games organized in 1969 Athens and 1974 Rome.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) G Asok Kumar

G Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary under the Ministry of Jal Shakti was appointed as the new Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. He succeeded Director-General, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. Kumar is popularly known as 'the Rain Man of India' for his excellent work in rainwater harvesting.

