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NEWS IN SHORT

NEWS ①: Vaccine passports for COVID-19.

NEWS ②: PM urged all MPs to take part in 'Amrit Mahotsav'.

NEWS ③: Jammu & Kashmir government has put a "Draft Excise Policy" in public domain.

NEWS ④: AP become the first state of India to incorporate the Gender Budget.

NEWS ⑤: Russian signed a pact with the National Space Administration of China.

NEWS ⑥: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia

NEWS ⑦: OECD published its interim Economic Outlook.

NEWS ⑧: AckoDrive partnered with IDFC FIRST Bank to issue free FASTags.

NEWS ⑨: Yes Bank launched a banking proposition YES Essence service

NEWS ⑩: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched "Garima Saving Accounts"

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Vaccine passport

- A World Health Organisation official has stated that, vaccine passports for COVID-19 should not be used for international travel because of several concerns like ethical considerations.
- The vaccine passport is designed as a "proof of vaccination".

'Amrit Mahotsav'

- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, have urged all the Members of Parliament and the public representatives to take part in 'Amrit Mahotsav'.
- It will start at the Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat. The MyGov launched a logo design contest for the Amrit Mahotsav.

STATE AFFAIRS

World Skill Center

- Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the India's first World Skill Center, an advanced skill training institute at, Bhubaneswar with the assistance of Asian Development Bank.

"Draft Excise Policy"

- The Jammu & Kashmir government has put a "Draft Excise Policy" in public domain with respect to the government's proposal to allot the retail liquor vends through e-auction.
- The policy has been drafted with the aim of rationalizing the number of taxes or duties and other levies.

Gender Budget

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that the state would become the first state of India to incorporate the Gender Budget in its annual budget of the fiscal year 2021 to 2022 with an aim to provide better service to women.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Planetary pact

- The Russian space agency Roscosmos stated that, it had signed a pact with the National Space Administration of China.
- Both the countries have signed a planetary pact. Russia seeks to regain the glory of space pioneering which was there in the Soviet times.

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“Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia”

- The **World Bank** has published its report called **“Connecting to thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia”**.
- As per the report, greater transport connectivity in between **India and Bangladesh** can increase the national income of both the nations.

Economic Outlook

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** published its **interim Economic Outlook**.
- It has projected that the **Indian economy** will grow at the rate of **12.6%** in Financial Year 2022. This will be the **highest among G20 countries**.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

AckoDrive

- **AckoDrive**, an online car sales platform, partnered with **IDFC FIRST Bank** to issue **free FASTags**. **IDFC FIRST Bank**, authorized by the **National Highways Authority of India** to **distribute FASTags**.
- FASTags is like a **QR code** which will be used by all the tollways in India to **collect the toll payments**.

YES Essence

- **Yes Bank** launched a banking proposition **YES Essence service** to offer **preferentially – priced loans and healthcare benefits** for the **women customers**.
- It aims to **encourage the women customers** to fulfill their aspirations.

“Garima Saving Accounts”

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** launched **“Garima Saving Accounts”**, a women Saving Account to provide the **financial needs of women**.
- The account offers various customised **benefits for women** which includes a **maximum of 7% rate of interest** on savings account.

“Partnering for Racial Justice in Business initiative”

- **Wipro Limited**, has joined the **“Partnering for Racial Justice in Business initiative”** launched by the **World Economic Forum**.
- It is to promote a **culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice** for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INS Karanj

- The **Indian Navy** has inducted into service the **third Scorpene-class conventional diesel-electric submarine** called **INS Karanj**.
- **INS Karanj** is the **part of Six Scorpene submarines** which are being built under **Project-75**. It was built by **Mazagon Dock Limited**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

International Federation of Film Archives award

- The **International Federation of Film Archives** and worldwide organisation of **film archives and museums** from across the globe will confer the **prestigious 2021 FIAF Award to Amitabh Bachchan**.
- The award will be given to him by **filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Christopher Nolan**.

OBITUARY

Anshuman Singh

- **Anshuman Singh**, former **governor of Rajasthan** passed away at the age of **86** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- He passed away due to **COVID-19 related pneumonia**. He served as the **Governor of Rajasthan** from 1999 to May 2003.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

“The Green Queens of India – A Nation’s Pride”,

- **Prakash Javadekar**, Union Minister, Ministry of Environment released an **e-book** titled **“The Green Queens of India – A Nation’s Pride”**, **best practices and life experience of women forest officers**.
- The eBook was published by **Indian Forest Service Association-Central unit**.