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NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NATO military exercises "DEFENDER-Europe 21" launched in Albania

NATO has launched joint military exercises "DEFENDER-Europe 21" in Albania with thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates in **Governor's Seminar**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates in Governor's Seminar as part of Asian Development Bank's annual meeting 2021.
- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs and Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Governor for India Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the Governor's Seminar on "Cooperation for a Resilient Future", held as part of ADB's annual meeting 2021.

Microsoft collaborates with Nigeria to create about 27,000 new digital jobs over the next 3 years

Tech giant Microsoft and the Nigerian government are collaborating intending to create about 27,000 new digital jobs over the next three years.

Microsoft President Brad Smith stated in a joint statement with the Nigerian government that they will use 1,700 trainers to train five million Nigerians.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

RBI imposes Rs 3 crore fine on ICICI Bank for violating certain rules

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined ICICI Bank 3 **crore** for violating prudential norms on the **operation** of its investment portfolio.
- RBI found contravention of norms in the matter of "shifting of securities from one category to another".

Government of India announces sale of four dated securities for a notified amount of Rs 32,000 crore

- GoI will have the option to retain additional subscriptions up to Rs 8,000 crore against Security/Securities.
- The auctions will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India using the multiple price method.

Barclays cuts India's FY22 GDP forecast to 10%

Barclays Securities lowered India's FY22 (2021-22) GDP growth forecast to 10 per cent year-on-year from 11 per cent earlier due to the second wave of coronavirus.

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Barclays had estimated the economy to contract by 6 per cent in FY21.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Shyamala Ganesh to be conferred with Japan's 'Order of the Rising Sun' award

- The former director of the Japanese Language School, Shyamala Ganesh conferred with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for her contribution to the spread of the Japanese language and culture in Karnataka.
- The award is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of Japanese culture, international affairs, professional advances and environmental protection.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

National Human Rights Commission appoints Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant as its acting chairperson

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) announced NHRC member Justice (retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant had appointed as the acting chairperson of the Commission with effect from 25 April.
- The post of a chairperson has been vacant since Justice HL Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India, completed his tenure on 2 December 2020.

Vijay Goel takes over as Chairman and Managing Director of THDCIL

- Vijay Goel was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of THDC (Tehri Hydro Development Corporation) India Limited.
- He is also discharging the responsibility of the director (personnel) of THDCIL.

Senior IAS Officer Tripurari Sharan appointed as new **Bihar Chief Secretary**

- Senior IAS officer Tripurari Sharan was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar for a period of two months.
- He succeeded Arun Kumar Singh who died recently. He is a 1985 batch IAS officer.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Firefighters' Day - 4 May

- International Firefighters' Day is observed annually on 4 May.
- The day is to honour the work of firefighting professionals, who dedicate their lives to the protection of people and property.

Coal Miners Day- 4 May

Coal Miners' Day is observed on 4 May to recognise the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of the Industrial Revolution.

World Asthma Day - 4 May

- World Asthma Day is observed every year on 4 May to raise awareness about the chronic disease and how it can be controlled with proper treatment.
- 2021 Theme: "Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions".

SPORTS

PV Sindhu and Michelle Li named athlete ambassadors for IOC's 'Believe in Sports' campaign

- World champion and Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu and world no. 11 Canada's Michelle Li have been nominated as athlete ambassadors for International Olympic Committee's 'Believe in Sports'
- The pair have been global ambassadors for BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign since April 2020.

Lewis Hamilton wins the Portuguese Grand Prix 2021

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the 2021 Portuguese Grand Prix held at Algarve International Circuit in Portugal.
- It was the second win of the season for Hamilton and overall 96th career victory.

Sri Lanka all-rounder Thisara Perera announces retirement from international cricket

- The 32-year-old Sri Lanka all-rounder Thisara Perera announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He has featured in 6 Tests, 166 ODIs and 84 T20Is.

Mark Selby beats Shaun Murphy in World Snooker Championship 2021

Mark Selby became a World Snooker Champion for the **fourth time** after defeating Shaun Murphy (18-15) in World Snooker Championship 2021 held at Sheffield, England.

OBITUARY

Asian gold medallist Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan passed away at 74

• The 1982 Asian Games gold medallist rider Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan (retired) passed away in Pune, Maharashtra.

Former J&K Governor Jagmohan passed away

- Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Jagmohan passed away after a brief illness in Delhi.
- Jagmohan was appointed Jammu and Kashmir governor in 1984 and completed his five-year tenure.

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