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INTERNATIONAL

1) 'Frontiers' report 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches'

UNEP "Frontiers' report 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches" looks at three concerns: Urban soundscapes, wildfires and phonological shifts. As per the report, Highest noise pollution has been recorded in Dhaka, Bangladesh. 13 noise polluted cities in south Asia. Five of these are in India, namely Moradabad, Kolkata, Asansol, Jaipur and Delhi.

2) MERCOSUR

India is looking to sign long-term contracts with MERCOSUR countries to import crude sunflower oil as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted imports, leading to skyrocketing edible oil prices. Established in 1991, MERCOSUR is the Latin American trading bloc with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay as its members.

NATIONAL

1) Systems for air traffic management

Airports Authority of India has signed an agreement with Defence Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited for the joint indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports across the country, which were previously imported.

2) e-Sanjeevani

e-Sanjeevani telemedicine service of Union Health Ministry has crossed 3 core tele-consultations. Telemedicine service platforms 'e-Sanjeevani' and 'e-Sanjeevani OPD' were developed in 2019 by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). Sanjeevani is a doctor-to-doctor telemedicine system, deployed nationally under Ayushman Bharat Scheme of Government of India.

3) Rough-Toothed Dolphin

A Research team of the Department of Environment and Forest in Lakshadweep has reported the first-ever live sighting of rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*) in Indian waters. They are Found in tropical and warmer temperate waters all over the world but little is known about them. IUCN status: Least Concern.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

1) Ola to acquire neo-banking platform Avail Finance

Ola, an Indian ride-hailing startup, has agreed to acquire neo-banking platform Avail Finance in order to expand its financial services offering. The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed by Ola, which owns a 9% share in Avail Finance.



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2) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in Bengaluru on Thursday, which was established with a Rs 100 crore initial capital contribution to foster and nurture financial innovation. RBIH intends to build an ecosystem that promotes access to financial services and goods for the country's low-income people.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Vinod G. Khandare

Lieutenant General Vinod G. Khandare (retired) has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence, providing strategic insights and advise on matters relevant to defence strategy to the Defence Secretary. Gen. Khandare retired from the Army at the end of January 2018.

2) Rajnish Kumar

The Former Chairman of the State Bank of India Rajnish Kumar has joined the International Strategic Advisory Board of data and analytics behemoth Dun & Bradstreet. Dun & Bradstreet has been a trusted brand in business decision-making data, analytics, and ratings. In October 2020, Kumar stepped down as Chairman of SBI.

