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## NATIONAL

### 1) Cordelia Cruises

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has joined hands and signed the agreement with Cordelia Cruises being operated by M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd for promotion and marketing of the first indigenous luxury cruise in India. This is another incredible luxury travel offering under IRCTC's umbrella of tourism services to the public.

### 2) 'Space Challenge'

Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India. This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Labs labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well.

## STATE NEWS

### 1) 'Cooper Mahseer'

The Government of Sikkim has declared 'Cooper Mahseer' locally named as 'Katley' as the state fish. Neolissochilus hexagonolepis is the scientific name of the Cooper Mahseer. The decision has been taken to highlight the importance of the Katley fish and to give emphasis to its conservation measures.

### 2) GI tag for Manipur Products

Hathei chilli, which is found in Manipur's Ukrul district and is known for its unique flavour, and Tamenglong mandarin orange have been granted the Geographical Indication tag. This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur and it will increase the income of farmers in Manipur.

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

### 1) NPCI partnered with Liquid Group

NPCI International Payments Ltd has partnered with Liquid Group Pte. Ltd. to enable UPI QR-based payments acceptance in 10 markets across North Asia and Southeast Asia. This partnership will help BHIM App users to make UPI QR-based payments in the 10 markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan, from early 2022.

### 2) Mobile app 'PRAGATI'

Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched a new mobile app 'PRAGATI' for the exclusive use of its Development Officers. PRAGATI stands for "Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator". LIC has been taking a lot of customer-centric and digital initiatives for ease of operations for its customers and field force.



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## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### 1) Pankaj Tripathi

Fino Payments Bank has appointed Indian actor Pankaj Tripathi as its first brand ambassador, for a period of two-year. Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino Payments Bank's marketing campaigns across various platforms, to promote its products and services. The actor will be the face of Fino bank's first campaign titled 'Fikar Not'.

### 2) Charanjit Singh Channi

The Congress party has elected Charanjit Singh Channi, the outgoing technical education minister, as the new chief minister of Punjab after Captain Amarinder Singh resigned from the post. He has been elected as the leader of the Punjab Congress Legislative Party. He is an MLA from the Chamkaur Sahib assembly constituency. He will become Punjab's first Dalit chief minister.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### 1) 'Shining Sikh Youth of India'

The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled 'Shining Sikh Youth of India' in New Delhi, as a part of the commemoration of the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs. The book has been authored by Dr Prabhleen Singh, administrative officer at the Punjabi University, Patiala.

## SPORTS

### 1) Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament

India's R Raja Rithvik became chess Grandmaster after he crossed the ELO Rating of 2500. The 17-year-old achieved this GM title in Vezerkepzo Grandmaster Chess Tournament at Budapest, Hungary. He thus became the 70th Grandmaster from the country.

### 2) 60th National Open Athletics Championships

Harmilan Kaur Bains of Punjab has created a new national record in the women's 1500m race by clocking 4:05.39 to bag the gold at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda in Telangana.

### 3) Asian Snooker Championship 2021

Pankaj Advani won the Asian Snooker Championship 2021 by defeating Amir Sarkhosh. He has won this title for a second consecutive time. He is the winner of the last Asian Snooker Championship held in 2019. In 2019, Pankaj also became the only player who won the titles in all forms of billiards, snooker, 6Reds, and 10Reds competitions.



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## OBITUARY

### 1) Manorama Mohapatra

Eminent Odia litterateur, social worker and journalist Manorama Mohapatra passed away. She was a former editor of Odia daily 'The Samaja'. She had won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Critic Circle of India Award in 1990, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991 and Rupambara Award in 1994.

