

National

Centre further extends Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers fighting COVID-19 for 6 months

- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP): Insurance Scheme for Health Care Workers Fighting COVID-19 has been extended by the government. with effect from October 21, 2021, for a further 180 days.
- The policy's current period was set to end on October 20, 2021.
- On March 30, 2020, the insurance policy was published, with the goal of providing Rs 50 lakh in insurance coverage to almost 22.12 lakh health personnel assigned to COVID-19 patients.



News source: <https://www.livemint.com/news>

Centre approves 3% Dearness Allowance hike for central govt employees

- Union Cabinet authorised a 3% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for central government employees and pensioners.
- The 3% rise will take effect on July 1, 2021, and will be in addition to the present rate of 28% of basic pay/pension.
- The DA/DR ratio will now be 31% after this increment.
- It should be remembered that the government announced an 11 percent increase in DA/DR from 17 percent to 28 percent of basic pay/pension in July 2021.
- It will cost the government Rs 9,488.70 crore a year.



News source: <https://www.business-standard.com/>

International

Russian film crew return to Earth after shooting the first movie in space

- A Russian film crew has set a new record by shooting the first motion feature on board the International Space Station (ISS).
- Klim Shipenko, a Russian film director, and actress Yulia Peresild spent 12 days on the International Space Station recording 30 minute segments for the film "The Challenge." The material was recorded in space for about 30 hours.
- The first feature film to be shot in space is "The Challenge." The storey follows a female doctor who travels to space to save the life of a cosmonaut.



News source: <https://www.theguardian.com/>

Jailed Russian Opposition leader wins top EU human rights prize

- The imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been given the European Union's top human rights accolade, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought for 2021, by the European Parliament.
- The 45-year-old campaigner was honoured for his extraordinary personal bravery in fighting Vladimir Putin's regime's corruption.
- The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, or simply the Sakharov Prize, is the highest human rights award given by the European Parliament.

- Individuals and groups that have committed their life to the defence of human rights and freedom of opinion are honoured with the prize.

News source: <https://www.thehindu.com/>

Banking

RBI imposes ₹1 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank

- Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has been fined Rs 1 crore by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for certain specific offences under Section 26 (2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- The information provided in Paytm Payments Bank's application for issuance of a final Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) did not reflect the genuine situation, according to the RBI.



News source: <https://www.businessinsider.in/>

Appointment

OnePlus appoints Navnit Nakra as India CEO and Head of India region

- OnePlus, a Chinese smartphone manufacturer, has named Navnit Nakra as its India CEO and Head of OnePlus India Region Operations.
- Nakra previously worked for OnePlus in India as Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer, and Head of Sales.
- In February of 2020, he began working for the company.

Ayushmann Khurrana joins CoinDCX as Brand Ambassador

- Ayushmann Khurrana has been roped in as the brand ambassador of the cryptocurrency exchange platform CoinDCX to promote its 'Future Yahi Hai' campaign.

Imtiaz Ali appointed as Ambassador of Russian Film Festival in India

- The renowned film director, producer, and writer, Imtiaz Ali has been roped in as the ambassador of the Russian Film Festival in India.

Sahdev Yadav appointed as President of Indian Weightlifting Federation

- The Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has appointed veteran sports administrator Sahdev Yadav as the President. He has been appointed for a period of four-year term.

Agreement

Kumar Mangalam Birla to invest in UAE's digibank 'Zand'

- Mangalam, Kumar Aditya Birla, the Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, is planning to invest in Zand, the UAE's first digital-only bank.
- Birla will join with Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Initiative Authority, on this investment (ADIA).
- The initial investment is likely to be between \$50 and \$100 million, and will come from Birla's private family office.
- Birla is the first Indian to invest in the financial sector of the United Arab Emirates.



News source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/>