

Cross And Climb Academy

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Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal lays foundation stone for Heartfulness International Yoga academy in Hyderabad



The Union **Ayush** Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for the **Heartfulness International Yoga academy** on January 03, 2022 at **Hyderabad**.

The Heartfulness International Yoga Academy comprises Yoga halls that can accommodate 100 Yoga students in each hall. Apart from this the academy has therapeutic Yoga rooms for consultation, one to one training spaces or small group classes; pre-natal Yoga rooms; a lecture hall with 200 sitting capacity; a full-fledged recording studio with editing suites for pre-recorded wellness programs; a recording Yoga hall fully equipped for Live online Yoga Classes; a Yoga library with books from every Yoga Institutions and access to Yoga research articles.

The Academy will play key role to set new benchmarks in yoga training.

Telangana declared top state for having highest number of ODF plus villages



As per the latest report of the Central government, **Telangana** has bagged the top position among all other States of the country in having the highest number of ODF plus villages under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme**. Telangana reported which is 96.74% ODF plus villages, which means, 13,737 villages among total 14,200 villages were declared

as ODF plus, till December 31, 2021.

Telangana is followed by Tamil Nadu (35.39 percent), Kerala (19.78 percent), Uttarakhand (9.01 percent), Haryana (5.75 percent), Karnataka (5.59 percent) and Andhra Pradesh (4.63 percent).

Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, West Bengal, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Goa have been placed at the bottom of the list with zero progress. Under Phase-2 of the nationwide Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), about 26,138 villages out of the 5,82,903 villages in the country have been declared ODF as on December 31, 2021.

PM Modi inaugurates and lays foundation stone of various development projects in Manipur and Tripura



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **13 Projects worth around Rs. 1850 crores and laid the foundation stone of 9 projects worth around Rs 2950 crore** on January 04, 2022, during an event held at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal, Manipur. These projects are relate to wide array of sectors such as Road Infrastructure, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Urban

Development, Housing, Information Technology, Skill Development, Art and Culture, among others. Following this, Prime Minister left for Tripura, where he inaugurated the **New Integrated Terminal Building of Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport**. PM Modi also launched key initiatives like **Mukhyamantri Tripura Gram Samridhhi Yojana and Project Mission 100 of Vidyajyoti Schools at Agartala**.

Russia successfully test-fires 10 hypersonic Tsirkon missiles



Russia undertook test-firing of around **10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles** from a frigate and two more from a submarine recently. This was for the first time that Russian authorities reported a successful simultaneous launch test of several Zircon missiles. The Admiral Gorshkov class frigate and Severodvinsk, a Yasen class nuclear-power submarine were used to conduct the test-firing. The longest possible operational range of Zircon is 1000km and can travel at a speed of Mach 8–Mach 9, that is 8 to 9 times the speed of sound.

RBI Gives Scheduled Bank Status to Airtel Payments Bank



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has included Airtel Payment Bank in the **'Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934'** on January 04, 2022.

This means that Airtel Payments Bank has now been categorised as "Scheduled Commercial Bank". The Airtel Payments Bank can now bid for government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and primary auctions. It can also undertake both central and state government business, and participate in government-run welfare schemes.

State Bank of India invests USD20 million in payment solutions provider Pine Labs



India's largest lender, the **State Bank of India** has invested **\$20 million (Rs 150 crore) in Pine Labs Pvt Ltd.** Pine Labs is an Indian merchant commerce platform company. It provides financing and last-mile retail transaction technology, and makes software for point of sale machines. Pine Labs will invest the new funds in scaling Plural, its newly launched brand of online payment products. This will allow the company to offer payment services for both in-store as well as online payments. The IPO-bound online payments company is looking to list in the United States in the first half of 2022.

CryptoWire launches India's first cryptocurrencies index IC15



The global cryptocurrency app **CryptoWire** has launched **India's first index of cryptocurrencies named IC15.** IC15 is a rule-based broad market index that will track and measure the performance of the top 15 widely traded liquid cryptocurrencies globally, in terms of market capitalization, listed on leading crypto exchanges of the world. The base value of the index is set at **10,000.** The base date is set

at **April 01, 2018.** The index will be maintained, monitored and administered by the governance committee of CryptoWire, which will rebalance the index every quarter. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba inu will be monitored by the platform.

Google acquires Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify for \$500 mn

Alphabet Inc-owned **Google** has acquired **Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify,** in a deal worth **\$500 million.** This acquisition will expand U.S. tech giant's security offerings in the country amid rising cyber attacks. Siemplify will be integrated into Google Cloud's Chronicle operation. As a part of Google Cloud's security team, Siemplify will help companies better manage their threat response. This purchase marks fourth acquisition of an Israeli company by Google and its first in the cybersecurity industry outside the US. Siemplify was founded in 2015 by Amos Stern (CEO), Alon Cohen (CTO) and Garry Fatakhov (COO). It has offices in Tel Aviv and headquarters in New York. Siemplify specializes in end-to-end security services for enterprises, typically referred to as security orchestration, automation and response (SOAR) services.

Atul Keshap appointed as President of US-India Business Council (USIBC)



Indian-origin American diplomat **Atul Keshap** has been appointed as the **President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)** by the US Chambers of Commerce. His term is effective from **January 05, 2022**. The US Chambers of Commerce is the parent body of USIBC. Atul Keshap replaces Nisha Desai Biswal. Prior to this, Keshap served in Delhi as United States Chargé d' Affaires to India, leading US Embassy team. The USIBC represents top global companies operating across the United States, India, and the Indo-Pacific.

Sindhutai Sapkal popular as 'Mother of Orphans' passes away



Social worker Sindhutai Sapkal, who was called as **'Mother of Orphans'** passed away on January 04, 2022 at the age of 73 years due to heart attack. She was also referred to just as 'Sindhutai' or 'Mai' Sindhutai Sapkal was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2021** in the **Social Work category**. Apart from this, she had received more than 750 awards

and honours in her lifetime. She adopted close to 2,000 orphans and is grandmother to even more. She was from Maharashtra. A **biopic on her life titled "Mee Sindhutai Sapkal"** was released in the year 2010.