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India Ratings lowers India's FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7-7.2%

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 to **7-7.2 per cent**. Earlier in January the ratings agency Ind-Ra had forecast this rate at 7.6 percent.

Cabinet approves USD808-million programme for "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance"

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a new scheme to improve the performance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME). The scheme called '**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**' (RAMP) is a **World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme** and would commence in **FY 2022-23**. The total outlay for the scheme is **Rs.6,062.45 crore (USD 808 Million)**. Out of the total outlay, Rs.3750 crore (USD 500 Million) would be a loan from the World Bank and the remaining Rs.2312.45 crore (USD 308 Million) would be funded by the Government of India (GoI).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually attends 5th BIMSTEC Summit Chaired by Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the **5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit** on March 30, 2022 through virtual mode. The Summit was hosted by the Government of **Sri Lanka**, which was the chair nation of BIMSTEC. The theme of the Summit was "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People". At the conclusion of the Summit, **Thailand took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC**. 2022 marks the **25th year** of the establishment of BIMSTEC.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu releases book on noted Andhra Pradesh social worker late Shri Somepalli Somaiah

The Vice President of India **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled '**Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya**'. The book narrates life story of noted social worker from Andhra Pradesh, late Shri Somepalli Somaiah. **K Syam Prasad** is the author of the book. VC Shri Naidu considers Shri Somayya as one of his foremost 'gurus' and credits him for shaping his personality at a young age.

Maiden IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) concludes in Goa and Arabian Sea

The first edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in **Goa and in Arabian Sea**. The objective of the exercise was to enhance interoperability of the navies of member nations in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**. The navies from 15 out of the 25 member nations of IONS, participated in the exercise. The Harbour Phase of IMEX – 22 was held at Marmugao port, Goa on March 26 and 27 while the Sea Phase took place in the Arabian Sea from March 28 to 30, 2022.

IFS officer Renu Singh appointed as new Director of FRI Dehradun

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has appointed **Dr Renu Singh as the next Director of Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. Dr Renu is 1990 batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. The FRI Dehradun, is a premier institution under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



International Transgender Day of Visibility 2022 : 31 March

The **International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)** occurs annually on **March 31** to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society.

The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009.

World Backup Day 2022 : 31 March

World Backup Day is marked every year on **March 31**. The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology. It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups.

Originally, the World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.

International Day of Drug Checking 2022 : 31 March

The **International Day of Drug Checking** takes place on **March 31** every year since **2017** to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects. The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks.

Belgian Footballer Miguel Van Damme passes away at 28

Veteran **Belgian footballer Miguel Van Damme** has passed away aged 28 after long battle with leukemia. Van Damme was diagnosed with leukemia in 2016 and was undergoing treatment for cancer over five years. During his eight-year professional career, Van Damme played for **Cercle Brugge** and made 40 appearances for the team.