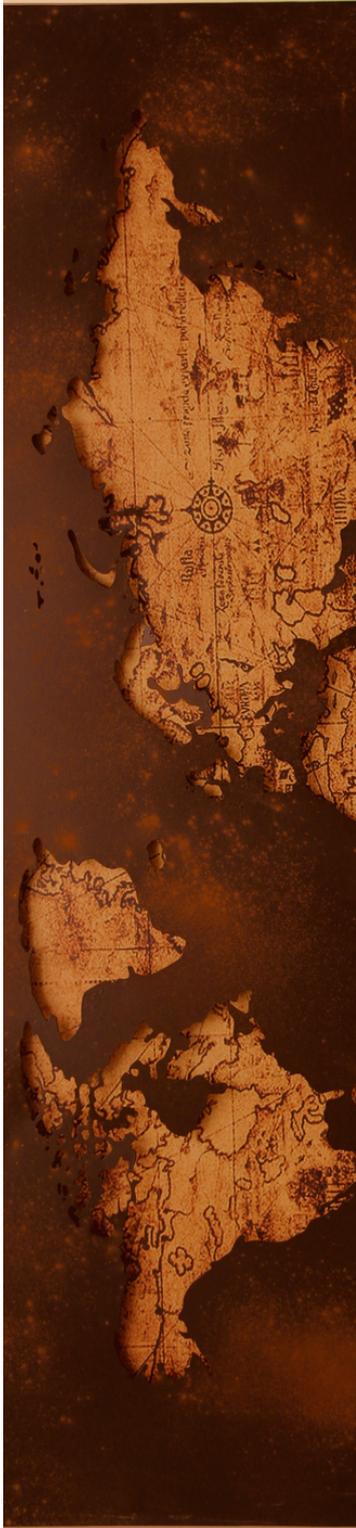


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01 GST RULE CHANGE

In the year 2022, the revisions made by the government regarding the Goods and Service Tax will come into effect. Some of the key changes include a higher rate of GST for apparel, footwear, etc. From January 1, the prices of footwear and textile except cotton products will get higher, owing to the increment in the tax rate from 5% to 12%. Online Transport aggregators such as Ola and Uber will also be required to pay GST at the rate of 5% from 1st January 2021, while the passenger transport services provided by auto-rickshaw or taxi drivers through offline mode would continue to be exempt. Food delivery platforms would also come under the ambit of GST. Food delivery platforms such as Swiggy and Zomato, will be made liable to collect and deposit GST on restaurant services supplied through them with effect from the upcoming year.

02 MAJOR EDIBLE OIL BRANDS CUT MRP BY 10-15%

Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) announced that major edible oil companies including Adani Wilmar, Ruchi Soya and Emami have reduced the MRP of their products by 10-15% to provide relief to customers. The exorbitant price hike in edible oils during the last few months was a result of high international prices which was unnerving domestic consumers. India is dependent on import of edible oils for nearly 65 per cent of the total consumption. Import duties on refined and crude edible oils were reduced by the Government several times this year.

On 20th December, customs duty on refined palm oil was slashed down to 12.5 per cent till the end of March 2022.



03 RS 300-CRORE EV PLANT TO BE SET UP BY BAJAJ AUTO

Rs 300 crores are being invested by Bajaj Auto to build capacity to manufacture 5,00,000 EVs per annum. Bajaj Auto's new EV manufacturing unit will be housed at its Akurdi plant, the work for which has already begun. It said that the company would roll out vehicles from the plant for both the domestic and export markets from June 2022. This project will be boosted by another Rs 250 crore investments by the vendors.



FINANCE & INVESTMENT

01 RBL BANK STOCK IN JEOPARDY

On 27 December 2021 the shares of RBL Bank took a massive hit as the shares slumped 20%. The shares fell to hit a 52 week low after hitting a 20% lower circuit. The shares were trading around Rs.139 around 11 am. The share slumped as the brokerages downgraded the stock after the RBI decided to appoint its chief general secretary Mr. Yogesh Dayal as an additional director in RBL Bank for upto 2 years from 24 December 2021 indicating towards a potential crisis within the banking firm. Over the Christmas weekend RBL Bank's MD and CEO Vishwvir Ahuja went on a sudden leave after the bank's board approved his request to proceed on medical leave. All these sudden developments shook the confidence of the investors and hence the shares of the banking entity took a massive hit on the Dalal Street. While the management assured the investors about the strong financials but the sudden action by RBI has turned everyone cautious.

02 ELON MUSK SELLS TESLA SHARES

Tesla's chief executive Elon Musk completed a transaction wherein he sold shares of the company worth \$1.02 billion according to a filing with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. The move comes after a poll was organised by him on Twitter in November where he asked his followers whether or not he should dilute his stake in the company. According to the filing he has sold 934,090 shares of the company. Going by the brokerages the shares have an upside of 30% over the next 12

months because the analysts believe that chip shortages will ease in 2022 and will allow the company to meet growing demand in China and new factories in Austin, Texas and Berlin will help in managing better production. Musk has sold more than \$15 billion worth of shares in the company since November. Following a series of share sale he still has about 1.5 million stock options that expire in August next year.

03 HINDALCO PURCHASES HYDRO'S PLANT

Hindalco industries on 18 December 2021 signed an agreement to acquire aluminium extrusions business for an enterprise value of Rs.247 crore from Norway headquartered Hydro. The transaction for the same is expected to complete by the end of the next quarter. Hydro's plant in Andhra Pradesh has 15000 tonne extrusion capacity and is loaded with value addition capabilities for surface finishing and fabrication. The facility offers custom aluminium extrusion products and solutions for auto, building and other industrial applications. The move comes as an attempt to extend the company's footprint in South India which is already the second largest extrusion market in the country. The acquisition will supplement Hindalco's strategy to increase downstream capacity to meet the growing market demand and further expand product portfolio and increase revenue from value-added products. Also the aluminium extrusions market in India is expected to grow rapidly from the current level of around 373,000 tonne to reach around 850,000 tonne by 2030.

ECONOMY

01 PM MODI TO RELEASE RS 20K CR TO MORE THAN 10 CR BENEFICIARIES

Under the 10th installment of financial benefits provided under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), PM Modi will transfer more than Rs 20,000 crore to around 10 crore farmer families on the first of new year. The PM-KISAN scheme extends a monetary benefit of Rs 6,000 per year which is payable in three equal 4-monthly installments amounting Rs 2000 each. This scheme is a DBT scheme. So far, Samman Rashi of around Rs 1.6 lakh crore has been extended. The Prime Minister, while releasing, will also provide an equity grant of more than Rs 14 crore to around 351 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), benefitting more than 1.24 lakh farmers.

02 ZOMATO AND SWIGGY WILL CHARGE EXTRA FOR YOUR FOOD DELIVERY FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

Zomato and Swiggy will be undergoing tax scrutinization due to an additional 5% charge from the customers under the new Goods and Services Tax regime starting from January 2022. This charge apparently will also leave an impact on the coupon discounts offered by Swiggy and Zomato to its customers. It is still unclear whether the charge will be added to the base price or the discounted price. Officials say, starting with the 1st day of 2022, restaurants will be imposing an additional 5% on the total cost of food from customers. This comes in line with the decision of the GST Council regarding food delivery platforms to impose tax on items and collect it from

customers in place of restaurants earlier this September. It was suggested to help ease the tax administration.

03 RBI FLAGS OMICRON THREAT TO GROWTH; SAYS BANKS STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE CHALLENGE

Though the economy has steadily gained momentum and remained resilient since the second quarter of the current fiscal, There seems to be emerging challenges with the rising threat of Omicron variant of coronavirus and rising inflationary pressures. Although the economy has managed to steadily gain momentum since the second quarter and showed resilience, there are still concerns regarding stability in the economy, says the Reserve Bank in its second financial stability report. The revival of private investment and rise in private consumption, which helps in sustainable and strong recovery, continues to stay below pre-pandemic levels, says RBI Governor. Accepting and agreeing to the concerns of high inflation, Governor Das says inflation is mainly caused by cost-push pressures and has called for stronger supply-side measures to contain food and energy prices.

As noted by RBI, the financial institutions have remained buoyant amidst the pandemic and the financial markets have been cushioned by policy and regulatory support, the governor is positive about the ability of banks to tackle and absorb future shocks with strong balance sheets with higher capital and liquidity buffers. As far as the stress on banks is concerned, RBI said NPAs may jump from 6.9% in September 2021 to 8.1-9.5% by September 2022.

01 PM MODI LAUNCHES MULTIPLE PROJECTS IN KASHI,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a slew of developmental projects worth ₹2,095 crores in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi. Among the key projects launched during the day were Banas Dairy Kashi Sankul, a biogas plant in Ramnagar, a 50-bed Integrated Ayush Hospital at Bhadrasi, an inter-university centre for teachers education and a sewage treatment plant at Ramna village.

The PM held up the new Kashi Vishwanath Dham complex as not just a grand structure, but also a symbol of “Sanatan culture”. He said India’s spiritual soul, ancient traditions and commitment to progress go hand in hand. In his address, he said that developments in Varanasi (also known as Kashi), can become a roadmap for the development of the entire country. “The majority of cities in India are traditional cities. They have developed traditionally. We can learn from such places about how local skills and products can be the identity of that city,” PM Modi said. He added one of the top priorities of his government is strengthening the dairy sector, and hence, the foundation of the Banas Dairy Kashi Sankul was laid.

02 INDIA TO BEGIN VACCINATION FOR CHILDREN AGED 15 YEARS

As Omicron cases rise in the country, and around the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced that vaccination for children aged 15 years and up will begin from January 3rd, 2022. 'Precaution' doses for frontline workers, as well as

co-morbid patients aged 60 years and up, will be given from January 10. The PM used the term precaution dose and did not call it booster dose as it has been generally referred to. In the extended guidelines on vaccination for children released by the Government of India, it was informed that the only vaccine available for the given age group is Covaxin. Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin received Emergency Use Listing for administration in children on 25th December, 2021 from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) after submission of clinical trials data and prior recommendation from the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) in October.

03 INTENSING TENSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

China's National Day is observed on October 1 which marks the birth of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Tensions between China and Taiwan have escalated since then this year. Along with 72nd-anniversary celebrations, China tried to take over the island by force by flying over 100 fighter jets into Taiwan's air defence identification zone. However, Taiwan sees itself as an independent nation and disregards China's goal of reunification. However, it is completely dependent upon US forces in case tensions between the countries come to a boil. However, The government is devising a plan to incur an expense of extra 240 billion Taiwanese dollars (\$8.66bn) over the next five years to move towards naval weapons which include missiles and warships. India and Taiwan are currently maintaining trade and cultural exchange offices in each other’s capitals. Experts suggest that India must develop more robust relations with Taiwan to deliver a message to Beijing.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

01 MOTOROLA IS WORKING ON A NEW VERSION OF ITS FOLDABLE PHONE

According to a recent report, Motorola is preparing to launch the third generation of its historic Razer foldable phone. The Motorola Razer was one of the first clamshell mobile phones to hit the market in 2019. An article on Weibo by the GM of Lenovo, the parent company of Motorola, suggests that smartphone makers at Motorola are quietly working on third-generation foldable phones. According to a Chinese post, the new phone will be more powerful, with a user-friendly interface and a new design. The company's official release or announcement is not yet known. However, the Chinese translation of this post suggests that the new phone will first go on sale in China.

02 GAMING CHANGE FOR TESLA

Tesla is responding quickly to the NHTSA's investigation of in-dash gaming while driving. The Guardian has learned that Tesla will provide an update disabling passenger play while the car is moving. A regulatory spokesman notified that Tesla promised to make changes after discussing the issue with the authorities. No mention is made of when the update will arrive, but one can assume that you will need to park for future gaming sessions.

The representative emphasized that the investigation would continue even though the company has promised to take action. NHTSA has emphasized that the Vehicle Safety Act prohibits companies from selling vehicles that pose a

significant safety risk, such as inattentive driving. The survey covers approximately 580,000 Tesla electric vehicles from the 2017 model to 2022.

Tesla does not run a PR team and could not solicit comments. However, the feature changes are not surprising. If NHTSA determines that Tesla is negligent, inaction can exacerbate the outcome. Moreover, there is a competitive pressure as well. Mercedes-Benz recently fixed a bug that allowed mid drive video playback and if Tesla refuses to follow, it will affect their public image.

03 AUTONOMOUS TRUCKER TUSIMPLE LOGS FIRST NO-HUMAN ROAD TEST

The San Diego company states that it is the first successful driving of a Class 8 or semi-vehicle on public roads completely autonomously without human intervention. The nightly drive earlier this month began at the station in Tucson, Arizona, and ended at the Phoenix distribution center with the approval and supervision of the Department of Transport and the Arizona Law Enforcement Authority. According to TuSimple, drivers make up about 40% of the operating costs of all trucks, and virtual drivers "can be operated at significantly lower costs." The company also estimates that its technology can save about 10% on fuel-related costs compared to fuel-powered trucks.





Thank you for reading!

**Hope you enjoyed the content.
Stay tuned for the next edition!**