

National News

- ❖ Giriraj Singh, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) informed the parliament that the MSME ministry has established an Export Promotion Cell with an aim to create a sustainable ecosystem for entire MSME development.
- ❖ Minister of State for Women and Child Development Ministry, Dr Virendra Kumar announced that Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions was initiated by the government of India.
- ❖ The 'Kumbh Mela 2019', the Union Home Ministry (MHA) approved the Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.
- ❖ The government of India gave out the 6-crore free cooking gas (LPG) connection as the scheme to make available cleaner fuel in every household kitchens under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).
- ❖ The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended anti-dumping duty on a chemical used in paint and printing industries, imported from Brazil, Indonesia, and Thailand.
- ❖ The Centre has released around Rs 185 crore since financial year 2015-2016 to bridge the gap between literacy levels of tribal girls and the general female population.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the continuation of five schemes under the 'Umbrella Scheme for Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions' from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up 'Centre of Excellence' in Oil, Gas, and Energy was signed between IIT Bombay and PSU Oil Companies and EIL. Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

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- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided to provide 3% interest subsidy to merchant exporters to enhance the flow of funds for them with a view to boosting outbound shipments.
 - ❖ The Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Parshottam Rupala informed that the Government had launched a Global Environment Facility (GEF) assisted project namely, “Green – Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environment benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes” in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
 - ❖ The Parliament following the approval from the Rajya-Sabha passed a bill to provide retrospective recognition to central and state government funded institutions offering B.Ed and related courses that are not recognized under the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act.
 - ❖ The Parliament passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018 that seeks to do away with the no-detention policy in schools.
 - ❖ The National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of 100 crore rupees on Meghalaya government for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state.
 - ❖ The 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which has the UAE’s third largest emirate Sharjah as its 2019 guest of honour, inaugurated in Pragati Maidan, NewDelhi.
 - ❖ According to the government of India, all the 640 districts of the country have been covered under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme (BBBP), its aimed at addressing the declining Child Sex Ratio and enabling girl child education.
 - ❖ The Ministry of Culture announced that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declared 6 monuments as ‘protected and of national importance’ under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, in 2018.
 - ❖ Ministry of Home Affairs has notified a High-level committee of nine members under the chairmanship of Shri M.P. Bezbaruah for implementation of Clause VI of the Assam Accord of 1985.

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- ❖ Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed MoU with Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) for joint research programs in the field of Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS).
 - ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a 10% reservation for 'economically backward' upper castes in government jobs.
 - ❖ The Union Minister of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Shri Prakash Javadekar stated that the HRD ministry has introduced a 70-point grading index to assess the quality of school education offered by states.
 - ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr. K Sivan stated that the Union Government has allocated 10,900 crore rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next 4years.
 - ❖ The North Central Railway, (NCR) launched a mobile application the 'Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App' to help navigate the attendees of the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj city from January 15- March 4, 2019.
 - ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the redrafted Citizenship Amendment Bill thus providing Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
 - ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has approved the establishment of a Centre for Classical Language at the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University in Tirur, Kerala.
 - ❖ Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL), a company promoted by NHAI, has signed MOUs with state-run Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPC, and HPC). It will ensure availability of FASTags at petroleum outlets across India.
 - ❖ NABARD has announced that it will provide early-stage capital to agriculture and rural enterprises through its venture capital entity, 'NABVENTURES Ltd'.
 - ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities of Assam namely Tai Ahom, Koch Rajbongshi, Chutia, Tea Tribes, Moran and Matak.

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- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019.
 - ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has launched an online campaign, '#www: Web- WonderWomen'.
 - ❖ The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) proposed renaming of the Indian Forest Service as Indian Forest and Tribal Service.
 - ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has approved operations of seaplanes in the Andaman Islands under UDAN-3 (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) making Andaman the first island of India to operate seaplanes.
 - ❖ The Fourth Edition of Raisina Dialogue was organized by Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. The Theme of the Dialogue was "A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes".
 - ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated India's longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang River in Upper Siang district of state bordering China.
 - ❖ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in building energy efficiency for five years.
 - ❖ Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has launched civic projects including the ambitious Gangajal scheme worth Rs 2,980 crore.
 - ❖ The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in New Delhi.
 - ❖ An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project will be signed, among six states- Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in the presence of Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari.

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- ❖ The Minister for Electronics and IT (MeitY) Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the National Informatics Centre (NIC)'s Command and Control Centre (CCC) and its Centre for Excellence in Artificial Intelligence.
 - ❖ The Union cabinet has given its approval for establishment of three new AIIMS at Samba in Jammu, Pulwama in Kashmir and Rajkot in Gujarat.
 - ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has announced release of Rs 637.98 crore during 2018-19 to 17 states to develop the living standards of people living within 50 kilometres of the International Border.
 - ❖ Four new projects for Rs. 190.46 Crores under the tourism infrastructure development schemes, Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) was launched by Ministry of Tourism in the states of Meghalaya, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ❖ The 25th edition of the CII Partnership Summit 2019, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India, kicked off in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - ❖ The Environment Ministry has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aimed at reducing toxic particulate matter in 102 Indian cities by 2024.
 - ❖ Ministry of Law and Justice has announced that President Kovind has promulgated The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019.
 - ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Constitution (One Hundred and third Amendment) Act, 2019 which grants 10 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions to the economically weaker sections in the general category.
 - ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a commemorative coin of 350 rupees on Guru Govind Singh ji in New Delhi on the eve of 352nd birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru.
 - ❖ Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Dr Harshvardhan has launched the special

weather services for the benefit of people visiting Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela at a function in New Delhi.

- ❖ The Union Government has launched the 'Womaniya on Government e Marketplace (GeM)', an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) to sell handicrafts, handloom, accessories, and other products directly to Government departments and institutions.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley and Union Minister of Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the Hunar Haat Exhibition at State Emporia Complex in New Delhi.
- ❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 4th International Kite Festival and 2nd International Sweet Festival in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated Regional Centre of National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at Mohali, Chandigarh.
- ❖ The First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme was organised by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the project "Development of Spiritual Circuit: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple – Aranmula-Sabarimala" at the cost of Rs. 92.22 crores under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Tourism Ministry in Kerala.
- ❖ Minister of State in Department of Space Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 1st batch of UNNATI (Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly and Training) programme of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The government set up an eight-member ministerial panel headed by Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar to look into GST-related issues of lottery business.
- ❖ President of India, Ramnath Nath Kovind inaugurated the Gandhian Resurgence Summit on the occasion of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi's 150 birth anniversary at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

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- ❖ Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Rubber Expo – 2019 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.
 - ❖ Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities implements a scheme titled 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)' organized the 2nd regional conference at Nehru Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical and Research in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
 - ❖ The government has approved setting up of three new naval air squadrons in Gujarat and Tamilnadu as part of efforts to bolster the Indian Navy's overall strength.
 - ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Armoured Systems Complex (ASC), developed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at Hazira near Surat in Gujarat.
 - ❖ The Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the decision to induct women in Personnel below Officer Rank (PBOR), role in Corps of Military Police.
 - ❖ The women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20% of total Corps of Military Police.
 - ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the Young Scientist Programme for the young minds to encourage scientific talent and increase scientific pool in the country.
 - ❖ The Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the 426.60 m long Pre Stressed Concrete Box Girder type Dikko bridge over Dikko river on Roing – Koronu- Paya road in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ❖ The ministry of finance has released the eighth edition of the status paper on the government debt, which provides a detailed analysis of the overall debt position of the central government. An analysis of the data shows that total liabilities of the government has increased by 49 percent to Rs.82 trillion in the last four-and-half years during the Narendra Modi government.

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- ❖ The Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh has approved the report of Task Force created by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to identify areas for use of Space Technology in improving Border Management.
 - ❖ 'Saksham', an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in New Delhi.
 - ❖ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a series of projects as a part of the TamilNadu Defence Industrial Corridor in Tiruchirppalli.
 - ❖ Aadhaar Card has been added in the valid travel documents and now Indians under 15 and over 65 age can travel to Nepal and Bhutan if they have a valid Aadhaar Card.
 - ❖ The Vice president of India, M Venkaiah Naidu presented the second Chhatra Viswakarma Award to Students and their mentors and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Yojana (SAGY) awards to institution at an event organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at New Delhi.
 - ❖ The 4th International Exhibition & Conference on Steel Industry, India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference has organised by Ministry of Steel in association with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at NSE Complex Goregaon, Mumbai.
 - ❖ The government, acting through the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, has decided to establish a committee under NITI Aayog that will be tasked with recommending price controls and monitoring the prices of specific drugs and health products to ensure their affordability.
 - ❖ Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation laid foundation stone for six Namami Ganga project in Agra and Mathura.
 - ❖ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Naik inaugurated Second World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 in Goa. The theme for the forum is 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing global collaboration'.

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- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at Red Fort in Delhi.
 - ❖ Piyush Goyal has been named the interim Finance Minister and interim Minister of Corporate Affairs during Arun Jaitley's indisposition. Goyal will retain his existing portfolios of coal and railways.
 - ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the landmark amendment to Article 280 of the Constitution to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule areas of North East.
 - ❖ The final planning conference to work out the modalities for India Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX) which is to be held in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - ❖ Minister of state of Youth affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurates National declamation contest on Patriotism and nation building. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana in New Delhi.
 - ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs reconstituted a tribunal to adjudicate matters related to the extension of the ban imposed on eight insurgent groups in Manipur for involvement in unlawful activities.
 - ❖ Minister of skill development, Dharmendra Pradhan implemented new reforms for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) to enhance skill ecosystem and entrepreneurship in most of the remotest areas of India under centre's flagship programme Skill India at the National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) in New Delhi.
 - ❖ Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launched three important centre's set up by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) at IIT Madras.
 - ❖ Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of National Informatics Centre (NIC) inaugurated the Technology Conclave in New Delhi.
 - ❖ As per Grant Thornton's Dealtracker, India has entered the \$ 100 billion club in the Merger and Acquisition (M&A) space.

- ❖ The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, decided to deliver e-Courts services to the litigant public through the 2 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- ❖ The Oxford Dictionaries announced that the word 'Nari Shakti' which is derived from Sanskrit has been chosen as the Hindi Word of the year for 2018.
- ❖ Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal announced that Train 18 which is India's first indigenously developed engineless high speed train has been renamed as the Vande Bharat Express.
- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated four-lane, 5.1-kilometer long "Atal Setu", the third Cable bridge across river Mandovi in Panaji, Goa.
- ❖ The Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) set by the HRD Ministry for selecting Institutions of Eminence (IOEs) has recommended to increase the number of such institutes to 30 from the current 20 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's Integrated Refinery Expansion Project Complex (IREP) in Kochi.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has launched a mobile app "RDP India 2019", to let people watch highlights of the Republic Day event all over the world.
- ❖ Civil Aviation ministry launched the country's first Geographical Indication (GI) store at Dabolim International Airport in Goa.
- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India signed an agreement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for India's participation in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021.
- ❖ The University of Madras has received ₹50 crore from the Ministry of Human Resource Development for upgrading its research capabilities.
- ❖ National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in new study says the life expectancy of people in Delhi can go up by nearly three years if the air pollution is reduced by 25%.

- ❖ The two-wheeled, self-balancing and battery powered electric vehicles-Segway provided by Western Railway to Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel posted in all major railway stations in Mumbai.
- ❖ A High Level Committee approved Central assistance of ₹7214.03 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 6 States and one UT affected by natural disasters.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) proposes three models through which the states can implement the scheme. The models are insurance model, trust-based model and hybrid model.
- ❖ According to the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labour force survey (PLFS), India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of 6.1% in 2017-18.
- ❖ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department of promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- ❖ InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, which owns and operates air carrier IndiGo, has entered into a 20-year agreement with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).
- ❖ Power Minister R K Singh laid foundation stone for regional testing laboratory of Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) at Nashik, Maharashtra.

International News

- ❖ The United states of America (USA) and Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) amid concerns that the organization fosters anti-Israel bias.
- ❖ Former Army captain, Jair Bolsonaro has been elected as the Brazil's 42nd president.
- ❖ Qatar ceased to be a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

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- ❖ President of United States of America (USA), Donald J. Trump signed the “Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA)” into law.
 - ❖ The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial government of Pakistan has declared the ancient Hindu religious site of Panj Tirath in Peshawar of North Western Pakistan as national heritage.
 - ❖ An Iranian arbitration body gave its approval to an anti-money laundering bill seen as crucial to maintaining international trade and banking ties.
 - ❖ Egypt opened West Asia’s largest cathedral in its New Administrative Capital, 45 kms away from its capital, Cairo.
 - ❖ China passed law to make Islam compatible with socialism and ‘sinicize’ it within next five years.
 - ❖ Malaysia’s monarch Sultan Muhammad V resigned, as the 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, from the throne before completing their five-year tenure for the first time in Malaysia’s history.
 - ❖ Nicolas Maduro has been elected as the Venezuelan President for the 2nd term for a new 6 - year term.
 - ❖ Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has appointed, 71 years old Su Tseng-chang as the new Prime Minister of Taiwan.
 - ❖ The inaugural round of a 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting between the United States and India which focused on the progress of defence and foreign policy issues between the two countries took place in New Delhi.
 - ❖ The Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of United States Chamber of Commerce has launched a new innovation strategy at Raisina Dialogue, 2019 in New Delhi. The Initiative is titled as “Fair Value for Innovation”.
 - ❖ The Parliament of Macedonia has passed the resolution to amend the constitution of the country to rename it as the Republic of Northern Macedonia.