

NATIONAL**Goa****Goa Liberation Day celebration**

- Goa Liberation Day is being celebrated. Goa was liberated on 19th December 1961, from around 450 years of Portuguese rule.

Jammu & Kashmir**Panel to identify new tourism projects in J-K**

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered to constitute an official panel to screen and identify new tourism projects in the state under the Prime Minister's Development Package. (PMDP).

INTERNATIONAL**Macedonian, Greek PMs get nominated for 2019 Nobel Peace Prize**

- The Prime Ministers of Macedonia and Greece, Zoran Zaev and Alexis Tsipras, have been nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. They have been nominated for signing the Prespa Agreement between the two countries.

EU to reduce new car emissions

- The European Union (EU) forged ahead with plans to slash carbon dioxide emissions from new cars and vans by 2030. The targets will require new cars sold in 2030 to emit 37.5 percent less carbon dioxide on average compared to 2021 levels. Emissions from new vans will have to be 31 percent lower.

SCIENCE**ISRO successfully launches GSAT-7A satellite**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched geostationary communication satellite GSAT-7A onboard Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F11.
- The new satellite will substantially enhance the communication systems of the Indian Air Force. GSLV - F11 is ISRO's fourth generation launch vehicle. It has successfully injected GSAT-7A into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**India becoming world's fastest growing economy**

- Indian economy is projected to be the fastest growing major economy in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The government has said the share of the Indian economy in the world increased from 2.6 percent in 2014 to 3.2 percent in 2017 as per the World Development Indicators database.

India, S Korea to raise bilateral trade

- India reiterated its continued support to usher in a new era of peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. Both sides agreed to raise the quantum of the bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars by the year 2030.

RANKINGS & INDEXES**Federal Aviation Administration has retained highest aviation safety ranking for India**

- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has retained the highest aviation safety ranking for India.

- India is adhering to the safety standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and India's International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) rating remains 'Category 1'.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

15th Global SME Business Summit

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu at the inaugural session of the 15th Global SME Business Summit in New Delhi said that the Ministry is examining the proposal to set up trade promotion bodies in 15 countries to promote exports of SMEs from India.

Third Road show on Competition Law

- The Third Roadshow on Competition Law was organised in Ahmedabad on 18th December, 2018 by the Competition Commission of India with a thematic focus on Public Procurement, Trade Associations, Cartels and Leniency.
- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), a think tank under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, was the Implementation Partner for the Roadshow.

SCHEMES

Strategy Document for New India

- NITI Aayog unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India, which defines clear objectives for 2022-23.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

MoRD Signs MoU with Maruti Suzuki India Ltd

- Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

- MoRD signed MOU with Maruti Suzuki India Ltd for training rural youth for skill development in presence of Hon'ble Minister Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar.

Surrogacy Bill passed

- Lok Sabha has passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 aimed at prohibiting commercial surrogacy and unethical practices relating to it. The Bill has provisions to constitute National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Boards and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of surrogacy.
- It permits surrogacy only for couples who cannot conceive a child.

DEFENCE

Commissioning of Fifth Ship of Landing Craft Utility Mk-IV 'IN LCU L55'

- Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P & Vice Chief of Naval Staff, commissioned IN LCU L55 into the Indian Navy at Port Blair. IN LCU L55 is the fifth ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class to be inducted into the Indian Navy.

APP & WEBPORTAL

E-Drishti Software

- An 'e-Drishti' interface has been unveiled for the Union Railway Minister. This software includes an interface which provides summary information on punctuality of trains for the previous day. There is also an interface which provides information on current train running on the Indian Railway network.

SPORTS

IPL 2019 auction

- IPL 2019 auction takes place in Jaipur.

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