

IMPORTANT DAYS

December 8 - Submarine Day

- The Indian Navy is celebrating Submarine Day. The day commemorates the induction of the first submarine, the erstwhile INS Kalvari, into the Navy on this day in 1967.

December 8 - 34th SAARC Charter Day

- Prime Minister of Nepal K.P.Sharma Oli has greeted member states of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and people of South Asia on the occasion of 34th SAARC Charter Day.
- SAARC was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
- SAARC comprises of eight Member States- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

NATIONAL

New Delhi

Guidelines for approval and reapproval of Online Travel Aggregators

- The Ministry of Tourism have formulated the guidelines for approval and reapproval of Online Travel Aggregators, OTA to ensure adequate safeguards against deficiency of service, alternate arrangements and punitive deterrence.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan government enacts new law to accept foreign workers

- Japanese government enacted a new law to bring more blue-collar foreign workers into the country to address chronic labour shortages.

- Under the new law, Japan plans to bring in 3 lakh 45 thousand foreign workers in construction, food services, nursing and other sectors for five years.

SCIENCE

‘Sun in a box’ system to store renewable energy

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) scientists in the U.S. have designed a system that could store renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, and deliver it back into an electric grid on demand.
- The new design stores heat generated by excess electricity from solar or wind power in large tanks of white-hot molten silicon, and then converts the light from the glowing metal back into electricity when it’s needed.

NASA's InSight lander 'hears' Martian winds

- NASA's InSight lander, which touched down on Mars last month, has provided the first-ever "sounds" of Martian wind on the Red Planet. InSight sensors captured a haunting low rumble caused by vibrations from the wind, estimated to be blowing between 10 to 15 miles per hour.

Google announces ‘Journalism AI’ project

- To help news industry use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in more innovative ways, Google has announced a partnership with Polis, the international journalism think-tank at London School of Economics and Political Science, to create “Journalism AI”.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

OPEC & its allies agree to cut oil output

- The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) [the group of 14 nations] and its allies agreed to cut oil output by 12 lakh barrels a day to boost global oil markets.

RANKINGS & INDEXES

Half of global population is on-line

- The United Nations report has said that some 3.9 billion people are now using the Internet, meaning that for the first time more than half of the global population is on-line.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

Centre approves Shahpurkandi Dam project in Punjab

- The Union Cabinet gave its nod to the implementation of Shahpurkandi Dam project in Punjab on the river Ravi in an attempt to minimise wastage of water of the river.

FAO Council approves to observe International Year of Millets in 2023

- Food and Agriculture organisation, FAO Council has approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023.

DEFENCE

Aero India, aviation expo to be merged

- For the first time, the country's civil aviation exhibition will be subsumed into the upcoming edition of Aero India to be held from February 20 to 24, 2019.

AWARDS

- **Sahitya Akademi Award for Malayalam - Ramesan Nair**

SPORTS

Rishabh Pant equals Dhoni's record in Test Cricket

- Indian wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant created history on day 3 of the first Test against Australia in Adelaide. Rishabh Pant took six catches in the Australian first innings thus equalling M.S. Dhoni's record.
- Pakistan's Wasim Bari holds the record of most dismissals by a wicket-keeper in an innings with 7 catches.

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