

IMPORTANT DAYS

January 1 - Defence Research and Development Organisation[DRDO] day

- January 1 is celebrated as Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO day. The DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in defence sector.

NATIONAL

Maharashtra

Koregaon Bhima anniversary

- In Maharashtra, thousands of people visited the ‘Jaystambh’ - memorial of victory - in Koregaon Bhima village, about 30 km northeast of Pune to mark the anniversary of the 1818 battle between the British and the Peshwas.

INTERNATIONAL

Qatar cease to be a member of OPEC

- Qatar will cease to be a member of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. The country had sent an official notification to the OPEC expressing its wish to pull out and to focus on its liquefied natural gas production in December.

US, Israel quit UNESCO

- The United States and Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with the close of 2018.

Pakistan, India exchange list of nuclear installations

- India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between them.

- India and Pakistan also exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in their custody.

SCIENCE

Cold wave conditions continue in several states

- Cold wave conditions continue in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir and Telangana.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

23 goods and services become cheaper

- As many as twenty-three goods and services, including movie tickets, TV and monitor screens and power banks are becoming cheaper with the reduced Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Credit flow to agriculture increased by 57 per cent

- Agricultural credit flow has increased by 57 per cent to Rs 11 lakh crore in the last 4 years, the Agriculture Ministry said.

RBI offers relief to MSMEs

- Reserve Bank has allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt of up to 25 crore rupees for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets.

Sale of seventh tranche of electoral bonds begins

- The seventh tranche of electoral bonds sale began. It will continue till 10th of this month. The State Bank of India, SBI has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorised Branches.

MSMEs Ministry established export promotion cell

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Ministry has established an export promotion cell to create a sustainable ecosystem for MSMEs.

Government infuses nearly Rs 11,000 cr capital in public sector banks

- The government has infused 10,882 crore rupees in four public sector banks, including UCO Bank and Syndicate Bank.

APPOINTMENTS

- Justice T B N Radhakrishnan - **Chief Justice of Telangana HC**
- Indian-American KP George - **The Fort Bend County Judge** [first person from the community to hold the office of one of America's most diverse counties]
- Jair Bolsonaro - **Brazil's president**
- Sudhir Bhargava - **Chief Information Commissioner**

SCHEMES

Samwad

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Samwad with Students as part of its outreach programme. The Indian Space agency will engage youngsters across the country in activities concerning space science under this programme.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

Government approves additional assistance of over Rs 1,146 cr to Tamil Nadu

- Government has approved the additional assistance of over one thousand 146 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu from National Disaster Response Fund, which was affected by cyclone - Gaja.

No need for license under Arms Act

- Manufacturing of items of defence aerospace and warships will now be covered by Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and will not require any licence from the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Aadhaar, other laws (Amendment Bill) 2018

- The Aadhaar and other laws (Amendment Bill) 2018 was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill

- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill is scheduled to be tabled in the Rajya Sabha. Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will move the bill in the House.

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