

**IMPORTANT DAYS****352nd birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh**

- In Bihar, 352nd birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh is being celebrated as Prakash Utsav with religious fervour and gaiety. Born at Patna Sahib in 1666, Guru Gobind Singh was the 10th Sikh guru. He succeeded his father Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh as leader of Sikhs at the age of just nine.
- The birth anniversary of the Guru Gobind Singh is also being celebrated as Prakashotsava at Patna Sahib.

**NATIONAL****Gujarat****1st state to implement 10% quota to EWS**

- Gujarat Government has announced that the benefits of 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker sections of general category in educational institutions and government jobs will be applicable.

**Maharashtra****Digital platform helps Maharashtra save Rs 12,000 cr in farm loan waiver**

- The Maharashtra government has managed to save 12,000 crore rupees in farm loan waiver alone by adopting a digital platform that helped eliminate bogus claimants.

**New Delhi****Delhi's air quality recorded in 'severe' category**

- Delhi's air quality was recorded in the 'severe' category due to reduced wind speed.

**BUSINESS & ECONOMY****Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19**

- The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018-19 (Series-V) opened and the issue price of the Bond during this subion period will be three thousand two hundred and fourteen rupees per gram with the settlement date of January 22nd 2019.

**UAE, Saudi Arabia to invest in Indian agriculture sector**

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu said, the government is coming up with an Agriculture Export Policy in which the districts possessing potential for particular industries and items will be identified and developed as clusters for the development of the sector.

**China's trade surplus with US increased**

- China's trade surplus with the United States increased last year to 323.3 billion US dollars from 275.8 billion US dollars in 2017.

**Thailand set to deploy rainmaking planes**

- Thailand is set to deploy rainmaking planes to seed clouds in an effort to tackle the increasing levels of pollution that has choked the capital in recent weeks. The weather modification technique involves dispersing chemicals into the air to aid cloud condensation, which should in theory result in rain.

**SUMMITS & CONFERENCES****1st Annual Disarmament, International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme**

- Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale inaugurated the First Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme in New Delhi.

Young Diplomats from 27 countries are participating in the Fellowship Programme, which will continue till 1st of next month.

- The programme aims at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on various issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security.

## **Harvest festival on eve of Makar Sankranti**

- Farmers from across the country begin celebrating the harvest festival on the eve of Makar Sankranti which is being celebrated. The festival is seen as a celebration of the end of the winter and also marks the end of the winter harvest.
- The festival is known with different names in different parts of the country with celebrations continuing for a couple of days. It is celebrated as Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Uttarayan in Gujarat, Bhogali Bihu in Assam and Poush Sankranti in West Bengal.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi will head the seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the revenue shortfall being faced by states following the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

## **SCHEMES**

### **Hunar Haat**

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated Hunar Haat organised by Minority Affairs Ministry at State Emporium Complex in New Delhi.

### **Special weather services for Kumbh Mela**

- Science and Technology Minister Dr Harshvardhan launched the special weather services for Kumbh Mela at a function in New Delhi. It will provide information about the prevailing weather condition and forecasts to the people visiting Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela.

## National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

- The government has drafted a five-year action plan to address the problem of drug and substance abuse in the country. An official of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said, the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction, 2018 to 2023, aims to employ a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue. It involves education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.

## APP & WEBPORTAL

### "Kumbh Mela Weather Service"

- A mobile application named "Kumbh Mela Weather Service" has been developed to disseminate the live weather information.

## SPORTS

### Premier Badminton League

- Bengaluru Raptors beat Mumbai Rockets to win their first ever Premier Badminton League title.

### Khelo India Youth Games

- At the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune, ten year old Abhinav Shaw became the youngest gold medallist in shooting. He teamed up with Mehuli Ghosh to help West Bengal win the 10m air rifle mixed team event.

### Australian Open Tennis

- Australian Open, the first of the four Grand Slams of the season, begins in Melbourne.

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