

NATIONAL**Andaman & Nicobar Islands****Airport in Port Blair declared as an authorized Immigration Check post**

- 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.
- Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the 'Civil Authority' for the purpose of the immigration check post.

Punjab**106th Indian Science Congress**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106th Indian Science Congress in Jalandhar and called for the invention of new low-cost technologies for the help of farmers and also work for their ease of living.

INTERNATIONAL**Newly-elected parliament members in Bangladesh took oath of office**

- The newly-elected parliament members in Bangladesh took oath of office in Dhaka. Sheikh Hasina is likely to be sworn in as the prime minister on January 10 for the third consecutive term and a record fourth time.

Tropical storm Pabuk

- Tens of thousands of tourists have fled the Thai resort islands of Koh Phangan and Koh Tao ahead of tropical storm Pabuk.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

RBI offers relief to MSMEs; allows restructuring of debt up to Rs 25 crore

- 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. The decision will help the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are facing cash crunch in the wake of demonetisation and GST implementation.

SCHEMES

Train 18

- India's fastest Train 18 will soon start its services between Delhi and Varanasi. The train which will run at a speed of 160 kilometre per hour will reduce the journey time between the two cities from the present 11 hours and 30 minutes to 8 hours.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

Cabinet approves restructuring of National Health Agency

- Union Cabinet has approved the restructuring of National Health Agency as the National Health Authority for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana.

Cabinet approves merger of Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda

- The Cabinet has approved the merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda. The scheme will come into effect from 1st of April this year.

Government appointed Committee to look into suicidal deaths by some of students of Navodaya Vidyalayas

- Human Resource Development Minister, Prakash Javadekar has said the government has appointed a Committee to go into reported suicidal deaths by some of the students of the Navodaya Vidyalaya schools.

Cabinet clears setting up of committee to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a high-level committee for implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.

Cabinet approves amendment to Trade Unions Act, 1926

- The Cabinet has approved amendment to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 to make provisions regarding recognition of trade unions. The approval will facilitate recognition of Trade Unions at Central and State level.

SPORTS

Third women's National Boxing Championships

- In the third women's National Boxing Championships at Vijayanagar, Karnataka, world Championships medallists Sonia Lather and Simranjit Kaur entered into the quarterfinals.

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