

NATIONAL**Himachal Pradesh****Manali and Kufri shivering at sub-zero temperatures**

- In Himachal Pradesh, Manali and Kufri are shivering at sub-zero temperatures.

New Delhi**Rathore inaugurates sharing of AIR News with Private FM channels**

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore launched 'Sharing of All India Radio News with Private FM channels in New Delhi.
- Private FM channels can now carry All India Radio News free of cost on trial basis up to 31st May this year.

Tamil Nadu**Election Commission postpones Tiruvarur Assembly by-poll**

- The Election Commission has postponed the bye-election in Thiruvarur Assembly Constituency in Tamil Nadu slated for 28th of this month. The poll panel took the decision in view of the ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas of the State following cyclone Gaja.

Uttar Pradesh**Prayagraj to Katra direct bus services started**

- In Uttar Pradesh, Direct bus services from Prayagraj to Katra in Jammu and Kashmir started. Now those pilgrims who will visit Kumbh in Prayagraj can directly go to Mata Vashno devi Shrine located in Katra.

INTERNATIONAL**Guatemala to withdraw from UN-backed anti-corruption commission**

- Guatemala has said it is withdrawing from a UN-backed anti-corruption commission.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to step down on Feb 1

- World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced that he will step down from his position on February 1 - much before the end of his term in 2022.

India takes over operations of Chabahar port in Iran

- India has taken over operations of the strategic Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran's southern coast.
- This is the first time India will be operating a port outside its territory.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**RBI forms committee to boost digital payments**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a High-Level Committee on Deepening of Digital Payments to encourage digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion.

Exports of jute products risen by 24%

- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani has said that exports of jute diversified products have risen by 24 per cent since 2014.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**4th Edition of Raisina Dialogue**

- The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue will begin in New Delhi. **The theme of the Dialogue this year is "A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes".**

APPOINTMENTS

- India born Gita Gopinath - International Monetary Fund, Chief Economist. She has first woman to occupy the top IMF post.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS**Lok Sabha passes DNA (Use and Application) Technology Regulation Bill**

- The Lok Sabha passed the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 by voice vote after a brief discussion. It seeks to provide regulation for the use and application of DNA technology for the purpose of establishing the identity of certain category of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, under trials, missing persons and others.

Bill to provide 10% quota to EWS in general category

- The Lok Sabha has taken up for consideration and passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill providing for ten per cent reservation to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the General category.
- 124th Constitutional Amendment Bill facilitates reservation for EWS people in the upper caste in the direct recruitments and admission in higher educational institutions.

SPORTS**BCCI announces cash awards for triumphant Team India members**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced cash awards of Rs 15 lakh per match for each of the playing eleven that featured in India's maiden Test Cricket series win on Australian soil.

2nd edition of Khelo India Youth Games

- Maharashtra is all set to host the second edition of Khelo India Youth Games in Pune.

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