

NATIONAL**Gujarat****Gujarat government increases DA of over 9.61 lakh employees**

- Gujarat government has announced an increase in Dearness allowance of more than 9.61 lakh employees and pensioners by 2 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL**US imposed visa restrictions on Ghana**

- Washington has imposed visa restrictions on Ghana following a row over the deportation of Ghanaians staying illegally in the United States. Some 7,000 Ghanaians are living illegally in the United States.

Celebrations for 40th anniversary of Iranian revolution

- Thousands of Iranians gathered at the mausoleum of the Islamic republic's founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran to launch celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Iranian revolution.

UNSC adopts resolution to extend sanctions against CAR for another year

- The United Nations Security Council has adopted a resolution to extend sanctions against the Central African Republic (CAR) for another year.

Sri Lanka brings resolution in parliament for formation of national government

- In Sri Lanka, the United National party (UNP) led by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has brought a resolution in parliament for formation of a national government.

Germany, France and UK set up transactions channel with Iran

- Germany, France and the UK have set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX, to help continue trade and circumvent US sanctions.
- While, the new institution, called INSTEX is a project of the three governments, it will receive the formal endorsement of all 28 EU members.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

GST collections cross Rs 1 lakh crore mark

- The GST collections in January this year has crossed one lakh crore rupees mark.
- In January last year the GST collection was 89 thousand crore rupees.

Interim Budget 2019-20

- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal presented Interim Budget 2019-20 in Parliament.

Interim Budget 2019-20 Highlights

- 6,000 rupees yearly direct support to farmers through PM-KISAN Programme.
- 3,000 rupees pension for unorganised sector workers earning upto 15,000 rupees through a mega Pension Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Shram- Yogi Maandhan.
- Present Income Tax rates to continue; Full tax rebate upto income of 5 lakh rupees for individual tax payers; Standard deduction raised to 50,000, a hike of 10,000 for salaried class.
- Direct tax system simplified; Returns to be processed in 24 hours with immediate refunds.
- 90 percent GST payers can file quarterly returns; Small and Medium Enterprises to get two percent interest rebate on incremental loan of one crore rupees; A Group of Ministers to examine GST burden on home buyers.

- Customs to go for digitalization of export and import transactions.
- Allocations to Health care, MGNREGA, SC/ST welfare programmes, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Development of infrastructure in North-East hiked substantially.
- A programme for genetic upgradation of cow - Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog.
- A separate Department of Fisheries.
- Electricity connection to all willing families by next month.
- Allocations to Defence budget crosses three lakh crore rupees for the first time.
- Over three lakh 38 thousand shell companies deregistered after demonetization.
- 10 point vision for 2030 to realize India's social economic potential; 10 trillion dollars economy in 13 years.
- Government e-Market place - GeM to be extended to all Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- A container cargo movement to the North-East through Brahmaputra river; Allocation for infrastructure development in the region hiked by 21 percent.
- An All India Institute of Medical Sciences - AIIMS for Haryana.
- One lakh more villages to get digital connectivity; A National Centre on Artificial Intelligence Centre;
- Cinematograph Act to be tightened to check piracy.
- Single window clearance for shooting films to be made available to Indian film makers.
- Indigenous development of semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train
- The fiscal deficit pegged at 3.4 percent of GDP are the highlight of the Interim Budget for 2019-20.

APPOINTMENTS

- Gupteshwar Pandey – **Bihar's New Director General of Police (DGP)**

SCHEMES**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi**

- To provide an assured income support to small and marginal farmers Govt. is launching Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).
- The Government announced Rs 6,000 per year cash support to small and marginal farmers that will cost the exchequer Rs 75,000 crore annually, in a bid to provide relief to distressed farm sector.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS**DAC approves indigenous construction of 6 submarines**

- The Defence Acquisitions Council, DAC chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved indigenous construction of six submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees.
- It is the second project under the Ministry's ambitious strategic partnership model aiming to boost the government's Make in India' program.

SPORTS**1st female cricketer to play 200 ODIs**

- India captain Mithali Raj became the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs, adding another achievement to her illustrious career.

India Vs New Zealand ODI Series

- New Zealand women beat India by eight wickets in the third and final ODI at Hamilton.

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