

NATIONAL**Maharashtra****Kala Ghoda Arts Festival**

- The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival - KGAF, India's largest multi-cultural street festival, is all set to begin from February 02. Commemorating 20 years of its inception, KGAF 2019 will celebrate two glorious decades of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature and sculpture through various spots on Mumbai's map.
- The festival will also host exhibition at the historic Jehangir Art Gallery to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and some rich history of Mumbai.

New Delhi**Indian embassy in US opens 24/7 hotline to assist Indian students**

- The Indian embassy in the US has opened a 24/7 hotline to assist Indian students arrested by the American authorities for alleged immigration rules violation. As many as 129 Indians are among the 130 foreign students arrested for allegedly enrolling at a fake university to remain in the US.

Uttar Pradesh**Special Postage Stamp on Kumbh Mela**

- Union Minister of State for Railways and Communication Mr Manoj Sinha released a special postage stamp of the Indian Postal Department on Kumbh Mela. A special first day cover was also released on the occasion. Its cost is five rupees.

West Bengal**Railway electrification of 294-km long Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda**

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Railway electrification of 294- km-long Andal- Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and Khana-Sainthia Sections in West Bengal.

INTERNATIONAL**China to provide USD 2.5 bn loan to Pak to boost foreign cash reserves**

- China will provide 2.5 billion dollars (USD) loans to Pakistan to boost the foreign exchange reserves of its "all-weather ally". Pakistan is currently seeing depleted foreign cash reserves and mounting external debt. The country's USD 8.12 billion reserves are below the minimum level that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) prescribe.

China agrees to make key concessions to expand American imports

- China has agreed to make key concessions to expand American imports in agriculture, energy, manufacturing and services, the main demands of US President Donald Trump.

US announces withdrawal from key Cold War nuclear arms treaty with Russia

- US President Donald Trump today announced that the US will withdraw from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia, alleging that Kremlin violated the Cold War-era pact.
- The INF treaty, signed in 1987 by then US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, prohibited the development and deployment of ground-launched nuclear missiles with ranges of 500-5,500 kilometers.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**Department of post to soon set up its own insurance company**

- Department of post will soon set up its own insurance company which will deal with its business of two products Postal life insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav**

- The 20th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM), the international theatre festival of India, is organized by National School of Drama (NSD), one of the prominent training institutions in the world.
- The Minister of State for Culture (I/C), Govt. of India, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, inaugurated the 21-day-long nationwide theatre spectacle in New Delhi.

6th meeting of Mission Steering Group of NHM

- Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare chaired the 6th meeting of the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission (NHM).

APPOINTMENTS

- Shri Rishi Kumar Shukla - **CBI Director**

SPORTS**Government increases sports budget by over Rs 214 cr**

- The government increased the sports budget by over 214 crore rupees for the next financial year, including a hike in funds for the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and incentives for sportspersons.
- The overall sports budget for 2019-2020 was increased from 2002 crore rupees to 2216.

Italy beat India to make Davis Cup World finals

- Italy beat India 3-1 to storm into the first-ever Davis Cup World finals.

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