

December 2nd Week Current Affairs 2019

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NTPC SIGNS PACT WITH SBI FOR ₹5,000 CRORE TERM LOAN

Power generation company **NTPC** has signed a term loan agreement for **Rs 5,000** crore with State Bank of India (**SBI**).

The loan facility has been extended at an interest rate linked to 3-month MCLR (marginal cost of funds-based lending rate) of the bank and has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years.

NTPC

Founded: 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Power Grid Corporation got '**Maharatna**' status.

Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe

Miss South Africa **Zozibini Tunzi** was crowned Miss Universe 2019 in Atlanta, US

Zozibini Tunzi and Miss Universe Puerto Rico Madison Anderson were the top two contestants for the Miss Universe title.

Related Info:

Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.

4th India Water Impact Summit was held in New Delhi

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the fourth water impact summit in New Delhi.

Theme of this summit is "Valuing Water Transforming Ganga".

Related Info:

Union Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Constituency: Jodhpur

RBI releases Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks

The Reserve Bank of India has released the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector.

RBI proposes **Rs 200 crore minimum capital** for small banks under 'on tap' licence

The small finance bank shall be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. It will be given scheduled bank status once they commence their operations.

Sanna Marin to Become Youngest Prime Minister of Finland

Finland's Social Democrats elected 34-year-old Sanna Marin to the post of the prime minister, making her the youngest head of government in the country's history.

She will succeed **Antti Rinne** who resigned as Prime Minister recently due to a postal strike and crisis in Finland

Finland:

Capital: Helsinki

Currency: Euro

Indian junior women's team wins 3-nation hockey tournament

The Indian junior women's team has won the 3-Nations Tournament held in Australia.

Indian junior women's hockey team won the 3-Nations hockey tournament based on leading the points table despite loss to Australia in the final match.

India to host Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023

Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 will be held in Terrassa, Spain, Netherlands.

International Anti-Corruption Day: December 9

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed every year on 9 December to raise public awareness for anti-corruption.

Theme: United Against Corruption

The United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003, adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Israeli high school students to launch self-made satellite "Duchifat-3" from Sriharikota

Duchifat-3 is a satellite jointly built by Herzliya Science Center and Sha'ar HaNegev High School students of Israel.

It is an imaging satellite that will be used for ecological research of Earth.

ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

Super 30 founder Anand Kumar Invited by FIA to attend at Republic Day function in New York

The 'Super 30' Founder Anand Kumar has been invited to India's Republic Day celebration in New York, United States of America (USA) on 26 January 2020.

'Super 30' is a programme that prepares 30 students from underprivileged sections of society for the prestigious IIT entrance test every year, without any fees.

Saurabh, Elavenil and Divyansh get ISSF Golden Target award

Indian shooters namely Elavenil Valarivan, Saurabh Chaudhary and Divyansh Singh Panwar received the Golden Target Award from International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) at its headquarters in Munich, Germany.

Divyansh Singh Panwar won a silver medal in 10m Air rifle in the ISSF World Cup 2019.

Elavenil had won a gold in the Rio World Cup and the World Cup Final in China.

Saurabh Chaudhary won a gold medal in the 10m Air pistol category at the Asian Games in the year 2018.

ISSF:

Founded-1907

Headquarters - Munich, Germany

President - Vladimir Lisin

World Human Rights Day: December 10

Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10 December annually across the world.

2019 Theme: Youth Standing Up for Human Rights.

This Day came into existence on December 10, 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations.

India ranks 129 in UNDP Human Development Index

India has been ranked at 129th spot in the 2019 Human Development Index released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Last year India was ranked 130th.

Norway, Switzerland, Ireland are the top three nations on the index.

UNDP:

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 22 November 1965

Head: Achim Steiner

President Ram Nath Kovind lays foundation stone for Paika Rebellion memorial in Odisha

President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone to the memorial being built in memory of the Paika rebellion on the foot hills of Barunei Hills in Khurda district a 200-year-old armed revolt in 1817 against the British East India Company in Odisha.

Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Haryana CM inaugurates integrated Command Centre at Gurugram

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated Gurgaon's ambitious Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC). It has been developed as the nerve centre to provide multifaceted online smart services to people.

Haryana Governor: Satyadeo Narayan Arya.

Russia banned from Olympics for 4 years over doping scandal

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), banned Russia for 4 years, from participation in global sporting events, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, after accusing Moscow of falsifying data from an anti-doping laboratory. The Russian flag and national anthem have also been banned in global events.

WADA:

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

Founded: 10 November 1999

Abu Dhabi selected as world's leading sports tourism destination

Abu Dhabi has been selected as the world's leading Sports tourism Destination at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) being held in Muscat.

This is the seventh time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award.

UAE, US joint military exercise 'Iron Union 12' commenced in the UAE's al-Hamra region

'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States, commenced in 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States, commenced.

Bar code inventor 'George Laurer' passes away

George J. Laurer, whose invention of the Universal Product Code at IBM transformed retail and other industries around the world, has died at age of 94.

Laurer was an electrical engineer with IBM in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park in the early 1970s when he spearheaded the development of the UPC, or bar code.

Driverless vehicles being tested on 5G technology in UAE

Driverless vehicles are being tested on 5G technology ahead of a planned deployment of such vehicles on roads in the United Arab Emirates.

According to industry reports, 5G-enabled driverless vehicles will be able to have more efficient and quick communication with each other and traffic infrastructure, which will help to minimize traffic jams and bottlenecks. The 5G technology can also enable these vehicles to identify traffics conditions and potential dangers quickly.

Delhi enters the list of top 10 most popular destinations in the world

Delhi has entered the list of world's top 10 most popular destinations in the world, according to the recent data published by Euromonitor International.

Hong Kong has remained the topmost for three consecutive years.

The report was based on international arrival data for the year of 2018 in conjunction with estimated part-year data for 2019.

Delhi ranks at 8th position.

Exim Bank provides USD 500 million credit to Bangladesh for defence procurement

India's Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India) has provided \$500 million Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh for defence-related procurement in the neighbouring country.

Exim Bank entered into an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division for making available to the latter a Government of India-supported line of credit (LoC) of USD 500 million.

Exim Bank

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 January 1982

CEO: David Rasquinha

Arnab Goswami elected as News Broadcasters Federation President

The News Broadcasters Federation the country's largest association of over 78 news channels, has elected editor-in-chief of Republic TV Arnab Goswami as the President of its governing board.

J&K Lt Governor Shri Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurates 72-metre all weather Draj Bridge in Rajouri

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Shri Girish Chandra Murmu dedicated the 72-metre-long Multi Cell Box Type Load Class 70 bridge to the Nation in Rajouri today. The bridge spans over Draj nallah and connected Draj Area to Tehsil Kotranka area under District Rajouri. Lt Governor praised Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for their dedication and nation building through infrastructure development and war preparedness through construction of roads, bridge and tunnels.

MOU signed Between NSIC & ARAMCO Asia for development in Oil & Gas Sectors

An MoU has been signed recently between NSIC and Aramco Asia for the development of MSME Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.

From NSIC side Sh. P. Udayakumar, Director (P&M) and from Aramco side Mr. Mohammed Al Mughirah, President, Aramco Asia inked the MoU.

Over 10 lakh crore loans sanctioned under MUDRA Yojana

The government on Monday said more than Rs 10 lakh crore have been disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana till November 1, 2019

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana launched on April 8, 2015.

Odisha to set up 45 new fast track courts

Odisha government would set up 45 fast-track special courts to ensure speedy trial of cases involving crime against women and children

21 courts would be dedicated to cases of rape and sexual harassment of women.

24 fast track courts will specifically deal with Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) cases.

Odisha Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

Recently Odisha in NEWS

Odisha has launched a smart learning phone application 'MadhuApp' for school children.

National Tribal Craft Mela 2019 held in Bhubaneswar.

Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

International Mountain Day: 11 December

International Mountain Day is celebrated on 11 December every year globally to raise awareness about the importance of mountains in our lives and to our planet.

Theme: Mountains Matter for Youth

Praggnanandhaa wins the London Chess Classic FIDE Open 2019

R. Praggnanandhaa from India has won the FIDE Open category of the London Chess Classic held in London.

The 14-year-old Indian chess player finished joint first with Anton Smirnov of Australia both scoring 7.5 points.

13th South Asian Games concluded in Nepal

India concluded the South Asian Games with their highest medal tally in the history of the tournament.

India finished on top with 312 medals comprising 174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze followed by Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

Suniel Shetty appointed as the brand ambassador for NADA

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty was appointed as the brand ambassador of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the country's anti-doping body is hoping that his celebrity status helps its efforts to clean up sports in the country from the menace.

Wasim Jaffer becomes 1st player to play 150 Ranji matches

Veteran opener Wasim Jaffer became the first player in Indian cricket to feature in 150 Ranji matches.

Jaffer is 41-year-old from Maharashtra, who has been an important part of the title-winning Vidarbha team in the last two years, achieved the rare distinction during their Group A opener against Andhra Pradesh.

He has represented India in 31 Tests and 2 ODIs.

2019 India's Men's domestic cricket season

Duleep Trophy winner - India Red

Vijay Hazare Trophy winner - Karnataka

Deodhar Trophy winner - India B

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy winner – Karnataka

Four people won the Right Livelihood Award for the year 2019

Greta Thunberg, Aminatou Haidar, Guo Juanmei and Davi Kopenawa Yanomami won the Right Livelihood Award for the year 2019.

Greta Thunberg for her fight against climate change.

Davi Kopenawa Yanomami for her commitment and efforts to protect the indigenous rights and land.

Guo Juanmei for her work women's rights in China for 25 years.

Aminatou Haidar's efforts for the independence of Western Sahara.

ICSSR chairman B B Kumar passes away

Braj Bihari Kumar was appointed as the chairman of the ICSSR in May 2017.

Indian Council of Social Science Research was established in the year of 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.

C. Sugandh Rajaram was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana

Sugandh Rajaram has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana.

He will replace Birender Singh Yadav as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana.

C. Sugandh Rajaram is presently the Consul General, Consulate General of India to Southern Germany.

Himachal Pradesh govt to sell Yamuna water

Himachal Pradesh (HP) state Cabinet chaired by its Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, has approved to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sell the water of River Yamuna from states's share at Tajewala corridor on payment basis.

The state government would earn Rs 21 crore per annum from this decision.

Himachal Pradesh Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya

Haryana govt distributed 101 Pashu Kisan Credit Cards in Bhiwani

The First Pashu Kisan credit cards in India were distributed to 101 animal farmers in Bhiwani in Haryana.

Haryana Government has set a target to issue 10 lakh Pashu Kisan Credit cards by March 2021.

Under the Scheme, banks give Rs 40783 for a cow and Rs 60249 for a buffalo. The credit amount for goat and sheep each is Rs 4063. In the case of a pig, it is Rs 16337 per pig. For Hens, it is Rs 720 per layer and Rs 161 per broiler hen.

Recently Haryana in News

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the ambitious Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Gurgaon.

NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 being held in Haryana.

World's first fully electric commercial plane takes flight in Canada

The world's first fully electric commercial aircraft took its inaugural test flight, taking off from the Canadian city of Vancouver.

The Company said the technology would mean significant cost savings for airlines not to mention zero emissions. It hopes to be using the electric-powered planes to carry passengers by 2022.

Canada

Capital: Ottawa

Currency: Canadian dollar

Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

ISRO successfully launched RISAT-2BR1 & 9 other satellites from Sriharikota, AP

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launched RISAT-2BR1, the fiftieth flight (PSLV-C48), along with nine commercial satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg. The satellite will provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management. The mission life of RISAT-2BR1 is 5 years.

The nine customer satellites of Israel, Italy, Japan and USA were precisely injected into their designated orbits. These satellites were launched under a commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

ISRO

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Founded: 15 August 1969

Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

17th edition of BioAsia 2020 to be held in Hyderabad, Telangana

Switzerland will be the country partner for 17th edition of BioAsia 2020, to be held from 17th-19th Feb 2020 in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce and Information Technology, Government of Telangana said that Telangana is committed to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and the focus of BioAsia has been centered around innovation over the years.

Telangana and Switzerland have inherent strengths in life sciences and bringing them together will drive significant developments in the life sciences industry globally.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg named Time's Person of the Year

Greta Thunberg, 16 year's old Swedish climate activist was named TIME's Person of the Year for 2019, she is the youngest person to be honoured with the title in the 92-year history of TIME magazine.

Rani Rampal and Saurabh Chaudhary won the Sports Person of the Year awards at the FICCI India Sports Awards 2019

Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal and Asian Games gold medalist shooter Saurabh Chaudhary were honored with the 'Sports Person of the Year 2019' award at the FICCI India Sports Awards-2019 held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.

Rani played a crucial role in India's qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, scoring the winning goal in the two-legged qualifier against the US in November.

Saurabh, on the other hand, is touted as India's biggest hope for a medal in shooting in Tokyo. He won gold at the 2018 Asian Games and has since won several individual and team honours at shooting World Cups.

ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.1% in FY20

Asian Development Bank trimmed India's GDP growth for 2019-20 to 5.1% saying consumption was affected by slow job growth & rural distress aggravated by poor harvest.

Earlier ADB forecasted India's GDP for 2019-20 to be at 6.5%.

Sunil Chhetri named as the brand ambassador of PUMA

Indian men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri has signed a three-year deal with PUMA.

He was also conferred with the Arjuna award in 2011 and Padma Shri in 2019.

ASI identified 138 monuments as 'Must See Monuments' in India

Archaeological Survey of India has identified 138 numbers of monuments as Must-See Monuments and information thereof is made available on the "Must See" portal of Archaeological Survey of India.

There are 38 World Heritage Sites in India, out of which 22 Cultural Sites including monuments or buildings and caves are under protection of Archaeological Survey of India.

ASI

Founder: Alexander Cunningham

Founded: 1871

Headquarters: New Delhi

December 12 is celebrated as the International Universal Health Coverage Day

International Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated globally on 12 December.

International Universal Health Coverage Day aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners.

Theme for 2019: "Keep the promise"

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Passes Disha Bill

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Friday passed the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill 2019 also known as the Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019 to award death sentence for offences of rape and gang rape and expediting verdict in trials of such cases within 21 days.

As per the law, the investigation is expected to be completed in 7 working days and trial shall be completed in 14 working days.

'World Habitat Award' for Odisha's JAGA Mission

Odisha won the 'World Habitat Award' for Jaga Mission also called Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission (OLHM).

The Jaga is a society under Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Government of Odisha. The OLHM-JAGA aims at transforming the slums into livable habitats and under which 52,682 urban poor families living in the slums have been granted land rights certificate.

This award is given by World Habitat, in partnership with United Nations Habitat, every year, in recognition of innovative, outstanding, and revolutionary ideas, projects, and programmes from across the world in the field of housing.

Odisha

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Dell Technologies ties up with UNESCO to boost quality of education

Dell Technologies announced a new partnership with UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace) to enable school teachers adopt technology in classrooms by using ICT tools.

Through this partnership, Dell Aarambh a PC for education program by Dell and UNESCO MGIEP's 'FramerSpace' platform will collaborate to train identified teachers.

The partnership would enable achieving the UN Sustainable Goal 4.7 towards education for building peaceful and sustainable societies and also UNESCO MGIEP in its mission of building social and emotional learning, innovative digital pedagogies and empowering youth.

UNESCO

Headquarters: Paris, France

Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

Nirmala Sitharaman ranks 34th in Forbes powerful women list

Finance Minister Sitharaman has been ranked as the 34th most powerful woman in the world on Forbes "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" list.

Sitharaman is one of four Indian women to have made the list including Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, HCL Enterprise CEO and Executive Director Roshni Nadar Malhotra and Landmark Group CEO Renuka Jagtiani.

First 3 persons in this list are Angela Merkel, Christine Lagarde, Nancy Pelosi.

National Tribal Dance Festival to be held in Raipur

A three-day National Tribal Dance Festival will be held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

In the event, international folk artists from 23 states and six other countries are expected to take part and portray their respective tribal folk culture.

Nearly 1,400 artists belonging to 151 art troupes from 23 states and guest artists from six countries including Sri Lanka, Belarus, Uganda and Bangladesh will participate in the three-day programme.

Chhattisgarh

CM: Bhupesh Baghel

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

Salman Khan appointed as Pepsi's new brand ambassador

Food and beverage giant PepsiCo have roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as the new face of its flagship Pepsi brand of carbonated beverage in India.

Latest Brand Ambassadors List

Suniel Shetty appointed as the brand ambassador of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

Hima Das appointed as brand ambassador of Gatorade.

Bharat Pe ropes in Salman Khan as brand ambassador.

PUMA appointed Indian Boxer M C Mary Kom as its new brand ambassador.

PV Sindhu & Sakshi Malik appointed as brand ambassadors of Clean India Mission.

Andhra Pradesh is to set up virtual police station (VPS) in the Andhra University.

AP's first virtual police station to come up at Andhra University.

students of the Andhra University will be able to report violence or any other crime online as virtual police station (VPS)

Once a complaint is filed, the concerned police station will take up the issue and initiate a probe.

Recently AP in News

AP Assembly passes Disha Bill to award death penalty to rapists within 21 days

Andhra Pradesh launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme

IRDAI Constitutes 10 member Working Group headed by T. L. Alamelu to study loss prevention

IRDAI Constitutes 10 member Working Group Under Smt. T. L. Alamelu to to make recommendations for loss prevention & minimization in the general insurance industry.

IRDAI is an autonomous body constituted to regulate and develop insurance business in India.

IRDAI

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairman: *subhash Chandra Khuntia*

Tamil Nadu overtakes Karnataka to become No 1 in renewable energy

Tamil Nadu has overtaken Karnataka to become India's top renewable power generating state in FY20. Out of the total renewable power generation in the country, nearly 17.2 per cent was from Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu's wind energy capacity is 8,480 MW, which is 24 per cent of the country's total wind generation capacity. State is aiming to achieve 9,000 megawatt (MW) of solar power by 2023, as part of which a new Solar Policy had come into effect in 2019. At present, the total solar capacity is above 3,000 MW.

Mastercard ties up with Federal Bank for identity check security for digital transactions

Global payments technology major Mastercard has joined hands with Federal Bank to provide an additional layer of security for digital transactions.

The launch of the Identity Check programme by Federal Bank and Mastercard will go a long way in providing ease of payments with advanced security to shoppers," said Govind Setlur, Chief Executive Officer, Wibmo, payment solutions partner for Federal Bank.

Mastercard

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Ajaypal Singh Banga

Federal Bank

Headquarters: Aluva, kerala

CEO: Shyam Srinivasan

Rohit Sharma becomes La Liga's first Indian brand ambassador

Rohit Sharma became the first non-footballer in history to be named the brand ambassador of the La Liga.

La Liga is the top professional football division of the Spanish football league system.

upcoming cricket world Cup venues

ICC Cricket World Cup

2019 - England & Wales

2023 - India

ICC Women Cricket World Cup

2021 - New Zealand

Moody's Reduces India's GDP Growth Rate for FY20 to 5.6 Percent

Moody's Investors Service said it has lowered its 2019 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent as slow employment growth weighs on consumption. It expects economic growth to pick up in 2020 and

2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively but sees the pace of growth remaining lower than past.

GDP For FY20 – 5.6%

GDP For FY21 – 6.6%

GDP For FY22 – 6.7%

Moody's

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Raymond W. McDaniel

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be next Indian Oil Corporation Chief

The Public Enterprise Selection Board has shortlisted Shrikant Madhav Vaidya to be the next Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

He joined the IOC board in October 2019 and will replace Sanjiv Singh who is the current chairman of IOC. The term of office for the post is three years.

Mumbai-Nagpur expressway to be named after Bal Thackeray

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Wednesday decided Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi expressway will be named after Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, on a proposal by Minister Eknath Shinde for the christening of the ₹55,335-crore mega project, also known as Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Mahamarg.

Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Sushil Modi replaces Sitharaman as head of GoM on IGST settlement

Deputy chief minister of Bihar Sushil Modi has replaced Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the head of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST).

Since the Union Finance Minister is also the chairperson of the GST Council, she could not have headed the GoM panel the Council said. A report of the recommendations of the GoM that will deliberate on the issues of IGST will be submitted to the Finance Minister in her capacity as the chairperson of the GST council.

Former Prime Minister Tebboune elected Algeria's new president

Abdelmadjid Tebboune, a former prime minister and loyalist of Algeria's influential army chief, has been elected the country's new president in a vote boycotted by members of a vibrant nationwide protest movement.

Tebboune, a 74-year-old former prime minister, received 58.15% of the vote, according to results made public Friday by the head of the National Independent Electoral Authority.

Algeria

Capital: Algiers

Currency: Algerian dinar

Amazon launches free audio streaming app Audible Suno for India

Amazon's audiobook company Audible has launched a new app "Audible Suno" in India.

This app features original audio series which aims to expand Audible's reach in India's highly competitive digital entertainment and streaming space.

International Tea Day: December 15

The International Tea Day is observed annually on December 15 is celebrated since 2005 to draw global attention of governments and citizens towards the impact of the global tea trade on workers and growers also to request for price supports and fair trade.

Deepika Padukone to receive Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum (WEF)

Deepika Padukone won the 26th Annual Crystal Award for spreading awareness about the importance of mental health.

She has been very active on mental health issues and her own battle with clinical depression for the past two years.

The winners will be honoured at the opening session of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020 on 20 January 2020. She is the only Indian actress to appear in the list of winners of Davos 2020.

Kerala launches 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' schemes to support differently-abled people

The state government of Kerala has launched two social welfare schemes named 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' to honour differently-abled people as well as NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units who work for their care and welfare.

The 'Vijayamritham' scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance for differently-abled people who battled odds and scored high marks in degree, PG and professional courses.

Through Sahachari scheme to honour NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units that assist people, with over 40% disability, in their studies and other tasks. The Department of Social Justice has earmarked an amount of Rs. 40,000/- for each district.

Recently Kerala in News

Kerala is best performing state in NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEI).

Nadubhagam Chundan snake boat wins 67th Nehru Trophy in Alappuzha.

Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh Wins Miss World 2019

Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica was announced as the winner of the Miss World 2019 beauty pageant held at the ExCeL London.

The 23-year-old Toni-Ann Singh is a women's studies and psychology student at US' Florida State University.

Related Info:

Miss India 2019 winner is Suman Rao from Rajasthan.

Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi crowned 2019 Miss Universe.

PM Modi chairs first National Ganga Council meet in Kanpur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

The Council which has been given overall responsibility for the superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.

Haryana Police adopted a unique barcoding software " Trakea " to make forensic reports tamper-proof

Tareka software is used to ensure that 1000s of digital forensic reports are stored safe and secure. It offers a foolproof security to the samples collected from the crime scene.

This Software features two stages of bar coding to maintain the secrecy of the samples. The samples and reports are sent through biometrically authorized chain. The cases are allocated to the biotechnology experts through automated case allocation.

Dilip Kumar honoured by World Book of Records

Legendary actor Dilip Kumar was honoured by the World Book of Records, London on his 97th birthday

Although the Bollywood icon could not collect the award, the Certificate of Honour was presented to his family members including his brother Aslam Khan, wife Saira Banu, his sisters Saeeda Khan and Farida Khan.

Edelweiss AMC launches India's 1st corporate bond 'Bharat Bond ETF'

Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC), a Group company of Edelweiss today announced the public issue of India's first Corporate Bond ETF called the Bharat Bond ETF.

Edelweiss aims to raise an initial amount of Rs 3,000 crore through this bond from institutional players with a green shoe option of Rs 2,000 crore in the 3-year maturity period and Rs 4,000 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 6,000 crore in the 10-year maturity bucket.