

NATIONAL

33rd Surajkund International Crafts Mela began

- The cultural extravaganza Surajkund International Crafts Mela (33rd) has been inaugurated at Faridabad (Haryana).
- This year Maharashtra is the theme state and Thailand is the Partner Nation.
- At least 20 countries and all the states of India will be participating in the Mela.
- Artistes will showcase the art, culture, heritage, handicrafts, and cuisine of the states.

The Mizoram Government issued an order to ban the import of pigs and piglets

- The Mizoram Government issued an order to ban the import of pigs and piglets because there is a possibility of an outbreak of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).
- The PRRS disease is also called as Swine Flu, the virus of this disease generally transmitted from pigs and affects both pigs and humankind
- Basically, the pigs imported from Myanmar are in suspect point, pigs imported from other countries too have been banned as a move to prevent the outbreak of the PRRS in the state.

2nd Jharkhand International Film Festival (JIFF) held in Ranchi, Jharkhand

- 2nd Jharkhand International Film Festival (JIFF) was organized by an NGO, Navbharat Nirman Sangh at Ranchi in Jharkhand.
- JIFF was organized with an aim to present best Indian and International Films as well as Jharkhand Regional Films.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had provided a Financial sports of Rs 5 Lakh to the Organizers of the festival.

22nd AIIMS to come up in Haryana

- The 22nd All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be established at village Manethi in Haryana's Rewari district.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is the autonomous institutions set up under the act of parliament. Currently, nine AIIMS are operational in the country, which are located across New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Mangalagiri and Nagpur.
- The future campuses will be set up across Raebareli, Gorakpur, Kalyani, Bhatinda, Changsari, Vijay Pur, Awantipora, Bilaspur, Madurai, Darbhanga, Deoghar, Rajkot and Hyderabad (excluding the latest proposition in Haryana), in different phases.

Indus River Dolphin declared Punjab's State aquatic animal

- One of the world's rarest mammals, Indus River Dolphins has received an exceptional distinction. Found only in India and Pakistan in the Beas river, the generally playful Indus Dolphins have been declared Punjab's State aquatic animal.
- The decision was taken in the Punjab State Wildlife Board presided over by the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.
- In Punjab, the Indus River Dolphins are found mainly in the Sutlej and Beas rivers.
- The survey conducted by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was the first ever organized study to ascertain the population of Indus River Dolphins in India.

INTERNATIONAL

Italy, UN, Launch Africa Centre For Climate And Sustainable Development

- Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte along with UN representative launched Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable development.
- The new center is located near the Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome.
- The major objective is boosting the agricultural sectors and promoting rural development in Africa.

Singapore, the most liveable location for Asian expatriates

- ECA international survey, which surveyed almost 480 location overall in a year declared Singapore to be the most liveable location for Asian Expatriates for the 14th year.
- Singapore is followed Australia's Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide in the second position.
- Hong Kong slipped 12 place down and reached 41st rank due to the damage caused by Typhoon Mangkhut in the year 2018.

- Further, Bangkok was in 89th place, whereas George Town and Kuala Lumpur made a hike to 97th and 98th respectively and Colombo in Sri Lanka in 194th rank.

ECONOMY

DIPP renamed as Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.
- The order has been approved by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Its functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will look into matters related to promotion of internal trade, including retail trade, the welfare of traders and their employees, facilitating ease of doing business and start-ups.

New E-commerce Policy comes into effect

- The new E-commerce Policy comes into effect which was notified in December 2018 by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) headed by the ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Key Points

- As per the new E-commerce policy, the E-commerce company cannot sell the goods or services which are sourced from the company it controls.
- There are two types of business model in any E-commerce company- Inventory Model and Marketplace Model. A company operating on marketplace model will not be able to exercise ownership over any inventory bought and sold.
- If an E-commerce company controls 25 per cent of a Vendor's inventory or has some equity stake in the Vendor's Company then the Inventory of that Vendor will be deemed to be controlled by the E-commerce company.
- E-commerce company will not be able to influence the price of any of the goods or services sold on its platform.
- As per the new Policy, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is possible for marketplace model only.

P.V.Bharathi appointed as the MD and CEO of Corporation Bank

- The government has appointed P.V.Bharathi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Corporation Bank. Earlier she has served as the Executive Director of Canara Bank.
- Corporation Bank is public-sector banking with headquartered in Mangaluru, India.

Two RRBs to be merged to form Tamil Nadu Grama Bank

- Public sector Indian Bank said two regional rural banks (RRBs), Pallavan Grama Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank will be merged to form Tamil Nadu Grama Bank as per the Finance Ministry. The integration will be effective from April 1.
- The new Tamil Nadu Grama Bank will be under the sponsorship of Indian Bank with head office in Salem, Tamil Nadu.

PERSON IN NEWS

Gupteshwar Pandey appointed as new Bihar DGP

- Senior IPS officer (1987-batch) Gupteshwar Pandey has taken charge as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar.
- He succeeds current DGP K S Dwivedi (retired).

Sanjiv Ranjan appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia

- Ministry of External Affairs appointed 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Sanjiv Ranjan who is current Ambassador to Argentina as the new Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia.

Ajai Kumar is appointed as the interim CEO of Yes Bank

- Ajai Kumar is appointed as the interim CEO of Yes Bank.
- He will hold the charge of MD & CEO till the new CEO Ravneet Gill joins the lender. Yes Bank said that the Reserve Bank of India had approved the interim appointment.
- Yes Bank is India's 4th largest private sector Bank.

Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra takes over as NCC Director General

- Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra took charge as the Director General of NCC (DGNCC) in New Delhi.

- He has been awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for his distinguished service in January 2018.
- In his career, he has commanded an infantry battalion in Operation Rhino (Assam) and a Brigade in Eastern Command and was the Inspector General of insurgency-torn state of Manipur.

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar took charge as Western Naval Command chief

- Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, PVSM, AVSM, VSM took charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command in Mumbai.
- Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar succeeded Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, who retired upon superannuation, after a career span of four decades in the Indian Navy.
- In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2006, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2014 and Param Vishist Seva Medal in 2019 by the President of India.

Rishi Kumar Shukla appointed as new CBI director

- Rishi Kumar Shukla, 1983 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, was on February 2, 2019 appointed as the new chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He will be serving for a fixed term of two years.
- He has been appointed in the place of former CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma, who was removed from the post on January 10.

SPORTS

Mithali Raj becomes the first woman to play 200 ODI matches

- India's women's cricket team Captain Mithali Raj (36-year) has become the first woman to play 200 matches in the ODI (One-day Internationals) format when she played against New Zealand in Hamilton.
- She already holds the record for being the most capped woman in one-day internationals.
- Mithali's international career is fourth-highest behind only Sachin Tendulkar, Sanath Jayasuriya, and Javed Miandad.
- She is the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket and the only female cricketer to surpass the 6,000 runs mark in WODIs.

Sana Mir becomes first Asian woman to play hundred T20Is

- Former captain of the Pakistan women team Sana Mir became the first Asian woman to play hundred T20Is.
- She achieved this milestone, when she played against West Indies in her final T20I that was held in Karachi.
- Sana Mir is the sixth woman in the world to complete 100 T20Is, whereas Daendra Dottin of West Indies lead the list with 110 T20Is.

ICC roped in Coca-Cola as official sponsor

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) signed a five-year global partnership deal with beverage manufacturer Coca-Cola Company. ICC and Coca-Cola's partnership will be continue till 2023.
- Five years sponsorship includes all ICC events like the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 in England, Wales, the ICC men's and women's T20 World Cups in Australia in 2020, the ICC Women's World Cup 2021 in New Zealand and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India in 2023.
- ICC also signed sponsorship with Alcobev brands, Royal Stag and Bira 91.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be played in India

- International Cricket Council CEO and former South Africa cricketer David Richardson announced that the 13th edition of Men's Cricket World Cup will be played in India in 2023.
- In forthcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 scheduled in England and Wales, ten best teams in the world will fight in a very competitive tournament.
- The much-awaited ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 is scheduled from May 30 to July 14.

Smriti Mandhana Tops Women's ODI Batting Record

- India's Smriti Mandhana attained top in the ICC ODI rankings for batswomen, she grab first position after the match against New Zealand, whereas Ellyse Perry followed her in the second position and Indian ODI skipper Mithali Raj in fifth position.

- In the ODI Bowler's ranking, veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami is fourth, with Poonam Yadav at eighth, and spinner Deepti Sharma at ninth.
- Whereas, Deepti Sharma is fourth in the All-rounders rank and is the Indian cricketer to be the top-10 list.

MISCELLANEOUS

Scientists develop an artificial pancreas smartphone app for diabetics

- Scientists have developed an artificial pancreas smartphone (iAPS) app that will help in regulating blood sugar levels in diabetes patients.
- This app is capable of interfacing wirelessly with glucose monitors, insulin pump devices, and decision-making algorithms.
- The app is effective in regulating glucose levels under challenging conditions and is suitable for use in unconstrained environments.

The International Year of the Periodic Table

- The United Nations has announced, 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements to highlight its first publication in 1869.
- It will help to raise the profile of how chemistry can provide solutions to global challenges in agriculture, education, energy and health.
- The periodic table as we know it today was first designed by the Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev.

ISRO to get its new communication satellite

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is to get its new communication satellite GSAT-31 aloft in space on February 6 from French Guiana on a hired European rocket. GSAT-31 will replace the INSAT-4CR. GSAT-31 weighs roughly 2,500 kg.

ISRO launches Human Space Flight Centre in Bengaluru

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) which will act as the hub of ISRO's future manned missions at the headquarters of ISRO in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- India's first manned mission was announced on 15th August 2018 and it is set to happen by 2022 which is going to be the 75th year of Independence.

'Nasr'-short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile test fired by Pakistan

- Pakistan Army successfully test-fired the short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Nasr' which it claimed can defeat any ballistic missile defence system now available in the country's neighbourhood or any other system being developed.
- Nasr, with a strike range of about 70-km, is a high precision, shoot and scoot weapon system with the ability of in-flight maneuverability.

ONE LINER

- Air India is resuming its services from New Delhi to the holy city of Najaf in Iraq after 25 years.
- 'Kisan Suvidha loan' for small and marginal farmers launched by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
- Gorkha Brigade received the best marching contingent trophy of the Republic Day parade whereas, The CRPF won the best marching contingent prize for the para-military forces.
- Former umpire Dara Dotiwalla, who officiated in the famous tied Test match between India and Australia in 1986 at Chennai, passed away.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Railway electrification of 294-km long Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and Khana-Sainthia sections in West Bengal.
- Minister of Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the International Energy Agency's (IEA) "The Future of Rail" report which analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world in New Delhi.
- The fourth edition of international spice conference (ISC 2019) held in Hyderabad. The conference is hosted by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) which represents around 80% of spices export from India.