

BUSINESS & TRADE**Microsoft launched e-platform under Project ReWeave to help handloom weavers**

Microsoft India launched a new e-commerce platform 're-weave.in' under project ReWeave to aid handloom weavers. The e-commerce platform would connect artisans to the buyers, enabling them to expand to newer customers and markets

GOVERNMENT**Vande Bharat Express**

India's fastest indigenous train, Train 18 named as Vande Bharat Express will ply between Delhi and Varanasi. Train 18 is an indigenously developed world-class train under 'Make in India' initiative. The 16-coach train has been completely built in India by Indian engineers within a span of 18 months at the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai

**Nari Shakti: Hindi Word of the Year 2018**

The word Nari Shakti is chosen as the word of the Year 2018 by the Oxford dictionaries. The announcement regarding this was made during Jaipur Literature Festival

**Bharat Parv Begins at Red Fort**

Bharat Parv is a five day event hosted at the Red Fort as part of Republic Day celebrations. It aims to generate a patriotic fervor and promote rich cultural diversity of the country. Attractions of Bharat Parv included replica of the Statue of Unity, display of Republic day parade tableaux and a few more

**Samantha Express**

IRCTC will launch a new train Samantha Express on 14<sup>th</sup> February from Nagpur. It will cover prominent places associated with Gautam Buddha and chief architect of the Constitution Dr B R Ambedkar

**Navy Commissions INS Kohassa**

Naval Air Station Shibpur has been commissioned as INS Kohassa. It is a step forward in enhancing the operational capability of Andaman and Nicobar Command. NAS Shibpur was commissioned as INS Kohassa by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba

**Indians can visit Nepal and Bhutan producing Aadhaar as Id Proof**

The Union Home Ministry has tweaked the travel document norms for visiting Nepal and Bhutan. As per new norms, Indians can travel to Nepal and Bhutan by producing Aadhaar as Identity proof, but this is only for Indians aged under 15 and over 65 years. Indians in other age brackets will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel for Nepal and Bhutan

**National Museum of Indian Cinema Inaugurated**

The PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema at Films Division of India premises in Mumbai. It aims to conserve the film heritage of India

**Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2019**

The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was observed in Varanasi on 21<sup>st</sup> January and was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The theme of the PBD 2019 was "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India". The convention held during the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas provides an important platform to engage and connect with the overseas Diaspora. The chief guest for the event was Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius.

**Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.**

The government announced a decision to provide 10% reservation in jobs and higher education for those belonging to the economically backward sections of the general category. The government aims to provide the aid of reservation to economically backward poor people who are not availing the benefit of reservation as of now

**70-Point Grading Index to Assess Quality of School Education in the States**

The 70-Point Grading Index will assess areas of deficiency in each state's school education system so that targeted interventions can be made at every level from pedagogy to teacher training. The Grading Index aims at helping states understand where they may be lagging & identify priority areas

for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level

### **Vijay Mallya declared as Fugitive Economic Offender**

The Prevention of Money Laundering court in Mumbai has declared Vijay Mallya as a Fugitive Economic Offender. Vijay Mallya is the first businessman to be charged under the new fugitive economic offender's act 2018

### **India's longest single lane steel cable suspension bridge opens in Arunachal Pradesh**

Chief Minister Pema Khandu recently inaugurated India's longest 300-meter single-lane steel cable suspension bridge over Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district bordering China

### **GST exemption limit doubled for small businesses**

The government increased GST exemption limit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for the North-eastern States, and from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh for the rest of the country to give relief to small businesses with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

## INTERNATIONAL

### **World Steel Association Report: Key Facts**

China is the largest producer of crude steel and accounts for more than 51 per cent of global production. India recently replaced Japan as the world's second-largest steel producing country. The Steel production in India increased by 4.9 per cent from 101.5 MT in 2017 to 106.5 MT in 2018

### **First human rights TV channel launched**

The world's first television channel dedicated to human rights was launched in London by the International Observatory of Human Rights. It would be a web-based channel and would deliver human rights issues to audiences in over 20 countries across Europe, Latin America and the Middle East

### **U.K. lawmakers reject Brexit deal**

The British Parliament rejected the Brexit deal proposed by the Prime Minister Theresa May. The British House of Commons voted 432 -202 against the deal struck between Britain's government and the EU in November 2018

### **The world's longest 3D-printed concrete bridge opened in China**

The world's longest 3D-printed concrete pedestrian bridge, which is 26.3 metre-long and 3.6-metre-wide, was opened in China in 2019

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### **ISRO launched 'Microsat-R' & Kalamsat, the lightest satellite into orbit**

ISRO launched a student satellite named 'Kalamsat' and an imaging satellite known as 'Microsat-R' in January 2019. Both the satellites were carried by PSLV C-44 rocket

### **Sea-Vigil Navy Exercise**

Indian Navy undertook a first of its kind multi-agency drill, covering entire 7,516 km-long Indian coastline and exclusive economic zone and involving 13 coastal states and Union Territories to check efficacy of maritime security and surveillance- Sea Vigil

### **China's Chang'e 4 probe makes historic touchdown**

China's Chang'e 4 probe spacecraft has become the first spacecraft to land on the far side of the moon. Chang'e 4 is a Chinese lunar exploration mission that aims to achieve soft-landing on the far side of the Moon. The mission aims to deliver samples of Moon rock and soil to Earth

### **IMBEX 2018-19**

India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise IMBEX 2018-19 was held at Chandimandir Military Station, that houses the headquarters of the Western Command. The objectives of IMBEX 2018-19 were to train the Myanmar delegation for participation in the UN peacekeeping operations under the UN flag, training Myanmar Army delegation on tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by contingents of the member nations for serving in UN peacekeeping operations

## SPORTS

### **Mohammed Shami: Fastest Indian to reach 100 ODI wickets**

Fast Bowler Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian to claim 100 wickets in One-day Internationals. Mohammed Shami achieved this feat

in his 56<sup>th</sup> ODI game. Mohammed Shami's wicket number 100 was New Zealand opener, Martin Guptill

#### **Australian Open 2019 Winners**

The Winners of the Australian Open 2019 were:

**Women's Singles:** Naomi Osaka (Japan)

**Men's Singles:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

**Women's Doubles:** Samantha Stosur (Australia) & Zhang Shuai (China)

**Men's Doubles:** Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut of France

#### **ICC Awards 2018**

Virat Kohli - Cricketer of the Year, Test Player of the Year & ODI Player of the Year

Rishabh Pant - Emerging Player of the Year

Aaron Finch (Australia) - T20 International Performance of the Year

Smriti Mandhana - Women's Cricketer of the Year & Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year

#### **Khelo India Youth Games 2019**

Khelo India Youth games 2019 were held in Pune. Maharashtra topped the medal tally list with 228 medals

#### **Tokyo Olympics: Birendra Prasad Baishya will be India's Chef de Mission**

President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation and IWF Executive Board member, Birendra Prasad Baishya was named Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

#### **Bengaluru Bulls won the Pro Kabaddi League 2019**

Bengaluru Bulls defeated Gujarat Fortune giants 38-33 in the final to win maiden Pro Kabaddi League 2018-19

### AWARDS & HONORS

#### **Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal awarded Carnot Prize**

The Union Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal was awarded the Carnot Prize 2018 for the transformational changes brought by him during his tenure as Union Minister of Power. Piyush Goyal brought in transformational changes includes fast-track electrification of nearly 18,000 villages in some of the most remote and inaccessible parts of

the country, rolling out a comprehensive power sector reform plan UDAY

#### **Civilian Gallantry Awards 2019**

Ashok Chakra - Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani (posthumously)

Kirti Chakra - Major Tushar Gauba & Sowar Vijay Kumar (posthumously)

Shaurya Chakra - Lt Col Vikrant Prasher, Maj Amit Kumar Dimri & 7 others

#### **Civilian Awards 2019**

##### **Bharat Ratna**

1. Pranab Mukherjee
2. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously)
3. Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously)

##### **Padma Vibhushan**

1. Teejan Bai
2. Ismail Omar Guelleh
3. Anil Manibhai Naik
4. Balwant Moreshwar Purandare

##### **Padma Bhushan**

1. Mohanlal
2. Bachendri Pal & 12 others

##### **Padma Shri**

Total 94 awardees. A few famous names - Sunil Chetri, Gautam Gambhir, Prabhu Deva, Kader Khan (posthumously)

#### **International Gandhi Peace Prize announced**

The awards were announced for years 2015-2018, after the gap of four years.

The government announced the names of Vivekananda Kendra in Kanyakumari (2015), AkshayaPatra Foundation and Sulabh International (2016), EkalAbhiyan Trust (2017) and Yohei Sasakawa (2018) for the International Gandhi Peace Prize

### GLOBAL RANKING

#### **Corruption Perception Index 2018**

The Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index made the following observations: Denmark is the world least corrupt country scoring (88/100 points). Denmark was followed by New Zealand & Finland. India ranked at 78<sup>th</sup> position in 2018 whereas in 2017 India was ranked 81<sup>st</sup> position

#### **Global Talent Competitive Index**

The Global Talent Competitive Index prepared by the INSEAD business school in partnership with

Tata Communications and Adecco Group was released on the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2019. India ranked at 80<sup>th</sup> position among 125 countries in 2019, one position up than previous year

### PERSONALITIES

#### **Punit Goenka named as new chairman of BARC India**

The Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC India) has elected Punit Goenka MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) as the Chairman. Punit Goenka as a founder Chairman of BARC had played a key role in institutionalizing BARC