

Today's Headlines: Check Out Today's Top Stories

- The Central government has amended the service rules of three armed forces where the retirement age for services chiefs can be extended to 65 years if they are appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- Border co-ordination conference between Director Generals of BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh held
- 49th border co-ordination conference between Director Generals of BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was held in New Delhi from December 25 to 29, 2019. Indian delegation was headed by DG BSF Vivek Johri and BD delegation was headed by DG of BGB Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Directorate General Building of CRPF in New Delhi on December 29, 2019.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on December 29, 2019 unveiled a new insignia – a 'Garuda', sword & shield – for the CRPF's VIP security wing that protects 59 high-risk dignitaries. The insignia will bear the motto of the force — "Always, Aware, Alert".
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Birth Centenary Celebrations of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Marri Channa Reddy, in Hyderabad on December 29, 2019.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 29, 2019 said that ISRO is planning to launch a satellite called Aditya to study the sun. In his 'Mann ki Baat' programme of AIR.
- Central government's citizen engagement platform, MyGov has reached one crore registered users. It was started five years ago with a vision to offer a platform for the voice and views of citizens.
- Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on December 29, 2019 laid the foundation stone for the CSIR Innovation Centre for Next Generation

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Energy Storage Solution in Chennai. The Rs 100 crore initiative is part of the Centre's Clean Energy project, where the government envisages increasing the share of such energy to about 40 per cent by 2022.

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on December 29, 2019 inaugurated Atal Kisan Mazdoor canteen in Karnal where farmers and labourers will get food for Rs 10.
- A 14-feet-tall bronze statue of late former prime minister and BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee was unveiled in Karnal on December 29, 2019 by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- 80th session of Indian History Congress is being held at Kannur, Kerala from December 28 to 30, 2019.
- 44-year-old Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of Jharkhand by Governor Droupadi Murmu in Ranchi December 29, 2019.
- Pejawar Math head Sri Vishweshwara Theertha Swamiji, one of the prominent religious leaders of South India, died at the Math in Udupi (Karnataka) on December 29, 2019 at the age of 88
- Ireland Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on December 29, 2019 visited his ancestral village in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra
- Reserve Bank of India has criticised credit rating agencies (CRAs) for allowing low-rated companies to do "rating shopping". In the 25th edition of the Financial Stability Report, RBI has warned of 'rating shopping' by companies for long-term bank loans based on indicative ratings given by CRAs which are not available to the banks or investors.
- SEBI penalises rating agencies ICRA, Care and India Ratings Rs. 25 lakhs each for their "lapses in their duty to investors by not taking timely

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action” when they rated NCDs of IL&FS which owes close to one lakh crore rupees to investors and lenders.

- Indian grandmaster Koneru Humpy won the Women’s title at the World Rapid Chess Championship in Moscow, Russia on December 28, 2019. Men’s title was won by Norway’s Magnus Carlsen.
- Pune-based Udayan Mane won the season-ending TATA Steel Tour Championship at the Golmuri Golf Course in Jamshedpur on December 29, 2019.
- Australian bowler Peter Siddle on December 29, 2019 announced his retirement from international cricket after taking 221 wickets in 67 Test matches.
- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar released the biennial ‘India State of Forest Report (ISFR)’ in New Delhi on December 30, 2019.
- NITI Aayog on December 30, 2019 released the second edition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index which comprehensively documents the progress made by states and union territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets.
- 27th edition of the National Children’s Science Congress is being held in Thiruvananthapuram from December 27 to 31, 2019. It is the flagship programme of National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, Theme: ‘Science, Technology and Innovation for a Clean, Green and Healthy Nation’.

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- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed new materials that can generate power from both stagnant and flowing water. These new ways of producing energy on a small scale can be employed in household environments to support decentralisation of energy sources.
- After the successful run of Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express, the second premium Tejas train is ready to run between Ahmedabad and Mumbai from January 17, 2020
- Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on December 30, 2019 launched the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system to facilitate blocking and tracing of stolen or lost mobile phones in Delhi.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on December 30, 2019 approved extension in the deputation tenure of Director of Special Protection Group (SPG), IPS Arun Kumar Sinha for a period from March 19, 2020, to July 30, 2021.
- Jammu & Kashmir union territory administration announced public holiday on October 26 (Accession Day).
- Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat was on December 30, 2019 appointed India's first Chief of Defence Staff with a mandate to bring in convergence in functioning of the Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force and bolster the country's military prowess.
- Sanjay Gupta, the editor-in-chief of 'Jagran', has been selected for the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award' by the Pune-based Kesari-Maratha Trust
- Nagaland Assembly Speaker Vikho-o Yhoshu died in Mumbai on December 30, 2019 at the age of 67. He was the leader of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP).

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- Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Civil Aviation, launched the Biometric enabled Centralised Access Control System (CACS) and 'e-BCAS (e-Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) Project Training Module' in New Delhi on December 30, 2019. The objective behind launching these two projects is to enhance security and ease of doing business at airports.
- Phase-1 services of the e-Governance (eGCA) project of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in New Delhi on December 30, 2019. This has automated the issuance of Commercial Pilot License (CPL-A), Flight Radio Telephony Operators License (FRTOL) and Instrument Rating.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 30, 2019 released a draft circular on limits on exposure to single and group borrowers and revision in priority sector lending targets for urban cooperative banks (UCBs). Prudential exposure limits for UCBs for a single borrower and a group of connected borrowers will be 10% and 25% respectively of their tier-one capital.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 30, 2019 released a draft circular on priority sector lending targets of UCBs. The target for loans and advances to the priority sector for UCBs will be increased to 75% of adjusted net bank credit or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher, by March 31, 2023
- Products made by women self-help groups formed under the DAY-NULM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission) will now be available on e-commerce platforms as the government on December 30, 2019 signed an MoU with Flipkart in this regard.

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- The last date for the mandatory linking of the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar has been extended till March 31, 2020, the CBDT said on December 30, 2019.
- Fred P. Graham, US journalist who covered the Supreme Court and momentous legal affairs of his era for The New York Times, CBS News and Court TV, died in Washington at the age of 88 on December 29, 2019.
- India skipper Virat Kohli and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah are the only two Indians who found a place in Wisden's T20 International team of the decade. Australia's Aaron Finch was named captain of the team.