

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

- ICICI Bank launches 'iBox' self-service delivery tool for customers to collect their deliverables like debit cards and cheque books from the bank branch near to their home/office
- India, Maldives sign MoUs for establishing Addu Tourism zone in five islands of Addu atoll
- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announces cutting of all ties with Israel and the US over Washington's controversial Middle East plan
- Mohammad Allawi appointed new Prime Minister of Iraq by President Barham Saleh
- Australian Open tennis in Melbourne: Serbia's Novak Djokovic wins men's singles title; Rajeev Ram (US) & Joe Salisbury (UK) win men's doubles
- India defeat New Zealand by 7 runs in 5th and final T20 International at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui; win series 5-0
- 81st National Table Tennis Championships in Hyderabad: PSPB's Harmeet Desai (men's), Haryana's Sutirtha Mukherjee (women's) win singles titles
- Indian Olympic Association invites BCCI President Sourav Ganguly to become the Goodwill Ambassador of the Indian contingent at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- Flame-throated bulbul 'Rubigula' unveiled as mascot for 36th National Games in Goa in October 2020; is also the state bird of Goa
- Coronavirus outbreak in China: 324 Indians evacuated from Wuhan city in Air India plane
- Gopal Baglay appointed India's new High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.
- 'Veer Smriti' memorial for 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed while fighting insurgency in Nagaland inaugurated at Mokokchung

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- AP Govt. launches doorstep pension delivery scheme 'YSR Pension Kanuka'
- Sahitya Akademi Awardee winner Punjabi writer Jaswant Singh Kanwal dies at 101 in Moga district of Punjab
- Pramod Agrawal assumes charge as the new CMD of Coal India Ltd
- 3rd private train of the IRCTC to run between Indore and Varanasi as Humsafar Express: Railway Board Chairman Vinod Kumar Yadav
- Maldives officially rejoins Commonwealth more than three years after quitting over criticism of its human rights record
- Pakistan declares national emergency to battle locusts destroying crops
- Bestselling author Mary Higgins Clark dies at the age of 92
- Australian Open tennis: Sofia Kenin (US) wins women's singles title; Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) & Nikola Pietrangeli (Croatia) win mixed doubles title
- Farm loan disbursal target for banks hiked by 11% to Rs 15 lakh crore for 2020-21
- 3,477 Sagar Mitras and 500 Fish Farmer Producer Organisations to involve youth in fisheries extension
- States asked to adopt three central model laws on agricultural land leasing, marketing and contract farming
- Farmers will be allowed to set up solar units on barren/fallow lands and supply power to grids
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme to be expanded; 20 lakh farmers would be provided funds to set up standalone solar pumps
- Kisan Rail to be launched for cold supply chain to transport perishable goods

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- Krishi Udan scheme to be launched by Aviation Ministry to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products
- Disinvestment proceeds pegged at Rs 1.20 lakh crore for 2020-21, up from Rs 65,000 crore in current fiscal
- Proposal to sell the balance government holding in IDBI Bank
- Govt to sell part of stake in LIC through IPO
- New slabs introduced and tax rate for different slabs reduced if a taxpayer opts for foregoing exemptions & deductions
- No tax on annual income of up to Rs 2.5 lakh
- Tax rate of 5% (as earlier) on annual income Rs 2.5 lakh-5 lakh
- Tax rate of 10% on annual income Rs 5 lakh-Rs 7.5 lakh
- Tax rate of 15% on annual income Rs 7.5 lakh-10 lakh
- Tax rate of 20% on annual income Rs 10 lakh-2.5 lakh
- Tax rate of 25% on annual income Rs 12.5 lakh-15 lakh
- Tax rate of 30% on annual income above Rs 15 lakh
- Customs duties on household appliances such as fans, grinders and mixers increased from 10% to 20%
- Customs duties on printed circuit board assembly on cellular phones doubled to 20%
- Customs duty on completely built units of commercial electric vehicles raised from 25% to 40%
- For non-filter cigarettes below 65 mm, the excise duty increased from Rs 90 per thousand to Rs 200 per thousand
- On filter cigarettes over 65 mm and up to 70 mm, the duty was hiked from Rs 145 per thousand to Rs 250 per thousand
- Excise duty also increased on chewing tobacco, scented zarda, hookahs and snuff

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- Longest ever budget speech of over 2 hours 40 minutes, breaking her 2019 record of 2 hours and 17 minutes
- Fiscal deficit of 3.8% (Revised Estimate) for 2019-20 and 3.5% (Budget Estimate) for 2020-21