

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

- BJP's Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das hands over his resignation to Governor Draupadi Murmu in Ranchi after party's defeat in Assembly polls
- Jharkhand Assembly election results (78/81): AJSU Party: 2, BJP: 24, CPI-ML: 1, Independent: 1, Congress: 16, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha: 29, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajanatrik): 3, NCP: 1, RJD: 1
- Indian Ambassador to US Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed next Foreign Secretary
- QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile) system developed by DRDO successfully flight-tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the Odisha coast
- Bachan Singh, Delhi's oldest voter who voted in 2019 Lok Sabha election, dies at 111
- Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai inaugurates a State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Centre at Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Chandigarh
- Home Minister Amit Shah delivers the 32nd Intelligence Bureau (IB) Centenary Endowment Lecture in New Delhi
- NASVI and FSSAI to jointly organise national street food festival in Delhi on December 25-29
- NASVI: National Association of Street Vendors of India; FSSAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- RBI caps lender's exposure on a peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platform to all borrowers at Rs 50 lakh
- SEBI signs pact with Kazakhstan's Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) for mutual co-operation

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- Hiranandani Group MD Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as new President of Assocham
- Ampere Vehicles launches electric scooter Reo Elite priced at Rs 45,099
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran
- Russian President Vladimir Putin opens 19-km long railway bridge connecting Russia to Crimea
- Lazio beats Juventus 3-1 in Riyadh to win Italian Super Cup football tournament

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- PM launches Atal Jal Yojana aimed at improving groundwater level in 7 states: Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP, UP and Karnataka.
- Centre launches good governance index (GGI) to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs
- PM releases Operational Guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) which seeks to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024
- December 25, the birth anniversary former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, celebrated as Good Governance Day
- PM Modi unveils 25 feet tall bronze statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the Lok Bhawan in Lucknow
- PM Modi lays the foundation stone for the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University in Lucknow
- Indian Railways launches Him Darshan Express train between Kalka and Shimla stations
- Renowned Hindi author Ganga Prasad Vimal dies at 80
- Typhoon Phanfone pummels central Philippines
- Jharkhand Assembly election results (81/81): AJSU Party: 2, BJP: 25, CPI-ML: 1, Independent: 2, Congress: 16, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha: 30, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik): 3, NCP: 1, RJD: 1
- Jharkhand: Outgoing BJP Chief Minister Raghubar Das lost from Jamshedpur East constituency to Independent Saryu Roy by a margin of 15,815 votes
- Cabinet approves creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of four star General

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- IAF's last MiG 27 squadron to be decommissioned at the Jodhpur Air Base on December 27
- Cabinet approves conduct of Census of India 2021 and updation of National Population Register
- NITI Aayog to launch Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index & Dashboard 2019–20 on December 30
- India's first long range CNG bus that can travel 1000 kms in a single fill launched by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)
- 8 km long strategic tunnel under Rohtang Pass in J&K to be named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Union Cabinet approves implementation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)
- A Central Sector Scheme with a total outlay of Rs.6000 crore to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- Aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in 7 States: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and UP.
- Union Cabinet approves transformational Organisational Restructuring of Indian Railways
- Unification of the existing eight Group A services into a Central Service called Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS)
- Railway Board will be organised on functional lines and will be headed by Chairman Railway Board (CRB) who will be CEO with 4 Members and some Independent Members
- Gross nonperforming asset (GNPA) ratio of the banking system declines from 11.2% in 2017-18 to 9.1% in 2018-19: RBI

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- Net NPAs of the banking system declined to 3.7 per cent in FY19 from 6 per cent in FY18: RBI
- Total frauds at banks rise 74% to Rs 71,543 crore in 2018-19: RBI
- RBI introduces semi-closed prepaid payment instrument (PPI) for purchase of goods and services up to a limit of Rs 10,000
- International Current Affairs Russia is the only country in the world that has hypersonic weapons: President Vladimir Putin
- 'Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games', book by Boria Majumdar & Nalin Mehta, to release in January 2020

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- A 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck Iran on Friday, the US Geological Survey said, near the Bushehr nuclear power plant in the southwest.
- Mobile internet has been cut off in at least 12 districts in Uttar Pradesh over concerns of further protests against the amended Citizenship Act erupting after the Friday prayers.
- A Bek Air plane with 95 passengers and 5 crew members on board crashed near Almaty, the airport of Kazakhstan's biggest city. At least 14 people were reportedly killed, authorities said.
- The railway is in the process of "rationalising" its passengers and freight fares, Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav said on Thursday. He, however, refused to say if the prices will be increased.
- Tehran and Delhi have agreed to accelerate the development of an important Iranian port, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said during a visit to the sanctions-hit Islamic republic on Monday.
- More than 245 homes have been destroyed and 700 people left destitute after a forest fire tore through a low-income area of the Chilean seaside city of Valparaiso on Christmas Eve.
- Alaska is set to finish 2019 with a record average high temperature after a year of extremes ranging from a sweltering summer and rampant wildfires to vanishing sea ice and winter rains where heavy snows were once the norm.
- Embattled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared victory in a leadership primary in his right-wing Likud party Friday, ensuring he will lead it into March elections.
- Floods in north India killed 1,900 people this year and forced more than three million out of their homes, according to a new report, which said these weather events reflected trends being driven by climate change.

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- Ladakhi New Year Losar celebrated on December 28
- Maharashtra: Farmers whose crop loan and restructured loan exceeds Rs two lakh will be ineligible for the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme
- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar unveils statue of former Union Minister Arun Jaitley in Patna on his birth anniversary
- Former Doordarshan Director-General Shiv Sharma dies in Gurugram at 85
- Composer Ilaiyaraja wins 2019 Harivarasanam award given by the government of Kerala
- Marathi litterateur Bhalchandra Nemade and Hindi writer Gynanranjan win 'Akashdeep Sanman' awards given by Amar Ujala media group
- Statistics ministry sets up 28 member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCES) chaired by former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen to improve quality of data
- Pakistan rolls out first batch of its indigenous dual-seat fighter jets JF-17 manufactured in collaboration with China
- UNGA approves resolution that will start the process of drafting a new international treaty to combat cybercrime
- UNGA adopts USD 3.07-billion operating budget for 2020; USD 2.9 billion in 2019
- UNGA approves resolution extending the investigation into the mysterious 1961 death of secretary-general Dag Hammarskjöld
- Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino wins Director of the Year Award at Palm Springs International Film Festival for "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"

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- 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.

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- Lok Sabha passes Arms (Amendment) Bill; makers of illegal arms will face maximum punishment of life in jail
- BJP wins majority (117/224) in Karnataka Assembly by winning 12 out of 15 seats in by-elections
- Parliament passes Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019; restricts the use of hazardous materials on ships and regulates their recycling
- 3rd India-Australia Secretary-level 2+2 Dialogue held in New Delhi
- Hindi poet Viswanath Prasad Tiwari wins 'Gangadhar National Award' given by Odisha's Sambalpur University
- Govt further caps stock limit on onion retailers to 2 tonnes to check hoarding
- FICCI ARISE Conference 2019 in New Delhi on December 9-10; theme: 'Future Ready Learners And Schools'
- India ranked 129th among 189 countries on UNDP's 2019 Human Development Index (HDI)
- HDI ranking based on life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators
- Arms sales rose by 4.6% worldwide in 2018: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime observed on December 9
- International Anti-Corruption Day observed on December 9 with its theme as 'united against corruption.'
- 5 killed in eruption of volcano in New Zealand's White Island
- Saudi Arabia abolishes rules requiring restaurants to provide separate entrances for women

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- South Africa's Zozibini Tunzi crowned Miss Universe 2019 in Atlanta (US)
- Paul Volcker, former US Federal Reserve chairman, dies at 92 in New York
- 'Sesame Street' puppeteer Caroll Spinney dies at 85 in US
- Korean Director Bong Joon-ho's 'Parasite' named the best film of the year by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association (LAFCA)
- Antonio Banderas won the best actor trophy for 'Pain and Glory' (Spanish) which was also named best foreign language film
- Mary Kay Place was named best actress for her role in 'Diane'
- World Anti-Doping Agency imposes 4-year ban on Russia from 2020 Tokyo Olympics

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- Many killed as Cyclone Bulbul hits West Bengal, Odisha and Bangladesh
- Punjab CM Amarinder Singh announces installing of a Chair in the name of the Guru Nanak Dev in 11 universities
- Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to attend Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in UAE from November 10 to 12
- World Science Day for Peace and Development celebrated on November 10; Theme: 'Open science, leaving no one behind'
- Australia: 3 people died, thousands displaced by bushfires in New South Wales, Queensland
- US Court retains H-1B visa rule giving work permit to spouses
- Iran announces discovery of a new oil field with 53 billion barrels of reserves in Khuzestan province
- Bolivia: President Evo Morales calls for fresh elections after Organization of American States questions the validity of his victory
- Men's Singles: Japan's Kento Momota
- Women's Singles: China's Chen Yufei
- Men's Doubles: Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon & Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
- Women's Doubles: Japan's Yuki Fukushima & Sayaka Hirota
- Mixed Doubles: China's Wang Yilü & Huang Dongping
- France beat Australia 3-2 to win Fed Cup women's team tennis tournament in Perth
- France defeated hosts Australia 3-2 to win Fed Cup women's team tennis tournament in Perth
- Kristina Mladenovic won two singles for France
- Ashleigh Barty and Ajla Tomljanovic won one singles each for Australia
- Doubles match won by French pair of Kristina Mladenovic and Caroline Garcia



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- ISRO launches PSLV-C48 carrying 628-kg earth observation satellite RISAT-2BR1 along with 9 other customer satellites from Sriharikota (AP)
- Culture Ministry launches portal 'indianculture.gov.in' developed by IIT-Bombay
- Nagaland extends the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime to Dimapur district; all districts under ILP now
- Manipur would be brought under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system: Home Minister Amit Shah
- Parliament passes the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019
- Was passed by Lok Sabha on December 10 and Rajya Sabha on December 11
- The Bill seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian refugees coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan after facing religious persecution there.
- Those who have migrated to India before December 31, 2014 are eligible.
- The Bill shall not apply to: 1. Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura 2. States that are protected by the Inner Line Permit (ILP) — Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland
- ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.1% for FY2019 from 6.5% made in September; forecast for FY2020 cut to 6.5% from 7.2%
- Cabinet clears amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC); objective is to remove difficulties being faced during insolvency resolution process
- Cabinet approves 'Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme' for purchase of high-rated pooled assets from financially sound NBFCs/HFCs by PSBs

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- Lok Sabha passes bill to set up a unified regulatory authority for all international financial services centres (IFSCs) in India
- Cabinet authorises NHAI to set up infrastructure investment trust, monetise NH projects having toll collection track record of at least one year
- Cabinet approves hike in authorised capital of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) from Rs 6,000 crore to Rs 25,000 crore
- ICAR organising 'International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems' for BIMSTEC countries in Delhi on Dec 11-13
- SBI under-reported its non-performing assets (NPAs) for 2018-19 by Rs 11,932 crore: RBI auditors
- 16-year old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg declared TIME's 2019 Person of the Year
- Others honoured by TIME: US Women's Soccer Team: Athlete of the Year, the US Public Servants: Guardians of the Year, singer Lizzo: Entertainer of the Year' and Disney CEO Bob Iger: Business Person of the Year
- International Mountain Day observed on December 11; theme: 'Mountains Matter for Youth'
- At least 250 journalists jailed around the world; highest in China: US-based Committee to Protect Journalists
- Sports Ministry announces cash awards to South Asian Games medallists; Rs. 1.5 lakh for gold, Rs. 1 lakh for silver and Rs. 50,000 for bronze
- India's Vikram Malhotra wins Life Time Betty Griffin Memorial squash tournament in Boca Raton (US)

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- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by Rajya Sabha; seeks to include certain tribal communities in Karnataka into Scheduled Tribe category
- International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems 'NAVARMS – 2019' being held in Delhi on December 12-13
- GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd) hands over LCU (Landing Craft Utility) amphibious ship to Indian Navy
- Bangladesh Navy Chief Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury visits naval units in Visakhapatnam
- Veteran Telugu actor, writer Gollapudi Maruti Rao dies at 80
- Social worker Minoti Riba, wife of former Arunachal Pradesh CM Tomo Riba, dies in Itanagar at 83
- Parliament has passed the International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019
- The Bill seeks to set up a unified authority for regulating all financial activities in international financial services centres (IFSCs) in the country.
- It was passed by Rajya Sabha on December 12 and Lok Sabha on December 11.
- The first IFSC in India has been set up at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar
- Parliament has passed the Constitution (126th) Amendment Bill
- The Bill seeks to extend reservation to SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another ten years
- The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on December 12 and Lok Sabha on December 11
- Given for the past 70 years, the reservation was due to end on January 25, 2020

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- Reservation given to Anglo-Indian community has not been extended in the new bill
- The bill would now be sent to states for ratification by 50% of the assemblies before it comes into force
- The Lok Sabha passed the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019.
- The Bill seeks to upgrade three deemed Sanskrit universities into Central universities
- They are: Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Bhopal, Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Tirupati
- Industrial production declines by 3.8% in October
- Retail inflation rises to over three-year high of 5.54% in November
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank lists on stock exchanges after successful IPO
- India Design Council launches initiatives — Chartered Designs of India (CDI) and Design Education Quality Mark (DEQM) — to promote Design Education and Standards
- FSSAI, Nasscom Foundation partner to develop app to prevent food wastage
- Tara Sinha, the founder of advertising agencies Clarion and Tara Sinha Associates, dies at 88
- Amazon's Audible launches an India-first audio service 'Suno'
- Indian embassy, NGO INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) to rebuild 11 heritage sites damaged in Nepal earthquake of 2015
- Voters in Bougainville opt for independence from Papua New Guinea in referendum

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- World's first fully electric commercial plane, operated by Harbour Air, takes flight in Canada
- International Universal Health Coverage Day celebrated on December 12 with the theme 'Keep the promise'
- International Day of Neutrality observed on December 12
- Pakistan's Aleem Dar breaks West Indian Steve Bucknor's record of umpiring in most number of Tests in his 129th test at Perth
- Spain's football league LaLiga names cricketer Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador in India
- The FCCI India Sports Awards 2019 were presented to the winners in New Delhi
- Best National Sports Federation: National Rifle Association of India
- Sports person (female): Rani Rampal (hockey)
- Sports person (male): Saurabh Chaudhary (shooting)
- Para-athlete: Sandeep Chaudhary (javelin).
- Breakthrough sports person: Amit Panghal (boxing)
- Lifetime achievement (administrator): Govindaraj Kempareddy
- Lifetime achievement: Pankaj Advani (cue sport)
- Best State promoting sports: Odisha
- Best sports journalist: Kamesh Srinivasan

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- ITBP becomes first among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to launch a matrimonial site for its staff
- Former Union Minister and BJP leader ID Swami dies at 90 in Faridabad; was MoS for Home in PM Vajpayee's govt. in 1999
- Former actress Gita Siddharth, known for roles in films such as 'Garam Hawa' and 'Sholay', dies
- Pakistan: Lahore-Wagah shuttle train service resumes after a gap of 22 years
- International Tea Day celebrated on December 15
- Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh crowned Miss World 2019 in London
- French actress Anna Karina dies at 79 in Paris
- India's Lakshya Sen wins men's singles title at Bangladesh International Challenger badminton in Dhaka
- Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera wins ICC RCGC Open Golf Championship in Kolkata
- United States beat International team to win Presidents Cup golf tournament in Melbourne
- West Indies (291/2 in 47.5) beat India (287/8 in 50) by 8 wickets in first ODI at Chennai
- Pakistan's Abid Ali becomes 1st batsman to score hundreds on both Test and ODI debuts
- Title winners at BWF World Tour Finals badminton in Guangzhou, China:
- Japan's Kento Momota: Men's singles
- China's Chen Yufei: Women's singles
- Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia: Men's doubles
- China's Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan: Women's doubles
- Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong of China: Mixed doubles

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- President hosts conference of 46 Heads of Central Universities and Institutes of Higher Learning at Rashtrapati Bhavan
- PM chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- The Council has been given overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries
- CM Mamata Banerjee said West Bengal has got the first prize in 100-day work programme for promoting livelihoods.
- State's Bankura and Cooch Behar stood first and second respectively among districts in the country in implementation of the rural job scheme.
- Baburmahal GP (gram panchayat) of Kulpi, South 24 Paraganas also got the best performance award
- Star Labelling Programme for Solar Water Heater was launched by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on National Energy Conservation Day (December 14)
- World Bank to give USD 406 million loan to Pakistan for Khyber Pass Economic Corridor project
- A Chilean Air Force Lockheed C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft found to have crashed on December 12 with no survivors.
- The aircraft went missing on December 9 while on a flight to a military base in Antarctica.
- Former US athlete Peter Snell, who won gold thrice at Olympic Games (800 m: 1960 Rome, 800 m & 1500 m: 1964 Tokyo), dies at 80

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- Vice Chief Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane set to become next chief of the Indian Army
- Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force pay tributes at National War Memorial in New Delhi on Vijay Diwas; India's victory over Pakistan in Bangladesh liberation war of 1971
- Amitabha Bagchi wins DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019 for his novel 'Half the Night is Gone'
- Court annuls election of Samajwadi Party's Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan as MLA from Suar, UP in 2017 for being underage (below 25 years)
- Delhi Development Authority (DDA) portal for registration of properties in unauthorised colonies in the city launched
- Bangladesh celebrates its 49th 'Victory Day' that marks its liberation from Pakistan; Indian Army contingent participates in Dhaka parade for the first time
- Global Refugee Forum to be held in Geneva on December 17-18 by UNHCR and the government of Switzerland
- Wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rises to 0.58% in November, was 0.16% in October
- India secures USD 277 million loan from Germany to establish an energy-efficient housing programme
- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) tops Fortune India 500 list with a revenue of Rs 5.81 lakh crore in 2018-19 followed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) with Rs 5.36 lakh crore
- Sridhar Patra appointed new CMD of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)
- Canada's Brookfield Infrastructure Partners to acquire telecom tower assets of Reliance Jio

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

- Alexandra Kosteniuk wins women's FIDE Grand Prix chess tournament in Monaco; India's Koneru Humpy finishes runner-up
- Tata Steel Kolkata 25K: Kenyan Leonard Barsoton (1:13:48) and Ethiopian Guteni Shone (1:22:09) win the elite men and women's titles

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

- Two separate trials of supersonic cruise missile BrahMos conducted, one each from land and air platforms near Balasore in Odisha
- CBI officer B. P. Raju wins 'India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019' award given by NASSCOM-DSCI
- Home Minister Amit Shah presides over the foundation stone laying ceremony of Bharat Vandana Park in New Delhi
- TRAI extends six paise per minute IUC (interconnection usage charges) to other networks till Dec 31, 2020
- Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launches National Broadband Mission; broadband access to be provided to all villages by 2022
- MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches sale of 'Khadi Rumal' (napkin), made by militancy-affected families of Kashmir
- Complaints to banking ombudsman rise by 19.75% to over 1.96 lakh during 2018-19: RBI
- Smartphone maker realme launches its financial services platform 'realme Paysa'
- India ranks 112th (108th in previous ranking) among 153 countries WEF's Global Gender Gap Report 2020; Iceland remains world's most gender-neutral country
- 49 journalists murdered worldwide in 2019, lowest toll in 16 years: Reporters Without Borders
- China launches its second aircraft carrier 'Shandong' in South China Sea
- Pakistan's former dictator General Pervez Musharraf sentenced to death in absentia in the high treason case for subverting the Constitution in 2007
- Bangladesh releases list of collaborators (known as Razakars) who helped Pakistan during the Liberation War of 1971

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

- Collins Dictionary names 'climate strike' as its word of the year, defining it as "a form of protest in which people absent
- Australia's Ellyse Perry wins Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year
- England cricketer Ben Stokes named BBC Sports Personality of the Year

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

- The franchise confirmed the news on its official website, where Wasim Jaffer's name was mentioned with other members of the coaching staff.
- Deepika Padukone, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ananya Panday will star in Shakun Batra's next film. It is produced by Karan Johar.
- Kailash Vijayvargiya was on his way to Jangipur on Tuesday to meet BJP functionaries reportedly injured during the recent anti-CAA protests in Murshidabad district when his convoy was halted at Nabagram after a large number of protesters showed him black flag and raised 'go back' slogans and blocked the road with e-rickshaws and jeeps.
- A step remains before US President Donald Trump can be removed from office through impeachment -- something that's never happened in American history. Read on.
- India vs West Indies: Rohit Sharma hit the 28th ODI hundred of his career, which was also his 7th in 2019. Only Sachin Tendulkar has scored more hundreds than Rohit Sharma in a calendar year.
- Why the Cyrus Mistry-Ratan Tata war for control of Tata Sons is far from over.
- Super 30 actor Hrithik Roshan took to Twitter to react to Citizenship Amendment Act.
- After protests in parts of southeast and northeast districts in Delhi, the police in all other districts are conducting foot patrolling. Regular meetings with Aman Committee in different areas are taking place.
- A 20-year-old attacker carried out a series of stabbings and carjackings at a suburban Portland shopping center and in a nearby town on Wednesday. Police in Beaverton city of Oregon said that two people were stabbed inside a Wells Fargo bank in and a man was stabbed at a gym next door.

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

- Money siphoned off from several businessmen in Delhi going to poor people's accounts controlled by online crooks across states.

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

- 'Manthan- Impeccable Academia'' organised in New Delhi by Media and Entertainment Skills Council (MESCC) and HRD Ministry
- Eminent actor Shriram Lagoo dies at the age of 92 in Pune
- Urdu writer Mujtaba Hussain to return his Padma Shri (2007) award
- Braille edition of 'Exam Warriors', a book authored by PM Modi, released
- Odisha Govt. launches 'Jalsathi' programme to ensure supply of safe drinking water
- JSPL Foundation announces 27 winners of its 'Rashtriya Swayamsiddh Samman'
- Sahitya Akademi announced winners of 2019 Sahitya Akademi Awards in 23 languages
- Winners in various categories are:
  - POETRY (7): Dr. Phukan Ch. Basumatary (Bodo), Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi), Sri Nilba A. Khandekar (Konkani), Sri Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), Sri V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Smt. Anuradha Patil (Marathi) and Prof. Penna Madhusudan (Sanskrit)
  - NOVELS (4): Dr. Joysree Goswami Mahanta (Assamese), Sri L. Birmangol Singh (Beryl Thanga) (Manipuri), Sri Cho. Dharman (Tamil) and Sri Bandi Narayana Swamy (Telugu)
  - SHORT STORIES (6): Sri Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri), Sri Tarun Kanti Mishra (Odia), Sri Kirpal Kazak (Punjabi), Sri Ram sawroop Kisan (Rajasthani), Sri Kali Charan Hembram (Santali) and Sri Ishwar Moorjani (Sindhi)
  - NON-FICTION (1): Dr. Shashi Tharoor (English)
  - AUTOBIOGRAPHY (1): Dr. Vijaya (Kannada)

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- BIOGRAPHY (1): Prof. Shafey Kidwai (Urdu)
- ESSAYS (3): Dr. Chinmoy Guha (Bengali), Sri Om Sharma Jandriari (Dogri) and Sri Ratilal Borisagar (Gujarati)
- GST council announces single rate of 28% on state-run and state-authorized lotteries
- Import of gold and silver placed in 'restricted' category from the 'free' category: DGFT
- ADB to provide USD 250 million loan to EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Ltd) to expand energy efficiency investments in India
- NHAI launches 'FASTag Lagao Aage Bado, India Ko Aage Badao' TV commercial featuring Akshay Kumar
- First Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Tripura set up at Paschim Jalefa, Sabroom, South Tripura District
- NCLAT orders reinstatement of Cyrus Mistry as Chairman of Tata Sons; was ousted in 2016
- Patanjali Ayurved completes acquisition of bankrupt Ruchi Soya for Rs 4,350 crore; gets brands such as Nutrela, Mahakosh and Ruchi Gold
- Piaggio launches electric three-wheeler Ape E-City at Rs 1.97 lakh
- Devesh Srivastava appointed new CMD of General Insurance Corporation of India
- The second India-US 2+2 dialogue was held on December 18, 2019 at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department in Washington.
- Participants included US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- A wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

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

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana and Naval Station Norfolk in US
- European Space Agency (ESA) launches Characterising ExOPlanets Satellite (CHEOPS) from Kourou, French Guiana on a three-year mission to study planets in other solar systems.
- India (1,35,788) was world's third largest publisher of science and engineering articles after China (5,28,263) and US (4,22,808) in 2018: US National Science Foundation (NSF)
- International Migrants Day celebrated on December 18
- Arabic Language Day celebrated on December 18
- Noted American vibraphonist and percussionist Emil Richards dies at 87
- Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and PSA Peugeot announce merger deal
- Tata Motors owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) acquires Bowler, a UK-based manufacturer of all-terrain performance cars
- India beat West Indies by 107 runs in second ODI at Visakhapatnam
- Former West Indies batsman Basil Butcher (3104 runs in 44 Tests) passes away at the age of 86



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

- National Mathematics Day celebrated on December 22; birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1916).
- Jammu & Kashmir: 'Chilai-Kalan', the 40-day period of extreme cold, begins
- Nethanna Nestham scheme of providing Rs. 24,000 annual aid for handloom weavers for 5 years launched in AP
- SBI withdraws charges levied on the issuance of Bank Realisation Certificate (e-BRC) for the export of shipments
- EAM S. Jaishankar meets his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif in Tehran; both countries agree to accelerate work on the strategic Chabahar port project
- Eight West African countries agree to change the name of their common currency to Eco from CFA franc
- Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo currently use CFA France as their currency
- Girls' hostel building for Nepal Armed Police Force School in Kirtipur, Kathmandu, built with Indian assistance, inaugurated
- Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz appointed Cuba's first Prime Minister since 1976
- US imposes sanctions on companies building Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea for transporting Russian natural gas to Germany
- New Zealand: Government's buyback of guns following ban on assault weapons concludes
- India (316/6 in 48.4) beat West Indies (315/5 in 50) by 4 wickets in 3rd ODI at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack; win 3-match series 2-1
- England's Liverpool defeat Brazil's Flamengo 1-0 in final played at Doha, Qatar to win lift Club World Cup

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

- England's 1966 FIFA World Cup final goal scorer, Martin Peters dies at 76
- India's Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (men's) and Hana Ramadan (women's) of Egypt win singles titles in the third leg of the HCL-SRFI India Tour Squash Tournament in Mumbai.

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

- King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden begin their five-day India visit
- EAM S. Jaishankar holds talks with his Swedish counterpart Ann Linde in New Delhi
- Nationwide vaccination drive launched to prevent eight diseases under Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0
- IMI 2.0 covers diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B
- India Rankings Society (IRS) set up to develop system of ranking higher educational institutions in the country: HRD Ministry
- 'The Vault of Vishnu', by author Ashwin Sanghi, to release in January 2020
- 'Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From' by Tony Joseph, wins Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize
- Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019 passed by Parliament
- Lt Gen P. S. Rajeshwar takes over as C-in-C of Andaman & Nicobar Command
- Sub-lieutenant Shivangi becomes 1st woman of Indian Navy; to fly Dornier surveillance aircraft
- BSF's yearly magazine 'Borderman' released by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai
- The Lok Sabha on December 2, 2019 passed a Bill to replace an Ordinance promulgated in September for effecting reduction of corporate tax rates.
- Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, will amend the Income Tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No 2) Act 2019.

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

- Base corporate tax for existing companies has been reduced to 22% from 30%, and to 15% from 25% for new manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2023.
- Rating agency CRISIL cuts GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 to 5.1% from an earlier estimate of 6.3%
- Govt launches independent directors' databank, to be maintained by Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs (IICA)
- Walmart, HDFC unveil co-branded credit card for 'Best Price' members
- Saudi Arabia assumes the G20 presidency under the theme of 'Realising Opportunities of the 21st Century for All'
- G20 leaders' summit will be held in Riyadh on November 21-22, 2020
- UN Climate Change Conference being held in Madrid, Spain from December 2 to 13
- International Day for the Abolition of Slavery observed on December 2
- Israel's occupation has cost the Palestinian economy more than USD 2.5 billion a year for the past two decades: UNCTAD
- 3000-km long pipeline launched to transport natural gas from Siberia in Russia to northeast China
- Astronauts attach new pumps to cosmic ray detector outside International Space Station to prolong its life
- com chooses 'existential' as word of the year
- Pritivirajsing Roopun appointed as new President of Mauritius by parliament
- Iraq's Parliament approves resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi
- 'Will & Grace' actor Shelley Morrison dies at 83 in US

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- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton wins season ending Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
- Karnataka beat Tamil Nadu by 1 run in final to win Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy cricket tournament in Surat
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- Karnataka beat Tamil Nadu by 1 run in final to win Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy cricket tournament in Surat
- Armies of India and Sri Lanka begin Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII at Aundh Military Station, Pune
- Maharashtra: Nana Patole of Congress elected Assembly Speaker; BJP's Devendra Fadnavis named leader of opposition
- Nagaland celebrates its 57th statehood day on December 1, 2019
- 20th edition of Nagaland Hornbill Festival being organised at the Naga Heritage Village at Kisama from December 1 to 10
- ICAS (Indian Civil Accounts Service) Officer Soma Roy Burman takes charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
- Indian Ordnance Factories' Service officer (IOFS) Hari Mohan takes charge as new Chairman of the Kolkata-headquartered Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
- World AIDS Day observed on December 1 with its theme as 'Communities Make the Difference'
- MoS, HRD Sanjay Dhotre inaugurates the India Pavilion at International Book fair in Guadalajara, Mexico
- India becomes first country to make entire process for pilgrims going process digital: Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

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

- Irving Burgie, songwriter of calypso hit 'Day-O,' dies at 95
- 13th South Asian Games inaugurated in Kathmandu by Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari
- Delhi's Shamim Khan wins Kensville Open golf tournament in Ahmedabad
- 2019 Syed Modi International badminton tournament concluded at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow on December 1, 2019.

Winners are:

- Men's Singles: Wang Tzu-wei of Chinese Taipei
- Women's Singles: Carolina Marín of Spain
- Men's Doubles: He Jiting & Tan Qiang of China
- Women's Doubles: Baek Ha-na & Jung Kyung-eun of South Korea
- Mixed Doubles: Rodion Alimov & Alina Davletova of Russia
-



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

- Parliament passes Bill to merge Union territories Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli
- India test-fires surface-to-surface nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile of 350-km range off Odisha coast
- 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem', written by Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan, launched to spread the message of making India malnutrition free
- UP wins National Award of Excellence for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
- India, Sweden join hands to set up Healthcare Innovation Centre in India
- Mumbai Central railway station certified as country's first 'Eat Right Station' by FSSAI for food safety and hygiene Awards were given by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) of Health & Family Welfare Ministry
- Best State Award in cadaveric organ donation was won by Tamil Nadu
- Best Performing Hospital Award was won by Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), Chennai
- Lok Sabha passes Bill that restricts the use of hazardous materials on ships and regulates their recycling
- Government lowers stockholding limits of onions for retailers to 5 tonnes and wholesalers to 25 tonnes
- Xiaomi launches Mi Credit in India, to offer up to Rs 1 lakh personal loan
- Thomas Cook India to acquire branding rights for India, Sri Lanka & Mauritius
- NASA finds debris of Chandrayaan-2's lander Vikram that crashed on Moon on Sept 7, credits India's Shanmuga Subramanian for the discovery

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- International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed on December 3 2019; Theme: Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda
- India inaugurates its Gandhi-themed pavilion at the 25th session of Conference of Parties under the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25) in Madrid
- 2 killed as Typhoon Kammuri slams into Philippines
- Hollywood actor Joaquin Phoenix named 2019 PETA Person of the Year
- Chinese students dominate 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) conducted by OECD
- 2019 NATO Summit being organised in Watford, UK on December 3-4
- Finland's PM Antti Rinne resigns after losing the support of a coalition partner
- New Zealand win Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award for 2019
- Winners of the 2019 Ballon d'Or awards were announced by France Football magazine in Paris on December 2, 2019.
- Ballon d'Or: Lionel Messi of Argentina and Barcelona FC (6th time)
- Ballon d'Or Féminin: Megan Rapinoe of United States and Regin FC
- Kopa Trophy for the best player in the world under the age of 21: Matthijs de Ligt of Netherlands
- Yashin Trophy for the best goalkeeper in the world: Alisson Becker of Brazil and Liverpool FC

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

- Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps conducts Exercise Sindhu Sudarshan in Rajasthan from November 28 to December 4
- Navy Day celebrated to mark Indian Navy's attack on Karachi harbour on December 4, 1971
- Parliament passes Bill to provide ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi
- Cabinet approves SC/STs reservation in Lok Sabha, state assemblies for another 10 years
- Odisha govt. launches smart learning mobile app 'MadhuApp for school children
- Delhi Govt. to set up 11,000 wifi-hotspots in the national capital within the next 6 months: CM Arvind Kejriwal
- SC grants bail to former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in INX Media money laundering case
- CCEA approves launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) to create an additional source of funding for CPSUs (Central Public Sector Undertakings) CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises), CPFIs (Central Public Financial Institutions) and other Government organizations
- announces transfer of 3.7 acres of land at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi to ITDC and ITPO to set up a five-star hotel
- Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit being organised in Goa on December 6-7 by DPIIT and Goa Govt.; theme: 'India Opportunity – Investing in tomorrow together'.
- PM Modi and President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih jointly inaugurate projects in Maldives via video link; India gifts Coast Guard Ship 'Kaamiyaab' to Maldives

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

- Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria attending conclave of air force chiefs of Indo-Pacific region in Hawaii: Dec 4-6
- Army Chief General Bipin Rawat interacts with General Goro Yuasa, Chief of Staff of Japan Ground Self Defence Force, in Tokyo
- India 5th worst country after China, Malaysia, Pakistan & USA in terms of invasive use of biometric data: Comparitech (UK)
- Netherlands tops UNCTAD's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019; India 73rd among 153 countries
- US Congress passes Bill calling for an end to the detaining, torture and harassment of the Uyghur communities in China
- Google's CEO Sundar Pichai promoted as CEO of Alphabet, the parent company of Google
- Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat announces resignation after his replacement is chosen in January 2020
- Tennis player Roger Federer becomes the first living person in Switzerland to have a coin minted in his honour

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

- Tri-services 'Exercise Indra' between India, Russia to be conducted from Dec 10-19 in Babina (UP), Pune and Goa
- Indian Coast Guard gets more teeth, can now legally search & seize vessels in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- Govt sanctions Rs 100 cr from Nirbhaya Fund to set up Women Help Desks in Police Stations
- King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurate Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Uttarakhand
- Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurates Avantee Mega Food Park in Dewas (MP); first in central India
- RBI hikes aggregate lending limit to Rs 50 lakh for P2P (peer to peer) lenders
- Rs 24,396.19 crore collected as fee from toll plazas of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in 2018-19
- GeM (Government e-Marketplace), CII organising 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave in New Delhi on December 5-6
- Civil Aviation Ministry opens bidding process under UDAN 4.0 (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik 4.0) for NER, Hilly States, J&K, Ladakh, and Islands
- Mumbai court declares Nirav Modi, key accused in the USD 2 billion PNB scam, a 'fugitive economic offender'
- Wipro Limited launches its Cyber Defence Centre (CDC) in Melbourne, Australia
- MG Motor India unveils electric car model ZS
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI met on December 5
- Policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.15%.

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

- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 4.90%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 5.40%.
- Consumer price index (CPI) inflation revised upwards to 5.1-4.7% for H2:2019-20 and 4.0-3.8% for H1:2020-21
- Real GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 is revised downwards from 6.1% in the October policy to 5.0%, 4.9-5.5% in H2 of 2019-20 and 5.9-6.3% for H1:2020-21
- Payments Banks can apply for conversion into SFBs (small finance banks) after five years of operations
- UCBs transiting into SFBs will require of net worth of Rs 100 crore, which will have to be increased to Rs 200 crore within five years from the date of commencement of business.
- SFBs will be given scheduled bank status immediately upon commencement of operations.
- SFBs will have general permission to open banking outlets from the date of commencement of operations
- International Volunteer Day observed on December 5 with the theme 'Volunteer for an inclusive future'
- World Soil Day observed by UN's FAO on December 5 with its focus on 'Stop Soil Erosion, Save Our Future'
- Former England fast bowler Bob Willis (90 Tests, 325 wickets) dies at the age of 70

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

- Indian Rafale fighter jets to fly with BS-series tail numbers honouring ex-IAF Chief Birender Singh Dhanoa.
- Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), B. B. Kumar, passes away
- 43 killed in factory fire in Anaj Mandi on Rani Jhansi Road in Delhi
- SAARC Charter Day celebrated on December 8; its signing on Dec 8, 1985 established SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)
- Malaysia records first polio case in 27 years
- **DIWALI-POWER OF ONE AWARDS**
- Four diplomats honoured with 'The Diwali – Power of One' award in New York in recognition of their work at UN
- The awards were established by the Diwali Foundation USA, Inc in 2017
- Winners: Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan), Nicholas Emiliou (Cyprus), Frantisek Ruzicka (Slovakia) and Volodymyr Yelchenko (Ukraine)
- Indian captain Virat Kohli (2,563 runs) surpasses Rohit Sharma as the leading run-scorer in the T20I cricket
- Sweden's Henrik Stenson win Hero World Challenge golf tournament in Nassau, Bahamas
- Britain's Anthony Joshua wins world heavyweight boxing title by beating Andy Ruiz of US
- Jal Shakti Ministry and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) led by IIT-Kanpur organised the fourth India Water Impact Summit in New Delhi from December 5 to 7
- 8th India-China joint training exercise 'HAND-IN-HAND 2019' with 'counter-terrorism' theme being organised in Meghalaya from December 7 to 20

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

- All India Conference of Director Generals /Inspector Generals of Police being organised in Pune from December 6 to 8
- President inaugurates new building of Rajasthan High Court, at Jodhpur
- Haryana: Gurgaon city's Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for enabling Smart City applications inaugurated by CM Manohar Lal Khattar
- Armed Forces Flag Day celebrated on December 7
- Vidita Ashok Vaidya of TIFR, Mumbai wins Rs. 3 crore Sree Ramakrishna Paramhansa Research Grant in Vijayawada (AP) for trauma research
- Retired IPS officer K. Vijay Kumar appointed Senior Security Adviser to Home Ministry for J&K and LWE-affected States
- CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs) organises GST Stakeholder Feedback Diwas on December 7, 2019 on the new system for filing returns across 125 cities
- Air India subsidiary Alliance Air starts Guwahati-Dimapur-Imphal flight under regional connectivity scheme (RCS) Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)
- Fashion designer Ritu Beri appointed as chief design consultant for TRIFED to promote tribal Arts and Culture
- TRIFED: Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited
- At least 4 killed after Saudi Arabian air force trainee opens fire at US naval base in Pensacola, Florida
- Indian Oil Corporation, New Delhi wins the 15th Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Gold Cup All India Hockey tournament in Mumbai
- India's R. Praggnanandhaa wins the FIDE Open category of the London Chess Classic

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

- Aberdeen Police Station in Andaman & Nicobar is the country's best police station: Centre
- to set up FM transmitters in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) premises along the Indo-Nepal border
- SC lifts its earlier interim order imposing a complete ban on construction, industrial activities in Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)
- Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth visits India
- BJP's K. C. Ramamurthy elected to the Rajya Sabha seat from Karnataka
- Assam govt. launches Anti Depredation Squads in forests to avoid human-wildlife conflicts
- 24th International Film Festival of Kerala being held in Thiruvananthapuram from December 6 to 14
- Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station becomes the country's 5500th station to get free wifi facility
- Odisha CM distributes free laptops to Plus Two (+2) meritorious students under the 'Biju Sashaktikaran Yojana'
- Government to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Parliament
- The Bill proposes to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955
- The Bill seeks to grant citizenship to undocumented non-Muslims (Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Parsi, Jain and Sikh) from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.
- Purpose of the Bill is to enable acquisition of Indian citizenship by persons who were forced to seek shelter in India due to persecution on grounds of religion
- The Bill shall not apply to:

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- Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as included in the sixth schedule of the Constitution
- States that are protected by the Inner Line Permit (ILP) — Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland
- Foreign exchange reserves touch a new high of USD 451.08 billion in the week to November 29
- National Stock Exchange appoints Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its new Chairman
- NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer) transactions to be available 24x7 from Dec 16, including holidays
- The Kerala Bank, an amalgamation of district co-operative banks in the state, launched by the state's CM Pinarayi Vijayan
- Hindustan Times Leadership Summit being held in New Delhi on December 6-7; theme: 'Conversations for a Better Tomorrow'
- ONGC's USD 300 million medium-term note (MTN) issue listed on BSE's India International Exchange (India INX)
- Bajaj Auto launches Husqvarna Vitpilen 250 and Husqvarna Svartpilen 250 motorcycles in India
- to introduce Personal Data Protection Bill in Parliament
- It specifies rules on collection, storage, and processing of personal data, the consent of individuals, penalties and compensation, and a code of conduct.
- It was prepared by a high-level expert committee headed by former SC judge Justice B.N. Srikrishna.
- to notify categories of personal data as critical personal data
- Personal data is to be stored in India, but can be processed outside with the consent of the person.

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- 5th edition of annual 'MED – Mediterranean Dialogues' being held in Rome from December 5 to 7; EAM S. Jaishankar representing India
- International Civil Aviation Day celebrated on December 7
- Priyanka Chopra Jonas honoured for outstanding contribution to cinema at Marrakech Film Festival
- Worth £40,000, Turner Prize is the biggest award in British art; jointly awarded to Oscar Murillo, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Tai Shani and Helen Cammock in Margate (UK)
- Oxford names 'Climate Emergency' as its 2019 Word of the Year
- Global Migration Report 2020 released by UN's International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Number of international migrants in 2019 estimated at 270 million; US remains top destination at 50.7 million
- At 17.5 million, India was the largest country of origin of international migrants in 2019
- At \$78.6 billion, India was the top receiver of overseas remittances in 2018; US was the top remittance-sending country at \$68 billion
- The Global Climate Risk Index was published by environmental think-tank Germanwatch on December 4, 2019
- Japan was rated as the most-affected country in 2018 followed by the Philippines, Germany, Madagascar and India
- The annual ranking measures the damage done by extreme weather to human life and economies.
- Anthony Amalraj, Sutirtha Mukherjee win table tennis singles titles in South Asian Games in Kathmandu
- Former India Table tennis head coach Bhawani Mukherji dies at 68; won Dronacharya Award in 2012

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