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NATIONAL NEWS

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- The central government extended the deadline to roll out 100 percent electronic toll collection using FASTags on national highways from 1 December to 15 December 2019.
- That the extension was made to allow citizens more time to adhere to the new regulations.
- It has now been decided that charging of double user fee from vehicles which enter FASTag lane without the tag will start from December 15 instead of December 1.

India, Japan to hold Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi

- India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue, two plus two will be held in New Delhi.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will head the Indian delegation, while the Japanese delegation will be led by Foreign Affairs Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Minister of Defence Mr. Taro K.
- The meeting would provide an opportunity for the two sides to further strengthening defence and security cooperation to provide greater depth to the **'India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.**

PM Modi announces 400-million-dollar line of credit to Sri Lanka

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a 400-million-dollar Line of Credit of to Sri Lanka to boost the island nation's development.
- After meeting visiting Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Delhi, Mr Modi said that India will also extend a 50 million dollars Line of Credit to Sri Lanka to fight terrorism.
- Strengthening mutual cooperation in dealing with terrorism was discussed in detail. He assured the Sri Lankan President of India's full assistance in taking his country on the path of rapid development.
- Describing the meeting with Mr Rajapaksa as fruitful, the Prime Minister said, a strong and prosperous Sri Lanka is not only in the interest of India but also in the interest of the entire Indian Ocean region.
- Mr Modi said, India gives priority to its relations with Sri Lanka under its Neighbourhood First' Policy. He expressed confidence that the Sri Lankan Government will carry forward the process of reconciliation to fulfil the aspirations of the Tamils for equality, justice, peace and respect.
- This is Mr Gotabaya's first overseas visit since assuming office.

DEFENCE

Lankan Army contingent leaves for India to participate in joint military exercise

- A Sri Lankan Army contingent left for India to participate in the annual joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Sri Lanka Army.
- The Exercise Mitra Shakthi - VII will commence at Kumaon Regiment camp premises in Pune and aims to bolster existing bonds of understanding and close working relationship between the two forces.
- The Sri Lankan contingent consists of 11 officers and 109 other rankers of Gemunu Watch troops with equal participation of Indian Army Jawans from Kumaon Regiment.
- The two-week-long military exercise to be held for the seventh time is designed to enhance capacity among participants and promote interoperability, military cooperation, the conduct of joint tactical operations, sharing of experiences and explore possibilities for any potential security threats in future.

ECONOMY

India's GDP growth further dips to 4.5% in July-September period

- India's economic growth slipped further to hit an over six-year low of 4.5 per cent in July-September.
- The previous low was recorded at 4.3 per cent in the January-March period of 2012-13. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was registered at 7 per cent in the corresponding quarter of 2018-19.
- During the six-month period (April-September 2019), the Indian economy grew 4.8 per cent as against 7.5 per cent in the same period a year ago.

AWARD

Jnanpith Award 2019: Malayalam poet Akkitham bags 55th Jnanpith Award

- The prestigious Jnanpith Award for literature has been announced for the Malayalam poet **Akkitham Achuthan Namboodri.**
- A jury under the chairmanship of noted Odia writer Pratibha Rai held a meeting before the declaration of his name.
- Jury’s other members were Shamim Hanafi, Suranjan Das, Madhav Kaushik and Dr. Purushottam Bilimalale.
- The award consists of Rs 11 lakh, a statue of Vagdevi, a citation and a memento.
- Some of his famous books are - "Khand Kavya", "Katha Kavya", "Charitra Kavya" and lyrics.
- Some of his famous works include "Veeravadam", "Balidarshanam", "Nimisha Kshetram", "Amrita Khatika", "Akkhitam Kavitakhaka", "Epic of Twentieth Century" and "Antimkalam".
- Akkitham has conferred with the Padma Shri. He has also been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1973, the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1972 and the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award in 1988 and the Kabir Samman.

RANK

Mukesh Ambani 9th richest person in the world- Forbes

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the ninth richest person in the world, according to **'The Real-Time Billionaires List' of Forbes.**
- The RIL Chairman was ranked 13th globally in the Forbes' 2019 rich list, released earlier this year.
- His rise can be attributed to RIL surpassing the ₹10 lakh crore market capitalisation mark,

becoming the first Indian company.
- According to the Forbes 'The Real-Time Billionaires List', RIL Chairman's 'Real Time Net Worth' stood at $60.8 billion.
- The list was headed by Jeff Bezos, CEO and Founder of Amazon, with 'Real Time Net Worth' of $113 billion.

OBITUARY

World-renowned rock climber Brad Gobright dies in Mexico fall

- A world-renowned rock climber, US national Brad Gobright, fell to his death while climbing a sheer rock face in northern Mexico.
- Thirty-one-year-old Gobright and fellow American Aidan Jacobson were climbing a route known as the Shining Path in the northern state of Nuevo Leon.
- The men had finished climbing the 900-metre summit and were rappelling back down when the accident occurred. Gobright was known for his gravity-defying solo ascents with no ropes.

SPORTS

Shooting- Angad Bajwa unofficially hits world record score in skeet final

- In shooting, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa unofficially hit a world record score in the men's skeet final at the 63rd National Shooting Championships for Shotgun events in New Delhi.
  Angad defeated his senior and fellow Tokyo 2020 quota winner Mairaj Ahmad Khan of Uttar Pradesh, shooting a clean 60. Mairaj scored 58

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