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NATIONAL NEWS

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launches Bharatiya POSHAN Anthem

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has stressed on the need to focus on ensuring good quality, easily accessible and affordable maternal healthcare services for all women. Launching the Bharatiya POSHAN Anthem in New Delhi.
- people's participation is essential to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- preventing early marriage of girls, addressing girl-dropout from schools, delaying first pregnancy and adequate spacing between births will contribute to better nutrition.

EC to implement Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System

- The Election Commission will implement Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System.
- It will be implemented through an online portal to facilitate tracking of status of application by applicants.
- The applicant who is applying for party registration from 1st January, 2020 onwards will be able to track the progress of his or her application and will get status through SMS and email.

Govt launches 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN

- Government has launched the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) to further enhance the connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country.
- The focus in this round will be North East Region, Hilly States, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Islands.
- The scheme was launched in October, 2016, which seeks to provide connectivity to un-served and under-served regions through revival of existing air strips and airports.
- In the last three years government has successfully completed three rounds of bidding under the Scheme and awarded about 700 routes.
- The Ministry aims to operationalize one thousand routes and more than 100 airports in the next five years.

UP govt announces 25% subsidy & full stamp duty waiver for defence industry

- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to provide 25 per cent subsidy and 100 per cent stamp duty waiver for setting up defence industry in the state.
- The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- That State will also provide all facilities including power, road and fencing of land to the companies that will set up defence industries.

- In another big decision, state cabinet has given relief to the home buyers in Noida and Greater Noida region by giving exemption to the builders from penal interest and other dues for the period their project is stalled due to litigation.

Govt makes hallmark for Gold jewellery and artefacts mandatory from 2021 to ensure purity of precious metal

- Hallmarking for Gold jewellery and artefacts will be mandatory from 15th January 2021. Notification in this regard will be issued by 15 of January next year, giving a period of one year for implementation.
- Jewellers and Retailers will get one-year time for clearing their old or existing stock.
- if anyone is found violating the set rules after 15th January 2021, they may attract a fine of minimum one lakh rupees or five times the value of the items or a jail term of one year.

BANKING

ADB, India Sign 206 Million loan to strengthen urban services in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu

- The Central government and Asian Development Bank have signed a 206-million-dollar loan agreement to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu.
- It will also strengthen capacities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery.
- The loan agreement was signed in New Delhi by Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry Sameer Kumar Khare and Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission Kenichi Yokoyama.
- The project will improve the lives of the urban people in the State by providing universal access to water supply and sanitation.
- Project initiatives are also expected to help the state develop the requisite ecosytem for economic growth.
- The project will target four cities namely Ambur, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, and Vellore for developing sewage collection and treatment and drainage systems.
- Improvement to water supply systems would be targeted in the cities of Madurai and Tiruppur.

APPOINTMENT

Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet CEO

- Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet.
- Google CEO Indian-American Sundar Pichai will be assuming the role of Alphabet CEO, making him one of the most powerful corporate leaders of the world. Considered as a significant shakeup in the Silicon Valley company, an announcement in this regard was made by Page and Brin in a letter to the company employees.

Hari Mohan takes over as IOFS chief

- Senior Indian Ordnance Factories' Service officer (IOFS) Hari Mohan took over as the new chairman of the city-headquartered Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- The 1982 batch IOFS officer in his service career has held various positions in BHEL Hardwar, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Engine Factory Avadi, Heavy Vehicle Factory Avadi, Ammunition Factory Khadki, Ordnance Factory Bolangir, Ordnance Factory Chanda, Ordnance Factory

Dehu Road, OFB New Delhi Office and the Ministry of Steel and Mines.
- Mohan has versatile experience in the field of manufacture of armoured vehicles, artillery, tank and ammunition, small arms ammunition, projects management and corporate governance.

IMPORTANT DAY

Indian Navy Day-December 4

- Navy Day is being celebrated. The day is celebrated in honour of the maritime force's role during the war with Pakistan in 1971 when Indian warships attacked Karachi port and successfully thwarted Pakistani operations in the western coast.
- The Day is also celebrated to highlight the achievements and role the Navy plays in securing the country's marine borders.

SPORTS

Lionel Messi for record-breaking 6th win Ballon d'Or

- Lionel Messi ended his 3-year Ballon D'Or drought by winning the biggest prize in world football. The Barcelona superstar won the prestigious award for a record-breaking 6th time, thereby overtaking his arch-rival Cristiano Ronaldo who skipped the award function.
- Messi piped the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool stars Virgil Van Digk and Sadio Mane to walk away with yet another Ballon d'Or.