

Banking and Economy

RBI board warned of short-term negative impact of demonetisation on GDP

- The Board of Reserve Bank of India, which included the present Governor Shaktikanta Das as the Director, **had warned of short-term negative impact of demonetisation on the country's economic growth.**
- The board observed that the move will not have any material impact on tackling the black money menace.
- The board met just two-and-a-half hours before **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the demonetisation decision on November 8, 2016, banning the currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000.**
- One of the prime objectives of demonetisation was to curb black money.

PM-KISAN: Government transferred Rs 5,215 crore so far to about 2.6 crore farmers

- The Government, so far, **transferred Rs 5,215 crore to over 2.6 crore small and marginal farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.**
- The scheme seeks to provide income support to all Small and Marginal landholder farmers' families with cultivable land holding up to 2 hectares across the country.
- The PM-KISAN Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24, 2019 **from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

India launches third IT corridor in China

- **India launched its third IT corridor in China to facilitate partnerships between Indian and Chinese companies.**
- **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** entered into a partnership with China's **Xuzhou city from Jiangsu Province in China to help develop the IT corridor.**
- The corridor will facilitate match-making between Indian companies wanting to collaborate with companies in China.
- The corridor will help create more jobs in China and India and facilitate talent transfer between the two countries.

India and states

Indian Defence Lab develops 'combat drugs' to reduce casualties in warfare

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** medical laboratory came up with a range of **'combat casualty drugs' to reduce casualties in warfare like Pulwama terror attack.**
- Spectrum includes bleeding wound sealants, super absorptive dressings and glycerinated salines that can save lives in the event of warfare in the jungle and high altitude areas.
- According to developers of the drugs, chances of survival and minimum disability are highest when effective first aid care is given within the golden hour.

Pinaka guided weapons system successfully test fired

- Defence Research and Development organisation, **DRDO** on Monday successfully test fired the **PINAKA guided WEAPON rocket system from Pokhran range in Rajasthan.**
- An official release said, the weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system. The weapon systems impacted the intended targets with high precision and achieved desired accuracies.
- The Ministry said, telemetry Systems tracked and monitored the vehicle all through the flight path and all the mission objectives have been met. It said, the indigenously developed Guided PINAKA by DRDO will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits.

Prime Minister inaugurates Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.**
- The institute will provide modern amenities for research scholars and students from India and all over the world.
- He also unveiled a statue of **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya at the campus and paid floral tributes.**
- He also visited the Deendayal Museum in the Institute campus.

PM lays foundation stone of Buxar and Khurja Thermal Power Plants

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the **Foundation Stones of Buxar and Khurja Thermal Power Plants digitally from Greater Noida.**
- These plants, 1320 MW each, **are situated at Buxar (Bihar) and Bulandshahar (Uttar Pradesh) respectively.**
- The thermal power plants will accelerate India's growth and will transform the power availability in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other neighbouring states.

34th edition of AAHAR - International Food and Hospitality fair-begins in New Delhi

- **The 34th edition of AAHAR - the International Food and Hospitality fair - begins at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi today.**
- The fair will feature a wide range of food products, machinery, hospitality and Decoration and Confectionery items from over 560 participants from India and abroad. **Around 20 countries, including US, Russia, China, UK, Germany, Italy and Singapore will participate in the five-day fair.**
- The fair which will showcase new trends in food and beverage, hospitality, culinary technology, retail and new innovations.

New visa agreement between India, Maldives comes into effect

- **The new visa agreement between India and Maldives**, providing a liberal visa policy for Maldivian citizens seeking medical treatment as well as education and business opportunities in India, **came into force on March 11, 2019.**
- The agreement has come into effect after all formalities including information being provided to all immigration offices, border points and customs authorities have been completed.
- India and Maldives had exchanged diplomatic notes for the implementation of the visa facilitation agreement in February 2019, following the approval by the Union Cabinet.

Prasar Bharati adds 11 more state Doordarshan Channels on Satellite Footprint

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that **Prasar Bharati has brought 11 more State DD Channels on the Satellite footprint of India through 'DD Free Dish'.**
- These DD channels are **Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand.**
- The 11 channels include five from Northeastern states.
- Satellite network for these 11 channels through DD Free Dish will also give them an all-India presence.

Appointments

Election Commission appoints three special observers for Jammu and Kashmir

- The Election Commission (EC) formed a **three-member committee to assess the situation on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir before it takes a decision about holding the Assembly elections in the state.**
- The three members of the committee are two retired IAS officers **Noor Mohammed and Vinod Zutshi** and a retired IPS officer, **A.S. Gill.**
- Commission will monitor the situation in the state on a real-time basis.

In A First, Transgender Gets Government Job In Madhya Pradesh

- **In a first in Madhya Pradesh, a transgender has been given a government job. Sanjana Singh, 36, has been appointed the personal secretary to the director of the state's Department of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare (DSJDW).**
- Known for proactively participating in social events in the city, Sanjana has also been made a legal volunteer of the District Legal Authority, and a member of the Lok Adalat, where she will hear the pending cases along with the judge.

Days

PM attends 50th Raising Day celebrations of CISF

- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The Prime Minister reviewed the parade of the CISF personnel.
- He presented the service medals for distinguished and meritorious services and laid wreath at the Martyr's Memorial and signed the visitor's book.

Obituaries

Veteran Hindi Newsreader Vinod Kashyap passes away at 88

- **Veteran Hindi Newsreader Vinod Kashyap has passed away following a prolonged illness.** She was 88. She served All India Radio for about 30 years.
- The veteran newsreader started her career in Radio as a drama artist. A prayer meeting in her memory will be held in New Delhi today.