

Current Affairs 19th December 2024

National News:

1. India Emerges as 3rd Largest Exporter in Smartphone Market



India has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the third-largest exporter of smartphones globally, up from 23rd place in 2019. The smartphone exports crossed ₹20,000 crore in November 2024, showcasing the success of India's manufacturing and export capabilities.

2. Historic Dolphin Tagging Initiative in Assam



India has initiated the first-ever satellite tagging of a Ganges River Dolphin in Assam, under Project Dolphin. The initiative aims to enhance understanding of the species' migratory patterns, habitat use, and ecological needs, with the support of several organizations.

3. Bhutan Confers Royal Honour on Indian Educationist Arun Kapur



Indian educationist Arun Kapur was honored by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel for his contributions to education in India, Bhutan, and Oman. He received the prestigious Red Scarf and the title 'Dasho' during Bhutan's National Day celebrations.

International News:

4. Japan and India Collaborate to Address Space Debris



Japan and India have collaborated to address the growing issue of space debris, focusing on laser technology and space debris removal. This partnership also extends to lunar exploration, marking a significant milestone in their space endeavors.

State News:

5. Uttarakhand to Implement Uniform Civil Code from January 2025



Uttarakhand will be the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC),

starting January 2025. The UCC aims to create uniform laws for marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption, irrespective of religion, except for tribal communities.

6. Madhya Pradesh Welcomes 10th International Forest Fair



The 10th International Forest Fair began in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on December 17, 2024, focusing on sustainable forest practices, community empowerment, and collaboration in the forestry sector.

Defence News:

7. Indian Army Unveils AI Incubation Centre for Future Warfare



The Indian Army has inaugurated the AI Incubation Centre in Bengaluru, marking a major step in modernizing its operations. The center will develop AI-driven solutions to improve decision-making and operational efficiency for future warfare.

Economy News:

8. Net Direct Tax Collection Sees Robust 16.45% Growth



India's net direct tax collections have grown by 16.45%, reaching ₹15.82 lakh crore by December 17, 2024, driven by a 21% rise in advance tax payments. This reflects a stronger tax collection mechanism and efforts to reduce the fiscal deficit.

9. India's FY26 Economic Outlook

GROWTH BETS

FY25 forecast (in %)

IMF	7.0
S&P	6.8
World Bank	7.0
RBI	7.2
Moody's Analytics*	7.1

*For CY24
Source: IMF, BS Research

World economic outlook projections for India (FY25, in %)

Indicator	Oct	April
Consumer inflation	4.4	4.6
Current account deficit	-1.1	-1.4

India's economy is expected to grow at 6.6% in FY26, reflecting modest growth despite global tightening pressures. The economy is projected to face fiscal and external challenges, but growth is in line with the best decadal growth period (FY11-20).

Banking News:

10. Rama Mohan Rao Amara Appointed as SBI's New Managing Director



Rama Mohan Rao Amara has been appointed as the new Managing Director of State

Bank of India (SBI) for three years. His appointment was approved by the Cabinet, and he takes over from CS Setty.

11. HSBC Taj Credit Card Launched for Luxury Travelers



HSBC India has partnered with the Indian Hotels Company to launch a luxury co-branded credit card, the HSBC Taj Credit Card, catering to affluent travelers seeking exclusive services.

Important Days:

12. Minorities Rights Day Celebrated Nationwide



Minorities Rights Day, observed on December 18, marks the adoption of the UN's statement on the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in 1992. The day raises awareness about the rights and welfare of minority communities.

Sports News:

13. 38th National Games Uttarakhand Unveils Mascot, Logo, Anthem, and Tagline



Uttarakhand has unveiled the mascot, logo, jersey, anthem, and tagline for the 38th National Games, which will be held from January 28 to February 14, 2025. The Games will include traditional sports like yoga and mallakhamb.

Plutus Academy