

Headlines At a Glance - 24th Jan 2020

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Kerala

Tourism wins UNWTO's Accessible Destination Award

Kerala Tourism's Barrier-Free Tourism Project has won global recognition with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) making a special mention of the south Indian state as an "Emerging Global Destination" in the Accessible Destination Awards 2019. Kerala Tourism Director P Bala Kiran received the conferment from UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili at the awards ceremony in Madrid. The recognition was for the implementation of the project in the central Kerala district of Thrissur, which thus became India's only destination to win the honour.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*

Election

Commission successfully tests facial recognition technique in Telangana

The Telangana State Election Commission on Wednesday successfully tested the facial recognition application for voter verification at polling stations using real time authentication capabilities. The application using latest technologies like artificial intelligence, big data

and machine learning was uploaded in mobile phones and tested in 10 polling stations for urban local body elections in Kompally Municipality. According to SEC officials, testing of the application became necessary in view of the cases of impersonation in the voting process, as could be seen from the request for tendered votes coming up with every passing election.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

GoM headed by Amit Shah to monitor the disposal of enemy properties across the country

A Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah will monitor the disposal of over 9,400 enemy properties, which are likely to fetch about ₹1 lakh crore to the exchequer. According to an official order, two other high-level committees, one to be headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, and other to be co-chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, will also be set up for disposal of immovable enemy properties vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India under the Enemy Property Act. Enemy properties were those left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China. The order said an Inter-Ministerial Group will be constituted for the disposal of enemy properties and it will be co-chaired by the Union Home Secretary and the Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

RBI raises short-term investment limit for FPIs

In a move that could lead to higher foreign inflows, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the short-term investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the total FPI investment in Central government securities (including Treasury Bills) or state development loans. In another measure aimed at giving a leg-up to bankruptcy proceedings, the central bank has exempted FPI debt investments in corporates undergoing insolvency resolution plan. The central bank has also increased the FPI in corporate bonds from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. While the RBI move is aimed at arresting the outflow of FPI money from the debt market, analysts said short-term is hot money which can exit at a faster rate.

SOURCE: *The New Indian Express*

India delivers 30,000 doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine to Maldives

Swiftly responding to a request from the Maldives, India on Thursday provided 30,000 doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine to contain

the measles outbreak in the island country. Thereafter, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Health, Abdulla Ameen, Minister of Health, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Indian Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir to thank India for the gesture of goodwill and solidarity. While measles has been eliminated from the Maldives, four cases have tested positive in the last one week. The government suspected an outbreak and required emergency supplies of vaccine. The Maldives approached Denmark which was willing to supply in one month's time. It also approached UNICEF which said they will take four weeks. Maldives then approached the Indian Embassy on January 20.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*