

# Headlines at a Glance - 25th December 2019

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## **Cabinet**

### **approves creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of four-star General**

In a landmark decision with tremendous reform in higher defence management in the country, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to create the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of a four-star General with salary and perquisites equivalent to a Service Chief. CDS will be the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999. CDS will head the department of military affairs with salary equivalent to Service Chiefs.

### **IAF's last MiG 27 squadron to be decommissioned at the Jodhpur Air Base on December 27**

IAF's "lethal" fighter aircraft Mig 27, which proved to be "ace attacker" during the 1999 Kargil war and earned nickname of 'Bahadur' from pilots, are all set to pass into the glorious history of country's air force on Friday when their last squadron of seven planes will have its last sortie from Jodhpur air base. the exact fate of this MiG 27 squadron planes is not yet known, but mostly after decommissioning, the planes are either used as souvenirs or returned to the base or depot or even could be given to some other country.

### **Cabinet approves conduct of Census of India 2021 and updation of National Population Register**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for

conducting Census of India 2021 at a cost of Rs 8754.23 crore and updation of National Population Register (NPR) at a cost of Rs 3941.35 crore. Census of India will cover the entire population in the country while NPR will also cover all the population except in the state of Assam.

**NITI Aayog  
to launch Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index & Dashboard  
2019-20 on December 30**

The policy think-tank of Government of India, NITI Aayog will launch the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard on next Monday, 30th December 2019. This will be the second edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboard and have been developed by the NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United Nations in India, the Global Green Growth Institute, and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The Index and Dashboard report comprises of the progress made towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 by all states and union territories of India.

**8 km long  
strategic tunnel under Rohtang Pass in J&K to be named after former Prime  
Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

The government will name the strategic tunnel under Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary on Wednesday. The historic decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken on June 3, 2000 when Vajpayee was the prime minister.

**Gross  
nonperforming asset (GNPA) ratio of the banking system declines from 11.2% in  
2017-18 to 9.1% in 2018-19: RBI**

As the bad loan recognition process nears completion, the health of the banking system has improved with the gross non-performing loan ratio remaining stable at 9.1 per cent as of September-end, the same level as in FY19, according to the RBI. However, the numbers indicate major improvement on a full-year basis, as in FY18 the ratio stood at a high of 11.2 per cent and slipped to 9.1 per cent in FY19, the RBI said in its annual report on trends and progress of banking in 2018-19.