Headlines at a Glance - 26th December 2019

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Centre

launches good governance index (GGI) to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs

A good governance index (GGI) was launched on Wednesday by the central government to assess the state of governance in the country, according to a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and Union territories, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration, the statement said.

PM releases

Operational Guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The Centre's most recent flagship scheme – Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide drinking water to 14.6 crore rural households – is set to be operationalized with Prime Minister Modi to release Operational Guidelines on December 25 – Good Governance Day. The new guidelines will emphasize the critical role of the gram Panchayat level Paani Samiti or village committee to run and maintain the water supply system in their community and also bring in systems for water use charges.

Indian

Railways launches Him Darshan Express train between Kalka and Shimla stations

The Northern Railway will run 'Him Darshan Express' on Kalka-Shimla-Kalka route from 25 December 2019 for tourists visiting the Himachal capital. The 'Him Darshan Express' will have 6

Vistadom coaches which allow for better viewing of scenic beauty from onboard the train. The train will depart from Kalka at 7 am and reach Shimla at 12:55 pm, while on the return leg, it will leave Shimla at 3:50 pm and reach Kalka at 9:15 pm. The ticket will cost Rs 630 for one way journey.

Typhoon

Phanfone pummels central Philippines

Typhoon Phanfone pummeled the Central Philippines on Christmas Day, bringing a wet, miserable and terrifying holiday season to millions in the mainly Catholic nation. The typhoon crumpled houses like accordions, toppled trees and blacked out cities in the Philippines' most storm-prone region. Tens of thousands were stranded at shuttered ports or evacuation centers at the height of the festive season yesterday, and residents cowered in rain-soaked homes as Phanfone leapt from one small island to another for a second day.

PM Modi

unveils 25 feet tall bronze statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee

On former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 95th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled his statue in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow. The 25-feet tall bronze statue is located in Lucknow's Lok Bhawan. UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yoqi Adityanath were present with PM Modi during the statue's unveiling.