

Headlines At a Glance - 9th Jan 2020

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HEADLINE AT A GLANCE

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Cabinet

approves conferring INI status to the cluster of Ayurveda institutions

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its approval to confer the status of Institution of National Importance (INI) to the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda in Gujarat's Jamnagar, by conglomerating the cluster of Ayurveda institutes at Gujarat Ayurveda University campus there. The cluster of institutes includes the Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Shri Gulabkunwerba Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and Institute of Ayurveda Pharmaceutical Sciences, including Pharmacy Unit, and also subsuming the Maharshi Patanjali Institute for Yoga and Naturopathy Education and Research into the Department of Swasthivritta of the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

CCEA

approves strategic disinvestment of equity shareholding of 4 central PSUs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given 'in principal' approval for strategic disinvestment of equity shareholding of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) (49.78%), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) (10.10%),

MECON (0.68%) and Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) (0.68%) and two Odisha State Government PSUs namely; Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) (12.00%) and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) (20.47%) in Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) to a strategic buyer, identified through a two-stage auction procedure. The proposed strategic disinvestment of NINL would unlock resources to be used to finance the social sector/developmental programmes of the Government benefiting the public. It is also expected that the successful strategic buyer may bring in new management / technology / investment for the growth of the company and may use innovative methods for the development of the business operations of the company, which may generate more employment opportunities.

SOURCE: *Business Standard, Livemint*

SBI

launches 'Residential Builder Finance with Buyer Guarantee' (RBBG) Scheme

Country's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India has announced a 'residential builder finance with buyer guarantee' (RBBG) scheme. It aims at giving a push to residential sales and improves homebuyers' confidence. SBI Chairman said that this will be a win-win situation for homebuyers, builders and the bank. Under this scheme, the SBI will issue a guarantee for completion of select residential projects to customers who have availed home loans from it. The scheme will focus on affordable housing projects priced up to 2.50 crore rupees in 10 cities initially.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

Henley's

Passport Index Released: Japan tops the list while Afghanistan is last

The Henley Passport Index, which periodically measures the world's most travel-friendly passports, has released its first report of the new decade. Japan is now top of the leaderboard, offering visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to an incredible 191 destinations around the world. Asia dominates the top of the list, with Singapore in second place (with a score of 190) and South Korea tying with Germany in third place (with a score of 189). European countries have a strong showing in the rest of the top ten, with Finland and Spain at No.4, Spain, Luxembourg and Denmark coming fifth, and Sweden and France sitting at No. 6.

SOURCE: *CNN News*

India will

be the guest of honour at the Paris Book Fair in March 2020

India will be the guest of honour at the Paris Book Fair 2020

to be held in March this year, organizers announced on Tuesday. This will be the third time that India would be the guest country at the fair after 2002 and 2007. As part of Indian participation, the fair will see representation by 30 Indian authors from various linguistic regions of the country, alongside 15 Indian publishers. It will explore themes like the "India of tomorrow", "writing and rewriting India's history", among others.

SOURCE: *Outlook India*

ASCEND 2020

Global Investors Meet being organised by Kerala govt.

An electronic hardware and a defence park in Kerala are among 18 mega projects the state government will highlight at the Global Investors Meet here on 9 and 10 January. The government will highlight, among others, a Kochi-to-Palakkad integrated manufacturing cluster, a defence park at Ottapalam and an electronic hardware park in Ernakulam district. Also, the focus would be on a medium density fiberboard plant in Perumbavoor and integrated solid waste management systems at Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Malappuram.

SOURCE: *Livemint*