

January 1st news:

National:

Rajinikanth announced entry into politics

Ending two decades of speculation and uncertainty, Tamil film superstar Rajinikanth on 31st December announced his arrival in politics and declared that he will launch a political party in time to contest in all 234 constituencies in Tamil Nadu in the next Assembly elections.

Assam publishes first draft of NRC with 1.9 crore names

The much-awaited first draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was on 31st December published with the names of 1.9 crore people out of the 3.29 crore total applicants in Assam recognising them as legal citizens of India.

The rest of the names are under various stages of verification. This is a part draft. It contains 1.9 crore persons, who have been verified till now. The rest of the names are under various stages of verification. As soon as the verification is done, we will come out with another draft. The entire process will be completed within 2018

Assam, which faced influx from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having an NRC, first prepared in 1951. The Supreme Court, which is monitoring the entire process, had ordered that the first draft of the NRC be published by December 31 after completing the scrutiny of over two crore claims along with that of around 38 lakh people whose documents were suspect.

Environment

2 new ginger species found in the northeast

Scientists have discovered two new species of ginger in easternmost districts, Ukhrul in Manipur and Tuensang in Nagaland, both bordering Myanmar.

Hedychium chingmeianum , the species discovered in Tuensang district, is an epiphytic plant and grows on tall trees, while Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis was found growing in rock crevices, boulders and humus rich soil in the Shirui Hills, where the highest peak stands at an elevation of 2,938 metres.

Both the plants are from the family of Zingiberaceae , to which the commonly found ginger (Zingiber officinale) belongs.

Sports:

Indian golfer Shiv Kapur wins Royal Cup at Pattaya

Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won the Royal Cup at Pattaya, on 31st December, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017.

Viswanathan Anand bags bronze in World Blitz Chess Championship

Indian chess Grand Master and five time World Champion Viswanathan Anand won a bronze in the World Blitz Chess Championship at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 31st December following his gold winning performance in the Rapid section only a couple of days back.

World Champion Magnus Carlsen won the tournament scoring 16 points and followed by Sergey Karjakin with 14.5 points out of the maximum possible 21 points.