

NATIONAL

New Delhi

The most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR)

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the most advanced System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR) at Chandni Chowk in Delhi.
- New system also to track UV-Index, PM1, Mercury and Black carbon in real time.

40% deficit rainfall in eastern India

- Bihar has recorded the highest monsoon deficiency of 48%, while eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand have recorded 46% and 42% respectively - The India Meteorological Department data.

Andhra Pradesh

Industries summit in Tirupati soon

- The State government will hold an industries summit in Tirupati to mobilise medium to large-scale investments.

Telangana

Eye check-up scheme launch on Aug. 15

- The Kanti Velugu programme of the State government to check up the eyes of every citizen for ailments will be launched across Telangana on August 15.

Tamilnadu

A robot to clean manholes

- Kumbakonam became the first town in the State to acquire the Bandicoot Robotic Scavenger, developed by Genrobotics, a start-up promoted by a group of engineers from Kerala, would clear over 5,300 manholes of the underground sewer system

INTERNATIONAL

Expansion of Emergency Ambulance Service

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, delivered an address over live video link, on the occasion of the expansion of Emergency Ambulance Service over the entire island in Sri Lanka, with Indian Assistance.

China offers fresh grant of \$295 mn to Sri Lanka

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has offered Sri Lanka a fresh grant of two billion yuan (\$295 million), as Beijing tries to expand its influence in the island-nation.

SCIENCE

IISER Pune uses nanovesicles to improve cancer drug delivery

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune have been able to increase its uptake by breast cancer cells and achieve greater ability to restrict cancer cell growth by encapsulating the poorly water-soluble anticancer drug Alisertib in polysaccharide nano-sized balls or vesicles.

IISc researchers find cholesterol helps bacterial toxins kill cells

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have found that cholesterol present in cell membrane plays a crucial role in stabilising and binding together the pore-forming toxin cytolysin A.

NASA to launch probe into sun's scorching atmosphere

- NASA is preparing to send the Parker Solar Probe, a robotic spacecraft the size of a small car closer to the sun, enduring wicked heat while zooming through the solar corona to study this outermost part of the stellar atmosphere that gives rise to the solar wind.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Israel-made TaxiBots will assist taxiing, help reduce carbon emission

- New Delhi and Mumbai airports will soon get environmentally friendly TaxiBots to help reduce carbon emissions.

RANKINGS & INDEXES

Public Affairs Index 2018

- Best governed large State – **1) Kerala 2) Tamilnadu
3) Telangana 4) Karnataka**

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

28th meeting of GST Council

- The Goods and Services Tax Council, at its 28th meeting reduced the rates on more than 50 products, including sanitary pads, small televisions, washing machines, and refrigerators. The council also simplified the return filing process for small businesses.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Justice V.K.Tahilramani** – New Chief Justice of Madras High Court

SCHEMES

KHELO INDIA TALENT DEVELOPMENT Scheme

- Sports Authority of India took significant step towards the development of sports, cleared 734 players for a scholarship programme under Khelo India Talent Identification Development scheme.

DEFENCE

‘Sagarmatha Friendship-2’

- The second edition of the ‘Sagarmatha Friendship-2’, 10-day Nepal-China joint military exercise will be held at Chengdu, the capital of China’s southwestern Sichuan Province.

AWARDS

- **Kerala’s Health Minister K.K. Shylaja** - Leadership Award 2018

SPORTS

Mohit Kumar breaks decathlon record

- Haryana’s Mohit Kumar broke the under-18 national decathlon record in the 15th National youth athletics championships at Vadodara, Gujarat.

Hall of Fame tennis tournament

- Davis Cupper Ramkumar Ramanathan powered into his maiden ATP Tour final as he beat Tim Smyczek of the US in the \$623,710 Hall of Fame tennis tournament.

Junior Asian Wrestling Championships

- Sachin Rathi & Deepak Punia won gold at the Junior Asian Wrestling Championships.

Lakshya wins Asian junior crown

- Lakshya Sen became only the third Indian shuttler to secure a gold medal at the Badminton Asia junior championships in Indonesia.