

- Ahead of Independence Day, **the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flag made up of plastic** and asked states and Union Territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code.
- **‘Independent India – 70’**, a memorial to commemorate the **70th Independence Day**, by **Mallasajjana Vyayamashala** in front of Gandhi Bhavan, **Karnataka** will be inaugurated on **August 9**.
- A **new breastfeeding policy** has come into effect in **Rajasthan** for **encouraging the rural communities** to promote **exclusive breastfeeding** along with its **early initiation**.
- **The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**, Sikkim has become the **11th Biosphere Reserve** from India that has been included in the **UNESCO** designated **World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)**.
- **'Kalaigiar' M. Karunanidhi**, former **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister and DMK chief, **passes away aged 94**.
- **Pakistan and Russia** have signed an agreement to allow **Pakistani troops to receive training at Russian military training institutes**.
- **Tokyo 2020** will be the **first Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology** to increase security around all venues.
- Astronomers pooled data from **NASA’s Kepler and the ESA’s Gaia space telescopes**. They confirmed **existence of these 44 exoplanets** and described various details about them.
- The **government doubled import duty** on as many as **328 textile products to 20 per cent** to provide a boost to the manufacturing of these items in the country.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will **inaugurate the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** on August 21, 2018.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will **transfer Rs.50,000 crore surplus to the government of India** for the year ended June 30, 2018.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has **approved U.S. retail giant Walmart’s proposed acquisition of Flipkart**.
- **Samsung** to invest **billions in artificial intelligence, biopharmaceuticals**.
- **Maharashtra Government** has announced a special assistance of **500 crore rupees for OBC community** to help them **develop employment**

**opportunities for the youth at the 3rd National Convention of Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh.**

- **S. Gurumurthy & Satish Kashinath Marathe** - Part time non-official directors on the central board of Reserve Bank of India

### **Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao Contest**

- **Shreshth Sahu, Satish Mewada and Gopal Prajapati** – For spreading awareness about water conservation
- **Union Minister** of Commerce & Industry and Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** launched **Niryat Mitra**, mobile App in **New Delhi** developed by the **Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)**.
- **Britain** registered an historic sprint double at the **European Championships**, winning the **gold medal** in the **men's and women's 100 m** races **at the same edition** of the event **for the first time**.