

## 72nd Independence Day



*15th of August*  
INDEPENDENCE DAY



## Current Affairs - August 2018



18<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES  
**Jakarta  
Palembang  
2018**



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## 1. Important Days

Date	Day	Important Details
August 1 to 7	World Breastfeeding Week	World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world.
6-Aug	Hiroshima Day	On August 6, 2018, the world will witness 73rd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The USA dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, to conclude the World War II.
9-Aug	76th anniversary of Quit India movement	On August 9 in 1942, father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi gave the clarion call of Do or Die to all Indians to drive away Britishers from the country. The day is observed as August Kranti Day every year.
9-Aug	Nagasaki Day	On this day in 1945, a second atom bomb is dropped on Japan by the United States, at Nagasaki, resulting finally in Japan's unconditional surrender.
9-Aug	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	August 9 is commemorated as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in recognition of the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982. <b>2018 Theme – “Indigenous peoples’ migration and movement”.</b>
10-Aug	World Biofuel Day	World Biofuel Day is observed every year on August 10 to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for the last three years.
12-Aug	International Youth Day	International Youth Day is an awareness day designated by the United Nations. The purpose of the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth. The first IYD was observed on 12 August, 2000.
14-Aug	Pakistan celebrates 72nd Independence Day	Independence Day, observed annually on 14 August, is a national holiday in Pakistan. It commemorates the day when Pakistan achieved independence and was declared a sovereign nation following the end of the British Raj in 1947.
15-Aug	72 <sup>nd</sup> Independence Day	Independence Day is annually celebrated on 15 August, as a national holiday in India commemorating the nation's independence from the United Kingdom on 15 August 1947.
20-Aug	World Mosquito Day	World Mosquito Day, observed annually on 20 August, is a commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

<b>21-Aug</b>	<b>World Senior Citizen Day</b>	The World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21st of August every year. The main aim of observing the World Senior Citizens Day is to raise awareness of the condition of elder people and support them.
<b>21-Aug</b>	<b>International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism</b>	The General Assembly established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms
<b>August 23 –</b>	<b>International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition</b>	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
<b>29-Aug</b>	<b>National Sports Day</b>	The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on 29 August each year. This day marks the birthday of Major Dhyan Chand Singh, the hockey player who won gold medals in Olympics for India in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936

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## 2. Rankings

Reports	India's Rank/State's Rank	Top rank
‘State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index’	‘Front Runner’ states - 1) Andhra Pradesh	2) Kerala
		3) Maharashtra
		4) Punjab
		5) Rajasthan
List of countries with early initiation of breastfeeding a new report released by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO)	India ranks 56th among the 76 countries that were analysed.	1) Sri Lanka
		2) Vanuatu
		3) Burundi
		4) Kazakhstan
ICC rankings	Virat Kohli -No.1 Test batsman [Seventh Indian batsman to be ranked the no.1 test batsmen].	
‘Most investor-friendly’ destination list	1) Delhi	2) Tamil Nadu
		3) Gujarat
ATP Rankings	1) Rafael Nadal (Spain)	2) Roger Federer (Switzerland)
		3) Alexander Zverev(Germany)
India’s most patriotic brand Survey	1) State Bank of India	2) Tata Motors
		3) Patanjali
		4) Reliance Jio
List of India’s wealthiest women	1) Smitha V. Crishna – a third-generation heir of the Godrej family	2) Roshni Nadar – CEO and executive director at HCL
		3) Indu Jain – The chairperson of the Times Group
Ease of Living Index – An initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)	1) Pune	2) Navi Mumbai
		3) Greater Mumbai
		4) Tirupathi
Report on Station Cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI)		
A1 category stations (out of 75)	1) Jodhpur/North-Western Railway	2) Jaipur/North-Western Railway
		3) Tirupati/South-Central Railway
A category stations (out of a total of 332)	1) Marwar/North Western Railway	2) Phulera/North -Western Railway
		3) Warangal/South-Central Railway



Zonal Railway rankings are	1) North Western Railway	2) South Central Railway
		3) East Coast Railway
World's most liveable city (Global Liveability Index)	1) Vienna	2) Melbourne
India's most valuable brand	1) Tata	2) Airtel
		3) Infosys
India's strongest brand	HDFC Bank	
India's fastest-growing brand	Kotak Mahindra Bank	
cyber attacks on Indian sites ,the report prepared by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).	From china 33%	2) US (17%)
		3) Russia (15%)
		4) Pakistan (9%)
		5) Canada (7%)
		6) Germany (5%)
Forbes' Top 10 Highest Paid Actors	7) Akshay Kumar 9) Salman Khan	1) George Clooney
		2) Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson
		3) Robert Downey Jr.

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### **3. Summit / Conference**

#### **International**

##### **International Conference on Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling**

- NITI Aayog's International Conference on "Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions" was inaugurated by the Union Minister Shri. Nitin Gadkari at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.

##### **India-US Roundtable Discussion**

- Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Piyush Goyal, Chairman Railway Board, Shri Ashwani Lohani, other Railway Board Members and senior officials participated in the India-US Roundtable discussion.

##### **24th World Congress of Philosophy**

- The 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) was held in Beijing, China for the first time. It is a global meeting of philosophers held every five years under the auspices of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP).
- **Theme : "Learning To Be Human"**

##### **Fourth Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV)**

- The fourth Asian electoral stakeholders forum (AESF-IV) will begin in Colombo to discuss the state of elections and democracy in the region. It is being held for the first time in South Asia with support from the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Asian network for free elections (ANFREL).

**Theme** – 'Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together'.

**Meet on musculoskeletal radiology**

- The International Skeletal Society (ISS) reached out to 45 young radiologists from across the country to build interest in them to take up musculoskeletal sub-specialisation.

**India – Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting held in Nairobi**

- The 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22nd – 25th August, 2018. The discussions during the meetings covered India's contribution in implementation of Kenya's Big Four Agenda – food security, affordable housing, universal healthcare and manufacturing, expansion and diversification of bilateral trade

**3rd edition of 'Smart India Hackathon- 2019'**

- The third edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model – Smart India Hackathon 2019 was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.

**2+2 dialogue an indication of deepening strategic partnership**

- The maiden two-plus-two dialogue between India and the United States scheduled in New Delhi next week is an indication of the deepening strategic partnership between the two countries.

**PM Modi arrives in Nepal to attend BIMSTEC Summit**

- PM Narendra Modi arrived in Nepal to attend the 4th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit that will focus on enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade.

**India Pavilion at the Food and Drink Technology Africa 2018 trade show**

- Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) is setting up India Pavilion at the Food and Drink Technology Africa 2018 trade show being organized at Johannesburg, South Africa to promote India's trade related to food and beverages industry globally and with special focus on Africa.



**National:****First Ever Orientation Workshop on Election Management**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted a day-long Orientation Workshop for IAS officers of the 2016 Batch in New Delhi.

**‘Paryatan Parv’**

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders is organizing a “Paryatan Parv” across the country from the 16th to 27th September 2018.

**Inauguration of the 3rd National Convention of Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh**

- 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.

**One District one Product’ Summit**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the ‘One District One Product’ Summit in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**‘Prathibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram’ Exhibition**

- The Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated an exhibition entitled ‘Prathibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram’ (Freedom Movement through Proscribed Literature) in the premises of National Archives of India, in New Delhi.

**Investors' Conference for the Holistic Development of Islands**

- NITI Aayog, together with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the UT Administrations of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep hosted an Investors' Conference on August 10, 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi for the Holistic Development of Islands.

**INTACH to showcase heritage of Indian sari**

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) will organise a two-day exhibition on the heritage of Indian sari, Dhage ki Dharohar, as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

**Cabinet Secretary chairs NCMC meeting to review flood situation in Kerala**

- A meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) was held to ensure continued and scale up assistance to the State of Kerala in view of the prevailing floods situation

**Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology**

- International Conference on Recent Advances in Food Processing Technology (iCRAFPT) got underway at Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur in Tamilnadu.

**52nd Meeting of the Council of IITs**

- The 52nd Meeting of the Council of IITs was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.

**“International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018”**

- The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the “International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018” in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 23rd August, 2018.

**National level Orientation workshop**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India organized an orientation workshop in New Delhi for various stakeholders participating in the Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month) being celebrated in the month of September.

**IIT-H hosts international workshop on reproduction**

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad hosted an international workshop on ‘Reframing the Biological Clock’ as part of a project funded under Wellcome Foundation U.K. Small Projects Grant for 2018.

**One-Day Refresher Programme for Insolvency Professionals**

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson Dr. M. S. Sahoo inaugurated one-day refresher programme for insolvency professionals supported by Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

**Smart Railway Conclave**

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways & Coal, inaugurates Smart Railway Conclave organised by FICCI, in New Delhi.

**Krishi Kumbh Intl Conference & Exhibition**

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh will organise a three day Krishi Kumbh International Conference and Exhibition in Lucknow in October, this year. The conference to be held from 26th of October, aims at providing a platform to farmers, technical experts and entrepreneurs for exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of agriculture sector.

**5th Executive Committee meeting**

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved projects worth nearly Rs 150 crores in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal under the Namami Gange programme in its 5th Executive Committee meeting held in New Delhi.

**Conference on Motivating & Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA)**

- Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), inaugurated a two-day conference at NASC, New Delhi on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (MAYA).

**6TH RCEP Ministerial Meeting**

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, is leading the Indian delegation for the 6th RCEP Trade Ministers' Meeting which begins in Singapore.

**7th Meeting of National Medicinal Plants Board**

- The Seventh meeting of National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH was held under the chairpersonship of Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik at New Delhi.

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**4. Appointments****National:**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Kumar Mangalam Birla, Y.C. Deveshwar</b>	Non-official directors in Air India
<b>2</b>	<b>CJ K.M. Joseph, CJ Indira Banerjee &amp; CJ Vineet Saran</b>	Three high court judges appointed as Supreme Court justices
<b>3</b>	<b>Anurag Sachan</b>	Managing Director of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL)
<b>4</b>	<b>Aditya Vikram &amp; Pramod Chandra Mody</b>	Members to Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
<b>5</b>	<b>Gurumurthy &amp; Satish Kashinath Marathe</b>	Part time non-official directors on the central board of Reserve Bank of India
<b>6</b>	<b>Shri Harivansh</b>	Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
<b>7</b>	<b>Senior lawyer B.S. Prasad</b>	New Telangana Attorney General
<b>8</b>	<b>Film-maker Shaji N. Karun</b>	General secretary of the Purogamana Kalasahitya Sangham
<b>9</b>	<b>Justice MR Shah</b>	New Chief Justice of Patna High Court
<b>10</b>	<b>Rekha Sharma</b>	Chairperson of the National Commission for Women
<b>11</b>	<b>Justice Rajendra Menon</b>	Chief Justice of Delhi High Court
<b>12</b>	<b>Gita Mittal</b>	First woman chief justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court
<b>13</b>	<b>Justice Manjula Chellur</b>	Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity
<b>14</b>	<b>Basavaraju, Lakshmi Aparna Sreekumar &amp; Sandhya Rajan</b>	Three new members join the board of India Cements Ltd.
<b>15</b>	<b>Film Actor Akshay Kumar</b>	Brand Ambassador for Road Safety Campaigns
<b>16</b>	<b>Ramesh Powar</b>	Head coach of the Indian Women's Cricket Team
<b>17</b>	<b>A K Singh</b>	Director-Pipeline of Indian Oil Corporation
<b>18</b>	<b>D.Bala Venkatesh Varma</b>	Ambassador to Russia
<b>19</b>	<b>Anandiben Patel (Madhya Pradesh Governor)</b>	Additional charge of Governor Of Chhattisgarh
<b>20</b>	<b>Headed by B Sesikaran, former director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)</b>	FSSAI sets up Panel to review red-labelling draft
<b>21</b>	<b>S.S. Mundra [Former Deputy Governor of the RBI]</b>	Independent director of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHFL)
<b>22</b>	<b>Sundeep Bajoria</b>	Vice-president of South West Asia (SWA) operations
<b>23</b>	<b>Chandrasekar Radhakrishnan</b>	Vice-president Strategy & Insights, Coca-Cola India & South West Asia

24	<b>Dr G. Satheesh Reddy</b>	Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO
25	<b>Chief Justice S.J. Vazifdar</b>	Head a committee constituted by the tribunal to decide on Vedanta Ltd's by the National Green Tribunal (NGT)
26	<b>Actor Raveena Tandon (By the Maharashtra government)</b>	Brand ambassador of the city-based Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)
27	<b>Pavan Shah replaced Aryan Juyal</b>	Captain of the India under-19 cricket squad for the Asia Cup
28	<b>Chanda Kochhar</b>	Reappointed as a director on the Secretary board of ICICI
29	<b>Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan</b>	CEO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vedanta Resources Plc. (Vedanta)

### New Governors of State:

S. No	Name	State
1	Satya Pal Malik	Jammu & Kashmir
2	Tathagata Roy	Meghalaya
3	Lalji Tandon	Bihar
4	Ganga Prasad	Sikkim
5	Kaptan Singh Solanki	Tripura
6	Satyadev Narayan Arya	Haryana
7	Baby Rani Maurya	Uttarakhand

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**International:**

S. No	Name	Designation
1	<b>María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador)</b>	Elected as President of the United Nations General Assembly for the 73rd session
2	<b>Abdo Benítez</b>	New Paraguayan President
3	<b>Egon Zehnder by Indian Banks Association</b>	‘Knowledge Partner’ to the Banks Board Bureau
4	<b>Ibrahim Boubacar Keita</b>	Mali president
5	<b>Imran Khan</b>	Pakistan Prime Minister
6	<b>Asad Qaiser</b>	Pakistan’s newly-formed Parliament Speaker
7	<b>Scott Morrison</b>	Australia’s new Prime Minister
8	<b>Emmerson Mnangagwa</b>	Zimbabwe’s President
9	<b>Lalchand Rajput</b>	Head coach of Zimbabwe’s national cricket team
10	<b>Satya Tripathi</b>	Assistant Secretary-General & Head of New York Office of UNEP

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## **5. Science and Technology**

### **Everyday plastics emit greenhouse gases**

- Plastic used in everyday objects from bottles to packaging emit greenhouse gases when exposed to sunlight, according to a study released.

### **Amazon droughts reducing forest's CO<sub>2</sub> absorption**

- A single season of drought in the Amazon rainforest can reduce its capacity to absorb carbon dioxide for years after the rains return, a NASA study has found.

### **Scientists to test land for LIGO**

- The Environment Ministry has allowed scientists to test the suitability of land in Maharashtra's Hingoli district to host the India wing of the ambitious Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) project.

### **Helium turns 150 on August 18, 2018**

- On August 18, in 1868, helium was discovered by astronomers studying the sun during a total solar eclipse. The site of this discovery was none other than the Andhra coast. It is the only element to have been seen in the sun before it was known to exist on earth.

### **Complex wheat genome decoded**

- In a major scientific breakthrough, international team of scientists including 18 Indian scientists decodes complex wheat genome.

### **Antidepressants may counter effects of brain ageing**

- A commonly used antidepressant medication Prozac can counter some of the effects of brain ageing, such as sensory and cognitive decline, an MIT study suggests.

**India may face nutritional deficiencies due to CO2 rise**

- Millions of Indians are at the risk of becoming nutrient deficient by 2050, as rising levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) are making staple crops such as rice and wheat less nutritious, according to a study.

**Physicists observe decay of Higgs boson**

- Six years after tracking down the Higgs boson, the subatomic particle that confers mass on matter, physicists have “at long last” witnessed it decaying into tiny bits called “bottom quarks”.

**World’s smallest medical robot sets Guinness record**

- Scientists have set a new Guinness World Record by creating the smallest medical robot – a device measuring just 120 nanometres that could assist in future cancer and Alzheimer’s treatments.

**Floating solar panels to be installed on dams**

- The Marathwada Statutory Development Corporation has come up with a plan to install solar panels in the backwater of two dams to generate electricity. Jayakwadi dam in Aurangabad and Ujani dam in Solapur will be the sites of the solar power generation project.

**Researchers feed seaweed to dairy cows to reduce emissions**

- University of California researchers are feeding seaweed to dairy cows in an attempt to reduce methane emissions & make cattle more climate-friendly.

**5.1 Inventions / Discover****Chinese scientists create first single-chromosome yeast**

- Molecular biologists at the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences in china used CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing to create a single-chromosome yeast strain.

**IISER Bhopal strike at the root of head and neck cancer growth**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have found that depleting the production of a specific protein kinase (p21-activated kinase 2 or PAK2), which is normally produced in excess in head and neck cancer, affects a chain of events that finally reduces the growth of head and neck cancer.

**IIT-Madras powers up a desi chip**

- IIT- Madras has developed the first of a family of six industry-standard microprocessors. The initial batch of 300 chips named RISECREEK and produced under Project Shakti, have been fabricated free at Intel's facility at Oregon, U.S., to run the Linux operating system.

**World's first Hindi speaking realistic humanoid robot**

- Ranchi man Ranjit Srivastava has developed Indian version of 'Sophia,' a social humanoid robot developed by a Hong Kong based company, named Rashmi which can speak Hindi, Bhojpuri and Marathi along with English.

**Forty-four new exoplanets discovered**

- Astronomer's 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.

**CSIR's new patented Clot buster**

- A new Clot buster, PEGylated Streptokinase – a Novel Biological Entity developed by Dr. Girish Sahni, DSIR and his team of inventors at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh is all set to revolutionize the treatment of ischemic strokes.

**IGIB team finds a new target to reverse iron overload disease**

- Using zebrafish, researchers at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) have successfully discovered a pathway that regulates hepcidin hormone production. The hepcidin hormone, released by the liver, is a central regulator of iron in the body.

**200 million-year-old Pterosaur fossil found in the US**

- Scientists unveiled a previously unknown species of giant pterosaur, the first creatures with a backbone to fly under their own power.

**99-million-year-old beetle discovered**

- Scientists have discovered a beetle trapped in amber that dates back to 99 million years, a finding that may help better understand the relationship between ancient flowering plants and pollinators.

**JNCASR developed a new, robust form of gold**

- Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, have developed a new type of gold in the form of very small crystals, microcrystallites.

**World's first 4D printing for ceramics developed**

- Scientists have successfully developed the world's first 4D printing for ceramics that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.

**Indian-American scientist finds simple way to predict IBD**

- An Indian-American scientist Chander Mohan has identified as many as 50 protein biomarkers that can non-invasively detect inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) – a gut disorder that leads to diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, and weight loss.

**New compound to strike H. pylori**

- Researchers from National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (ICMR-NICED), West Bengal have assessed a compound (ellagic acid) against H. pylori and found that it can kill almost all clinical strains of this bacterium.

**New drug target for antibiotic-resistant bacteria**

- Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have identified a protein (Hfq) in Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria that can be a potential drug target.

**A universal flu vaccine identified**

- Scientists have identified a potential universal influenza vaccine called the hemagglutinin (HA) stalk that could protect people against most strains of the virus.

## 5.2 Space Science

**NASA names Sunita Williams, 8 others, for first space flights on commercial spacecraft**

- The space agency has announced that the nine astronauts will launch on the first crewed test flights and missions of new commercial spacecraft built and operated by The Boeing Company and SpaceX.

**NASA's Curiosity rover completes six years on Mars**

- NASA's Curiosity rover a mission that has spotted evidence of liquid water as well as potential signs life and habitability on Mars has completed six years on the red planet.

**ISRO'S Heaviest Satellite GSAT-11 set for launch from French Guiana**

- Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) heaviest satellite so far the GSAT-11 which the space agency had cleared for launch in June, will take off a spaceport in French Guiana on 30 November



**Indian telescope spots distant radio galaxy**

- Astronomers have used an Indian telescope Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune to discover the most distant radio galaxy ever known, located at a distance of 12 billion light-years.

**World's first mission to touch the Sun lifts off**

- NASA's Parker Solar Probe, mankind's first mission to 'touch' the Sun will perform the closest-ever observations of the Sun's outer atmosphere, called the corona.

**ISRO to celebrate Sarabhai centenary, launch TV channel**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation will have a year-long Vikram Sarabhai centenary celebration starting in August 2019 to honour visionary scientist. It plans to roll out a dedicated ISRO TV channel. Jammu, Agartala to get Space Research Technology Centres

**Gaganyaan**

- Gaganyaan, the human space flight Programme green-flagged and set for 2022 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Chandrayaan-1 data confirms presence of ice on Moon**

- Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions using data from the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft that was launched by India 10 years ago, NASA.

**ESA satellite to improve weather forecast launched**

- The Earth Explorer Aeolus satellite was launched successfully by the European Space Agency (ESA) a satellite that will measure winds around the globe and help improve weather forecasting.

**China successfully sends twin navigation satellites**

- China successfully sent twin navigation satellites into the space on a single carrier rocket. The Long March-3B carrier rocket was the 283rd mission of the Long March rocket series.

**ISRO to send first Indian into Space by 2022**

- Gaganyaan – India's First Indian human mission will be launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by 2022.

**NASA set to launch space laser to track Earth's melting ice**

- NASA is set to launch the Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2), the most advanced laser instrument of its kind in to the space next month, to measure the changes in the heights of Earth's polar ice.

**Jupiter's Great Red Spot reveals signs of water**

- NASA scientists peering deep inside Jupiter's Great Red Spot a storm that has been raging on the planet for over 350 years have detected signs of water above the planet's deepest clouds.

**5.3 App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free****IWAI launches Dedicated Portal for Cargo Owners and Shippers**

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a dedicated portal to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels.

**GI logo, tagline launched**

- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indications (GI) to increase awareness about intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the country.

**e-Pashu Haat portal**

- Government has launched e-Pashu Haat portal ([www.epashuhaat.gov.in](http://www.epashuhaat.gov.in)) for connecting breeders and farmers of indigenous breeds.

**Bidder Information Management System and Bhoomi Rashi – PFMS Linkage Portals**

- Shri Nitin Gadkari launched Bidder Information Management System (BIMS) and Bhoomi Rashi and PFMS linkage – two IT initiatives of the Road Transport & Highways Ministry that are aimed at expediting pre construction processes relating to bidding and land acquisition respectively.

**India Science, an Internet-based science channel**

- Vigyan Prasar, under the guidance of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched India Science ([indiascience.in](http://indiascience.in)), an Internet-based science channel, to showcase the developments in science and technology, particularly from research institutions and laboratories based in India.

**‘Shaur nahin’ mobile app**

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched ‘horn not ok’ awareness campaign and ‘shaur nahin’ (no noise) mobile application.

**TRAI Mobile Apps on UMANG platform**

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India TRAI integrates its Mobile App DND 2.0 & MyCall with UMANG Platform with the objective of reaching out to consumers and safeguarding their interests.

**“GoaMiles”**

- Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Tourism Minister Manohar Ajgaonkar flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation’s app-based taxi service in Panaji.

**Mobile App Niryat Mitra**

- 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). It provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade

**e-Mor software**

- The e-Mor software is for strengthening cause of death reporting systems in hospitals and improves death audits with use of appropriate tools for classifying deaths. This can bridge the gap and lead to better death statistics and surveillance in India.

**“PARIVESH”**

- “PARIVESH” is an environmental single window hub for Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ clearances launched by PM Modi.

**PENCIL online portal**

- PENCIL online portal for effective enforcement of the Child Labour Act and National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

**India Science Technology and Innovation portal**

- The Union science ministry’s communication wing, Vigyan Prasar, has launched the India Science Technology and Innovation portal for information about the organisations carrying out research, those funding them.

**Swachh Manch**

- The web-based platform will allow stakeholders to create/invite/participate in volunteering opportunities around neighborhoods to the cause of ‘swachhata’.

**“TRAINS AT A GLANCE (TAG)”**

- The Ministry of Railways will be releasing its new All India Railway Time Table known as “TRAINS AT A GLANCE (TAG)” effective from 15th August, 2018.

**“Pitch to MOVE”**

- NITI Aayog has launched “Pitch to MOVE” – a mobility pitch competition that aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury.

**“Dial 100” Police App**

- Madhya Pradesh Launches “Dial 100” Police App For Emergency Situations

**BSNL WINGS – a VOIP based phone service launched**

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has launched BSNL WINGS a VOIP based service. In WINGS, there is no SIM or cable wiring as is a VOIP service through an app.

**“Digital Screens”**

- Ministry of Railways launches “Digital Screens” to spread awareness about Indian Railways Heritage. Digital Screens and QR code based posters are operational at 22 Railway Stations from Independence Day.

**Microsoft, Apollo Hospitals unveil AI to predict cardiovascular disease risk**

- Microsoft India and Apollo Hospitals had unveiled the ‘first-ever’ artificial intelligence-powered cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk score API (application program interface), designed to predict the risk of CVD in the Indian population.

**Selfies app and Exoplanet Excursions virtual reality app by NASA**

- The Selfies app and Exoplanet Excursions virtual reality app were released to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the launch of NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope.

**Various applications under the eCourts project**

- The Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Justice Dipak Misra launched various applications (e-filing, e-pay, and NSTEP (National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes created under the eCourts project) for the benefit of the litigants and lawyers at an event in the Supreme Court of India.

**National Logistics Portal**

- A National Logistics Portal is being developed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure ease of trading in the international and domestic markets.

**Online portal for Common Carrier Capacity booking on GAIL's pipelines**

- The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched an online portal for enabling easy, efficient and transparent booking of Common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services under GAIL's pipelines.

**NAA launches Consumer Helpline to receive Anti-Profiteering Complaints**

- In a bid to encourage the consumers to file complaints against the companies who are not passing the GST benefits, the National Anti-profiteering Authority ( NAA) has started a helpline number 011-21400643

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## **6. Schemes**

### **Seva Bhoj Yojna'**

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has launched the new scheme namely Seva Bhoj Yojna.
- Scheme seeks to reimburse Central Share of CGST and IGST on Food/Prasad/Langar/Bhandara offered by Religious/ Charitable Institutions'

### **SAATHI Initiative**

- Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power have joined hands under the initiative SAATHI(Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries) in order to sustain and accelerate the adoption of energy efficient textile technologies in the powerloom sector and cost savings due to use of such technology.

### **Arogya Karnataka**

- The Health Department is planning to enhance the annual health coverage of Rs.1.5 lakh a year for a family of five under the State's universal health scheme Arogya Karnataka to Rs.5 lakh a year per family.

### **'Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana'**

- Bihar Chief Minister Nithish Kumar launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana' which promises to provide Rs.54,100 from the birth of a girl child till she graduates and expressed his government's resolve for empowerment of women.

### **IMPRINT-II**

- The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved 122 new research projects at a cost of Rs 112 crore under IMPRINT-2 covering Energy, Security, Healthcare, Advanced Materials, ICT and Security/Defence domains.

**Startup India's Academia Alliance Programme**

- Startup India launched the Startup Academia Alliance programme, a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications in order to increase the efficacy of these technologies and to widen their impact.

**Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme**

- NITI Aayog has identified 117 districts as 'Aspirational Districts'. Central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in 'Aspirational Districts'.

**Ishan Vikas and Ishan Uday schemes for benefit of North Eastern Students**

- Ishan Vikas is coordinated by IIT Guwahati and under the programme, selected school children from North Eastern States are brought in close contact with the IITs, IISERs and NIAS. Ishan Uday Scholarship Scheme is administered by University Grants Commission (UGC).

**Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme**

- Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme aims to increase Research & Development in Electronics and Information Technology.

**Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

- Najma A. Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur will be inaugurating the project "Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom" first project implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

**Green Mysuru initiative**

- The Forest Department will launch a Green Mysuru drive on August 15 as part of Hasiru Karnataka programme to increase the tree cover of the city and the district.

**New Central Sector scheme for promoting Pharmacovigilance of AYUSH Drugs**

- Ministry of AYUSH has introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs.

**Nabh Nirmaan 2018**

- Sh Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Civil Aviation today unveiled a new transaction structure for future greenfield airports proposed under NABH Nirmaan 2018.

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0**

- Higher Education Institutions of Human Resource Development Ministry under its flagship program – Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 2.0 will participate in Gram Sabhas to be organised on the occasion of Independence Day

**‘One Million’ women placement drive in MGU**

- ‘Project Disha’, a partnership of the India Development Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme, will conduct a two-day placement drive for women students at the Mahatma Gandhi University campus.

**Gaganyaan mission to take Indian astronaut to space by 2022**

- An Indian astronaut, be it a man or a woman, will go on a space odyssey by 2022 on board ‘Gaganyaan’, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day address.

**Veligonda project**

- The first phase of the multi-crore Veligonda project, the giant tunnel being drilled to bring Krishna water from the Srisailem reservoir to the drought-prone district of western Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh, will be completed at any cost by coming Sankranti.

**‘Our Safety, Our Rights’: Empowering Children To Speak Up Against Sexual Abuse**

- Amnesty International India is launching a new campaign ‘Our Safety, Our Rights’, which aims to create awareness amongst children to help them understand and identify sexual abuse. The campaign seeks to empower children to speak up and report sexual abuse without fear.

**Two new projects Swadesh Darshan Scheme**

- The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Rs. 164.95 Crores in Punjab and Tripura.

**Launch of National Mission on GeM**

- National Mission on Government e Marketplace (GeM) will be launched on 5th September 2018 to accelerate the adoption and use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments and their agencies.

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## **7. Economic Affairs**

### **Policy Framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the policy to permit exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons such as Shale oil/gas, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) etc.

### **Issue of fresh equity to the extent of 15% of the paid up equity capital by Hindustan Copper Limited**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for issue of fresh equity shares to the extent of 15% of paid up equity capital efface value of Rs. 5/- each by Hindustan Copper Limited(HCL) through the Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) route as per SEBI and other applicable guidelines.

### **Interest Free Loan equivalent to interest during construction component to fertilizer revival projects**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of Department of Fertilizers to grant Interest Free Loan (IFL) equivalent to the interest during construction (IDC) component of Rs.422.28 crore, 415.77 crore and 419.77 crore for Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni projects respectively to Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited (HURL) fertilizer projects.

### **Adani emerges biggest winner of city gas licences**

- Adani won the rights to retail CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households in six cities on its own and another five in joint ventures with state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC).

### **Piaggio bets on alternative fuel tech**

- Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. (PVPL), a unit of Italy's Piaggio Group, is focussed on developing vehicles powered by alternative fuels such as CNG, LPG and electrically charged batteries to achieve its target of selling 5 million vehicles in India.

**India's forex reserves dip by \$951 mn**

- Foreign exchange reserves declined by \$951 million to \$404.2 billion on account of a fall in the foreign currency assets, the RBI said.

**Ola to launch services in U.K.**

- Indian ride-hailing firm Ola plans to launch services in the United Kingdom this year, months after it expanded its operations in Australia, in an ongoing turf war with rival Uber Technologies.

**Govt doubles import duty on 328 textile products to 20% to boost production**

- 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.

**India Post bank to be unveiled on August 21**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) on August 21, 2018.

**Govt. to get Rs.50,000 cr. from RBI**

- 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.

**Competition Commission clears Walmart-Flipkart deal**

- 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**

- South Korea's Samsung Group would invest \$22 billion over the next three years in cutting-edge technology including artificial intelligence, self-driving cars and biopharmaceuticals, as it searches for ways to drive future growth.

**UAE top source of inward remittances in 2016-17**

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the top source of inward remittances, while Kerala has received the maximum funds sent from abroad, according to the Reserve Bank of India's survey of inward remittances for 2016-17.

**'Taiwan's Wistron to invest in Karnataka'**

- Taiwan's Wistron, a contract manufacturer of Apple iPhones in India, plans to invest Rs.1,150 crore in Karnataka.

**IMF forecasts India's GDP to grow at 7.5% in 2019-20 fiscal year**

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts India's gross domestic product (GDP) is poised to grow by 7.3% in the 2018-19 fiscal and 7.5% in 2019-20.

**Release of pulses procured from farmers under Price Support Scheme to States**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the release of pulses to States/UTs at discounted rate to be utilized for various Welfare Schemes from the stock of pulses procured under Price Support Schemes (PSS).

**New bidding model for greenfield airports**

- The government proposed a new transaction structure for the bid process for greenfield airports, switching from a revenue share model to a fixed fee per passenger to be paid to the concessioning authority.

**‘JioGigaFiber’**

- After 4G mobile services, Reliance Jio started “JioGigaFiber registration for optical fibre based fixed-line broadband service through which it has claimed to offer download speed of one gigabit per second.

**Tea exports to China, Pakistan rise**

- India shipped larger quantities of tea to two neighbouring countries China and Pakistan in the first half of 2018.

**NPCI launches UPI 2.0 with overdraft facility**

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has upgraded unified payments interface (UPI) with enhanced security features and overdraft facilities.

**Ashok Leyland unveils BS4 engine**

- Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group, unveiled Innoline, a BS4 engine driven on inline fuel pump.

**‘India to triple ethanol production by 2022’**

- India will triple its ethanol production over the next four years till 2022 and this will save Rs.12,000 crore in the country’s oil import bill.

**Ashok Leyland wins double-decker EV deal**

- Commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) said its subsidiary Optare Plc has bagged an order from Transport for London (TfL) for 31 electric double-decker buses.

**PFRDA sets up panel on cyber safety**

- Pension Fund and Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) has set up a standing committee to suggest steps to deal with cybersecurity challenges to protect the interest of subscribers.

**Aditya Birla to unveil linen-based fabric brand**

- Aditya Birla (AB) Group entity Jaya Shree Textiles is planning to unveil a range of linen-blended fabrics under a new brand name, Mazury, complementing its offering of linen-blended apparels under the Cavallo brand.

**Hyundai Motor teams up with Revv to develop innovative mobility services**

- Hyundai Motor Company has tied up with Revv, a self-drive car sharing company, to develop an innovative car-sharing service and conduct creative marketing activities in India.

**Maxxis to set up 5 new plants in India**

- Maxxis India, the Indian subsidiary of Taiwanese-based tyre-maker, plans to set up five additional manufacturing plants in the country.

**Swiss cable solutions firm eyes data centre growth**

- R&M (Reichle & De-Massari AG), has set up a manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, as the Swiss cabling solutions provider aims to tap a surge in demand from communication networks and data centres in the country.

**Centre tells ONGC to list OVL**

- The Indian government has asked its biggest state-owned firm, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), to list its overseas unit ONGC Videsh.

**Ujjivan offers overdraft for micro, small firms**

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, a subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd., has announced the nationwide rollout of overdraft (OD) facility for micro and small enterprise (MSE) customers.

**India seeks revision in price of gas via TAPI line**

- India has sought re-negotiation of the natural gas price it is to source through a proposed \$10 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline due to slump in global energy markets.

**US imposes preliminary anti-dumping duties on metal pipes made in India**

- India has been slapped with an anti-dumping duty of 50.55 percent. US imports of the pipe from India last year totalled USD 294.7 million.

**First Indian company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore market cap**

- Reliance Industries becomes first Indian company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore market cap

**SpiceJet operates country's first biojet fuel flight**

- A blend of oil from jatropha seeds (25% of bio jet fuel) and 75% aviation turbine fuel (ATF) propelled the country's first ever bio-jet fuel powered flight between Dehradun and Delhi operated by SpiceJet's Bombardier Q-400 aircraft.

**eMudhra plans U.S. digital certifying foray in 2019**

- eMudhra, a licensed Indian certifying authority that issues digital signature certificates, expects revenue to grow 30% from last year's Rs.78 crore and plans to enter the U.S. market next year.

**U.S., Mexico reach deal over NAFTA**

- The United States and Mexico reached a deal to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and talks with Canada were expected to begin immediately.

**India remains top destination for FDI**

- India remains a preferred destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) as domestic consumption remains strong, according to the RBI Annual Report. India received \$37.3 billion capital inflow in 2017-18 as compared with \$36.3 billion in the previous fiscal.

**RInfra completes sale of Rs.18,800 crore Mumbai power business to Adani**

- Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. (RInfra) has completed the sale of its 100% shareholding in integrated Mumbai power distribution business to Adani Transmission Limited (ATL) for a total transaction value of Rs.18,800 crore.

**Olympia to set up two mega IT parks in Chennai at Rs.720 crore**

- City-based Olympia Group has set aside a capex of Rs.720 crore for the current year to set up two mega IT parks in Chennai

**Telecom panel okays National Trust Centre**

- The Telecom Commission said a National Trust Centre would be created for certifying devices and applications for machine-to-machine communication, a new-age technology that is at the heart of concepts like smart homes.

**Indian economy records 8.2% growth in first quarter of 2018-19**

- The growth cemented India's position as the fastest growing major economy, clocking higher expansion rate than China's 6.7 in the same quarter.

**Census 2021 to collect data on OBCs**

- Census 2021 will for the first time collect data on Other Backward Classes (OBC).

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## **8. Mou /Agreement**

### **International**

#### **NIMHANS ties up with Public Health England**

- The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has tied-up with Public Health England (PHE) to set up collaborative programmes in mental health and public health system models, including Public Health Observatories (PHOs).

<b>Monarch</b>	<b>Elizabeth II</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Theresa May</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>London</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Pound sterling</b>

#### **MoU between India and Indonesia**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Indonesia on health cooperation.

<b>President</b>	<b>Joko Widodo</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jusuf Kalla</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Jakarta</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Indonesian rupiah</b>

#### **MoU between India and Canada**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)” between “Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)” and “Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada)”.

<b>President</b>	<b>Elizabeth II</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Justin Trudeau</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Ottawa</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Canadian dollar</b>

**MoU between India and Korea**

- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Korea on Trade Remedy Cooperation.

<b>President</b>	<b>Moon Jae-in</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Lee Nak-yeon</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Seoul</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>South Korean won</b>

**Joint issue of postage stamp between India and South Africa**

- The Union Cabinet was apprised of joint issue of Postage Stamps on India-South Africa on the theme, “20 Years of Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa”.

<b>President</b>	<b>Cyril Ramaphosa</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>David Mabuza</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Pretoria</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>South African rand</b>

**MoU between India and Indonesia**

- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Indonesia on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

<b>President</b>	<b>Joko Widodo</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jusuf Kalla</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Jakarta</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Indonesian rupiah</b>

**India, Myanmar land border crossing pact**

- India and Myanmar operationalised the landmark Land Border Crossing Agreement. Delegations from both sides came to Tamu in Manipur to inaugurate check-points on both sides of the border.

<b>President</b>	<b>Win Myint</b>
<b>State Counsellor</b>	<b>Aung San Suu Kyi</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Naypyidaw</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Kyat</b>

**Godrej, U.K.'s GKN Aerospace sign pact for helicopter tanks**

- Godrej Aerospace, a unit of Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., has signed an agreement with U.K.-based GKN Aerospace, a premier aerospace supplier, for the manufacture of specialised helicopter fuel tanks.

<b>Monarch</b>	<b>Elizabeth II</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Theresa May</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>London</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Pound sterling</b>

**Ministry of Railways Signs Record of Discussion for India Japan Cooperation**

- Record of Discussion (ROD) for the project on Capacity Development on Rail Safety was signed between Ministry of Railways and Japan International Cooperation Agency

<b>Crown Prince</b>	<b>Naruhito</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Shinzō Abe</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Tokyo</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Yen</b>

**REC inks pact with German bank for 200 mn euro loan**

- State run Rural Electrification Corporation has inked a loan agreement with German bank KfW for EUR 200 million facility that would be used to finance clean energy projects in India.

<b>President</b>	<b>Frank-Walter Steinmeier</b>
<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Angela merkel</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Berlin</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Euro</b>



**2nd Protocol Amending India – Singapore CECA Signed**

- India and Singapore signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in New Delhi will boost bilateral trade between India and Singapore.

<b>President</b>	<b>Halimah Yacob</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Lee Hsien Loong</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Singapore</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Singapore dollar</b>

**MoU between India and Bulgaria**

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bulgaria for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.

<b>President</b>	<b>Rumen Radev</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Boyko Borisov</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Sofia</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Lev</b>

**MoU between India and Republic of Korea**

- Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Republic of Korea on the cooperation in the field of railways

<b>President</b>	<b>Moon Jae-in</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Lee Nak-yeon</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Seoul</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>South Korean won</b>

**MoU between India and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland**

- Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on the Cooperation in the fields of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

<b>Monarch</b>	<b>Elizabeth II</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Theresa May</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>London</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Pound sterling</b>

**Agreement between India and Morocco**

- Cabinet approves signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Morocco

<b>King</b>	<b>Mohammed VI</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Saadeddine Othmani</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Rabat</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>South Korean won</b>

**Trade Cooperation Framework between India and Rwanda**

- Cabinet approves Trade Cooperation Framework between India and Rwanda

<b>President</b>	<b>Paul Kagame</b>
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<b>Édouard Ngirente</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Kigali</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>South Korean won</b>

**Memorandum of Understanding between India and USA**

- Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between India and USA in insurance regulatory sector

<b>President</b>	<b>Donald Trump</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mike Pence</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Washington, D.C.</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>US dollar</b>

**Government of India and ADB Sign \$346 Million Loan**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$346 million loan to finance improvement of over 400 kilometers of state highways that will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.

<b>President</b>	<b>Takehiko Nakao</b>
<b>Formation</b>	<b>19 December 1966;</b>
<b>Head Quarters</b>	<b>Manila, Philippines</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>67 countries</b>

**Government of India and ADB Sign \$375 Million Loan**

- Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to contribute to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.

<b>President</b>	<b>Takehiko Nakao</b>
<b>Formation</b>	<b>19 December 1966;</b>
<b>Head Quarters</b>	<b>Manila,Philippines</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>67 countries</b>

**National:****Extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) to support Indian Entities**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the first extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) to support Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.

**Environment & Skill Development Ministries Sign MoU**

- MoU Signed between Environment & Skill Development Ministries which jointly undertake upskilling and certification of 100,000 RAC service technicians on good servicing practices and knowledge of alternative refrigerants to ozone-depleting chemicals.

**NHAI to Sign MoU with SBI**

- NHAI to Sign MoU with SBI for a Long Term, unsecured Loan of Rs 25,000 Crore. This is SBI's Highest Long Term Unsecured Loan to any Entity.

**MoU signed between TRIFED and National Medicinal Plant Board**

- MoU signed between TRIFED (M/o Tribal Affairs) and National Medicinal Plant Board (M/o AYUSH) to promote Medicinal and Aromatic Plants forest produce for livelihood development among tribals.

**Health Ministry signs MoU with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

- MoU signed between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for working in a cooperative partnership to improve the health and well-being of students in tribal schools.

**Bharti Axa ties up with Airtel Payments Bank**

- Bharti Axa Life Insurance and Airtel Payments Bank entered into an alliance to offer the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY), a government-backed life insurance scheme.

**PhonePe to facilitate convenient payments on IRCTC app**

- PhonePe entering into a partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments through PhonePe on the IRCTC Rail connect Android app.

**Sarvatra launches 450th cooperative bank**

- Sarvatra Technologies, a payments and banking solutions provider announced the on-boarding of 'Sevalia Urban Co-operative Bank' as the 450th co-operative bank to be onboarded to the NPCI's National Financial Switch (NFS).

**MU inks pact with Japanese institute**

- Mangalore University's Centre for Advanced Research in Environmental Radioactivity (CARER) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Japan, for research collaboration on various aspects of radiation protection and radio-ecology.

**MoU signed for skill development of Arogyamitras under the PMJAY**

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency (NHA) to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.

**Bengal inks pact with BSE, NSE to help SME's**

- The West Bengal government has signed pacts with BSE and NSE to raise awareness among the State's MSMEs to tap the capital market as an alternate funding source.

**Construction of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project on Yamuna**

- Shri Nitin Gadkari Will Sign MOU with Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand, UP, HP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi for Construction of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project on Yamuna near Dehradun.

**Ayushman Bharat – PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaAbhiyan**

- 29 states and UTs have signed the MoU for implementation of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (AB-PMJAY)

**Mou signed for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program**

- The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$220 million Loan Agreement and a \$80 million Guarantee Agreement for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program. The Program, to be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

**MoU signed between Government of Rajasthan, Government of India & World Bank**

- The Government of India, the Government of Rajasthan and the World Bank signed a \$250 million Development Policy Loan (DPL) to support the Government of Rajasthan in improving the performance of its Electricity Distribution Sector under the State's 24×7 Power for All program.

**MoU between Indian Railways and GAIL (India)**

- Indian Railways and GAIL (India) Limited sign an MoU for Use of Natural Gas in Railway Workshops and Production Units.

**MoU signed between Department of Biotech and International Energy Agency**

- MoU signed between Department of Biotechnology and International Energy Agency on Enhancing Innovation for the Clean Energy Transition.

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## **9. Indian Forces (Defence)**

### **Ballistic Missile Interceptor AAD Successfully Flight Tested**

- DRDO conducted the successful test of the Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) the endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms.

### **HAL tests rotary drone co-developed with IIT-K**

- A 10 kg rotary drone co-developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and IIT-Kanpur was recently flown for the first time in Bengaluru, the defence public sector company.

### **HAL's Light Combat Aircraft project to come under IAF control**

- The government is poised to hand over control of the Bengaluru division of State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to the Indian Air Force (IAF). This is to prevent more time and cost overruns on the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project.

### **New Defence Production Policy**

- Government has announced that it will bring out an industry friendly Defence Production Policy 2018 to promote domestic production by public sector, private sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

### **Joint cycling cum Trekking expedition**

- A joint Cycling cum Trekking Expedition of Indian Army and Royal Bhutan Army was conducted to commemorate "Fifty years of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Bhutan" in Bhutan

**Operation ‘Madad’**

- Operation “Madad” has been launched by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi since 09 Aug 2018 for assisting the state administration and undertaking disaster relief operations due to the unprecedented flooding experienced in many parts of Kerala.

**Curtain Raiser: Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018**

- SCO Peace Mission Exercise is conducted biennially for SCO member states. The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia from 22 August to 29 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia.

**DAC Approves Procurement of Six NGOPVs**

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman met and accorded approval for the procurement of six indigenously designed and manufactured Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs. 4941 crore.

**INS Sahyadri visits Suva, Fiji**

- To further strengthen our strong bilateral relations with Fiji, an Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri entered Port of Suva Republic of Fiji after participation in the RIMPAC 2018 at Hawaii.

**India, China Armies meet in Ladakh**

- Amid continuing transgression by China at Demchok in eastern Ladakh, the Armies of India and China held a ceremonial Border Personal Meeting to mark India’s Independence Day.

**Indo-Israel missile defence system to be procured by Israeli Navy**

- The multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by India and Israel, will be procured by the Israeli Navy to protect its economic zones and strategic facilities.



**Exercise Pitch Black 2018**

- Exercise Pitch Black a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise was hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from 24 Jul 18 to 18 Aug 18 in Darwin, Australia.

**Anti-Tank Guided Missile ‘HELINA’ & SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon)**

- Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile ‘HELINA’ and SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon) guided bombs were successfully flight tested.

**India building new fighter jet**

- The Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), India’s next indigenous fighter, is expected to make its first flight by 2032.

**Indo – Thailand Joint Exercise Maitree 2018**

- Exercise Maitree 2018, culminated on 19 August 2018 is an annual event designed to strengthen the partnership between Royal Thai Army and Indian Army and the exercise commenced on 06 August 2018 in Thailand.

**INS Khanjar visits Yangon, Myanmar**

- INS Khanjar a Missile Corvette of Indian Navy was on a three-day visit to Yangon, Myanmar to undertake operational turn around (OTR) and as part of goodwill visit from 18 to 20 Aug 18.

**IAF-RMAF joint air exercise**

- The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia

**Army begins scouting for light machine guns**

- The Army has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for the procurement of 30,000 light machine guns (LMG) to equip the infantry.

**CSIR laboratory to manufacture critical composite air-frame components for LCA Tejas**

- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) has received an order of more than Rs 100cr for delivering critical composite air-frame components to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), for the LCA-Tejas Full Operational Capability (FOC) standard aircraft

**Launch of 'Speedex' Contract by IAF**

- The Stores, Proactive, Efficient and Expeditious Despatch of Extra Size/ Wt Consignment (SPEEDEX) contract was formally launched today by Air Marshal RKS Shera to overcome the delay in piecemeal dispatch of consignment and to move operationally urgent stores by air and normal consignments by surface mode.

**Opening Ceremony Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018**

- Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, opening ceremony was conducted on 24 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Russia with military contingents of the all eight SCO member nations participating in this exercise. This is the first time India and Pakistan participated in the exercise.

**Exercise KAKADU 2018**

- Indian Naval ship Sahyadri reaches Port of Darwin, Australia to participate in exercise KAKADU 2018.

**Russia, China set to launch joint military exercises**

- China will join Russia in a giant military exercise (Vostok 2018), sending a message of deterrence to the U.S. which has designated Beijing and Moscow as “revisionist powers”. Mongolia will be the third country participating in the drills.

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**10. Awards and Achievement****International**

S. No	Awardees	Award
1	Sashi Cheliah	MasterChef Australia 2018
2	David Beckham (Former England Football captain)	Uefa President's Award
3	Sunishka Kartik	Community Award in the Junior NBA World Basketball Championship
4	Krishnanunni	Fourth Insight award for lifetime achievement in Eighth International HALF (Haiku Amateur Little Film) Festival
5	Akshay Venkatesh [Indian-Australian mathematician], Caucher Birkar, Peter Scholze, Alessio Figalli	Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for maths
6	Two Indian nationals, Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk	Ramon Magsaysay award [Asia's Nobel Prize]
7	Anvar Sadath, vice chairman and executive director of the KITE	International Contributions Award by AECT, USA.

**National**

S. No	Awardees	Award
1	Smt Najma Heptulla, Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shri Dinesh Trivedi and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the years 2013-2017
2	Shreshth Sahu, Satish Mewada and Gopal Prajapati	Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao Contest (For spreading awareness about water conservation)
3	Annie Zaidi for her play Untitled-1	The Hindu Playwright Award 2018
4	Sergeant Shashidhar P Prasad Indian Air Force (Garud)	Vayu Sena Medal
5	Squadron Leader Vernon Desmond Keane Flying (Pilot)	Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)
6	Group Captain Abhishek Sharma Flying (Pilot)	Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)
7	Dr. S. N. Pandey, Inspector General, Railway Board	Presidents's Police Medal for Distinguished Services

8	Dr. Sushmee Badhulika (For her work in ‘electronics, computer science and engineering’)	NASI-Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Awards
9	Dr. Aravind Kumar Rengan (In the bio-medical, molecular biology and bio-technology category)	NASI-Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Awards
10	1) ADGP (Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation) M.N. Manjunatha	Prestigious President’s medal for distinguished service TamilNadu
11	2) IG (South Zone) K.P Shanmuga Rajeswaran	
12	3) ASP (Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption) S. Thirunavukarasu	
13	Muthumari	2018 Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise – Tamil Nadu
14	James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg	2018 Recipients of America’s Most Distinguished Prize(Albany Medical Center Prize) in Medicine
15	Sristi Lakshminarasimham (For his outstanding contribution to enrichment of Sanskrit.)	President’s certificate of honour for the year 2017
16	S.K. Arora [Delhi government’s additional director of health]	Prestigious WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award
17	Prof Appa Rao Podile (The Vice Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad)	J C Bose Fellowship-2018

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**11. Books & Authors**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>Authors</b>
<b>1</b>	Bebak Baat book	Vijay Goel [Union MoS Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics and Programme Implementation]
<b>2</b>	Nirmalya	Chandrashekar Bhandari on the life of the former RSS worker, Na. Krishnappa
<b>3</b>	“281 and Beyond”	Cricketer VVS Laxman’s Autobiography
<b>4</b>	“No Spin”	Australian Cricketer Shane Warne’s Autobiography
<b>5</b>	Sea Prayer book	Khaled Hosseini (a tribute to Syrian boy Alan Kurdi)
<b>6</b>	“Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System” by Power System Operation Corporation limited (POSOCO) book	Released by Shri RK Singh

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## **12. National Affairs**

### **Re-structuring of the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB)**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for restructuring of Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB).

### **Statutory status for BCs panel**

- The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the 123rd Constitutional Amendment Bill providing for a National Commission for Backward Classes as a constitutional body.

### **Goa govt. to ban locals from playing in casinos**

- Locals in Goa would be banned from playing in casinos from 2019 once the government appoints a gaming commissioner to regulate the operations.

### **Government permits e-commerce shipment via Foreign Post Offices**

- The Customs Department plans to permit e-commerce shipment via foreign post offices.

### **Lok Sabha passes National Sports University Bill**

- The Lok Sabha passed a Bill establishing a National Sports University in Manipur as part of a vision to enhance country's standing in sports.

### **HRD Ministry approves norms against plagiarism**

- Student researchers found guilty of plagiarism may lose their registration and teachers could lose their jobs as the Human Resource Development Ministry approved new regulations on plagiarism drafted by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

**Three northeastern States emerge as new HIV hotspots**

- Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura have emerged as the new hotspots for HIV, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**11th Biosphere Reserve from India to be Included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves**

- The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

**NRI cannot file RTI applications**

- Non-Resident Indians cannot file Right to Information (RTI) applications to seek governance-related information from the Central government departments.

**President of India hosts 'At Home' reception**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, hosted an 'At Home' reception for freedom fighters on the 76th anniversary of Quit India Day August 9, 2018 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**Extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of OBC**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in the Central List till November, 2018.

**Cabinet approves inclusion of provision of bail in instant triple talaq bill**

- The Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of provision of granting bail to men found guilty of giving instant triple talaq to their wives in the Muslim Women Protection of Rights on Marriage Bill.

**Nod for extending PMGSY beyond 12th five year plan**

- The government approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) beyond the 12th five year plan period.



**Four additional battalions of National Disaster Response Force**

- The Union Cabinet has given the approval for raising of four (4) additional battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to strengthen the India's disaster response set up at an estimated cost of Rs 637 crore.

**Extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of OBC**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes in the Central List till November, 2018.

**Creation of two posts equivalent to Joint Secretary level**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of two posts equivalent to Joint Secretary level in the Interpreters' cadre of the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Right to Skills' Development to youth'**

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh said that his state is the first among the 28 other states in the country to provide Right to Skills' Development to the youth.

**Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom**

- The Governor of Manipur, Dr. Najma A. Heptulla inaugurated the project "Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom" implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism at a function held at the historic Kangla Fort in Imphal, Manipur.

**Naya Raipur to be named as Atal Nagar**

- Naya Raipur, the upcoming capital city of the state to be renamed as 'Atal Nagar' in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

**NOTA can't be permitted in Rajya Sabha polls**

- The None of The Above (NOTA) option will not be available for elected MPs and MLAs voting in the Rajya Sabha polls anymore, with the Supreme Court quashing an Election Commission notification

**TRIBES India Outlets to open at Ahmedabad, Udaipur and Kolkata airports**

- The Airport Authority of India has allotted space at Ahmedabad, Udaipur and Kolkata airports for opening of Tribes India outlets.

**Naini-Doon Janshatabdi Express**

Shri Piyush Goyal flags off new train service Naini-Doon Janshatabdi Express between Kathgodam- Dehradun

**India invites Pakistan experts to hydroelectric project sites in J&K**

- India has invited Pakistan to visit sites of the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnal hydroelectric projects on the Chenab.

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### 13. State Wise Affairs

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#### ANDHRA PRADESH

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Hyderabad (Amaravati)	N. Chandrababu Naidu	E. S. L. Narasimhan

#### World's first thermal battery plant

- Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will unveil the world's first-ever thermal battery in his Andhra Pradesh manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST).

#### Transit campus of Central University inaugurated

- The transit campus of the Central University of Andhra Pradesh was inaugurated and dedicated to the nation by Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar at the IT Business Incubation Centre at the JNTU.

#### Chinese component maker setting up unit in Tirupati

- Leading Chinese company Holitech Technology which supplies key components to smart-phone maker Xiaomi signed an MoU with the State government for the establishment of its first unit in India at Tirupati with an investment of Rs.1,400 crore.

#### Lixil marks its India entry with plant in Bhimadole

- Lixil, a Tokyo-based world leader in manufacturing building materials and housing equipment, had its first sanitary ware unit in India inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh.

**CM to dedicate Vamsadhara project to nation**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu is expected to dedicate the Vamsadhara project to the nation on the Independence Day.

**Eco nod for DRDO Missile Test Facility in Krishna**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) granted environmental clearance for setting up the Missile Test Launch Facility by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the heart of the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) in Krishna district.

**Amaravati bonds for Andhra Pradesh's new capital gets BSE listing**

- Amaravati bonds were listed in the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu rang the bell at the BSE in Mumbai.

**Alibaba Cloud offers hitech solutions to A.P.**

- Alibaba Cloud India (ACI) signed an MoU with the A.P-Economic Development Board (AP-EDB) for leveraging the Chinese company's ET (Extreme Tech) City Brain solutions in diverse sectors like real-time governance, smart city and integrated traffic management, small and medium enterprises and skill upgrading.

**Tirupati set to emerge as a health hub**

- Stone laid for Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care and Advanced Research (SVICCAR), a joint venture of Tata Trusts, TTD in Tirupati.

**Inauguration of Apollo Knowledge City**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first phase of the Apollo Knowledge City on the premises of the Apollo Medical College in Chittoor.

**ASSAM**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi

**Assam begins deleting foreigners from NRC list**

- District officials in Assam have begun work to delete the names of ‘declared foreigners’ whose names had been included in the complete draft of the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC)

**DELHI**

<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>
Arvind Kejriwal	Anil Baijal

**64th Foundation Day Celebrations of Lalit Kala Akademi**

- The National Academy of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi(LKA), established in 1954 by the then Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, celebrated its 64th Foundation Day, today the 6th August, 2018. The event was inaugurated by Minister of State for Culture (I/c), Dr. Mahesh Sharma.

**Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs Launches official Trailer Of Film “Halkaa”**

- Shri Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs launched the official trailer, music and poster of Bollywood film “Halkaa” under the aegis of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), in New Delhi.

**Government asks citizens not to use plastic national flags**

- 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.

**Inauguration of architectural illumination at the historic Red Fort**

- The historic Red Fort came alive as it saw the first ever architectural illumination of its front fortification wall and the two important gateways Lahori Gate and Delhi Gate.

**India's First tribal Language to have Wikipedia Edition in Own Script**

- Santhali (Santali), a tribal language primarily spoken in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, received global recognition when it got a Wikipedia edition in its own script.

**Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates NDMC Smart City projects**

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a slew of Smart City projects undertaken by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) will help New Delhi emerge as a world class city.

**Handfan "Pankha" made by tribals for invitees**

- In a unique initiative, Trifed has supplied the handfans "Pankha" to Ministry of Defence for those invitees who will attend the Independence Day flag hosting ceremony at Red Fort in Delhi.

**Centre says Kerala floods 'calamity of severe nature'**

- The Centre has said that the Kerala floods were a "calamity of severe nature for all practical purposes", keeping in view the intensity and magnitude of the floods and landslides.

**Compulsory genetic screening of pregnant women to curb genetic disorders**

- The Centre has prepared a draft policy proposing compulsory genetic screening of all pregnant women to prevent inherited disorders such as thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia, along with putting in place advanced facilities for comprehensive care of such patients.

**'State can stop voluntary retirement of doctors'**

- The State can stop government doctors from taking voluntary retirement in public interest, the Supreme Court has ruled. The fundamental right to retire is not above the right to save lives in a country.

**Government imposes standard environment clearing conditions for 25 sectors**

- The government has imposed standard conditions for as many as 25 sectors like steel, coal and oil, seeking environment clearance (EC) for expansion of existing projects or new projects.

**Charging Stations for e-Vehicles**

- Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Anant G. Geete inaugurated two charging stations, one for fast charging (DC) and the other for slow charging (AC), in Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi. Fast charging stations have been installed by BHEL and six slow charging stations have been installed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).

**New office building of CCI**

- Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs inaugurated the new office building of Competition Commission of India (CCI).

**Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)**

- Union Minister for HRD, Shri Prakash Javadekar and Union Minister of State for HRD, Dr. Satya Pal Singh launched the Innovation Cell and Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) at AICTE, New Delhi.

**KARNATAKA**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Bengaluru	H. D. Kumaraswamy	Vajubhai Vala

**Five research centres coming up at AIISH**

- Five exclusive research centres coming up on the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) Mysuru campus to boost research in the areas of communication and its disorders.

**Launches pilot drone project**

- Karnataka has now joined the ranks of States that are using unmanned aerial systems (UAS) or drones in governance. The State launched a pilot project under which drones will be used in agriculture, urban development and policing.

**Yoga classes now a must in all Karnataka colleges, universities**

- It will be mandatory for all colleges and universities across the State to ensure that yoga is taught in their institutions. This will apply to private colleges too.

**Memorial to be inaugurated on August 9**

- ‘Independent India – 70’, a memorial to commemorate the 70th Independence Day, by Mallasajjana Vyayamashala in front of Gandhi Bhavan here, will be inaugurated on August 9, coinciding with the Quit India Movement.

**State's first seawater desalination plant starts**

- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., (MRPL), has begun preparatory work for the State's first seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant land leased out by New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT).

**Cabinet approves loan waiver of up to Rs.1 lakh from coop. banks**

- The State Cabinet approved waiver of short-term crop loans up to Rs.1 lakh borrowed from cooperative banks in the first phase.

**Fall Armyworm infestation spreading across Karnataka**

- The infestation of Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), an invasive agricultural pest that was first noticed in Shivamogga district in May this year, is spreading at an alarming pace in Karnataka.



**Second fastest growing airport in world**

- The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has emerged as the second fastest growing airport in the world in the first half of 2018 in terms of actual growth in number of passengers.

**India Post Payment Bank to be launched on Sept. 1**

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a subsidiary of India Post, will have its presence in Dakshina Kannada from September 1

**KERALA**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	P. Sathasivam

**Sampushta Keralam, will be launched on October 15, World Food Day**

- Kerala will launch a national nutrition mission with the specific aims of improving nutrition, preventing obesity, and promoting breastfeeding in the State.

**‘Festival on Democracy’**

- The President will inaugurate ‘Festival on Democracy’ to mark the conclusion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Legislative Assembly in Kerala.

**Kerala start-ups bag seed funding**

- Three start-ups mentored by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) have bagged a seed funding of up to Rs.25 lakh each in the India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) 2.0 held in New Delhi.

**UN team to look into tie-up in two sectors**

- United Nations to check the possibilities of collaboration with the State in cashew and fisheries sectors.

**Cyclone Warning Centre to be set up in Thiruvananthapuram**

- The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences is proposing to set up a Cyclone Warning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram within a month.

**ICOMOS launches initiative to save cultural heritage damaged in flood-hit Kerala**

- The International Council on Monuments and Sites [ICOMOS], a global monument conservation body, has launched an initiative to assess the damage to the rich cultural and built heritage in flood-devastated Kerala and set up an emergency response platform.

**Quasi-judicial tribunal with specific terms**

- The Kerala Flood victims' Compensation (Finalisation) Tribunal Scheme, put forward by the United Democratic Front (UDF) to ensure handling of calamity relief in a transparent and non-political manner.

**Air Traffic Services established in Kannur airport**

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) established Air Traffic Services at the Kannur international airport to help calibrate the latest generation of Instrument Landing System (ILS) procured from Norway to guide aircraft to precision landing.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel

**M.P. seeks revival of cheetah reintroduction project**

- The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the State's Nauradehi sanctuary.

**MAHARASHTRA**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

**Tata-Centre deal to boost development**

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has signed a pact with Mumbai-based Tata Trusts, under which the trust will provide technical support to speed up the development process of the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.

**Emergency measures to tackle pink bollworm**

- The Maharashtra government has announced emergency measures to tackle the widespread pink bollworm (PBW) infestation in parts of the State to monitor relief measures and minimise economic losses to farmers.

**State banking services to move to IPPBs**

- The Maharashtra government is likely to move its banking services to the newly-launched India Post Payments Banks (IPPBs).

**ODISHA**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Dr S.C. Jamir

**Odisha CM launches health scheme for 70 lakh families**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, a health for all scheme, on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day. The scheme provides health assurance coverage to 70 lakh families, covering more than 70% of the State's population.

**Odisha to showcase its biodiversity**

- The Odisha government is setting up a world-class interpretation centre at Dangamal near Bhitarkanika National Park to showcase its efforts in protecting crocodiles and preserving its rich mangrove diversity.

**Odisha to get Legislative Council**

- Odisha is all set to get a Legislative Council like several other States in the country was approved at a Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

**Odisha to come up with single revenue code**

- The Odisha government has proposed to come up with a single revenue code by merging various revenue laws enacted at different point in times.

**Inauguration of National Skill Training Institute**

- First-ever National Skill Training Institute(NSTI)'s Mancheswar Campus, Bhubaneswar was inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

**PUNJAB**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V. P. Singh Badnore

**‘TuMera Buddy’ programme**

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched the ‘TuMera Buddy’ programme to tackle the problem of drugs in the State.

**Punjab cabinet approves bill for price stabilisation fund**

- The Punjab cabinet approved a bill for creation of a price stabilisation fund which will ensure state farmers get minimum support price (MSP).

**Life sentence for sacrilege of religious texts**

- Punjab state Assembly unanimously passed Bills for an amendment to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) to make sacrilege of all religious texts punishable with life imprisonment.

**RAJASTHAN**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Jaipur	Vasundhara Raje	Kalyan Singh

**Rajasthan government approves setting up of 55 POCSO courts**

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje approved a proposal to set up 55 courts under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the state.

**New breastfeeding policy comes into effect**

- 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 initiative has been taken as part of the National Nutrition Mission-2022.

**Human chain formed on Rajasthan border**

- As part of the 'Shahadat Ko Salam' (A salute to martyrdom) programme, a record 700-km-long human chain was formed in Rajasthan's four border districts Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Sriganganagar as a tribute to the martyrs on the eve of the Independence Day.

**Rajasthan CM unveils welfare steps, extends milk scheme**

- Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje unveiled a slew of welfare measures, including extension of the Annapurna milk scheme for schoolchildren, allocation of funds for new infrastructure and interest subsidy on farmers and to celebrate September as ‘nutrition month’.

**Jaipur man back from Pakistan after 36 years**

- After spending 36 years in Lahore’s Kot Lakhpat jail, Gajanand Sharma, a labourer from Jaipur returned home.

**Bhamashah Techno Hub**

- India’s Largest Business Incubator Bhamashah Techno Hub Launched In Jaipur

**Monitoring of nutrition to go hi-tech**

- Monitoring of nutrition and health-related services in the Anganwadi centres will go hi-tech in Rajasthan during September, which will be observed as a “nutrition month”.

**TAMILNADU**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit

**‘Red Fort’ at Madras Medical College to reopen as museum**

- The 121-year-old heritage building, which is currently being restored to its old glory, will soon turn into a museum.

**Bharti to boost optical fibre network in T.N.**

- Bharti Airtel plans to expand its optical fibre footprint in Tamil Nadu.

**First government-trained non-Brahmin priest**

- Marichamy, a first non-Brahmin to come out of a state-run archaka training centre and appointed as priest by the State's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.

**Wildlife census begins at Sathyamangalam reserve**

- The biannual six-day wildlife monitoring exercise, using the Android-based mobile application, began at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR)

**'Kalaigiar' M. Karunanidhi passes away**

- 'Kalaigiar' M. Karunanidhi, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief, passes away aged 94.

**Solar-powered houses to Sri Lankan repatriates**

- The State government has decided to provide 1,000 solar-powered houses to repatriates from Sri Lanka living in the State.

**Sportspersons to get 2% sub-quota in government jobs**

- CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced a 2% sub-quota in select government jobs for sportspersons who win medals at national-level games or in events organised by the State government.

**Genetic resource tree park opened**

- A forest genetic resource tree park, developed on 20 acres of land near Vandalur, was inaugurated by Minister for Forests Dindigul C. Sreenivasan. The park has 300 species of trees from both Eastern and Western Ghats.

**T.N. to harness rooftops for solar energy**

- Tamil Nadu government is planning a massive solar energy programme through setting up of grid-connected rooftop solar panels in government buildings.

**Southern Railway special train takes water to Kerala**

- Southern Railway is making arrangements to send drinking water to Kerala.

**TELANGANA**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Hyderabad	K Chandrasekhar Rao	E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan

**Telangana police get live photo search advantage**

- The integration of the Facial Recognition System (FRS) with TSCOP will aid in prevention of crime and identification of criminals across the State in real time.

**Bronze statue of Koneru Nageswara Rao unveiled**

- Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao unveiled a bronze statue of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) senior leader and former minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh late Koneru Nageswara Rao.

**Farmers to get life insurance bonds**

- Agriculture Minister P. Srinivas Reddy has said that a total of 27 lakh farmers in the State would be given life insurance bonds between August 6 and 13. This innovative scheme would come into effect from August 14 midnight.



**Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's only facility for conservation of endangered species**

- The Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), a dedicated facility of CSIR's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad uses modern biotechnologies for conservation of endangered wildlife.

**Telangana Govt launches Disaster Response Force vehicles**

- The Telangana Government has launched Disaster Response Force (DRF) vehicles in Hyderabad to combat situations like flash floods, heavy rains, building collapse and fire mishaps.

**IIT-H to incubate 50 'Make in India' startups**

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has launched Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI) with the aim to boost the Indian chip design sector.

**Record turnout at Airtel Hyderabad Marathon**

- Winning or losing did not matter to over 22,500 participants in the Airtel Hyderabad Marathon held in Hyderabad.

**Centre sanctions Rs.63-cr dairy project for Karimnagar**

- The Union government has sanctioned a mega dairy project of 3 lakh litres capacity to be set up at a cost of Rs.63 crore as part of the expansion of Karimnagar Dairy run by Karimnagar Milk Producer Company Limited under the Pradhana Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana scheme.

**Kaleshwaram project: 400 kv GIS sub-station commissioned**

- The 400 kv Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) sub-station, established as part of the sixth package of Kaleshwaram project at Nandi Medaram in Peddapally district, was commissioned.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Ram Naik

**UP Defence Industrial Corridor Projects**

- Defence Minister to Launch UP Defence Industrial Corridor Projects at Aligarh.

**Inaugurates 20 Ghats in Kanpur and Bithoor**

- Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 20 newly constructed/ restored Ghats on river Ganga in Kanpur and Bithoor.

**UP government to name Bundelkhand Expressway as Atal path**

- The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name the upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway as ‘Atal Path’.

**New Home for Widows**

- Krishna Kutir, a home for 1000 widows to be inaugurated by Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi and Shri Adityanath Yogi at Vrindavan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

**WEST BENGAL**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Kolkata	Mamta Benerjee	Keshari Nath Tripathi

**Israel Opens Visa Application Centre in Kolkata**

- In an effort to encourage more Indian travellers to visit Israel, the Embassy of Israel in India has opened a Kolkata Israel Visa Application Centre for West Bengal and North Eastern states.

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## **14. International Affairs**

### **Zimbabwe election result**

- Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party has won the majority seats in parliament.

### **UAE launches amnesty scheme for overstayers**

- The UAE launched a landmark three-month visa amnesty programme that will benefit hundreds of illegal foreign workers, including Indians, who are overstaying their permits.

### **Congress passes National Defence Authorisation Act 2019 capping U.S. aid to Pakistan**

- The United States Congress has passed the National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19) which capped its security-related aid to Pakistan to \$150 million.

### **Google plans censored version of search engine in China**

- Alphabet Inc's Google is planning a censored version of its search engine for China that will block websites and certain search terms. The project is a code named "Dragonfly".

### **New gates at Attari-Wagah border soon**

- India and Pakistan are set to install new gates at the Attari-Wagah border, where people from both sides throng every evening to watch the lowering of the national flags.

### **Tropical storm hits Shanghai**

- Jongdari, which means skylark in Korean, is the 12th typhoon of the season arrived in the Chinese financial hub.

**Japan pips China to become world's second-largest stock market**

- Japan (\$6.17 trillion) has pipped China (\$6.09 trillion) as the world's number two stock market ranked after the US which is the world's largest at just over \$31 trillion.

**U.S. teacher rows solo across Atlantic Ocean**

- Bryce Carlson, a high school science teacher from Cincinnati, Ohio, has rowed solo across the Atlantic Ocean, setting a record for a west-to-east crossing – 38 days, six hours and 49 minutes.

**U.K. unveils new organ donation plan to address Indian-origin shortages**

- The U.K. government announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within Indian-origin communities in the country.

**World's first intertidal art gallery opens in Maldives**

- The Coralarium, an intertidal art gallery, filled with around 30 sculptures acting as a habitat for coral and other marine species, was opened in the Maldives.

**Syria to set up refugee committee**

- Syria's government is to set up a committee to coordinate repatriating millions of its nationals who fled the country's seven-year conflict.

**China successfully tests first hypersonic aircraft**

- China successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic aircraft (The Xingkong-2 or Starry Sky-2) which could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems.

**China's piglet stamps unveiled**

- China Post unveiled the design of a stamp due for release in 2019 – the Year of Pig. The design features a family of two smiling pigs and their three cheerful piglets.

**Brazil closes border to Venezuelans after mass crossings**

- Brazil closed its northern border to Venezuelans on Monday to slow mass migration from the South American country saddled with a crippling political and economic crisis.

**Hurricane Hector approaches Hawaii**

- Hawaii's Big Island readies as Hurricane Hector approaches

**Pakistani troops to receive training at Russian military institutes**

- Pakistan and Russia have signed an agreement to allow Pakistani troops to receive training at Russian military training institutes, a move aimed at boosting their bilateral defence ties.

**Tokyo 2020 Olympics to use facial recognition**

- Tokyo 2020 will be the first Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology to increase security around all venues.

**Saudi Arabia banned trade deals with Canada**

- Saudi Arabia has frozen ties and banned new trade deals with Canada after Canada urged the release of jailed civil rights activists.

**U.S. to impose new sanctions on Russia**

- Washington would impose fresh sanctions on Russia after it determined that Moscow had used a nerve agent against a former Russian agent and his daughter in Britain.

**Indonesian island lifted 10 inches by deadly quake**

- Scientists say the powerful Indonesian earthquake that killed more than 300 people lifted the island it struck by as much as 25 centimeters (10 inches).

**Australia recommences its adoption programme**

- The Government of Australia has decided to recommence the Adoption Programme with India, as per Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption.

**Cambodia's ruling party wins all parliamentary seats**

- Cambodia's ruling Cambodian People's Party won all 125 parliamentary seats in a general election, the president of the National Election Committee (NEC) on August 15.

**China challenges U.S. tariffs at WTO**

- China has blasted U.S. tariffs on solar panel imports, filing a complaint at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the latest salvo of the trade battle between the world's two economic giants.

**Russia comes to the aid of China farmers**

- As the trade war between China and the U.S. escalates, Russia is coming to Beijing's rescue by offering a million hectares of land suitable for cultivating soybeans and other agri-products.

**Toxic algal bloom plagues Florida's Gulf Coast**

- Red tide, a naturally occurring toxic algae bloom that can be harmful to people with respiratory problems has spread throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Red tide happens due to the presence of nutrients in the water and an organism called a dinoflagellate.

**Transgender candidate wins U.S. primary**

- Christine Hallquist won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in the U.S. State of Vermont, becoming the nation's first transgender Governor.

**Pakistan MPs endorse Imran Khan as PM**

- Pakistani lawmakers elected former cricket star and longtime politician Imran Khan as the country's next prime minister, in a step toward the country's third civilian transfer of power.

**Ten-day festival of historic Esala Maha Perehera begins**

- In Sri Lanka, the ten-day festival of the historic Esala Maha Perehera began in Kandy with a grand procession. The Esala Perahera is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals in Sri Lanka.

**UAE formed an emergency committee to help Kerala flood victims**

- The United Arab Emirates has formed an emergency committee under the leadership of the Emirates Red Crescent to help victims of the floods in Kerala.

**Saudi Arabia prepares for the annual Muslim hajj pilgrimage**

- Saudi Arabia is preparing to host the annual hajj pilgrimage beginning, as over 1.6 million Muslim faithful from abroad have arrived in the ultraconservative kingdom.

**Kofi Annan dies at 80**

- Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of United Nations, dies at 80

**Imran Khan seeks British PM May's help**

- Imran Khan has sought UK's help to combat the menace of money laundering during a conversation with his British counterpart Theresa May.



**New York hosts US celebration of Indian independence**

- New York City is hosting the largest annual celebration of Indian independence outside of India.

**Russia invites Taliban to Afghanistan talks**

- Russia said it was preparing international peace talks on Afghanistan on September 4 and has invited the Taliban

**9th edition of Mountain Echoes Literature Festival**

- In Bhutan, the ninth edition of Mountain Echoes Literature Festival began in Thimphu

**Pakistan Cabinet bans first class air travel by Pakistan President, PM**

- Pakistan's new government has banned the discretionary use of state funds and first-class air travel by officials and leaders, including the President and the Prime Minister.

**First anniversary of Myanmar military crackdown on Rohingya Muslims**

- Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees staged angry protests for “justice” on the first anniversary of a Myanmar military crackdown that sparked a mass exodus to camps in Bangladesh.

**Pakistan's new govt bans VIP protocol to ‘influential people’ at airports**

- Pakistan has banned the VIP culture at airports for “influential people” including politicians, judges and military officials as part of the new government's austerity plan.

**India, Pakistan to resume talks on Indus Waters Treaty**

- India and Pakistan will resume their talks on various aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty in Lahore, the first bilateral engagement since Prime Minister Imran Khan took office.

**‘Jaipur Foot’ camp in Hanoi**

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated a ‘Jaipur Foot’ camp in Hanoi and met with 500 Vietnamese beneficiaries of the free India-made prosthetic limb.

**U.S. team to study Kerala flood impact**

- A team of scientists from the U.S.-based Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association is arriving on September 3 to investigate the impact of the torrential rains that wreaked havoc across Kerala.

**Robot teachers in China’s kindergartens**

- The autonomous robot named Keeko has been a hit in several kindergartens, telling stories and challenging children with logic problems.

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## 15. Sports

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### FOOT BALL

#### **Gerard Pique confirms retirement**

- Barcelona defender Gerard Pique confirmed that he has retired from Spain's football national team.

#### **Lionel Messi won his 33rd title with Barcelona**

- Barcelona beat Sevilla 2-1 in the Spanish Super Cup as Messi overtook Andres Iniesta, who had 32 titles.

#### **Atletico lift UEFA Super Cup**

- Atletico Madrid beat Real Madrid 4-2 to lift the UEFA Super Cup.

### CRICKET

#### **U-19 Cricket One day Series**

- India beat Sri Lanka to win the U-19 five-match one day series 3-2.

#### **Anderson scores a century**

- England pace bowler James Anderson became the first man to take 100 Test wickets at Lord's. Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, the world's leading Test wicket-taker, is the only other bowler to capture 100 wickets at a single venue.

**Irfan breaks T20 record**

- Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Irfan bowled the most economical spell in Twenty20 history with figures of four overs, three maidens, with two wickets for one run.

**Quadrangular Cricket Series**

- India-B beat Australia-A in the final to clinch the Quadrangular cricket Series.

**TENNIS****ITF men's Futures tennis tournament**

- Niki Poonacha beat Michael Look of Australia in the final of the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament in Indonesia.

**Cincinnati Tennis**

- Novak Djokovic finally clinched the title missing from his resume with a win over Roger Federer to win in Cincinnati and become the first player to complete the sweep of Masters series tournaments.

**HOCKEY****Women's Hockey World Cup**

- Ireland won 3-1 in the shootout against India to reach the semi finals in Women's Hockey World Cup.

**SHOOTING****Shooting World Cup in 2020**

- New Delhi to host shooting World Cup in 2020

## **Other Sports**

### **Asian Nations Cup chess tournament**

- The men won the silver while the women claimed the bronze in the classical event. The Indian women struck gold in the blitz event.

### **World Badminton Championship**

- Carolina Marin the Spaniard became the first woman to win three badminton World titles with an emphatic victory over P.V. Sindhu of India in Women's World Badminton Championship, China.
- Kento Momota became the first Japanese man to win the badminton World Championships in World Badminton Championship, China.

### **Maiden European Tour Golf title for Bhullar**

- India's Gaganjeet Bhullar won the Fiji International Golf title.

### **Thomas won in the World Golf Championships**

- Justin Thomas won the World Golf Championships (WGC) Bridgestone Invitational golf.

### **European Championships**

- 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.

### **Neeraj named flag-bearer for Asian Games opening ceremony**

- Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was named the Indian contingent's flag-bearer for the Asian Games opening ceremony to be held on August 18 in Jakarta.

**Paris Gay Games**

- The Gay Games which are under way in Paris are not just a chance to celebrate sport and diversity: they offer crucial respite to gay athletes forced to hide their sexuality in their home countries.

**Vietnam Open badminton championship**

- Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram finishes runner-up at the Vietnam Open after losing the final to Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia in Ho Chi Minh City.

**Youngest Indian to win an Asian Golf Tour title**

- Viraj Madappa, the 20-year-old becomes the youngest Indian to win an Asian Golf Tour title.

**Vaishali is Woman Grandmaster**

- Seventeen-year-old R. Vaishali, elder sister of R. Praggnanandhaa, became a Woman Grandmaster, completing her final norm in the Riga Technical University Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia.

**Golf PGA Championship**

- Brooks Koepka won the 100th PGA Championship beating Tiger Woods.

**SAI to protect trainees from sexual harassment**

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has initiated firm steps aimed at protecting girl athletes from falling prey to sexual harassment at the hands of their coaches.

**Nihal Sarin becomes India's 53rd Grandmaster**

- Nihal Sarin became India's 53rd Grandmaster after attaining his third and final GM-norm in the Abu Dhabi Masters

**UAE is Asia Cup venue**

- The tournament will be held from September 15 to 28 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

**Mavlankar championship returns to Tamil Nadu**

- The All-India G.V. Mavlankar shooting championship, a qualification event for Nationals, returns to Tamil Nadu after a gap of 14 years.

**Asian Games 2018**

- The 18th Asian Games, the biggest multi-sport event after the Olympics, begins in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia.
- **Wrestler Bajrang** wins India's **first gold medal** in the **65kg freestyle wrestling** competition at **Asian Games 2018**.

**Bronze in rifle mixed team**

- India opened its account in the 18th Asian Games with a bronze medal after Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar cracked under pressure to finish third in the rifle mixed team shooting event.

**Comfortable win for Raghul**

- Raghul Rangasamy won the first race of the MRF F1600 class in the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship at the MMRT.

**Kho-Kho gets recognition from Olympic Council of Asia**

- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has given recognition to India's indigenous sport of Kho-Kho.

**Swiss league of the fifth Carrom World Cup**

- Kajal Kumari wins combined Swiss league in Carrom World Cup. Rashmi Kumari, Kajal Kumari and S.Apoorva helped India beat Sri Lanka in the team championship final of the fifth Carrom World Cup.

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