

NATIONAL AFFAIRS**Government notifies 8.65% interest rate for EPFO members**

- Government has approved 8.65 per cent interest rate on deposits in Employees Provident Fund for 2018-19.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified 8.65 per cent rate of interest on EPF deposits for its over six crore subscribers.

INTERNATIONAL**PM Modi & Mongolian President to unveil Lord Buddha's statue at Gandan Monastery**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga will jointly unveil the Lord Buddha's statue at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar through video-conferencing.
- The Mongolian President arrived in New Delhi is on a five-day state visit to India. India and Mongolia had established a Strategic Partnership in 2015. The partnership between the countries which is based on the ideals of freedom and democracy and on a strong foundation of shared Buddhist heritage, has seen considerable progress during the last few years.

55th ITEC Day celebrated in Dhaka

- The 55th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day was celebrated at the High Commission of India in Dhaka, Bangladesh on September 19.
- ITEC offers opportunities to participants to avail of short and medium term courses in premier institutions like IITs and IISCs in India. It was instituted in 1964 as part of India's Development Assistance offering for developing countries.

SCIENCE**Keeladi findings traceable to 6th century BCE**

- In a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age, the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.
- This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD. The recent scientific dates obtained for Keeladi findings push back the date of Tamil-Brahmi script to another century, i.e., 6th century BCE.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**3rd Meeting of Central Advisory Board on Disability**

- The Third Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The Central Advisory Board deliberated on certain major issues in the disability sector namely, implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016, Accessible India Campaign, Unique Disability ID Project.

16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union

- The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was convened in New Delhi on 17th September, 2019.
- JEC Sessions are convened based on an agreement signed in 1990 in New Delhi. This biennial event is organized in capital cities of the three countries alternatively, and is a main vehicle for discussing economic and commercial issues between India and BLEU.

RANKINGS & INDEXES**The International Migrant Stock 2019**

- India has emerged as the leading country of origin for immigrants across the world, with 17.5 million international migrants in 2019 coming from India, up from 15.9 million in 2015, according to The International Migrant Stock Report 2019 released by the Union Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York.
- Bangladesh was the leading country of origin for migrants in India, the report stated.

India slips to 104th spot in FIFA rankings

- The Indian football team slipped a place to 104th spot in the latest FIFA rankings. Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France have surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot.

BOOKS & AUTHORS**“Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018**

- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Shri Giriraj Singh released the “Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018”, published by the Department of Fisheries of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018 is the 13th edition which presents useful statistical information for various aspects of Fisheries sector. The last (12th edition of) Handbook was published in 2014.

SCHEMES**National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme. The scheme shall be administered under the guidance of an Apex Committee constituted by MHRD.

DEFENCE**Second Scorpene submarine“KHANDERI”**

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) called ‘Ship Builder to the Nation’ delivered the second Scorpene submarine ‘KHANDERI’ to the Indian Navy at an event held in Mumbai.
- The submarine ‘KHANDERI’ is named after the wide snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean. The first Submarine Khanderi was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 06th December 1968 and decommissioned on 18th October 1989 after more than 20 years of yeoman service to the nation

Shri Rajnath Singh becomes first Defence Minister to fly ‘LCA Tejas’

- Shri Rajnath Singh has scripted history by becoming the first Defence Minister to fly the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) ‘Tejas’.
- He congratulated HAL, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for building the multi-role fighter aircraft.

NDRF set to induct women personnel

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is all set to induct women personnel in its new battalions within the next one year. The Union Government had, in 2018, made a proposal to attach women contingents to NDRF battalions in the country.

APPOINTMENTS**New Indian Air Force Chief**

- The Government has appointed Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria as the next Chief of Air Staff (CAS). He will take over on September 30 and will have a two-year tenure. He had played a key role in the negotiations for the deal with France for 36 Rafale jets.

AWARDS**National Geoscience Awards**

- The National Geoscience Awards for the year 2018 for outstanding contributions in the field of geosciences, mining and allied areas were presented to twenty-two scientists from across the country
- Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), received the Award for Excellence for his significant global contributions in the field of aquatic biogeochemical research.
- Dr. Sohini Ganguly, of Goa University was conferred with the Young Scientist Award-2018 for her significant work in the fields of petrology, volcanology and geochemistry.

SPORTS**Tamil Nadu became the first team' to enter semifinal of 25th Senior Women's National Football C'ship**

- Tamil Nadu has become the first team to enter the semi final of the 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship being held in Arunachal Pradesh. In the first quarter final match in Pasighat, Tamil Nadu beat Madhya Pradesh comfortably by 4-2.

Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics winning their respective quarterfinal matches in World Wrestling Championships at Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan.

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