WEEKLY

8TH JULY TO 14TH JULY 2018

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Awards & Honours

Awards for Station Beautification competition

- The Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal distributed awards to winning stations of Station Beautification competition in Rail Bhawan.
- Balharshah & Chandrapur Railway Stations of Central Railway have been awarded the first position and cash prize of 10 lakh.
- Total 62 entries were evaluated on the basis of a number of criteria including the depiction of local subjects, culture & themes.

T.K Chand gets knowledge excellence award

- Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand received the Knowledge Excellence Award from Secretary, Mines, Govt. of India for Outstanding Contribution in Aluminium Knowledge domain.
- Chand is an Indian mining veteran and is the Chairman cum Managing Director of National Aluminium Company (NALCO).
- NALCO is the largest integrated aluminium unit in Asia and is also one of the largest aluminium complexes of the world.

Days & Events

World Population Day

- World Population day is an annual event, observed on July 11 every year, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues.
- This year, the theme for the World Population Day is 'Family Planning is a Human Right'.
- According to UN, China with 1.4 billion & India with 1.3 billion people are the 2 most populous countries, contributing to 19% & 18% of the global population respectively.

India to hold first ever India Tourism Mart

- To increase tourist footfalls, India will organise its first-ever India Tourism Mart for 3 days from September 16 in New Delhi.
- It is expected to provide a platform for all stakeholders in the tourism & hospitality industry to interact & create business opportunities.
- It will be organised by the Tourism Ministry, in partnership with Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality.

Varanasi to host Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019

- The next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January 2019.
- The theme of the event, which is being organised in PM Modi's parliamentary constituency, will be the 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India'.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is observed biennially on 9
 January to mark the contribution of the overseas
 Indian community towards development of India.

International Day of Remembrance

- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations International observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.
- The day honours and remembers those who suffered and died as a consequence of the transatlantic slave trade.
- The 2018 theme was 'Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality'.

World Sanskrit Conference in Vancouver, Canada

- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar will inaugurate the 17th World Sanskrit Conference to be held at Vancouver, Canada from 9th to 13th July, 2018.
- The conference aims to promote, preserve & practice the Sanskrit language all over the world by the people.
- World Sanskrit Conference is being held in various countries across the globe once in every 3 years & so far it has been held thrice in India.

International Affairs

First-ever global compact for migration

- For the first time ever, United Nations member states, except the U.S., have agreed on a deal to better manage international migration, address its challenges, strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development.
- Known as the Global Compact for Migration, the agreement will be formally adopted by world leaders in Morocco in December.

UN Panel On Digital Cooperation

- UN chief Antonio Guterres has established a first-ofits-kind panel on digital cooperation aimed at addressing concerns of cybersecurity threats and rise in hate speech.
- The high-level panel on digital cooperation will be co-chaired by Melinda Gates and Jack Ma.
- It will have 20 members in total and include leaders from industry, civil society and academia.

Iceland takes up US seat at UN rights council

- Iceland was elected to take up the seat left vacant at the United Nations Human Rights Council after the United States quit the body.
- In a vote at the General Assembly, Iceland picked up 172 votes during a secret ballot as the candidate put forward by the regional grouping for that seat.



 Iceland will occupy the seat vacated by the US for the remainder of the current term.

Portugal approves new gender change law

- The Portuguese parliament approved a law that will allow citizens to change their gender and name from the age of 16 without a medical report showing "identity disruption".
- Portugal joins Denmark, Malta, Sweden, Ireland and Norway to become "the sixth European country to grant the right to self-determination of transgender identity.

Canada to command new NATO training Centre

- Canada has announced that it will assume command of a new NATO training and capacity building mission in Iraq.
- Canadian troops will be deployed in the Baghdad region to help Iraq build a more effective national security structure and improve training of security forces.
- Canada is part of the US-led coalition fighting the ISIS is contributing air power & helping in training Iragi forces.

UK to double number of troops in Afghanistan

- UK government is set to almost double the number of its troops in Afghanistan to help tackle the fragile security situation in Afghanistan.
- The additional forces will take part in a Nato-led training mission, called Resolute Support, to train & assist Afghan forces.
- They will be based in Kabul and will not be in a combat role. Britain ended combat operations in 2014.

UNSC adopts resolution to protect children

- UN Security Council has adopted resolution 2427 aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.
- The resolution won unanimous approval of 15 members of the council.
- The resolution strongly condemns the recruitment & use of children by parties to the armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment.

China pledges 20 bn in loans for Arab states

- China will provide Arab states with \$20 billion in loans for economic development, as China seeks to build its influence in Middle East.
- The money will be earmarked for projects that will produce employment opportunities & positive social impact in Arab States.
- China is also prepared to provide another 1 billion yuan to countries in the region to build capacity for stability maintenance.



Jeremy Hunt named UK foreign secretary

- Jeremy Hunt will replace Boris Johnson as the U.K. foreign secretary following Johnson's resignation.
- Hunt had served as health minister for more than 5 and half years, the longest term in the history of the State-funded National Health Service.



China is Building World's Fastest Wind Tunnel

- China is building the world's fastest hypersonic wind tunnel to develop a new generation of super-fast aeroplanes that could fly from Beijing to New York within two hours.
- Wind tunnel is a tool used in aerodynamic research to study the effects of air moving past solid objects, which is used by engineers to test models of aircraft, automobiles and other machines.

Turkey sacks 18,500 state employees

- Turkish authorities have ordered the dismissal of more than 18,500 state employees over alleged links to terrorist organisations.
- The people have been sacked as part of a crackdown following a failed military coup two years ago.
- Turkey has been under a state of emergency since July 2016 following an attempted overthrow of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government.

National Affairs

IR Installs Automatic Train Washing System

- An automatic train washing system has been installed by Northern Railways at Hazrat Nizamuddin station in Delhi.
- This move of govt promotes minimum quantity of water, soap and disinfectants and is eco-friendly.
- It is said that this would save 1,24,000 litres of water per day and more depots will be constructed in the future.

NGT to hear pleas via videoconference

- In a bid to tackle vacancies at the regional Benches of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the green panel is set to start hearing matters of the other Benches via videoconferencing.
- The NGT has been functioning with less than onethird of its sanctioned strength of 20 judicial and expert members.
- It is only an interim arrangement till all the members are available.

PM Modi begins his two-day visit to UP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins his two-day visit to eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- He will lay the foundation stone of a 304km long Poorvanchal Expressway in Azamgarh that will connect Lucknow, to Barabanki, Amethi, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur districts.
- He will also lay the foundation stone of International Convention Centre in Varanasi and Namami Ganga Programme.

2nd National Tourism Conclave in Rajasthan

 The 2nd National Tourism Conclave was organised in Jaipur on 13th July 2018.

- The conclave was headed by Managing Director of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Haulianlal Guite.
- Steps such as improving intra-air connectivity to increase domestic and international tourist footfall in the state were discussed.
- Also, more projects such as "Night Tourism" were also encouraged.

Gadkari inaugurates projects in Vizag

- Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport
 Highways will inaugurate five port projects worth
 Rs 1062 Crores in Vishakhapatnam (Vizag).
- The major project to be inaugurated includes upgradation of existing iron ore handling facility at Outer Harbour of Vizag Port at a cost of Rs 580 Crores.
- This will enhance the capacity of Vizag port under Sagarmala Project..

Railways launches 1st Bridge Management System

- The Indian railways launched its first consolidated Bridge Management System (IR-BMS), a webenabled IT application to store data on its 1.5 lakh bridges.
- The web-based platform will show the bridge master data, works data, information regarding inspection and maintenance of the bridges.
- The platform is a step towards dissemination of information related to bridge activities.

World Bank report on Malala Day

- In a report of world bank 'Missed Opportunities: The High Cost of Not Educating Girls', not educating girls or creating barriers in their school education globally costs between USD 15 to USD 30 trillion.
- According to the report,132 million girls around the world below 17 are still not in school.
- The report was released on 12 July 2018, on the eve of United Nations Malala Day.



Seema Darshan project

 Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani has approved the Rs.39 Cr Seema Darshan project for developing more infrastructure facilities at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district.



- The project is being developed on Wagah Border pattern & entails a parade ground with an amphitheatre.
- The project will encourage local economic activity in the Rann region & tourists can have a good view of the coastline.

CRPF inks MoU with IRCTC

- CRPF signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IRCTC to usher in the easy & fast ebooking of railway tickets system.
- The e-ticketing will replace the earlier system of railway warrant which was cumbersome and is in line with the e-governance policy of the government.
- The CRPF is the paramilitary force that was raised in 1939 to handle internal security issues & anti-Naxal missions.

Maharashtra Bans Plastic BagChandrababu Naidu to launch "Anna canteen"

- Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu launched Anna canteens in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh as a tribute to father-in-law and Telugu Desam Party founder NTR.
- A total of 203 such canteens will come up across the state's 110 municipalities in phases.
- NGO Akshaya Patra will manage state-run canteens and the scheme will reach out to over 2 lakh people per day.

Kolkata gets all women police squad

- The Kolkata Police has commissioned its exclusive women squad "The Winners" to combat crime on women across the metropolitan city.
- The new batch of policewomen would be deployed at specific places to move where civilian women face danger from possible assault and criminal attacks.
- Keshari Nath Tripathi is the current governor of West Bengal.

India's first internet telephony service'

- BSNL has unveiled 1st internet telephony service in India that will allow users to dial any telephone number in India through its mobile app, "Wings".
- Before this, phone calls on mobile apps was possible within users of a particular app & not on telephone numbers.
- BSNL customers will be able to make calls on any network in the country even by using BSNL Wi-Fi or any other service provider.

INS Sumitra enters port of Sabang

- Indian naval ship INS Sumitra became the first-ever warship to enter port of Sabang in Indonesia.
- The warship was deployed in Malacca Straits.
- Sabang port is located close to the northern entrance of the Malacca straits.

• Almost 40% of India's trade passes through Malacca which is one the busiest shipping routes.

5 new languages for Rajya Sabha members

- Members of the Rajya Sabha can now speak in any of the 22 Scheduled Languages from the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning on July 18th, 2018.
- The simultaneous interpretation facility has been added in 5 more languages - Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali & Sindhi.
- Of the 22 scheduled languages, Rajya Sabha had earlier established simultaneous interpretation service for 12 languages.

Railways introduces double container service

- In a bid to capture lost traffic & to enhance its freight revenue, Indian Railways has introduced Double Stack Dwarf container services.
- The containers are shorter in size and can run on electrified tracks. They can hold a capacity of 30,500 kgs.
- By using the dwarf containers, the cost will be significantly reduced since rail transport is cheaper than road.

Microsoft signs MoU with Rajasthan Government

- Microsoft signed a MoU with the Rajasthan Government to provide free digital training to 9,500 college students in one year.
- The initiative was taken for the enhancement of digital learning and capacity building of college students in the state.
- The company will run MS office specialist training programme in 50 government colleges from August which will benefit 9,500 students.

'One farmer one transformer' scheme

- In order to reduce electricity losses, the Maharashtra government will launch a new scheme allocating one transformer per farmer.
- The scheme, "one farmer one transformer", will be unveiled on August 15.
- Two lakh farmers will be given electricity connection for high voltage distribution line which will ensure uninterrupted power supply.

Gujarat's Jews gets religious minority status

- The Gujarat government has granted religious minority status to the Jewish community in the state.
- The notification to this effect was issued on July 6 by the state's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- They shall get benefits of welfare schemes formulated for religious minority communities within the jurisdiction of Gujarat.

Private hospitals to provide free treatment



- The Supreme Court said all private hospitals in Delhi must provide free treatment to certain percentage of poor patients.
- Providing treatment to the poor was one of the clauses in the lease deed due to which land was given to hospitals at a very cheap price.
- The Supreme Court will monitor the functioning of private hospitals to ensure that the poor patients are treated free of cost.

ADB approves USD 503 mln lining project

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 503-million lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar.
- This project will bring immense benefits to the agriculture sector of Shahabad Bhojpur region of Bihar.
- The estimated cost of this project is USD 503 million out of which USD 352 million is being provided by ADB.

Institution of eminence status

- Prakash Javadekar has released list of 6 institutes, 3 in public & 3 in private sector, which have been accorded the status of Institution of Eminence by the government.
- In the public sector, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay & IISc Bangalore have been granted the status.
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education, BITS Pilani & Jio Institute have been granted institution of eminence tag in the private sector.

Government sets noise standards for airports

- The Union Environment Ministry has set noise standards for airports across the country, excluding defence aircraft, and those that are landing and taking off.
- A civil airport with more than 50,000 aircraft movements per year should not exceed noise levels beyond 75 dB(A) Leq (decibels) during the daytime.
- It should not exceed 65 dBA during the night.

Bengaluru citizens against CM HD proposal

- The citizens of Bengaluru came out in large numbers to protest against the construction of steel flyover.
- People are against the CM HD Kumaraswamy's proposal to construct six interconnected elevated corridors in the coming 4 years.
- The project will be taken up through Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited and will cost around Rs. 15, 825 crores.

Rajnath to chair 2-day plenary meet

 A 2-day plenary meeting of NE Council will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in Shillong.

- He will discuss development projects with the Governors and CM of northeast states in the presence of Union Minister for Development of NE Region.
- Some of the major issues set to be discussed at the meet would be water resources management, POSHAN Abhiyan, road connectivity, and more.



Low rainfall slows sowing of cotton, paddy

- Rice-growing Odisha, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh have witnessed rain deficiency which has left an adverse impact on the sowing areas of paddy.
- Rice and cotton are the most affected crops because of the below-normal rainfall.
- The country's largest producer of rice, West Bengal received 22% below-normal rainfall, while Odisha and Chhattisgarh received 30% and 21% less rains till July 6.

Bills of Rs 29.41 crore raised by IAF

- Over Rs, 29.41 crores were spent to ferry the newlyissued Rs 500 and Rs 2000 currency notes after demonetisation using Indian Air Force's ultra-modern transport aircraft.
- IAF aircrafts C-17 and the C-130J Super Hercules undertook 91 sorties for transporting the currency.
- RBI had spent Rs 7,965 crore in 2016-17 postdemonetisation for printing the new Rs 2000 and Rs 500 notes.

Tenth edition of Delhi dialogue

- India will held the 10th edition of Delhi Dialogue on 19-20 July 2018.
- It is a premier annual event to discuss politicosecurity, economic and socio-cultural engagement with ASEAN members.
- RCEP is a free trade area consisting of 10 ASEAN members and six FTA partners which includes India.

Indian railways to launch special train

- The Indian Railways is planning to launch a tourist train, Sri Ramayana Express, which will cover all locations associated with the Ramayana.
- The train will run from Ayodhya (UP) to Colombo (Sri Lanka) via Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu).
- The train will begin from Safdarjung station and its first stop will be in Ayodhya, the birthplace of the Hindu Lord Ram.

National Testing Agency to conduct NEET, JEE

- Newly formed National Testing Agency would now conduct the national-level examinations — NET, NEET, JEE (Mains) that were organised by Central Board of Secondary Education.
- The National Eligibility Test (NET) would be conducted in December & JEE (Mains) twice a year, in January and April.
- NTA would also conduct National Eligibility cum Entrance Test Common Management Admission Test (CMAT).

Round Table Conference on Data for New India

- The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation will organise a 2 day International Round Table Conference at New Delhi.
- The objective of the conference is to identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in India, taking cue from the best practices followed in advanced countries.
- Such a Conference is being organized in India for the first time.

NITI Aayog proposes 'National Health Stack'

- NITI Aayog has unveiled the blueprint of National Health Stack, a shared digital healthcare infrastructure.
- It is in line with implementation of Centre's Ayushman Bharat & other public healthcare programmes in the country.
- It will allow policymakers to build their projections around upcoming outcomes, experiment with new services as well as fill the existing gaps in the healthcare industry.

India & World

Rule to deport if H-1B extension is rejected

- H-1B visa holders could be deported if their application for a visa extension has been rejected and the tenure of stay granted has expired.
- A policy memorandum permits the US Citizenship and Immigration Services to issue "notices to appear" (NTA) before an immigration judge.
- The individuals have to stay on in the US for several months without a job which would be troublesome financially.

Sushma Swaraj embarks two-day visit to Manama

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will today embark on a two-day visit to Manama to co-chair the second High Joint Commission meeting with her Bahraini counterpart Shaikh Al Khalifa.
- Mrs Swaraj will inaugurate the new Chancery building complex and address the Indian community.
- The visit is expected to provide an opportunity to identify new areas of cooperation between both countries.

Australia releases India economic strategy

- The Australian govt has released an India Economic strategy report recommending to lift India into its top three export markets.
- The strategy prioritizes economic and trade opportunities in India covering 10 sectors such as health, energy, infrastructure etc.
- This would also boost Australia's investment in India to \$100 billion.
- The Author of this report is Australia's PM Malcolm Turnbull.

MoU on exchange of experience by legal experts

- India and UK have signed an agreement on exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts and tribunals.
- The MoU aims to enhance the bilateral cooperation in legal affairs between the two countries.
- The two countries would also exchange information regarding current issues of international significance.

Railways to export DMU train sets to Sri Lanka

- Indian Railways is all set to establish its footprint in Sri Lanka with the export of 6 DMU (diesel multiple units) train sets consisting of 78 modern coaches worth Rs 600 crore.
- DMU train sets do not require separate locomotives as the engines are incorporated into one or more of its coaches.
- The contract will be funded under the Indian Line of Credit to Sri Lanka announced in 2011.

India-Korea technology exchange centre

 India-Korea technology exchange centre was inaugurated by MoS MSME, Giriraj Singh & Minister



- of SMEs & Start-ups of Republic of Korea, Hong Jong- hak in Delhi.
- It will work towards identifying Indian technologies which can be exported to Korea & find suitable Korean partners for the same.
- It will help SMEs of both the countries to learn from each other to enhance their comparative advantages.

MoU to boost inter-parliamentary dialogue

- For the first time, Rajya Sabha has signed a MoU with its counterpart in a foreign country, Rwanda, for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.
- The MoU, with 6 articles of cooperation, aims to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue, capacity building of parliamentary staff & organisation of conferences among others.
- M Venkaiah Naidu is the first Rajya Sabha chairman to sign such an agreement.

India and South Korea ink 11 MoUs

- India and South Korea have signed 11 MoU's during South Korean President Moon Jae-in's visit to India.
- A MoU on trade remedies was signed for cooperation in the area of trade remedies like anti-dumping, subsidy, countervailing and safeguard measures through consultations.
- A MoU on future strategy group was also inked for cooperation in the development of cutting-edge technologies.

Reduction of tariffs on Chinese imports

- India and China have reached an agreement on reduction of tariffs on Chinese imports of Indian medicines, particularly cancer drugs.
- Both India and China slashed import tariffs of a range of products starting July 1, following the 4th round of negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement.
- The agreement will also usher in great opportunities for India and other countries in the region.

Indian warship INS Trikand reaches Sri Lanka

- India's frontline warship INS Trikand has reached Sri Lanka in a goodwill visit.
- Senior Indian officers, including Lt. Colonel Ravi Shekhar Mishra held discussions on matters of mutual interest with their Lankan counterparts.
- INS Trikand is a state-of-the-art warship of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons & sensors capable of addressing threats in all 3 dimensions.

Personalities in News

Mukesh Ambani becomes Asia's richest person

- Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani has surpassed Alibaba Group's Jack Ma to become Asia's richest person.
- According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Ambani's wealth rose to \$44.3 billion while Jack Ma's wealth stood at \$44 billion.
- He is the 18th wealthiest person in the world, according to Forbes.
- Reliance is India's largest payer of GST and Income Tax in the private sector.

Arothe resigns as India women's cricket coach

- Indian Women's Cricket Team Coach Tushar Arothe has stepped down from the role citing personal reasons.
- A former batting allrounder, Arothe took over as head coach in April 2017 after the removal of Purnima Rau from the job.
- Having previously been part of the Indian women's coaching staff between 2008 and 2012, Arothe had been initially appointed until the 2017 World Cup.



Modi third most followed world leader

- According to a study conducted by Burson Cohn & Wolfe, PM Modi is the 3rd most followed world leader on Twitter with 42 million followers.
- Modi is just behind US President Donald Trump & Pope Francis.
- With over 11 million followers, India's external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj is not only the most followed female world leader & but is also the most followed foreign minister in the world.

UK's Brexit minister resigns

- Britain's Brexit minister David Davis has resigned from the Cabinet stating policy differences over PM Theresa May's exit plan from the European Union.
- It is a blow to May as she seeks to win over Eurosceptic MPs to her proposed Brexit vision, which would form the basis of UK's position in ongoing talks with EU.
- Junior minister for housing Dominic Raab will be Britain's new Brexit minister.

Siddhanta scales world's highest volcano



- Satyarup Siddhanta has become the 2nd Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in the world.
- Ojos del Salado is a stratovolcano in the Andes on the Argentina-Chile border and the highest active volcano in the world at 6,893 metres.
- Satyarup is also set to be the first Indian to climb Mt Sidley, the highest volcano of Antarctica.

PM to inaugurate statue of unity

- PM Modi will inaugurate the Statue of Unity on 31st October 2018, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The construction of the tallest statue in the world that began in December 2015, is nearly complete.
- World's tallest statue dedicated to country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabbhai Patel is being built with 5,700 Metric tonne structural steel and 1,900 MT of bronze.

Ram Vilas Paswan to attend UNCTAD meet

- Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan will attend the UNCTAD meeting of a third inter-governmental group of experts on consumer protection on July 9-10 in Geneva.
- The group has been set up under the revised UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection.
- The session will also deliberate on measures on protection of vulnerable & disadvantaged consumers.
- UNCTAD is the UN body looking after consumer issues.

South Korean President to arrive in India

- South Korean President, Moon Jae-in is on a fourday visit to India.
- During his visit, he will hold talks with PM Modi on several issues, including the situation on the Korean peninsula & ways to boost bilateral trade and defence cooperation.
- Moon's visit to India comes nearly a month after the historic summit between US President Donald Trump & North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore.

Ambani gets another 5 years as chairman

- Shareholders of Reliance Industries have approved giving Mukesh Ambani another five years as the chairman and managing director of the company.
- Ambani has been on the board of RIL since 1977 and was elevated as chairman of the company after the death of his father Dhirubhai Ambani in July 2002.
- Reliance Industries is India's second most valued firm after Tata Consultancy Services.



Environment

PepsiCo to help govt in recycling plastic

- PepsiCo India decided to support the government's implementation of extended producer responsibility for plastic waste bottles in Maharashtra.
- PepsiCo India has partnered with Gem Enviro Mgmt to set up reverse vending machines for the collection & recycling of plastic bottles in the State.
- The company has also piloted a 'Film to Fuel' project to convert packaging film waste into fuel.

16th Workshop On Greenhouse Gas Inventories

- A four-day Workshop has been organized by the Ministry of Environment, Govt of Japan from July 10 to 13, 2018 in New Delhi.
- The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Harshvardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The workshop included policy initiatives of the government to increase penetration of LEDs, 5-10% Ethanol blending in petrol.

15-point action plan to combat air pollution

 Niti Aayog has proposed a 15-point action plan to combat air pollution in 10 most polluted cities in India, including Delhi and Varanasi.



- The action plan titled 'Breathe India' includes encouraging electric vehicles, phasing out private diesel vehicle & development of crop residue utilisation policy.
- The plan includes expediting strategic decommissioning of old & inefficient power plants.

Tree wall to encircle Delhi

- A 'tree wall' of nearly 31 lakh native trees will soon encircle Delhi to protect it from dust storms coming from Rajasthan, a senior official of Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change said.
- The government has already begun work of planting saplings.
- The tree wall will come along Delhi border with Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

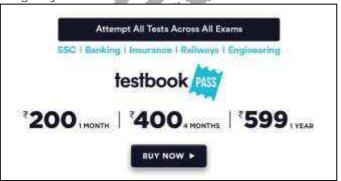
Section 144 to be used in animal emergencies

- The National Board of Wildlife has recommended that states use Section 144, which prohibits the assembly of four or more people, during wildlife emergencies.
- The provision will be used to "prevent people from gathering in large numbers, which aggravates wildlife emergency situations".
- The Centre is expected to issue advisories to the state governments regarding the recommendation.

Government Policies & Schemes

Govt launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen

- The government has launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen, which will attempt to rank all 698 districts in the country on prevalent levels of cleanliness in the rural areas.
- The parameters of assessment will be availability of toilets, usage of toilets, hygiene of toilets and status of littering among others.
- It will be done through an independent survey agency.



Use of Aadhaar only 'desirable, not must'

 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that furnishing Aadhaar as an identity proof for availing benefits of the Ayushman Bharat scheme is "desirable and not must."

- It also said that there shall be no denial of benefits for the want of Aadhaar.
- The scheme, launched under the National Health Protection Mission was announced during the 2018-19 budget and will be launched on August 15.

Aadhaar must for health mission cover

- The government has mandated the use of Aadhaar card for administering its massive Ayushman Bharat, or National Health Mission, that assures a ₹5 lakh health cover to 10 crore families.
- While possessing an Aadhaar card isn't mandatory to avail services, a proof of enrolment, or request for enrolment, is mandatory.
- The Ayushman Bharat is scheduled to roll out in August 2018.

Internet to remain free and fair in India

- Internet will remain free and fair in India as the telecom commission has approved net neutrality.
- Net neutrality requires service providers to treat all internet traffic equally & prohibits discrimination in the treatment of content.
- Some mission-critical applications or services like remote surgery and autonomous cars will, however, be kept out of the purview of net neutrality framework.

CM approves yatra scheme

- The Delhi government would send 77,000 senior citizens along with one adult attendant each on allexpenses paid pilgrimages every year.
- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal approved the Mukhyamantri Tirth yatra Yojana.
- The government would also pay for one attendant over the age of 18 years to accompany each senior citizen.
- The pilgrims would be selected through a draw of lots.

'CITIIS' Challenge Announced by MoHUA

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced a new 'Cities Investment To Innovate, Integrate and Sustain' (CITIIS) challenge to identify top projects in 15 of the 100 selected smart cities.
- The projects will receive an additional funding of approximately ₹80 crore each.
- The new funding will be financed by a €100 million loan from the French government.

Govt launches LAP and TPS for 25 smart cities

 To fast track the resolution of area based infrastructure issues, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Local Area Plan (LAP) and Town Plan Schemes (TPS) for 25 smart cities in the country.



- Under which the ministry will provide Rs 2 crore as central assistance to every city for planned urban expansion.
- The LAP and TPS has been formulated under AMRUT.

Smart Cities fellowship launched

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Smart Cities fellowship and internship programmes.
- The internship and fellowship would provide the youth with an opportunity to experience various aspects of urban planning and governance.
- The 'Interns' shall be a part of the Smart Cities Mission

51 lakh houses approved in 3 years under PMAY

- More than 51 lakh dwelling units have been sanctioned by the government under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (urban) in last 3 years.
- This jump is a huge one in comparison to the erstwhile housing scheme, under which only 12.4 lakh houses were approved in 9 years.
- Out of these 51 lakh houses, over 8 lakh houses have already been completed.

PM laid foundation for urban infra projects

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of 13 Urban Infrastructure projects for the State of Rajasthan.
- Some of the major projects are integrated infrastructure project for Udaipur, elevated road project for Ajmer and water and sewage projects.
- The Central Water Commission gave hydrological clearance to Rajasthan's first interlinking of rivers project — Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP).

Himachal banned sale of thermocol cutlery

- The Himachal Pradesh government has banned the use and sale of thermocol cutlery including cups, plates, glasses, spoons or any other item in the state.
- Those violating the order will be fined according to the quantity of the thermocol.
- The state government has set a deadline of three months for manufacturers to dispose of their stocks.

Delhi Police to control CCTV project

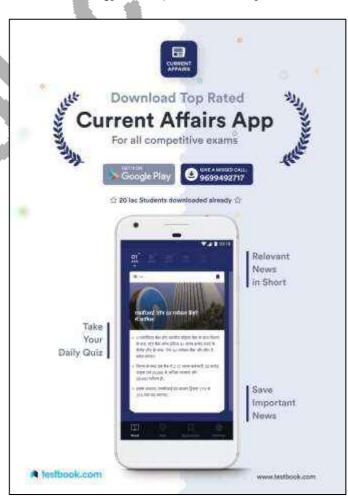
- A panel set up by Delhi L-G Anil Baijal has said Delhi government's flagship CCTV project will not be controlled by the AAP government but will be under the L-G via Delhi Police.
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal called the panel "illegal" and directed PWD Secretary Manoj Parida to propose the installation of one lakh cameras in the next cabinet meeting.

Government launches 'technology challenge'

- To eliminate human entry into septic tanks for cleaning, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a 'technology challenge' seeking suitable solutions.
- The challenge is a part of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention to be held on 2 October.
- The proposals will be adopted on the basis of operational effectiveness, life of machinery, & ease of use among others.

Subsidy on rooftop solar power installations

- Himachal Pradesh government has announced a subsidy of 10% or Rs. 4,000 per Kilowatt, whichever is less, for installation of solar power plants at the rooftop of their buildings.
- This subsidy would be additional to the subsidy given by Central government.
- The subsidy amount would be deposited directly to the bank account of the consumer through Himachal Pradesh Energy Development Authority.



Science & Technology

Gennova Bio gets patent to treat brain clots



- The Pune-based biotech company has been granted a patent in the US for its version of drug tenecteplase, to treat brain clots (ischemic stroke), the 1st ever in the world.
- In India, Gennova has already started marketing Tenectase (tenecteplase) for ischemic stroke as an alternative to drug alteplase, which reduced the cost of treatment to Rs.29000.
- The CEO of Gennova Bio is Sanjay Singh.

Century's longest lunar eclipse

- A total lunar eclipse will occur on July 27-28 with a totality duration of 1 hour 43 minutes, the longest in this century.
- In this particular eclipse, the Moon will pass through the central part of the Earth's umbral shadow.
- On July 27, the red planet Mars, will also be at opposition, meaning that the Sun and Mars will lie opposite to each other, with the Earth in the middle.

World's 1st Colour X-Ray Performed On a Human

- New Zealand scientists have performed the first-ever 3-D, colour X-ray on a human.
- The device is based on the traditional X-ray but incorporates particle-tracking technology developed for CERN's Large Hadron Collider.
- This colour X-ray imaging will produce more accurate pictures & help doctors give their patients more accurate diagnoses.
- CERN is a European Organization for Nuclear Research.

Pakistan launches 2 satellites from China

- Pakistan has launched 2 indigenously built satellites into the orbit from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China.
- One of the satellites launched is PRSS-1, a remote sensing satellite that will enable Pakistan to meet its imagery requirements in areas of land mapping & agriculture classification among others.
- It is the 2nd time both China & Pakistan have collaborated in the space sector.

Places in News

Gyan Vani an educational FM radio in Pune

- The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has started its own FM radio network Gyan Vani with the help of All India Radio (AIR).
- In this programmes like primary and secondary education, adult education, technical and vocational education, higher education is been broadcasted at 105.6 MHz.
- The educational channel is being broadcasted in English, Hindi and other regional languages.

Kochi Metro launches India's 1st AC dormitory

- Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) will open India's first exquisite air-conditioned bed space dormitory.
- The fully air-conditioned rooms are equipped with locker facility, free WiFi, round-the-clock check-in and check-out facility and security cameras.
- It was inaugurated by Kochi's Mayor Soumini Jain.
- The current governor of Kerala is P. Sathasivam

PM inaugurates new ASI headquarters

- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated
 Dharohar Bhawan the new Headquarters building of
 the Archaeological Survey of India at Tilak Marg in
 New Delhi.
- The new headquarters include a central archaeological library with a collection of about 1.5 lakh books and journals.
- ASI is responsible for archaeological research and conservation & preservation of cultural monuments in the country.

Connaught Place: 9th most costly location

- According to the report of property consultant CBRE, New Delhi's Connaught Place is the 9th most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of \$153 per sq ft.
- The ranking was topped by Hong Kong at the 1st position followed by London.
- The survey highlighted that prime office occupancy cost growth was consistent across all regions in the past 12 months.



Committees & Recommendations

Panel for automatic suspension in RS

- The rules review committee set up by Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has submitted its interim report.
- It made two key recommendations: automatic suspension of wilful offenders and changing question-hour timing.
- The two-member committee is headed by the former secretary general of Rajya Sabha V.K. Agnihotri.
- The report has to be approved by the Rules Committee of the Upper House..



Panel drafting education policy gets extension

- Union Human Resource Development Ministry has extended till August 31 the term of K Kasturirangan Committee drafting a new education policy.
- The panel headed by K Kasturirangan, the former ISRO chief, was supposed to submit its report by June 30. This is the third extension granted to the panel.
- The existing National Education Policy was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992

Business & Economy

4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals

- The Ministry of Mines organized the 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 13th July 2018 at Indore
- CM of MP, Shri Shivraj Singh was the chief guest of the conclave.
- Also, an app of NALCO NAMASYA was launched by the Ministers.
- For the first time, the conclave had an exhibition in which States put up stalls to showcase their more than 100 mineral blocks which were in the auction.

L&T to build 'tallest' govt. office building

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged a construction project to build govt office building at Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.
- The office will be the tallest government office building in India.
- The buildings will house the headquarters of the various government departments of Andhra Pradesh.
- The project has to its credit of being the 1st Steel Diagrid project with Automatic Climbing Formwork System.

PAN verification during FPI share allotment

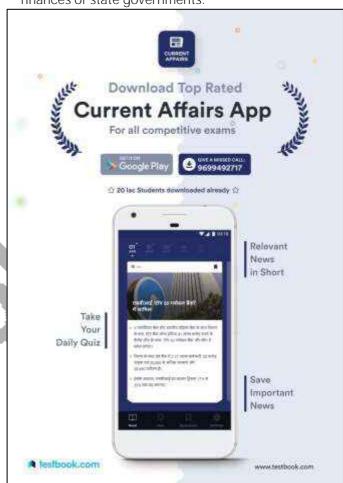
- Markets regulator SEBI has said that allotment of shares to foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in initial public offers would need to be verified with PANs.
- This step is taken as a check against any breach of investment limit through multiple entities.
- Under the rules, purchase of equity shares of each firm by a single FPI would have to be below 10% of the firm's total issued capital.

Stock brokers can't accept cash from clients

- Investors can no longer deposit cash in their broker's account to trade in stocks.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
 made it mandatory for stock brokers to accept client
 funds only by way of bank or electronic transfers
 such as cheques and mobile banking.
- The move is in line with SEBI's plans to encourage paperless and cashless stock market trading.

RBI flags States' fiscal stress

- RBI has pointed to the fiscal stress that States are facing due to several factors.
- In a report 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2017-18 and 2018-19,' RBI noted that States' consolidated gross fiscal deficit (GFD) overshot the budget estimates in 2017-18.
- The report is an annual publication that provides information, analysis and an assessment of the finances of state governments.



Inflation now at a 5-month high of 5%

- Retail inflation spiked to a five-month high of 5% in June on costlier fuel.
- The retail inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index, stood at 4.87% in May. It was 1.46% in June 2017.
- As per the data released by the Central Statistics Office, the inflation in the food basket was 2.91%, compared to 3.1% in May.

Industrial growth slips to 7-month low

- Industrial production growth slipped to a 7 month low of 3.2% in May mainly due sluggish performance of manufacturing and power sectors.
- The mining sector output recorded an impressive growth of 5.7% while the FMCG sector was the worst performer as its output declined by 2.6%.



• In terms of industries, 13 out of 23 industry groups in the manufacturing sector have shown positive growth.

Demand draft to bear name of purchaser

- RBI has directed banks to incorporate the name of purchaser in demand draft in a bid to address concerns of money laundering.
- RBI has made required changes in this regard in the KYC norms, which will come into effect from September 15.
- The step is being taken to address concerns arising out of the anonymity provided by payments through demand drafts & its possible misuse for money laundering.

Airtel Payments Bank gets RBI nod

- Airtel Payments Bank has received requisite approvals from the RBI to begin taking in new customers.
- The development comes nearly 7 months after Airtel along with Airtel Payments Bank came under fire for allegedly opening payments bank accounts of its mobile subscribers without their consent.
- UIDAI has allowed them to use the 12-digit unique identification number-based e-KYC.

SEBI to come out with consultation paper

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will soon come out with a consultation paper on making it mandatory for large corporates to meet one-fourth of their financing needs through bond market.
- SEBI will discuss with stakeholders before finalising the framework for corporates.
- SEBI is the regulator for the securities market in India and its chairman is Ajay Tyagi.

Vistara orders jets from Airbus & Boeing

- Vistara, a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and Tata Sons, on Wednesday said that it has placed a firm order with both US planemaker Boeing and European aircraft manufacturer Airbus worth \$3.1 billion
- The move is taken as an expansion of its domestic network and to mount medium to long-haul flights on international routes.
- The current CEO of Vistara is Leslie Thng.

India becomes 69th shareholder of EBRD

- India has been formally announced as the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- India has only taken a shareholding in EBRD but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing.
- London-headquartered EBRD is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the

Berlin Wall to promote private & entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe.



India's first private UAV factory

 India's first private sector unit for manufacturing unmanned air vehicles (UAV) and light bullet proof



- vehicles (LBPV) will be set up by DCM Shriram Industries Group in Kota.
- These UAVs and LBPVs are likely to be used by defence and para-military forces in the country.
- The new defence unit in Kota is being set up under 'Make in India' initiative of the union government.

Google to mentor local AI start-ups

- Google has announced 'Launchpad Accelerator India,' a mentorship program that would aim to support Indian start-ups that deploy artificial intelligence and machine learning to build solutions for local needs.
- The three-month accelerator will provide a cohort of 8-10 Indian start-ups with the mentorship of Google.
- The start-ups will also get up to \$1,00,000 of Google Cloud credits.

HDFC Group's market cap crosses ₹ 10 trillion

- Market capitalisation of Deepak Parekh-led financial services conglomerate - HDFC Group has crossed the ₹10 trillion mark.
- HDFC group is the 2nd Indian business house after the Tata group to achieve this feat.
- The group has 4 listed companies Housing Finance Development Corp, HDFC Bank, HDFC Standard Life & Gruh Finance.
- HDFC Bank is India's 3rd most valued firm in terms of market cap.

Manufacturing sector records robust growth

- RBI has revealed that India's manufacturing sector recorded robust growth in sales and improvement in operating profit growth in the 4th quarter of the last fiscal.
- Companies posted sales of Rs. 9.25 lakh crore in the last quarter of 2017-18.
- Operating profit growth of the manufacturing sector improved despite increase in input costs, due to higher growth in value of production.

Modi inaugurated largest mobile factory

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean
 President Moon Jae-in visited Noida and inaugurated
 the New Mobile Manufacturing Plant of Samsung at
 Noida.
- Notably, it will be the world's largest mobile factory.
- With the beginning of this New Plant, India's Make In India and Skill India Will get a major Push in the country.

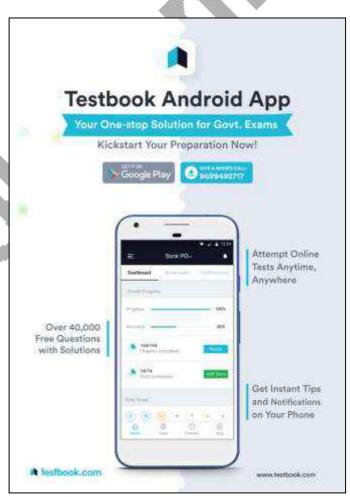
Best-ever Booker Prize winner

• The English Patient' was voted as the best-ever Man Booker Prize winner, celebrating five decades of this prestigious literary award.

- Michael Ondaatje's 'The English Patient' won the Booker Prize in the year 1992 and was made in a movie in 1996 that won nine academy awards.
- The novel beat 4 other novels in an online poll that received a total of 9,000 votes.

World's largest mobile factory

- Samsung has set up what is the world's largest mobile factory at Sector 81 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Not just mobiles, the expansion of current facility will double Samsung's production capacity of consumer electronics like refrigerators.
- Samsung is currently making 67 million smartphones in India & with the new plant being functional, it is expected to manufacture nearly 120 million phones.



PSU banks plan to raise over Rs 50,000 cr

- Public sector banks are planning to tap the markets to raise more than Rs 50.000 crore this fiscal.
- Out of 21 public sector banks, 13 have already taken the approval of their boards or shareholders for raising capital through the equity market.
- Capital is very much required for these banks as they are saddled with non-performing assets (NPAs) of about Rs 10 lakh crore.



Sports

Elevanil wins gold in junior shooting meet

- Young Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan claimed the women's air rifle gold medal in the 28th Meeting of Shooting Hopes junior international championship in Plzen, Czech Republic.
- She shot 250.8 in the final to get the better of Italy's Nicole Gabrielli (249.7). She had also topped the qualification with 628.0.
- Aleksandra Szutko of Poland won the bronze with 228.2.

Hima Das scripts history, wins gold in 400m

- Hima Das has scripted history by becoming the 1st Indian woman to win a gold at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships.
- Das clocked 51.46 secs in the 400m final to clinch the gold medal.
- She is also the first Indian track athlete to have won a medal in the history of this competition.
- Das now joins Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won a gold in Poland in the last edition in 2016.

Olympic torch relay to start in Fukushima

- Organizers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics say the torch relay will start in Fukushima, an area hit by the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.
- The relay will start on March 26, 2020 in Fukushima and will head southward to Okinawa before making its way north again and arriving in Tokyo on July 10.
- The route was approved by the organizing committee.

India bag four medals at Asian Archery

- India has bagged four medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei.
- The feat comprised 3 silver medals and a bronze.
 India finished joint third with Iran in the championship.
- India ended their campaign behind toppers Korea and hosts Chinese Taipei.

PR Sreejesh to lead Indian hockey team

- Goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh will lead the 18-member Indian Men's Hockey Team at the 18th Asian Games, slated to be held in Jakarta and Palembang from August 18.
- Midfielder Chinglensana Singh Kangujam has been named the Vice Captain for the tournament.
- Indian forward Akashdeep Singh has returned to the Indian squad.

Dhoni played 500 international matches

 The Indian team's senior-most player Mahendra Singh Dhoni reached the coveted milestone of

- playing 500 international matches during the second T20 International against England.
- In doing so, Dhoni became the third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar (664) and Rahul Dravid (509) to breach the 500 match barrier in international cricket.
- He has played 90 Test matches and 318 One Day Internationals.

Dalabehera bags bronze in World Weightlifting

- Indian lifter Jhilli Dalabehera has bagged the bronze medal in the 2018 IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships at Tashkent.
- She lifted 167 kg in the 48 kg category to finish third on the podium.
- According to Indian Weightlifting Federation Secretary General Sahdev Yadav, Jhilli is the 2nd woman lifter after Saikhom Mirabai Chanu in 2013 to win a medal in the Junior World Championships.

Dipa Karmakar clinches gold medal

- India's premier gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched a gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin in Turkey.
- Karmakar who had finished fourth in the vault event at the 2016 Rio Olympics, scored 14.150 to win gold.
- This is Dipa's first medal in a World Challenge Cup.
 She had topped the qualification also with a score of 13.400.

Defence

INS Tarangini to take part in Tall Ship Races

- INS Tarangini arrived at her 7th port, Sunderland in the UK, during her Lokayan-18 voyage and to take part in the prestigious 'Tall Ship Races 2018'.
- The vessel commenced Lokayan-18 on 10 Apr from Kochi & is set to cover a distance of 20,000 nautical miles.
- 'Sail Training International' organises tall ship races to promote international friendship between sailors and the visitors.

Indian Naval aircraft deployed for RIMPAC

- Indian Navy's P8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from INS Rajali has inducted at Hawaii for participating in the Rim of Pacific Multinational Naval exercise.
- This is the first time ever that an Indian Naval aircraft has traversed so far east into the Pacific.
- The aircraft will form part of the largest naval exercise which has 26 nations participating in this year's edition.

South Korea scraps annual government war drill



- South Korea has decided to scrap an annual government mobilisation drill this year as part of a suspended joint exercise with US.
- The Ulchi drill, which aims at examining the country's war preparedness, usually takes place in tandem with joint Freedom Guardian military exercise with US.
- The suspension of the combined exercise could facilitate ongoing nuclear talks between North Korea & US.

India reconsidering fighter jet programme

- India has conveyed to Russia its unwillingness to go ahead with the joint development of a fifthgeneration fighter aircraft primarily due to high cost involved in the project.
- India and Russia had signed an inter-governmental agreement for the mega project in 2007.
- In December 2010, India had agreed to pay USD 295 million towards the preliminary design of the fighter jet.

Polity

N Nirbhaya rapists to be hanged: SC

- The Supreme Court upheld the death penalty for the convicts of the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape case, after hearing a review petition seeking a reduction of sentence.
- The death penalty was awarded to four of the six convicts, while the fifth, a juvenile, was sent to a correction home and the sixth had committed suicide inside the Tihar Central Jail.

SC for Live-Streaming Of Court Hearings

- Senior lawyer Indira Jaising and others filed a petition for live streaming of Court's proceedings.
- The Centre in its reply to the petition said if the top court takes a policy decision; it can facilitate the setting up of a separate channel for the Supreme Court.
- Chief Justice Deepak Misra said, "The concept of access to justice can be stretched through live streaming.

Section 144 to be used in animal emergencies

- The National Board of Wildlife has recommended that states use Section 144, which prohibits the assembly of four or more people, during wildlife emergencies.
- The provision will be used to "prevent people from gathering in large numbers, which aggravates wildlife emergency situations".
- The Centre is expected to issue advisories to the state governments regarding the recommendation.

Raman Singh defeats no-confidence motion

- A no-trust motion moved by the Congress against the Raman Singh-led BJP Government was defeated by a voice vote in the Chhattisgarh Assembly.
- This was the third no-trust motion faced by the Singh government, in power since 2013.
- Chhattisgarh has been under the BJP rule since 2003 and will be going to the polls later this year.

