

WEEKLY

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19TH AUGUST – 25TH AUGUST 2018

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Awards & Honours

David Beckham will receive UEFA Prez's award

- Former England captain David Beckham will receive the UEFA President's Award for his contribution to football and for promoting the sport around the world.
- Beckham played for Manchester United, La Galaxy, Real Madrid, AC Milan and Paris St-Germain.
- Beckham made 115 appearances for England and won 19 club trophies, including 10 league titles.
- He will receive the award in Monaco.

Gopal Gandhi conferred with Sadbhavna Award

- **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** was honoured with **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award** for promoting communal harmony and peace.
- The award was presented on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Gopalkrishna Gandhi was the former Governor of West Bengal.

Gen Dalbir Singh awarded 'Legion of Merit'

- Former Army Chief General **Dalbir Singh Suhag** has been awarded United States (US) '**Legion of Merit**' (LOM).
- The award was given to Singh for exceptionally meritorious service as Chief of Army Staff from August 2014 to December 2016.
- The LOM is issued to members of the seven uniformed services of the United States as well as to military and political figures of foreign governments.

Days & Events

'Make in Odisha Conclave' in Bhubaneswar

- The Government of Odisha will organise '**Make in Odisha Conclave**' in Bhubaneswar from November 11, 2018, to 15, 2018.
- **Japan** will be the '**country partner**' for the 'Make in Odisha Conclave'.
- The '**Make in Odisha Conclave 2018**' is the flagship biennial business event of the Government of Odisha.

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Prez to inaugurate "Int Buddhist Conclave"

- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind will **inaugurate the "International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018" in New Delhi on 23rd August, 2018.**
- The Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- The theme of the International Buddhist Conclave 2018 is "**Buddha Path – The Living Heritage**".

September to be observed as Nutrition Month

- September will be observed as Nutrition Month with the aim of reaching every household with the message of nutrition — '**har ghar poshan tyohar**'.
- The month-long intensive campaign will promote antenatal care, breastfeeding, fight anemia, convey messages about the importance of nutrition for girls and the right age of marriage and also promote hygiene and sanitation.

World Mosquito Day observed on 20th August

- World Mosquito Day is observed every year on August 20.
- World Mosquito Day is a commemoration of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
- The day intends to raise awareness regarding what all causes malaria and ways to prevent it.
- The day is celebrated by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

International Affairs

WB launches world's first blockchain bond

- The World Bank (WB) has launched a blockchain-only bond.
- Named **bond-i**, or **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument**, the bond will be created and managed with distributed ledger technology.
- The World Bank mandated **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** to arrange the world's first blockchain bond.
- The World Bank bonds carry an AAA rating.

Scott Morrison is Australia's new PM

- **Scott Morrison** will be Australia's new Prime Minister.
- Scott Morrison has served as treasurer since 2015.
- Scott Morrison will be the sixth politician to serve as the country's Prime Minister since 2007 after ousting incumbent Malcolm Turnbull.
- Scott Morrison entered parliament in 2007 and has since held three key ministerial portfolios.

Nepal signed agreement with UNDP and UK

- Nepal has signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the United Kingdom (UK) to implement climate-resilient development projects.
- As part of the agreement, the UK will support the UNDP to implement the Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP).
- NCCSP is the joint project between UNDP and Nepal Government.

Fourth BIMSTEC summit to be held Kathmandu

- The fourth Summit of Heads of State/Government of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will be held at Kathmandu in Nepal on August 30 and 31, 2018.
- BIMSTEC is a regional economic bloc comprising seven member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.

Iran unveils first domestic fighter jet

- Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet at a defence show in Tehran.
- The fighter jet called **Kowsar** is capable of carrying various weapons and will be used for short aerial support missions.
- It is a fourth-generation fighter, with "advanced avionics" and multi-purpose radar.
- The new fighter jet has passed all tests.

Greece exits final bailout successfully

- According to **European Stability Mechanism (ESM)**, Greece has successfully exited its final, 3-year bailout programme, agreed in August 2015 to help it cope with the continued fallout from a debt crisis.
- The ESM has disbursed 61.9 billion euros over 3 years in support of macroeconomic adjustment and bank recapitalisation.
- The **ESM** is a **European Union** agency that provides financial assistance.

Important International News

- **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** has been re-elected as the President of Mali.
- **Imran Khan** took oath as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- **Mario Abdo Benítez** has been sworn in as the new president of Paraguay.
- The leaders of **Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan** signed the agreement on the legal status of the **Caspian Sea**.

National Affairs

1st cruise line service to begin on 1st Oct

- **The maiden sail of the country's first luxury cruise** line service between Mumbai and Goa will begin on October 1 2018.
- The Ministry of Shipping is investing Rs 1,000 crore to build a cruise terminal in the Mumbai port area on the east coastline.
- The name of the cruise liner is '**Angriya**' and was build in 1997.

ISRO telemedicine nodes for soldiers

- The Integrated Defence Staff of the Defence Ministry and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a MoU to set up telemedicine nodes in critical places across the country.
- This will improve emergency medical support to soldiers posted in high-altitude areas, especially Siachen.
- ISRO will establish 53 more nodes in the first phase over and above the existing 20.

App launched to rate & review MLA/MP

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee launched '**Neta App**' that allows voters to rate and review their political representatives.
- It aims to foster political accountability and transparency among leaders.
- The App uses a combination of Artificial Intelligence, one-time password and Aadhaar numbers to ensure that the voters who rate leaders are genuine.

Odisha Cabinet gives approval for LC

- The Odisha government approved a proposal for setting up a Legislative Council (LC) in the state.
- The proposed Legislative Council will have 49 members.
- As per article 171 clause (1) of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the Legislative Council of a state shall not exceed one-third of the total number of the members in the Legislative Assembly of that state.

Train 18 goes for testing from September

- The Indian Railways will start the testing of the indigenously built semi-high speed "**Train 18**" from September 2018.
- **Train 18** will be the first engine-less train of Indian Railways meant for inter-city travel.
- It is being manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
- **Train 18** series will replace existing fleet of the Shatabdi Express trains.

ICOMOS launches an initiative in Kerala

- The 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.

- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-government organisation (NGO).
- ICOMOS is dedicated for conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage across the world.

NGT asks for action plan on e-waste

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to submit an action plan on e-waste management within three months.
- The direction came as the NGT was disposing of a plea against unauthorised “recycling, collection, dismantling, burning, selling” of e-waste and other solid waste.
- The plea had stated that electronic waste accounted for 40% of lead.

Centre rules out total ban on firecrackers

- The Government of India opposed the plea for a complete ban on the sale of crackers during Diwali across the country.
- It suggested the Supreme Court that the production of “green crackers” and a ban on the production of series crackers as alternative measures to curb pollution during Diwali.
- The SC was hearing a petition seeking a complete nationwide ban on the use of firecrackers.

Sports should be made a Fundamental Right

- The Supreme Court issued a notice to Centre, state governments and Union Territories on a PIL seeking directions to make sports a part of the Fundamental Rights.
- The PIL said that sports should be included among academics.
- There should be a compulsory provision for sports in the school budget which should be utilised for sports activity only.

NGT constitutes ‘independent body’

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) constituted an “independent body” to decide Vedanta Limited’s plea challenging the Tamil Nadu government’s order to close the Sterlite copper plant at Thoothukudi.
- NGT Chairperson directed the committee to assume charge in two weeks and submit a report within six weeks.
- The committee will be headed by a retired judge.

Miscellaneous News

- The ‘National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank’ was inaugurated by Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in Hyderabad.
- The Uttarakhand High Court would act as the legal guardian of cows in the state.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has requested the UN Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO) to declare an “upcoming” year as International Year of Millets.



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India & World

Prasar Bharati & Mizzima Media signed MoU

- **Prasar Bharati** and **Mizzima Media** of Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 24th August 2018.
- The Agreement will realize cooperation and collaboration in various fields of broadcasting.
- It also envisions sharing covering a wide range of genres, including culture, entertainment, education, science, news and sports.

Sushma Swaraj to visit Vietnam and Cambodia

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will leave for a four-day visit to Vietnam and Cambodia on 27th August 2018.
- In Vietnam, the Minister will co-chair the 16th meeting of the Joint Commission along with her Vietnamese counterpart.
- She will also inaugurate the 3rd edition of the **Indian Ocean Conference**.
- It will be the Minister's first official visit to Cambodia.

2nd Protocol Amending CECA Signed

- India and Singapore signed the Second Protocol amending the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
- The signing of the Second Protocol, amending CECA, will boost bilateral trade between India and Singapore.
- CECA was the first comprehensive agreement covering trade in goods, services and investments, which India had signed.
- The CECA was signed on 29th June, 2005.

35% of cyber attacks on Indian sites

- According to a report, the maximum number of cyber attacks on official Indian websites are from China, US and Russia.
- The report was prepared by the **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**, which comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- CERT-In is the nodal agency which deals with cybersecurity threats like hacking and phishing.

India seeks revision in price of gas via TAPI

- India has sought renegotiation of the natural gas price it is to source through a proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline due to slump in global energy markets.
- The 4 nations to the pipeline projects had in 2013 signed a gas sale purchase agreement.
- The gas will be sourced from the Yoloten Usman field, which ranks amongst the five biggest fields in the world.

Panini Language lab inaugurated in Mauritius

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj inaugurated '**Panini Language Laboratory**' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in **Mauritius**.
- The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius.
- The lab would serve as medium to generate more interest in learning Hindi amongst the youngsters thereby strengthening the language.

India and World news

- The **11th World Hindi Conference** was inaugurated in Mauritius on 18th August, 2018.
- The Government of India has released 470 million Nepali rupees grant for Postal Highway that runs across Terai region in Nepal.
- **Australia** has lifted a ban on the adoption of children from India.
- **India** handed over the first lot of houses built for Indian-origin people in **Sri Lanka's tea plantation areas**.

Personalities in News

Google honours Ismat Chughtai with doodle

- Google on 21st August celebrated the 107th birth anniversary of Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai with a Doodle.
- Ismat Khanum Chughtai is considered one of the pioneers of Urdu literature.
- Ismat Chughtai or Ismat Apa as she was known, was considered by some as a crusader for the rights of oppressed women.
- She was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1976.

Environment

Arctic's strongest sea ice breaks up

- The oldest and thickest sea ice in the Arctic has started to break up, opening waters north of Greenland that is normally frozen, even in summer.
- This phenomenon has occurred twice in 2018 due to warm winds and a climate-change-driven heatwave in the northern hemisphere.
- The sea ice off the north coast of Greenland has been impacted by abnormal temperature spikes in February 2018.

Cyclone Warning Centre to be set up in Kerala

- The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced it will set up a cyclone warning centre in Kerala and boost weather forecasting in the state with another Doppler radar.
- The new centre will be set up in Thiruvananthapuram.

- At present, India Meteorological Centre (IMD) has cyclone warning centres only at **Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.**

Kerala received more rains in August

- Kerala has received over two and a half times more rainfall over average for August so far, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- The highest rainfall was recorded in Idukki district, which received 92% more rains. This was followed by Palakkad, with 72% more rains.
- Kerala has received 42% more rainfall than usual since the beginning of the monsoon season in June 2018.

Armyworm spotted in Telangana

- The **Fall Armyworm**, an agricultural pest, has now been reported in the state of Telangana.
- The **Fall Armyworm** (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is considered deadly as it has caused massive agricultural losses in several countries in Africa.
- The worm was first found in **Karnataka** in the country and later spread to **Tamil Nadu.**

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Ganga stretches in Bengal unfit for bathing

- A map published by the **Central Pollution Control Board** has revealed that water in major stretches of the Ganga in West Bengal is not fit for bathing.
- The affected stretches of the Ganga are located in the districts of **Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Paraganas, Nadia and Murshidabad.**
- Apart from West Bengal, the water of the Ganga is also unfit for bathing in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Government Policies & Schemes

Govt approves 1.12 lakh more houses

- The Government of India has approved construction of nearly 1.12 lakh more affordable houses for urban poor in eight states under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY).
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is mandated to implement the PMAY scheme.
- PMAY is an initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor by 31 March 2022.

UIDAI makes facial recognition mandatory

- UIDAI has made **facial recognition** mandatory for every authentication that requires Aadhaar.
- This will come along with the process that identifies an individual based on fingerprints or iris scans.
- Services like purchasing a new mobile SIM, bank account opening, the public distribution system, which commonly uses Aadhaar authentication will now have to implement this added security feature.

Government to develop Logistics Portal

- A National Logistics Portal (NLP) is being developed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure ease of trading in the international and domestic markets.
- The portal will link all the stakeholders of EXIM, domestic trade and movement and all trade activities on a single platform.
- The NLP will be implemented in phases.

Bhamashah Techno Hub to be inaugurated in Raj

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the **Bhamashah Techno Hub** on 23rd August 2018.
- The hub will provide free space, easier funding avenues and mentorship to startups.
- The Rajasthan government has already announced setting up of Rs 500-crore startup fund -- Bhamashah Techno Fund.
- The hub would be able to accommodate over 700 startup ventures.

FSSAI notifies standards for Honey

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come out with food safety standards for honey and its products, in a bid to curb adulteration.
- As per the FSSAI notification, honey should comply with 18 parameters like that of sucrose content, glucose ratio, pollen count, foreign oligosaccharides among others.
- The FSSAI has fixed maximum 5% limit for sucrose content in the honey.

Swachh to target open urination too

- Under new norms, cities and towns wanting to be declared ODF+ (Open Defecation Free Plus) must also be free of public urination and not just open defecation.
- This is the first time that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is officially including the elimination of public urination in its agenda.
- The ODF+ and ODF++ protocols were released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

NCRB to track complaints on sexual violence

- The Government of India has designated National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as nodal agency for monitoring the complaints received on a government portal that records child sexual violence videos.
- The NCRB would coordinate with service providers such as Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp ask them to block malicious videos and contents.
- NCRB is a crime record agency of Government of India.

Govt unveils draft UDAN scheme for int routes

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has prepared a draft **scheme document for "UDAN International"**.
- The scheme is designed for State governments that are keen to promote air connectivity on international routes identified by them and for which they are willing to provide subsidy to airlines.
- Airports Authority of India will determine a subsidy amount per seat and invite bids from domestic carrier.

Naya Raipur to be named Atal Nagar

- The Government of Chhattisgarh decided to name **Naya Raipur**, the upcoming capital city of the Chhattisgarh, as '**Atal Nagar**' in memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Besides the capital, several other government institutions and projects will be named after Vajpayee.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee served three terms as the Prime Minister of India.

September to be observed as Nutrition Month

- September will be observed as Nutrition Month with the aim of reaching every household with the message of nutrition — '**har ghar poshan tyohar**'.

- The month-long intensive campaign will promote antenatal care, breastfeeding, fight anemia, convey messages about the importance of nutrition for girls and the right age of marriage and also promote hygiene and sanitation.

NOTA option cannot be permitted in RS polls

- **The Supreme Court scrapped the use of 'None Of The Above' (NOTA) option in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.**
- SC held that the NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

Kerala floods a 'calamity of severe nature'

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has declared the **Kerala floods a "calamity of severe nature"**.
- When a calamity is declared to be of 'rare severity/severe nature,' support to the government of the affected state is provided at the national level.
- The Centre also considers additional assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

New pictorial warning for tobacco products

- The Union Health Ministry issued enhanced pictorial warnings to be printed on packets of cigarette and other tobacco products, highlighting the ill-effects of tobacco consumption.
- These new pictorial warnings will be used from September 1, 2018.
- The government released two separate set of images. The first set will be used on tobacco products from September 1, 2018 for a period of 12 months.

States come together to fight drug menace

- **Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Chandigarh** will set up a centralised secretariat at **Panchkula** to tackle the **drug menace in the country's northern region**.
- The decision was taken at the regional conference of the Chief Ministers organised by Haryana government.
- Nodal officers from each State will be deputed for sharing intelligence and information.

Important Government Policies and Schemes-I

- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan** will be launched on 25th September, 2018.
- Telangana government launched two major schemes - free eye screening for all citizens and life insurance for farmers on 15th August, 2018.
- The Central Government launched the '**Digital Northeast Vision Document 2022**' in **Guwahati**.
- The West Bengal government has removed annual family income ceiling from '**Kanyashree scheme**'.

- The AYUSH Ministry introduced a new central sector scheme for monitoring of the safety aspects of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and documenting their adverse effects.
- Odisha launched Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana on 15th August, 2018.
- The Government has unlocked more than 66,000 crore rupees to increase the country's forest cover.
- The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme, 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom', was inaugurated by Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla on 14th August, 2018.
- NITI Aayog has launched "Pitch to MOVE" - a mobility pitch competition.

Science & Technology

New Li-Ion batteries developed

- Scientists have developed lithium-ion batteries with components that harden on impact, preventing them from catching fire and causing injuries to users.
- Lithium-ion batteries commonly used in consumer electronics.
- They burst into flame when damaged or improperly packaged.
- To make these batteries safer, some researchers used a non-flammable, solid electrolyte.

NASA will launch laser satellite

- NASA will be launching a **laser satellite** that will measure changes in the heights of Earth's polar ice to understand what is causing ice sheets to melt fast.
- The name of the satellite is 'Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2)'.
- ICESat-2 will measure the average annual elevation change of land ice covering Greenland and Antarctica.

European wind survey satellite launched

- A new satellite that will use advanced laser technology to track global winds and improve weather forecasts has been successfully put into orbit.
- The name of the satellite is "Aeolus" -- named after the guardian of wind in Greek mythology.
- The satellite "will probe the lowermost 30 kilometres of the atmosphere in measuring winds around the Earth.

Chandrayaan-1 data confirms presence of ice

- 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.
- Scientists used data from NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) instrument to identify three specific

signatures that definitively prove there is water ice at the surface of the Moon.

- Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft was launched in 2008 by ISRO.

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First 4D printing for ceramics developed

- Scientists have successfully developed the world's first 4D printing for ceramics, which can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
- 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension.
- The printed objects can re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time with external stimuli, such as mechanical force, temperature.

Important S&T News

- India's second moon mission **Chandrayaan-2** will now be launched in **January-March 2019**.
- **Chandrayaan-2 has been named "Vikram"**.
- A new Clot buster, 'PEGylated Streptokinase' has been developed at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology for the treatment of **ischemic strokes**.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation** to study the Sun through its **Aditya-L1** satellite.

Committees & Recommendations

Vazifdar to head Sterlite plant committee

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a three-member committee to decide Vedanta's plea challenging closure of its Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin.
- The committee will be headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice S J Vazifdar.
- The committee will also include representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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.
- The committee on 'Information Systems and Technology and Cyber Security' will suggest steps to align PFRDA's technology with best industry practices.
- PFRDA is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to promote old age income security.

Business & Economy

WB launches world's first blockchain bond

- The World Bank (WB) has launched a blockchain-only bond.
- Named **bond-i**, or **Blockchain Offered New Debt Instrument**, the bond will be created and managed with distributed ledger technology.
- The World Bank mandated **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** to arrange the world's first blockchain bond.
- The World Bank bonds carry an AAA rating.

India to grow at 7.5% in 2018, 2019

- According to the **Moody's Investors Service's** report, the Indian economy is expected to grow by about 7.5% in 2018 and 2019.
- The title of the report is '**Global Macro Outlook**' for 2018-19.
- The economy is expected to be largely resilient to external pressures like those from higher oil prices.
- India's GDP grew by 7.7% in the first quarter of 2018-19 financial year.

RIL crossed ₹ 8 trillion market cap

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross ₹ 8 lakh crore market capitalization on 23 August, 2018.
- The market valuation of Reliance Industries crossed the \$100-billion mark in July 2018.
- The Market capitalization figure of companies changes daily with stock price movement.

Flipkart launches independent '2GUD' platform

- India's largest e-commerce marketplace **Flipkart** launched '**2GUD**', its first-ever independent platform for refurbished goods.
- The product portfolio of **2GUD** would initially include smartphones, laptops, tablets and electronic accessories.
- The rollout of the platform is via mobile web initially.
- 2GUD will remain a distinct and separate platform aimed at value buyers.

Ujjivan SFB launches overdraft facility

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank announced the launch of its overdraft facility for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE).
- The facility is an add-on product to the existing MSE term loans offered by the bank.
- The bank will offer this facility to all MSEs with a turnover of Rs 50 lakh or more.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) started its banking operations in February 2017.

SBI expects Q1 GDP growth at 7.7%

- According to the **SBI's** report, India's GDP is expected to grow by 7.7% in the April-June quarter due to pick up in leading indicators like cement production, the sale of vehicles and bank credit.
- SBI has based its assessment on its Composite Leading Indicator, which takes into account 18 major macro-economic indicators.
- The report also said that GVA (Gross Value Added) growth would be 7.6%.

Restrictions imposed on import of bio-fuels

- The government has imposed the restriction on import of bio-fuels including ethyl alcohol and other denatured spirits, bio-diesel, petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals other than crude.
- The import of these items, which was free earlier, will now only be allowed for non-fuel purpose on actual user basis.
- The restrictions were imposed through an amendment in import policy.

CONCOR inks pact with Kandla Terminal

- Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has inked a pact with Kandla International Container Terminal (KICTPL) for providing rail access to container services.

- The Mou with KICTPL aims to promote seamless connectivity and faster clearance of EXIM containers from Kandla Port.
- CONCOR was incorporated in March 1988 under the Companies Act and is under the Ministry of Railways.

Paytm launches AI Cloud for India

- One97 Communications Limited has partnered Alibaba to launch artificial intelligence-based cloud computing platform 'Paytm AI Cloud for India' for developers, startups and enterprises.
- The company said Paytm AI Cloud processes and stores all their consumer data locally in servers located only in India.
- The platform offers business-centric apps for organisations.

Sports

Joshna won bronze medal in squash

- Joshna Chinappa bagged bronze medal in squash women's singles at the Asian Games 2018 after losing her semi-final tie.
- She was defeated by Malaysia's Sivasangari Subramaniam.
- It is the first individual medal for Joshna at the Asian Games.
- Joshna secured a medal despite losing her match as both the losing semi-finalists in squash get the bronze medal without any bronze medal play-off.

Dipika won bronze in women's squash

- **India's squash player** Dipika Pallikal won a bronze medal at the Asian Games on August 25, 2018.
- **She was defeated by Malaysia's Nicole David.**
- Dipika had won a bronze at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.
- This was her second medal at the Asian Games.

Heena Sidhu won bronze medal

- Heena Sidhu won a bronze medal in women's 10m Air Pistol final of the Asian Games 2018 on 24th August 2018.
- Wang Qian of China won the gold medal while South Korea's Kim Minjung got the silver medal.
- Heena had won the gold medal in shooting at Commonwealth Games 2018 in Australia.

Prajnesh won bronze medal in tennis

- Prajnesh Gunneswaran won a bronze medal in men's singles tennis event at Asian Games 2018.
- Prajnesh Gunneswaran was defeated by Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin.
- Prajnesh became sixth Indian to win a men's singles medal at the Asian Games.

Indian women's kabaddi team won silver medal

- Indian women's kabaddi team won a silver medal at the Asian Games 2018.
- Indian team was defeated by Iran in the final match.
- Thailand and Chinese Taipei bagged a bronze medal each in the kabaddi women's team event.
- Indian women's kabaddi team won the gold medal at the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games each.

Jhulan Goswami retires from Twenty20 Int

- Jhulan Goswami has announced her retirement from Twenty20 Internationals (T20I).
- In her T20I career she took 56 wickets from 68 matches at an average of 21.94.
- She made her T20I debut in August 2006 against England.
- She is the first woman to take 200 wickets in the 50-over format.

Rohan, Divij won gold in men's doubles tennis

- India's Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the gold medal in the men's doubles tennis event at the ongoing 18th Asian Games 2018.
- India's Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan defeated **Kazakhstan's** Aleksandr and Denis to win the gold medal.
- This is India's second tennis medal at the Asian Games in Indonesia after Ankita Raina won bronze medal.

Indian rowing team won gold medal

- The Indian rowing team won the gold medal in the Men's Quadruple Sculls at the ongoing Asian Games in Indonesia.
- The Indian rowing team comprised of **Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh.**
- This was India's first gold medal in rowing.
- Indonesia bagged the silver medal while Thailand won the bronze medal.

Rohit and Bhagwan won bronze in rowing

- India bagged two bronze medals in rowing through **Rohit Kumar and Bhagwan Singh** in lightweight double sculls at the Asian Games 2018.
- Japan won the gold medal while Korea bagged the silver medal.
- This was India's 20th medal at the ongoing Games and 12th bronze.

Dushyant won bronze medal in rowing

- Dushyant Chauhan won the bronze medal in the Men's Lightweight Single Sculls at the Asian Games in Jakarta.
- Korea and Hong Kong won the gold and silver medals respectively.
- Dushyant's previous international medals for India were silver and a bronze in Italian Regatta Championships in 2014.

Indian men's kabaddi team got bronze

- The Indian men's kabaddi team got the bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Games.
- India was defeated by Iran.
- India had won the men's kabaddi gold in all the earlier seven Asiad games since the sport was introduced in 1990.

Shardul wins silver in men's double trap

- **Shardul Vihan clinched the silver medal in the men's double trap shooting event at the 18th Asian Games on 23rd August, 2018.**
- **Korea's Shin Hyunwoo clinched the gold medal while Qatar's Al Marri Hamad Ali bagged the bronze medal.**
- Vihan had grabbed four gold medals at Shotgun Nationals Championship in 2017.

India clinches 4 medals in wushu

- All four Indian wushu players won bronze medals at the Asian Games on 22 August 2018.
- Naorem Roshibini Devi, Santosh Kumar, Surya Bhanu Partap Singh and Narender Grewal won the bronze medal in Wushu.
- Before this edition, India had taken part in the 2006, 2010 and 2014 Asian Games.
- In 2014 Incheon Asian Games, India had won two bronze medals.

Ankita Raina won bronze at Asian Games

- Indian tennis player Ankita Raina won the bronze medal at the Asian Games after losing to China's Zhang Shuai in the women's singles semifinal.
- With this bronze medal, Ankita became second Indian woman to have her name in the Asian Games' singles medallist list.
- This is India's first tennis medal in this edition and 16th overall - 4 gold, 3 silver, 9 bronze.

Rahi Sarnobat won gold in shooting

- **Rahi Sarnobat won the gold medal in Women's 25m Pistol shooting at the Asian Games 2018.**
- She also became the first Indian woman shooter to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- Sarnobat won bronze in the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.
- In the Commonwealth Games, she has won three medals till date – gold (2010, 2014) and silver (2010).

FIFA takes charge of Uruguay FA

- Football's world governing body FIFA has taken control of the Uruguayan Football Association (UFA)
- The FIFA committee would be responsible for managing the affairs of the UFA through to February 28, 2019 and would revise the organisation's statutes and arrange new elections.

- Uruguayan football has been in crisis since July 30, after the sudden resignation of its chief.

India clinch bronze in Sepak takraw

- The Indian men's Sepak takraw team secured their maiden bronze medal after losing to Thailand at the ongoing 18th edition of Asian Games in Indonesia.
- Sepak takraw is a traditional sport of the nations in Southeast Asia.
- Sepak takraw has been part of the Asian Games since the 11th edition in Beijing 1990.
- A match is played by two Regus (teams) each made up of three players.

Wrestler Divya Kakran bags bronze

- Indian wrestler Divya Kakran won the bronze medal in women's 68 kg freestyle wrestling category at the 18th edition of the Asian games.
- **This is India's third medal in wrestling after Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat claimed gold in their respective categories.**
- India's total medal tally at the Asian Games now stands at ten with three gold, three silver and four bronze.

Odisha to launch Hockey World Cup campaign

- Ahead of the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup Tournament in the state, **Odisha government** has decided to launch a build-up campaign in 17 cities from August 29, 2018.

- Odisha is organising the Men's Hockey World Cup tournament for the first time.
- The tournament will begin on November 28, 2018, and will continue till December 16, 2018, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Sanjeev Rajput wins silver in Rifle shooting

- Indian shooter Sanjeev Rajput clinched a silver medal in the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event at the 18th Asian Games on 21st August, 2018.
- China won the gold medal with a score of 453.3 while Japan bagged the bronze medal with 441.4.
- Rajput had won the gold medal at the 50m rifle 3 positions in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.

Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m air pistol gold

- Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in pistol shooting at the Asian Games 2018 on 21st August 2018.
- Saurabh Chaudhary became only the fifth Indian shooter to claim a gold in the Asian Games history.
- Shooters have won 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze of the 7 medals India has won so far.

Vinesh Phogat wins India's second gold

- **Vinesh Phogat** won a gold medal in wrestling at the Asian Games 2018.
- This is Vinesh's second medal at the Asian Games, having picked up the bronze medal at Incheon in 2014.
- She also became the fifth Indian woman to win an Asian Games medal in wrestling, and the first among those to clinch gold.

Rishabh Pant creates history on debut

- **Rishabh Pant** became the **fourth** Indian wicket-keeper to take five catches on debut.
- He achieved this feat on Day 2 of the third Test against England at Trent Bridge.
- He also became the **third** in the **world** to take five catches in an innings on Test debut.
- Besides Rishabh, the two other cricketers to achieve this feat are – **Australia's Brian Taber and his compatriot John Maclean.**

Djokovic beats Federer in Cincinnati final

- Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer in the finals to win his first title of Cincinnati Masters.
- Novak Djokovic won the Wimbledon Championships in July 2018, was the runner-up of the Cincinnati Masters on five occasions.
- Novak Djokovic became the first player to win all nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments.

India opens medal count with bronze in Rifle

- **Apurvi Chandela** and **Ravi Kumar** won the bronze medal in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event at the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta on 19th August 2018.
- Chinese Taipei won the gold medal while China won the silver medal.
- Kumar had earlier won team gold at the 2014 Asian Games and individual bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth Games while Chandela won gold in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Bajrang Punia won gold in wrestling

- **Bajrang Punia** won the gold medal in the 65 kg freestyle wrestling event at Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta on 19th August 2018.
- **Bajrang Punia beat Japan's Daichi Takatani.**
- **This is India's first gold medal** of the 2018 Asian Games.
- He had won a silver medal in the 61 kg category in the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon.

Deepak Kumar wins silver medal

- **Deepak Kumar clinched India's third medal at the Asian Games 2018** by winning the silver medal in the **Men's 10m Air Rifle** category in Jakarta on 20th August 2018.
- Deepak Kumar had earlier won the bronze medal at the 2018 ISSF World Cup in Mexico in the 10-metre air rifle mixed team event.
- **China's Haoran Yang won the gold with an Asian Games.**

Important Weekly Sports News

- **Nihal Sarin became India's 53rd Chess Grandmaster.**
- The 18th edition of the Asian Games officially kicked off in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on 18th August 2018.
- **Esow Alben** won the silver medal at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Switzerland.
- BCCI appointed **Ramesh Powar** as the Head Coach of **Indian Women's Cricket Team.**

Defence

INS Vikramaditya will be upgraded

- INS Vikramaditya is going to be fitted with marine hydraulic system for the first time as part of its upgrade that will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship.
- It is India's only aircraft carrier.
- The marine hydraulic systems are used for refuelling, cleaning and pressurization of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters.

DAC approves procurement for services

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister, gave approval for procurement for

the Services amounting to approximately Rs. 46,000 crores.

- DAC approved procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for the Indian Navy.
- This is the first project under the Ministry of Defence's prestigious **Strategic Partnership (SP)**.

Exercise SCO Peace Mission 2018 begins

- Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, formally started on 24 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Russia.
- India is participating in the drill for the first time since becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017.
- The SCO was established in Shanghai in 2001, with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as founding members.

INS Khanjar visits Yangon, Myanmar

- INS Khanjar a Missile Corvette of Indian Navy was on a three-day visit to Yangon, Myanmar from August 18-20.
- INS Khanjar (P-47) is a Khukri-class Missile Corvette and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 October, 1991.
- INS Khanjar is part of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.

First-ever IAF-RMAF joint air exercise

- The first-ever joint air exercise involving the Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force commenced on 20th August 2018 at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
- The exercise in Malaysia will be called Exercise **Elang Shakti**.
- The IAF contingent landed at the Subang Air Base in Malaysia comprises of **C-17, C-130 and Su-30 Aircraft**.

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Exercise Pitch Black 2018 concludes

- **Exercise Pitch Black** a biennial multi-national warfare exercise was hosted by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) from 24 Jul 18 to 18 Aug 18 in Darwin, Australia.
- **Indian Air Force** had earlier participated in the exercise as **observers**.

- With participation of 16 nations and more than 140 aircraft, the 2018 edition was the **largest Pitch Black** ever conducted by Australia.

India, Thailand military drill concludes

- The armies of India and Thailand have concluded their two-week **joint exercise 'Maitree 2018'** in Thailand on 19th August 2018.
- Exercise Maitree is an annual event designed to strengthen the partnership between Royal Thai Army and Indian Army.
- The exercise commenced on August 6, 2018 in Thailand.

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.
- The aircraft will have a low radar cross-section, making it difficult for the enemy to spot it.
- **This is India's only fifth generation aircraft** programme.
- The AMCA will feature geometric stealth and will initially fly with two GE-414 engines.

Successful test of Smart Anti Airfield Weapon

- Indigenously designed and developed guided bombs **Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** were successfully flight tested at Chandan range in Rajasthan.
- The weapon is capable of destroying a variety of ground targets using precision navigation.
- The SAAW is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be used by the Indian Air Force.

Successful flight test of ATGM 'HELINA'

- Indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) **HELINA** has been successfully tested in the ranges of Pokhran.
- The missile is guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode.
- It is one of the most advanced Anti-Tank Weapons in the world.
- The **HELINA missile will be a part of the Army's** weaponry.