

WEEKLY

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26TH AUGUST - 01ST SEPTEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Dr B.K. Misra named for Dr B.C. Roy award

- Eminent neurosurgeon **Dr. Basant Kumar Misra** has been named for the prestigious **Dr B.C. Roy National Award**.
- Dr B.C. Roy National Award is the highest medical honour of India, instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1962.
- Misra is the Head of Department of Surgery as well as Neurosurgery and Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at Mumbai's P.D. Hinduja Hospital.

Nehal crowned as Miss Universe India

- Nehal Chudasama is crowned as the new Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva - Miss Universe India 2018.
- She will compete at the Miss Universe 2018 pageant in Bangkok in December 2018.
- Aditi Hundia from Jaipur won Yahama Fascino Miss Diva Universe Supranational 2018, and the Yahama Fascino Miss Diva 2018 - Second Runner-up title went to Lucknow's Roshni Sheoran.

Bharat and Sonam receive Magsaysay Award

- Two Indian nationals, **Bharat Vatwani** and **Sonam Wangchuk**, were given the **Ramon Magsaysay award, popularly known as Asia's Nobel Prize**.
- Since 1988, Vatwani has helped around 7,000 mental patients, reuniting many of them with their families.
- Wangchuk has been recognised for **"his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community—driven reform of learning systems in Ladakh**.

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Days & Events

India celebrates its National Sports Day

- The National Sports Day is celebrated every year on August 29 on the birth anniversary of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- This year, though, the date has been postponed to September 25 so the Indian athletes could return from Asian Games 2018.
- On this day, Arjuna and Khel Ratna awards are conferred by the President of India to celebrate the achievements of athletes in the country.

International Affairs

BIMSTEC summit concluded in Kathmandu

- The 4th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit concluded on 31st August 2018.
- The summit concluded with the signing and adoption of the '**Kathmandu Declaration**' by all the seven members.
- BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- It was launched in 1997.

Aung won't be stripped of Nobel Peace Prize

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee said that the Nobel Peace Prize to Aung San Suu Kyi will not be withdrawn.
- Aung San Suu Kyi, who leads the Myanmar government and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for campaigning for democracy.
- The rules regulating the Nobel Prizes do not allow for a prize to be withdrawn.

G20 Digital Economy meeting in Argentina

- The G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting was held in Salta, Argentina.
- The theme of the meeting was 'Building consensus for fair and sustainable development'.
- The meeting took place as part of Sherpa Track for **2018 G20 Leaders' Summit, which is to be hosted by Argentina by end of 2018**.

Vietnam to host Indian Ocean conference

- The third edition of **Indian Ocean Conference** is set to begin on August 27 at **Hanoi**, the capital of Vietnam.
- The theme of the two- day conference will focus on **'Building Regional Architectures', particularly with regards to trade and commerce, security and governance**.
- Earlier, the conference was held in Singapore and Sri Lanka in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

National Affairs

Mumbai Airport has been renamed

- The Mumbai Airport will be known as the **Chhatrapati Shivaji 'Maharaj' International Airport**.
- This move comes almost two years after Maharashtra Assembly passed a resolution regarding the addition **of the word 'Maharaj' in the name**.
- The Mumbai Airport was first known as the Sahar International Airport.
- However, the name was changed in 1999 to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

GoAir to start international operations

- Budget airline GoAir will start international operations from October 11, 2018.
- The inaugural flights will operate to Phuket from New Delhi and Mumbai.
- The airline will also launch flights to Male in Maldives from Mumbai and Delhi on October 14.
- GoAir will be the sixth domestic carrier to have international operations.

Law Commission endorses simultaneous polls

- The Law Commission of India recommended holding of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies to save public money.
- The Commission said simultaneous polls would help **the government of the day focus on “developmental activities rather than in electioneering.”**
- The exercise would also stop the drain on the administrative set-up and security forces.

SC/ST cannot claim quota in another state

- The Supreme Court held that a member of a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community cannot claim the benefit of reservation in government employment in other states if his or her caste is not notified there.
- SC held that the central reservation policy regarding SC/ST would be applicable in Delhi.
- The verdict came on a batch of petitions that had raised the issue SC/ST reservation.

WB approved loan for HP's water supply project

- The World Bank has approved in principle a financial assistance of Rs. 929.89 crore for a water supply and sewerage project in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- The final negotiation meeting for loan sanction will be held on October 24, 2018.
- The assistance will be made as a development policy loan.
- There are six sources of drinking water supply to Shimla town including Gumma and Giri.

Ladakh commissions Tesla-made pump

- **Ladakh has commissioned a 'BlackHOLE' pump** designed by Tesla to tackle its waste problem.
- The plant converts all the waste collected, except glass, to ash.
- It also does not use any fuel or electricity to carry out its task.
- The garbage that accumulates in pockets of Ladakh comes close to 15 to 16 tonnes a day during the peak tourist seasons from June to August.

Supreme Court Notice To Centre, WhatsApp

- Responding to a plea, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the government and messaging service provider WhatsApp.

- The plea sought direction to restrain Whatsapp from proceeding with its payments systems unless it fully complies with RBI's provisions.
- Whatsapp does not comply with the provision of mandating a Grievance Officer and KYC norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India.

MoU signed for development of Arogyamitras

- A MoU was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and National Health Agency, to provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- As per the MoU, NSDC will ensure quality training of Arogyamitra through its network of Skill Development Centres.
- All the currently Pradhan Arogyamitras will be certified by health care sector skill council.

2nd marriage won't be void during divorce pet

- The Supreme Court has clarified that a second marriage is valid even if divorce proceedings of the first marriage are pending in court.
- Section 5(1) of the Hindu Marriage Act places a bar on marriage by a person who has a spouse living at the time of the marriage.
- Section 11 makes such a marriage null and void.

BNHS to open its regional centre

- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will start operating its regional centre on the campus of Wetland Research and Training Centre near Chilika Lake in Odisha.
- **BNHS is India's premier avian research institutes.**
- The centre will carry out research on the avian disease by collecting samples and monitor the Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.

India's first biofuel-powered flight tested

- India's first biofuel-powered flight that aims to reduce costs of air travel by replacing the costly aviation turbine fuel was successfully tested by SpiceJet on 27th August 2018.
- The biofuel is made partially from resources such as agricultural residues, non-edible oils and bio-degradable fractions of industrial and municipal wastes.
- The flight will travel from Dehradun to Delhi.

India & World

India, Nepal sign MoU on rail line survey

- India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey of the proposed **Raxaul-Kathmandu** railway line.
- India's Konkan Railway has been asked to conduct a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey of the new rail line.
- India is also considering five other cross-border railway lines with Nepal to ease connectivity and boost bilateral trade.

International Ayurveda Congress inaugurated

- **4th International Ayurveda Congress (IAVC)** was inaugurated in the Netherlands on September 1, 2018.
- IAVC is organised by International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, Netherlands; All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi and the International Academy of Ayurveda.

The congress would focus on promotion and propagation of Ayurveda in the Netherlands and its neighbouring countries of Europe.

\$346mn loan to improve state highways

- India and Asian Development Bank have signed \$346 Million dollar loan agreement to improve over 400 km of State highways in Karnataka.
- It will enhance connectivity and access to economic centers across 12 districts in Karnataka.
- ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive

economic growth, sustainable growth, and regional integration.

MoU between India and Bulgaria

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bulgaria for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.
- The main objectives of the MoU are to expand cooperation in the tourism, exchange information and data related to tourism etc.
- Bulgaria is a potential tourism market for India that received approx 5288 tourists from Bulgaria in 2017.

Sushma inaugurated 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Hanoi

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated a **'Jaipur Foot' camp in Hanoi, Vietnam on 27th** August, 2018.
- Ms. Swaraj is in Vietnam on the first leg of a four-day two-nation tour, which aims at deepening India's strategic cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia.
- The Jaipur-based Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti has started an artificial limb fitment camp.

Indus Waters Treaty talks resume In Lahore

- India and Pakistan will resume their talks on various aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty in Lahore.
- The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty was brokered by the World Bank and signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan.
- The agreement administers how the water of the Indus River and its tributaries that flow in both the countries will be utilised.

India - Kenya JTC meeting held in Nairobi

- The 8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22nd – 25th August 2018.
- At present, India is one of Kenya's largest trade partners and the second largest foreign investor in Kenya.
- The last meeting of Joint Trade Committee was held in New Delhi in February 2015.

Personalities in News

India's next High Commissioner to UK

- Senior diplomat Ruchi Ghanashyam has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- Ghanashyam is a 1982 batch Indian Foreign Service officer and is currently Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

- She succeeds Y K Sinha who had assumed the charge in December 2016.

Anil Ambani resigns as Director of RNaval

- Anil D Ambani has resigned as the Director of Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNaval).
- Ambani resigned in compliance with provisions of Section 165 of the Companies Act, 2013, prescribing the limit on directorships to only 10 public companies.
- Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited operates the country's largest integrated shipbuilding facility.

Environment

Singphan sanctuary declared elephant reserve

- The Nagaland government has declared the **Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary** as an elephant reserve making it the 30th reserve for the elephant in the country.
- The declaration of the Singphan Elephant Reserve in Nagaland will boost the elephant conservation in the country, especially in the northeastern region.
- The Singphan Elephant Reserve is located in Mon district of Nagaland.

Dr Harsh Vardhan released REDD+ strategy

- Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released National Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).
- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivising forest conservation.
- India's National REDD+ strategy is one of the tools to further supplement India's commitment to Paris Agreement.

Scientists discover deep-sea coral reef in US

- Scientists have discovered a giant deep-sea coral reef system off the coast of the US state of South Carolina.
- A pair of dives in a submersible called **Alvin** confirmed the existence of the coral reef and based on observations, researchers estimate the reef is at least 85 miles long.
- Coral reefs form more easily near the surface of the water, where the sun can feed the algae.

M.P. seeks revival of cheetah project

- The Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the Nauradehi sanctuary.
- The cheetah — which is the fastest land animal — was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- **The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947.**

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Government Policies & Schemes

IWAI released ship designs for Ganga River

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) made public 13 standardised ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on the Ganga River.
- The designs will remove ambiguity on the class and type of vessels that can sail on river Ganga with efficient manoeuvrability.
- The designs will lead to reduced fuel costs and in turn lesser logistics costs.

Krishna Kutir inaugurated at Vrindavan

- The Minister for Women & Child Development, **Maneka Gandhi**, inaugurated the 'Krishna Kutir' in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh.
- Krishna Kutir is a special home for **1000 widows** set up by the Ministry of Women & Child Development under Swadhar Greh scheme of the Ministry.
- The construction of the home has been funded by Central Government.
- It will be managed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

"Mil -Banche" programme to be organised in MP

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, "Mil -Banche", an interactive programme between schools and society is being organised.
- This programme is being organised for the multi-dimensional development of children through language skill up-gradation, reading other books in addition to textbooks.
- It will also help in developing an interest in understanding and other co-curricular activities in government schools.

Census 2021 to collect OBC data, use maps

- Census 2021 will for the first time collect data on Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- The exercise will involve 25 lakh trained enumerators **and the use of "maps/geo-referencing** at the time of house listing is also under consideration.
- The decision to count the OBCs in the next Census was to get a correct perspective on the social status in the country.

Trade Cooperation Framework approved

- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the trade cooperation framework between **India and Rwanda**.
- The trade cooperation framework was signed on 23rd July, 2018.
- The trade cooperation framework will facilitate better trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Cabinet approved MoU between India and USA

- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Federal Insurance Office, USA.
- The MoU includes an exchange of information and **research assistance with respect to each Authority's** overview and other lawful responsibilities.
- IRDAI is a body set up under the IRDA Act, 1999.

Right to offend is protected under free speech

- The Law Commission emphasised that the expression of a thought that is not in agreement with the the country or the policy of the ruling government doesn't come under the umbrella of sedition.
- The commission is headed by Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan, a former judge of the Supreme Court.
- He was appointed Chairman of the 21st Law Commission on 10 March, 2018.

Launch of National Mission on GeM

- National Mission on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) will be launched on 5th September 2018.
- The aim of the National Mission is to promote inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement and achieve cashless, contact less and paperless transaction.
- This will increase overall efficiency and lead to cost saving on government expenditure in procurement.

HRD ministry brings Atal rankings

- The Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry on August 30, 2018 launched the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARRIA) and the Innovation Cell.
- The rankings will promote a culture of innovation and research in higher education.
- The primary mandate of Innovation Cell is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas.

NMCG Approves 150 Cr projects

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved projects worth nearly Rs 150 crores in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal under the Namami Gange programme.
- These projects include interception and diversion works where small rivers, rivulets, and drains empty into the main river.
- These projects also include Sewage Treatment Plant and development of Ghats.

Cabinet approves O-SMART scheme

- Cabinet approved implementation of an umbrella scheme-Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART).

- The scheme covers a total of 16 sub-projects, which address ocean development activities such as services, technology, resources, and science.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the scheme implementation at an overall cost of Rs 1623 Cr.

Cabinet approves additional 2% DA

- The Union Cabinet approved the additional Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners.
- The DA and DR will increase by 2% over the existing rate of 7% of the Basic Pay/Pension w.e.f 01.07.2018
- This will benefit about 48.41 lakh Central Government employees and 62.03 lakh pensioners.

ADB sign \$375mn loan for Irrigation

- The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$375 million loan agreement to expand irrigation networks and system efficiency of Madhya Pradesh.
- The project will develop 125,000 hectares of new, highly efficient and climate resilient irrigation networks.
- The project aims to double farming incomes by benefiting over 800,000 people in Madhya Pradesh.

'Smart India Hackathon 2019' launched

- Union HRD Minister launched the third edition of **World's Biggest Open Innovation Model 'Smart India Hackathon' 2019** in New Delhi.
- **SIH-2019 is an initiative that provides students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives.**
- For the 1st time, private industry/organisations and NGOs can also send their problem statements to students.

Odisha inks MoU for malaria-free state

- Odisha government signed a MoU with an America-based agency '**Malaria No More**' and Indian agency '**Malaria Elimination Trust**' to make the state malaria-free.
- The two agencies will prepare the roadmap for public awareness and will work with the various organization in the state.
- Earlier this year 1.13 crore mosquito nets medicated with larvicides were distributed in the state.

\$250 mn to support electricity distribution

- The Government of India, Government of Rajasthan and World Bank signed a \$250 Million agreement to support electricity distribution sector reforms in Rajasthan.
- It is the second electricity distribution reform policy for Rajasthan. The first closed in March 2017.

- The program will support the distribution sector, provide incentives to employees, reducing the costs of energy procurement etc.

World Bank signed \$300mn agreement with India

- The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$220 million Loan Agreement and \$80 million Guarantee Agreement for the India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program.
- The program will be implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL).
- It will help to avoid lifetime emissions of 170 million tons of CO2 by replacing traditional machinery with energy efficient equipment.

₹9000 cr for Indore-Manmad rail project

- The Shipping and Railway ministries along with M.P and Maharashtra government signed a pact to implement around ₹ 9,000 crores in Indore-Manmad rail project.
- The project is estimated to result in cumulative net economic benefits of Rs 15,000 crore in the first 10 years of operations.
- The project will reduce the distance from Mumbai/Pune to key Central India locations by 171 km.

2 new projects for Punjab, Tripura under SDS

- The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned two new projects under Heritage and North East Circuits of **Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS)** in **Punjab** and **Tripura**.
- '**Swadesh Darshan**' is the scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for the development of thematic circuits in the country.
- The first project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme 'North East Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom' was inaugurated in Manipur.

Odisha launches "Mu Hero, Mu Odisha" programme

- Odisha government launched a programme aimed at identifying and giving recognition to the young achievers of the state.
- The name of the programme is "**Mu Hero, Mu Odisha**" (I am Hero-I am Odisha) programme.
- The programme will be conducted by the Biju Yuva Vahini (BYV) members.
- The BYV members are volunteers of the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs of the state government.

PM Jan Arogya Yojana logo unveiled

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched the logo for flagship health insurance scheme, 'Ayushman Bharat' in New Delhi.
- Under 'Ayushman Bharat' more than 10 crore poor & vulnerable families will get the benefit with an insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.

- The health insurance scheme will be launched on September 25.

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- The scheme for **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FAME)** India was introduced in a bid to incentivise sales and manufacturing of electric vehicles in the country.
- FAME II** will offer subsidies to all categories of electric vehicles including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers.

Science & Technology

NASA spots water on largest planet

- NASA scientists have found water at the Jupiter's Great Red Spot** after detecting chemical signatures **above the planet's deepest clouds**.
- The reports published in the *Astronomical Journal* reveals theoretical and computer-simulation models that have predicted abundant water on Jupiter.
- The Great Red Spot is a storm that has been raging on the Jupiter for over 350 years.

ISRO plans manned space flight before 2022

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) unveiled India's Gaganyaan programme for manned space flight before 2022.
- ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said the manned mission to space having 3 crew members will be in space for 5-7 days.
- Mr. Sivan said the spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400 km and the total programme cost is expected to be less than Rs 10,000 crores.

Google launched Project Navlekha

- Google has launched the Project Navlekha, which in Sanskrit means "a new way to write".
- Project Navlekha will empower offline newspapers and magazines in India to bring their content online.
- Google is using its expertise in artificial intelligence for Project Navlekha, which will quickly render any PDF with Indian language content into editable text.

NASA spacecraft approaches asteroid Benu

- NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft has captured the first glimpse of its distant target -- asteroid Benu.
- The OSIRIS-REx is a NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid-Benu.
- OSIRIS-REx was launched on September 8, 2016.
- It will help unveil the mysteries of our solar system's formation.

Spritzer telescope completes 15 years in space

- NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, the youngest member of the "Great Observatories" programme, has completed 15 years in space.
- The Great Observatories are four space telescopes - Spitzer, Hubble Space Telescope, the Compton

Govt announces regulations for drones

- The government has announced regulations for safe usage of drones.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised a national drone policy
- The regulations will be effective from 1st of December 2018.
- During daytime flights, drones can be flown to a height of up to 400 ft.
- The use of drones by civilians is currently restricted by the Directorate General of Civilian Aviation.

Government unveils sports policy for CPSEs

- The Government of India launched a policy framework for the promotion of sports in CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises).
- The policy will support CPSEs for recreation, positive health, competitive excellence and social harmony.
- CPSEs will allocate a specific budget for sports activities as per their capability and financial strength.

'FAME India II' will be launched on Sept 7

- The 2nd phase of the 'FAME India' scheme will be launched on September 7, 2018.

Gamma Ray Observatory (CGRO), and the Chandra X-ray Observatory.

- Spitzer is designed to view the universe in different and complementary wavelengths of light.

Committees & Recommendations

Telecom panel Okays National Trust Centre

- The Telecom Commission said a **National Trust Centre (NTC)** would be created.
- NTC will certify devices and applications for **machine-to-machine communication**.
- Machine-to-machine (M2M) communications form the basis of automated information exchange between machines.
- The Telecom Commission, which is the highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecommunications

New science & tech council to advise PM

- A 21-member committee has been set up to advise Prime Minister Narendra Modi on science, technology, and innovations.
- Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific adviser to the Government of India will head the committee.
- Secretaries of at least 10 central ministries, related to science, technology, energy, and education, are special invitees to the panel.

New RBI unit to track blockchain and AI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a new unit to track emerging technologies like cryptocurrency, blockchain and artificial intelligence.
- The committee will research, draft rules and will supervise the development of these digital assets.
- The news about the forming of the research unit came after multiple warnings issued by RBI against crypto transactions.

Committee on review of Company Act 2013

- The committee on review of penal provisions of Company Act 2013 submitted its final report to Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.'
- The committee is headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- The Committee was constituted by the government in July 2018 to review the existing framework dealing with offences under the Companies Act, 2013.

Books & Authors

Book on Weather Information Portal released

- Shri R K Singh released a book on "Weather Information Portal for Indian Power System".

- This reference document has been developed by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) in collaboration with IMD to facilitate enhanced utilization of Weather Portal in all spheres of Power Sector.
- Shri R K Singh is the Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy.

Business & Economy

RBI cancels licence of Bhilwara Bank

- RBI has cancelled the licence of Rajasthan-based Bhilwara Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank.
- RBI said that the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospect and is not in a position to pay its present and future depositors.
- The cancelled licence of the bank is in effect from the close of business on August 31, 2018.

GDP grows 8.2% in April-June

- The Indian economy grew **8.2% in the April-June** quarter for 2018 driven by robust growth in the manufacturing, construction and farm sectors.
- The pace of growth was the highest since the 9.3% rise reported for the January-March quarter of 2016.
- The high growth rate is aided by a low base effect — 5.6% in April-June 2017.

Vodafone, Idea set to be Vodafone Idea

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave its approval to the merger of Vodafone and Idea Cellular.
- **The merged entity would be the country's largest** telecom operator with total revenues of over Rs 80,000 crore.
- Balesh Sharma, the erstwhile chief operating officer of Vodafone India, will be the new CEO of the new combined entity.

India Post Payments Bank to launch on Sept 1

- The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is getting launched on September 1, 2018.
- **The post office's IPPB will provide customers savings** and current accounts, along with services including bills and utility payments, remittance and money

transfer, direct benefit transfers and enterprise and merchant payments.

- IPPB has tied up with Bajaj Alliance and PNB Met Life to offer insurance policies.

Revised cost estimate for IPPB

- The Union Cabinet approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) from Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 1,435 crore.
- The additional sum of Rs. 635 crore accounts of Rs 400 crore for Technology Costs and Rs 235 crore for Human Resource Costs.
- IPPB services shall be available at 650 IPPB branches and 3250 Access Points from 1st September 2018.

First Toll-Operate-Transfer Project

- Macquarie group bags first project under toll-operate-transfer with Rs 9681.5 crore bid.
- India chief of Macquarie group handed over a cheque to Shri Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.
- In 2016 government of India had authorized NHA to monetize operational national highway projects using the toll-operate-transfer (TOT) model.

99.3% of demonetised notes returned

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report said that 99.3% of the ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 that were withdrawn from circulation in November 2016 were returned.
- RBI also said that it spent ₹7,965 crore in 2016-17 on printing new ₹500 and ₹2,000 and other denomination notes.
- Also, the share of newly introduced ₹200 banknotes in the total value of banknotes was 2.1% as at end-March 2018.

RBI expects economic growth rate at 7.4%

- RBI on the release of its annual report said that real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase at 7.4% against 6.7% in the previous year.
- RBI also said that its monetary policy will work to achieve the medium-term target for retail inflation of 4%.
- According to RBI the rise in growth rate is due to pick up in industrial activity and the good monsoon.

DBS Named Best Bank for digital innovation

- DBS Bank has been named the world's best bank by Global Finance magazine.
- It shows a reflection of its ability to invest in digital innovation while still maintaining stable operations for its customers.
- DBS is the first Asian bank to receive the accolade from the New York-based publication, which last year gave the title to ING Bank.

PNB Gets Top Rank In Digital Transaction

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that the Department of Financial Services report has rated it as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions.
- The bank is also rated as the sixth overall amongst all banks in India for digital performance.
- **The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of 71 which is the highest category of performance.**

SBI change branch names and IFSC codes

- The State Bank of India (SBI), has changed the names and IFSC codes of 1,300 of its branches.
- **The idea behind the move is to rationalize SBI's merger with six associate banks and the Bhartiya Mahila Bank (BMB) which came into effect from April 1, 2017.**
- SBI has updated the list of branches with old and new names and IFSC codes on its website.

Google Tez renamed as Google Pay

- **Google's UPI payments platform 'Tez' has been renamed as 'Google Pay'. It was announced at 'Google for India 2018' event in New Delhi.**
- Google Pay users will also be able to get pre-approved instant loans through the service.
- Even after the change of name Tez users will be able to see the same home screen, bill payment links, contacts etc.

FDI growth up 23% in April-June 2018

- According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion data, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India grew by 23% to USD 12.75 billion during the April-June quarter of 2018-19.
- Key sectors that received maximum foreign investment include services, trading, telecommunications, computer software and hardware, and power.
- **Singapore was the largest source of FDI during April-June 2018-19.**

'Amaravati Bonds' gets BSE listing

- **The bonds titled 'Amaravati Bond 2018' have been listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange.**
- Through bonds, funds will be raised to build Andhra Pradesh's capital Amaravati.
- The bonds has been issued by A.P. Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA).
- A bond is a fixed income investment where an entity borrows funds from investors for a fixed period of time at an interest rate.

PNB ranked best bank for digital transactions

- Based on the report of Department of Financial Services, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has been ranked as the best Public Sector bank in the overall digital transactions category in India.

- It has been rated as the sixth-best in the overall category amongst all banks in India for digital performance.
- The bank is rated as 'Good' by the government with a score of 71.

Sports

Amit Panghal won gold in Boxing

- Amit Panghal won gold in men's Light Fly (49kg) boxing event at Asian games 2018.
- He defeated 2016 Olympic champion and world championships silver-medallist Dusmatov of Uzbekistan by 3-2.
- Amit also won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018 earlier this year.

India clinch three medals in sailing

- India clinched silver medal and bronze medal, in the sailing events of the ongoing 18th edition of the Asian Games.
- In 49er sailing event, the Indian pair of **Varsha Gautham** and **Sweta Shervegar** bagged the silver medal in the women's category.
- **Varun Thakkar** and **Ganapathy Chengappa** won the bronze medal in the men's category.
- **Harshita Tomar** won bronze medal in sailing.

Indian women's hockey team won silver medal

- In Asian Games, Women's hockey team settled for silver medal after losing to Japan in the final.
- Japan defeated India by 2-1.
- It was India's second silver medal in women's hockey in Asian Games history.
- The only time India won the gold medal was in the 1982 Games in New Delhi.

Sakshi won gold medal in boxing

- In boxing, **Sakshi Choudhary** won the **gold medal** at the **World Youth Boxing** in Budapest on 31st August 2018.
- Sakshi won the gold medal in the 57-kilogram category.
- She beat Croatia's Nikolina Cacic.
- However, Asian champions Manisha (64kg) and Anamika (51kg) settled for silver medals.

Vikas Krishan settles for bronze

- Vikas Krishan (75kg) settled for a bronze medal in boxing at the Asian Games after he was declared medically unfit to fight his semifinal.
- He won a lightweight 60kg category gold in Guangzhou 2010 and a middle-weight bronze in the 2014 edition in Incheon.
- He was declared medically unfit to compete in the **semifinal match against Kazakhstan's Amankul Abilkhan** due to a cut on his left eyelid.

Seema Punia wins bronze in Discus Throw

- **Seema Punia** wins bronze in women's discus throw at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia.
- The 35-year-old Seema cleared a best distance of 62.26m which is her best in six years.
- **China's Yang Chen (65.12m)** won the gold and **Bin Feng (64.25m)** from China bagged the silver.

India won 4x400m women's relay team gold

- The Indian women's relay quartet of Hima Das, M. Poovamma, Saritaben Gayakwad and V. Vismaya won a gold medal in the women's 4x400 relay at the Asian Games 2018.
- Bahrain won the silver medal while Vietnam won the bronze medal.
- This was India's fifth gold medal in a row in the women's 4x400m relay.

Jinson Johnson won gold in men's 1500m event

- **India's Jinson Johnson** won gold medal in the men's 1500m event in the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta on 30th August, 2018.
- Jinson Johnson earlier won a silver medal in the 800m event.
- Johnson became the first Indian in 56 years to win this event at the Asian Games, following Mohinder Singh's gold at the 1962 Games.

Swapna won first Asiad gold in Heptathlon

- Swapna Barman created history by becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- The 21-year-old Barman logged 6026 points from the seven events competed for two days in women's heptathlon.
- **China's Qingling Wang (5954)** won the silver and **Japan's Yuki Yamasaki** won the bronze medal with 5873 points.

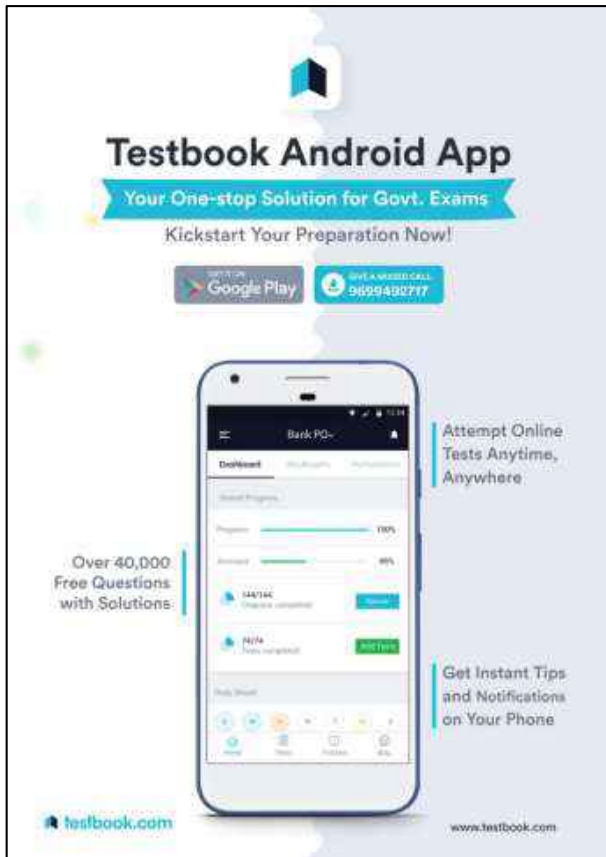
Dutee Chand won silver in women's 200m

- India's Dutee Chand won the Silver medal in the women's 200m event at the 18th Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta.
- She crossed the finishing line in 23.20s behind **Bahrain's Edidiong Odiong who clinched the gold in 22.96s** and the **bronze went to China's Wei Yongli (23.27s)**.
- She won two medals at the Asian Games as she won **silver earlier in the women's 100m**.

Arpinder Singh clinches gold

- Arpinder Singh clinched **India's first men's triple jump gold** in 48 years, with a jump of 16.77m in the Asian Games.
- **India's last Asian Games gold medal in men's triple jump** had come in 1970 from Mohinder Singh Gill.

- Ruslan Kurbanov of Uzbekistan took the silver with a best jump of 16.62m, while Shuo Cao of China was third with an effort of 16.56m.



N Korea to host Asian Youth Championships

- The 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships will be held in the North Korean capital Pyongyang.
- At the Asian Games weightlifting in Jakarta, which North Korea has dominated winning seven golds.
- The Asian Weightlifting Federation and North Korea's Sports Minister Kim Il Guk signed an agreement for North Korea to hold the championships from October 27, 2019.

Historic bronze in men's TT at Asiad

- The Indian table tennis men's team won a historic bronze medal after losing against South Korea in Asian Games 2018.
- This is the first first-ever bronze medal in Table Tennis at Asian Games.
- The team comprising G Sathiyam, Achanta Sharath Kamal and A Amalraj fight against the lopsided Koreans and lose the game by 0-3.

India won silver and bronze in Kurash

- India bagged two medals at Asian games 2018 in Kurash, a form of wrestling indigenous to Central Asia.

- Pincky Balhara and Malaprabha Yallappa Jadhav won silver and bronze respectively in debut of Kurash at Asian Games 2018.
- The 19 year old Pincky lost 0-10 to favourite Gulnor Sulaymova of Uzbekistan in the gold medal clash.

Manjit Singh won gold in men's 800 m

- Manjit Singh clinched gold in **men's 800 m** track and field event at Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta.
- This is **Manjit's first major international medal**, he completed the 800 m race in 1 min and 46.15 seconds.
- In the event **Jinson Johnson of India and Abubaker Abdalla of Qatar won Silver and Bronze respectively.**

Sindhu won silver in badminton at Asian Games

- PV Sindhu won silver medal in badminton at the Asian Games 2018.
- PV Sindhu was defeated by Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying.
- It was for the first time that an Indian had ever reached the finals of a badminton singles event at the Asian Games.
- It is the first time that India has won two individual medals at the Asian Games with Saina Nehwal clinching a bronze earlier.

Women's compound archery team won silver medal

- Indian women's team won silver medal in the compound archery team event at the 2018 Asian Games.
- The Indian team comprised Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari and Jyothi Surekha Vennam.
- The Indian team was defeated by South Korea in the finals at the 18th Asian Games.

Dharun won silver medal in 400m hurdles

- Dharun Ayyasamy broke the national record in the men's 400 metres hurdles to claim the silver medal at the Asian Games in Jakarta.
- It is India's first medal in the hurdles event since Joseph Abraham won a gold in Asian Games 2010.**
- Qatar's Abderrahman Samba won the gold medal at the Asian Games 2018.**

Sudha Singh won silver in women's steeplechase

- Sudha Singh **clinched the silver in women's 3000m** steeplechase event in the Asian Games in Jakarta.
- Bahrain won the gold medal, while Vietnam won the bronze medal.
- Sudha won a gold medal when women's 3000m** steeplechase was introduced in the Asian Games in 2010.

Neena Varakil wins silver in women's long jump

- Neena Varakil won a silver medal in the women's long jump event at the ongoing Asian Games in Indonesia.

- Vietnam won the gold medal and the bronze medal was won by China.
- **Varakil's best jump of 6.51m came in the fourth attempt**, which was enough to fetch her the silver.

- In this exercise, Pakistan and Indian participated for the first time.

Polity

Activists under house arrest till Sept 6

- The Supreme Court ordered that the five human rights activists will be under house arrest till 6 Sept.
- **They were arrested for 'Elgaar Parishad' event held on 31 December 2017** that had triggered violence at Koregaon-Bhima village.
- The five activists are Varavara Rao, Vernon Gonzalves, Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bhardwaj and Gautam Navalakha.

Defence

INS Sahyadri reaches for KAKADU 2018

- INS Sahyadri reaches the Port of Darwin, Australia to participate in exercise KAKADU 2018.
- Exercise KAKADU started in 1993, is a multilateral regional maritime engagement exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Navy and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force.
- The 14th edition of exercise would see the participation of approx 52 foreign staff from over 25 different countries.

Assam govt extends AFSPA

- Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA for another six months in the entire state.
- The official notification said that the state governor has declared the entire State of Assam as the 'disturbed area' up to six months.
- The Act gives special rights and immunity to security forces in carrying out various operations in disturbed areas.

INS Teg lends assistance to MV Vela

- INS Teg, a warship of the Western Naval Command, provided assistance to MV Vela, a Norwegian owned ship in Gulf of Aden.
- INS Teg dispatched a specialist team for recovery damaged anchor and cable and assisted the crew of MV Vela.
- MV Vela and the Combined Task Force expressed their gratitude to the ship and the Indian Navy.

Joint military exercise ends in Russia

- The fifth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Peace Mission Exercise 2018, ended in Chebarkul, Russia.
- The Indian delegation led by Lt. Gen Satish Dua, participated for the first time in the exercise.