WEEKLY

16TH SEPTEMBER - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Anushka Sharma Receives Smita Patil Award

- Union Transport Minister felicitated Anushka Sharma during the 34th anniversary of Priyadarshni Academy Global Award, in Mumbai.
- She received the Smita Patil award for best actor.
- Global Awards honours the eminent personalities in social, cultural and educational fields that have made significant contribution in their respective fields.
- Awards were started in the year 1987.

Youngest author short-listed at Booker Prize

- British writer Daisy Johnson became the youngest author to be shortlisted for the prestigious Man Booker Prize 2018.
- She has been shortlisted for her mother-daughter tale, "Everything Under".
- The 27-year-old joins fellow UK authors Anna Burns for "Milkman" and Robin Robertson for "The Long Take".
- The shortlisted authors each receive 2,500 pounds and a specially-bound edition of their book.

Virat, Mirabai to receive Khel Ratna

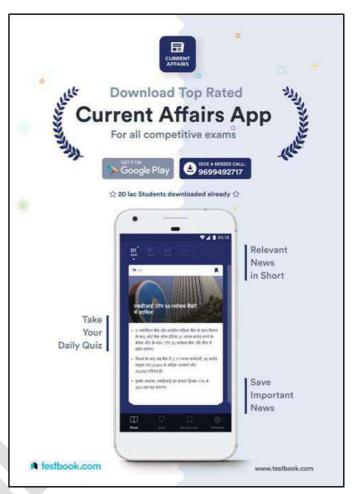
- Indian cricket captain Virat
 Kohli and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu will receive
 the prestigious 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna' on
 September 25, 2018.
- Chanu was chosen for the prestigious award following her gold medal in the 48kg category at the World Championships 2017.
- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among 20 sportspersons picked for the Arjuna Awards.

Indian Films won an Award at TFF

- Vasan Bala's superhero movie, Mard ko Dard Nahin Hota has won the Toronto film festival's prestigious Grolsch People's Choice Midnight Madness Award.
- The film pays tribute to action comedies of the 70s and 80s and tells the story of a young man born with a disorder that makes him immune to pain.
- This is the first ever Indian film to be screened in the Toronto festival's Midnight Madness.

HRD Minister present Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar

- The Union Minister HRD minister conferred the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2017-18 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- The SVP honours the schools that have done exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene.
- The awardee schools got a Certificate of Recognition along with an additional school grant of Rs. 50,000/- through digital payment.



INSV Tarini received Tenzing Norgay Award

- The all-women crew of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award.
- The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- The INSV Tarini crew was also bestowed with Nav Sena Medal on the occasion of 72nd Independence Day.

Toronto film festival to 'Green Book'

- Peter Farrelly's dramatic comedy buddy movie 'Green Book', won the Toronto International Film Festival audience prize.
- The film follows a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes a job chauffeuring an African-American through the US South in the 1960.
- The Toronto film festival is the biggest in North America and has traditionally been a key event for Oscar-conscious distributors.

Days & Events

International Day of Peace observed on Sept 21

• The International Day of Peace is observed every year on 21 September.



- The theme for 2018 is "The Right to Peace The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70"
- The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948.

Int Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 16 Sept

- 16 September is designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- The theme for Ozone Day 2018 is: Keep Cool and Carry on: Montreal Protocol.
- The day is celebrated on 16 September commemorating the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

International Affairs

Hong Kong opens high-speed rail link

- Hong Kong opened a new high-speed rail link to inland China that will vastly decrease travel times.
- The system aims to transport more than 80,000 passengers daily between the Asian financial center of 7 mn people and the neighbouring manufacturing hub of Guangdong province.
- The train travels the 26 km through Hong Kong to Shenzhen across the border in China in just 14 minutes.

India contributes \$1 mn to UN's solar project

- India has contributed a \$1 million for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building.
- The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy.
- India is the "first responder" to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for climate action.

WADA lifts ban on Russia

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) lifted a ban on Russia's anti-doping agency, RUSADA.
- The lifted ban paved the way for Russian athletes to return to competition across all sports.
- RUSADA was suspended in November 2015 after an independent WADA report outlined evidence of massive state-backed, systematic doping and coverups in Russian sport.

N. Korea sign agreement on denuclearisation

 North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in signed an agreement on the denuclearization.

- Kim stated that the regime is willing to demolish the country's largest nuclear facility in Yongbyon if the US takes corresponding measures.
- Mr. Kim also pledged to visit Seoul, the first visit by a North Korean leader to the South since the Korean War.

Germany launched world's first hydrogen train

- Germany has launched the world's first hydrogenpowered train named 'Coradia iLint train'.
- The 'Coradia iLint trains' can run for around 1,000 kilometres on a single tank of hydrogen.
- The trains have been built by French TGV-maker Alstom.
- Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen.

Moutaz Mousa Abdallah becomes Sudan's new PM

- Moutaz Mousa Abdallah has become Sudan's new Prime Minister.
- Mousa Abdallah is also holding the finance portfolio in a bid to revive the country's ailing economy.
- A 21-member cabinet was also sworn in at the presidential palace in Khartoum on 15th September 2018.
- Mousa Abdallah himself was irrigation minister in the previous cabinet.

Eliud breaks world record at Berlin Marathon

- Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin on 16th September 2018.
- The Kenyan clocked two hours, one minute and 39 seconds, beating Dennis Kimetto's mark also set in Berlin in 2014- by one minute and 18 seconds.
- It was the largest single improvement on the marathon world record since Derek Clayton improved the mark by 2:23 in 1967.

National Affairs

Live-in partners can adopt now

- Individuals in a live-in relationship will once again be able to adopt children from and within India.
- India's nodal adoption agency decided to withdraw a circular issued earlier this year disallowing them from doing so.
- The Child Adoption Regulatory Authority (CARA), in a circular issued on May 31, barred applicants in a live-in relationship from adopting a child.

Safety audit of airlines, airports

 Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu directed Directorate General of Civil Aviation to conduct safety audit of scheduled airlines, aerodromes and flying training schools.



- The report has to be submitted within **30 days**.
- This comes after around 30 passengers on a Jet Airways flight suffered nose, ear bleeds as the crew failed to turn on a switch that maintains cabin pressure.

IRDAI raised Minimum Driver Insurance Cover

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has raised the minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs. 15 lakh for a premium of Rs. 750 per annum.
- It is a move to provide some succour to road accident victims.
- Currently, the Capital Sum Insured (CSI) under this section for motorised two-wheelers and private cars/commercial vehicles is Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh, respectively.

PM Modi inaugurated Jharsuguda Airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the much-awaited Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha.
- He will launch the Jharsuguda-Barapali-Sardega rail link that will be dedicated to the nation.
- Modi will also unveil a plaque to mark the commencement of work for the revival of Talcher fertilizer plant in Odisha.
- This will be the first plant in India to have a coal gasification based fertilizer unit.

Foundation stone for convention centre laid

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) in Dwarka.
- The facilities provided at the centre will be on par with the best in the world in size and quality.
- It will rank among the top 10 in the world and the biggest indoor exhibition space in India.

First General Assembly of the ISA to be held

- The first General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, ISA, will be inaugurated on the 2nd of October in Delhi.
- The ISA is a major initiative of Modi in contributing to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- The Founding Conference of the ISA was jointly hosted by Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi on 11 March 2018.

PM to launch PMJAY at Ranchi

- Shri Narendra Modi, will launch the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) at Ranchi, Jharkhand, on September 23, 2018.
- Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health assurance worth Rs. 5 lakh each, every year.
- He will lay the Foundation Stone for medical colleges at Chaibasa and Koderma and will inaugurate 10 Health and Wellness Centres.

Habibganj redeveloped on lines of Heidelberg

- Habibganj railway station is being reconstructed on the lines of Germany's Heidelberg railway station.
- It is being constructed by the Indian Railway Stations
 Development Corporation, a special purpose vehicle
 of the railway ministry, along with a private firm,
 Bansal Pathways Habibganj Private Ltd.
- It is the first Indian Railway station to be redeveloped on the lines of Germany's Heidelberg.

Gujarat declares Kutch as scarcity affected

- Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani declared the entire Kutch district as scarcity affected area.
- Apart from Kutch district, all blocks with less than 125 mm of rainfall during the current monsoon have also been declared as scarcity affected.
- Various relief measures in the scarcity affected areas will start from 1 Oct.
- He also announced drinking water pipeline project worth Rs. 296 crore for Kutch.

ISRO opens tech incubation centre in Agartala

- The ISRO Technology Incubation Centre has been launched in Agartala.
- The Centre was launched at the first edition of 'Spacetronics' organised by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association.
- The Incubation Centre is located at National Institute of Technology Agartala.
- On the launch event K. Sivan said that ISRO is looking to incubate space-related innovation and start-ups.

Cyclonic storm 'Daye' crosses Odisha coast

- Cyclonic storm 'Daye' crossed the coast near Gopalpur in Odisha, triggering heavy downpour accompanied by high-velocity wind in several parts of the state.
- Cyclone 'Daye' is likely to be the last sea-based system to emerge during the 2018 monsoon.
- Danger signs with 'signal number 3', which warns of surface winds clocking 40-50 kmph, have been hoisted at all ports of Odisha.

Home Ministry signs MoU with ISRO

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space are collaborating together to set up an advance Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER).
- The ISRO will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER.
- The project will be executed under the overall supervision of MHA.



Filing of NRC claims from September 25

- The Supreme Court ordered the submission of claims and objections on the inclusion of names in Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) draft from September 25.
- The claims backed by 10 identity documents allowed by the court will continue for 60 days from the said date.
- The final draft NRC list was published on July 30 in which 40,70,707 people failed to make it to the list

IIT-M-ONGC tie-up to monitoring offshore

- IIT-Madras collaborated with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited to develop a software, for monitoring its over 280 fixed offshore platforms.
- The project is named as 'Development of Structural Integrity Management System (SIMS) For Offshore Platforms of ONGC'.
- The collaboration would enhance the operational life cycle and reduce operating costs by optimum use of offshore survey needs.

All India Pension Adalat inaugurated

- The Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 'Pension Adalat', organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners, Government of India.
- Dr Jitendra said that Pension Adalats will help in onthe-spot redressal of pensioners' grievances.
- He also presented the 'Anubhav' awards 2018 to six pensioners for their contribution towards creating institutional memory for the departments.

Projects worth over Rs.500 cr in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over 500 crore rupees in Varanasi.
- Projects inaugurated are Integrated Power
 Development Scheme for Puraani Kashi and
 an Atal Incubation Centre at the Banaras Hindu
 University (BHU).
- PM also laid the foundation stone of Regional Ophthalmology Centre at the BHU.

India Tourism Mart 2018 inaugurated

- The Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 'first ever' India Tourism Mart in New Delhi.
- The India Tourism Mart is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH).
- FAITH is the apex organization of all the important trade and hospitality associations of the country.

SC allows sale of Saridon, 3 other drugs

• Supreme Court allowed the sale of the drug and three other banned fixed-dose combinations (FDCs).



- With this order, **Saridon** will be **available** in **medical stores** across the country.
- Supreme Court, however, did not grant any relief to the other medicines falling in the list of 328 FDC drugs which were banned by the Health Ministry by its September 7, 2018, notification.

No odd-even rule for two-wheelers: SC

- The Supreme Court stayed a National Green
 Tribunal order making the odd-even vehicle
 rotation scheme applicable to all, including scooters
 and motorbikes.
- The **Supreme Court** also **exempted** women driving **four-wheelers** from the odd-even scheme.
- Under the odd-even vehicle rotation scheme, odd and even numbered vehicles ply on alternate days.

Rajnath Singh to inaugurate smart fencing

- Union Home Minister will inaugurate pilot project of smart fencing along the Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu.
- Smart fencing has been installed at two places along the International Border in Jammu.
- The pilot projects of smart fencing will virtually make it impossible for the terrorists to breach it and infiltrate into the Indian Territory.

Mobile app to check poll code violations

- Chief Election Commissioner said voters will be using C-Vigil mobile app to check poll code violations and voters can also file a complaint against misconduct.
- 'Cvigil' was launched on July 3, 2018.
- Within 100 minutes, the complainant will be given feedback on the action taken.
- The facility will be used by the voters in the upcoming elections in M.P, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Mizoram.

India & World

VP returns from Serbia, Malta & Romania visit

- Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was on an official Visit to Serbia, Malta and Romania from September 14-20, 2018.
- The visit was characterised by extremely cordial discussions with Heads of Governments, PMs and other senior political leaders.
- Serbian PM Ana Brnabic.
- Malta's PM Joseph Muscat.
- Romanian PM Viorica Dancila.

UN Chief to visit India in October

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will visit India on October 1.
- He will inaugurate the UN House in New Delhi.

 Secretary-General Guterres would participate in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi on October 2.

WB endorses CPF for India

- World Bank (WB) board endorsed a five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India.
- The framework will bring \$25-30 billion in financial support from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.
- CPF is aimed at supporting India's transition to a higher middle-income country.

BRICS bank approves \$525-million for MP

- The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved a \$525million loan to Madhya Pradesh for infrastructure projects.
- The Board of Directors of the NDB approved a \$350-million loan for the Major District Roads Project II of Madhya Pradesh and \$175 million for building and upgrading 350 bridges.
- The project will improve the road conditions and enhance the transport capacity.

MoU signed for establishing MGICC in Niger

- India and Niger signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey, Niger.
- The centre honours the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th birth anniversary is also being observed in 2019.
- India is providing grant assistance to build MGICC.

India and Morocco sign Air Services Agreement

- India and Morocco signed the revised Air Services
 Agreement between the two countries
 enabling greater connectivity through a modernized
 agreement.
- The two sides cleared the legal and technical difficulties and agreed to a modern new text for the Air Services Agreement.
- The **Agreement** enables **code sharing** with **airlines** of other parties as well as greater freedom in mounting direct flights.

Ind-Germany pact to boost vocational education

- India and Germany signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) to focus on the field of dual vocational education and training and skill development.
- Under the MoA, students who complete specific training courses in India will get a certificate that is recognised in India and in Germany.



• These students can apply for jobs in India and also in Germany.

India signs loan pact with WB for Uttarakhand

- India has signed a financing loan agreement with the World Bank for US\$74 million for Uttarakhand Workforce Development Project (UKWDP).
- The project objective is to improve the quality and relevance of training at priority Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- Another aim is to increase the number of skilled workers certified under the National Skills Qualification Framework.

Indo-Bangla friendship pipeline inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the construction of a friendship pipeline project.
- The 130-kilometre India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.
- The pipeline will help fulfil the energy needs of Bangladesh at cheaper rates.

Government & FAO launch green agri project

- The government of India and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has launched an agriculture project with US\$33.5 million grant from the Global Environment Facility.
- The project seeks to bring change in the farm sector through the conservation of biodiversity and forest landscapes.
- The project will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

AAI to Develop Sri Lanka's Palaly Airport

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) will prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for development of Palaly airport in Sri Lanka.
- All the technical and design aspects would be covered in the DPR, which is expected to be completed in three months.
- This would be the first project for AAI in Sri Lanka.
- The AAI manages more than 120 airports in different parts of India.

Bangladesh approves use of its seaports

- Bangladesh's Cabinet on September 17, 2018, approved the draft of a proposed agreement with India.
- Under the agreement, it will allow India to use the Chittagong and Mongla seaports for transporting goods to and from its land-locked northeastern states.
- A **tracking system** will be used to monitor the cargo moving through Bangladesh.

Jaipur Literature Festival begins in Houston

- The Jaipur Literature Festival began in Houston at the Asia Society of Texas on 14th September 2018.
- The inaugural session also saw Congress leader and writer Shashi Tharoor discuss his book "Why I am a Hindu" with writer Namita Gokhale.
- The annual festival began in 2006 and is held annually in Jaipur.

Environment

More river stretches critically polluted

- According to an assessment by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the number of polluted stretches in India's rivers has increased to 351 from 302 two years ago.
- The number of **critically polluted stretches**, where water quality indicators are the poorest, has gone up to **45 from 34**.
- The most significant stretches of pollution highlighted by the CPCB assessment include the Mithi River.

Government Policies & Schemes

E-com have to deduct 1% in supplier payment

- E-commerce firms from 1 October 2018, will have to deduct 1% tax collected at source (TCS) under GST, before making payments to their suppliers.
- The Finance Ministry notified TCS at the rate of 0.50% of the net value of intra-State taxable supplies made through e-commerce portals.
- States too would follow suit and notify levy of 0.50% SGST on intra-State supplies

Govt partners with Dell and Tata Trusts

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare exchanged the MoUs with the Tata Trusts and Dell.
- The MoU has been signed to provide a technological platform for nationwide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
- The aim is to bring healthcare technology transformation in 'Comprehensive Primary Health Care NCD program' under Ayushman Bharat.

Govt launches online database of sex offenders

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched India's first ever online and centralised National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO) in New Delhi.
- The database will have a record of the name, photographs, address, fingerprint and other details of convicted sexual offenders.



 The NDSO data will be available only to law enforcement agencies for tracking and investigating cases of sexual offences.

Increase in honorarium for Anganwadi and Asha

- The Union Cabinet has approved an increase in the honorarium for Anganwadi and Asha workers which will become effective October.
- Anganwadi workers receiving Rs 3,000 per month will now get Rs 4,500. Similarly, those at mini-Anganwadi centres receiving Rs 2,200 per month will now get Rs 3,500.
- The honorarium for Anganwadi helpers has also been increased from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,250 per month.



CCEA approves rail line fom Budni to Indore

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a 205.5 km new rail line connecting Budni to Indore in Madhya Pradesh.
- The main purpose of this project is the development of backward areas and reduction in travel time from Indore to Jabalpur as well as from Indore to Mumbai.
- The project which is expected to be **completed by** 2024-2025.

Health Ministry introduces budget dashboard

- Ministry of Health has introduced 'budget dashboard', an internal web portal comprising information on budget, expenditure and bill payment positions.
- The dashboard incorporates features for Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Health Research.
- The dashboard also has unique features for bill position of all India pay and accounts offices and reflects the reason for the return of bills.

CCEA approves new cost for dam safety project

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the revised cost estimate of a project to improve the safety of 198 dams across the country.
- The project will improve the safety and operational performance of dams.

The scheme envisages rehabilitation of 198
 existing dam projects located in Kerala, Madhya
 Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Jharkhand
 and Uttarakhand.

Ordinance on instant triple talaq cleared

- The Union Cabinet cleared an ordinance to make instant triple talag a criminal offence.
- However, the amended triple talaq bill provides for additional safeguards, including a provision for bail to an accused before the start of the trial.
- The Muslim Women Protection of Rights on Marriage Bill makes instant triple talaq illegal and imposes a jail term of up to three years.

'Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna' rolled out

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
 has approved a new scheme- 'Atal Bimit Vyakti
 Kalyan Yojna' for Insured Persons covered under
 the Employees' State Insurance Act.
- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
- The ESIC also approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses.

Document on cooling action plan by India

- Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan released world's first draft on Cooling Action Plan.
- The plan gives thrust to actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.
- The plan lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand, thus helping in reducing emissions.
- On the event Union minister also released a booklet on 'Montreal Protocol India's Success Story'.

Govt launched 'e-Sahaj' portal

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched an online 'e-Sahaj' portal for grant of Security Clearance.
- The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit the application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- MHA is the nodal Ministry for security clearances before the issue of license/permit, permission, contract etc, to companies/ bidders/individuals.

Government modifies PMFBY norms

- Government modified operational guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- According to new norms crop insurance companies delaying claim payouts beyond two months from the prescribed will have to pay 12 per cent interest to farmers.
- The new operational guidelines come into force from the Rabi season, which commences on October 1.



NABARD Approves Rs 65,635 Crore Loan

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has approved Rs 65,634.93 crore loan so far to 93 prioritized irrigation projects.
- The projects are under the government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).
- The NABARD is funding the central and state share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under the PMKSY through long-term irrigation fund (LTIF).

No withholding tax on interest of masala bonds

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes said 'no withholding tax' will apply on interest payments made by an Indian company or a business trust to a non-resident.
- This is in respect to the **offshore rupeedenominated bonds** issued between September 17, 2018, and March 31, 2019.
- The move is expected to incentivise foreign exchange inflows into India through low-cost offshore rupee-denominated bonds.

Merger of BoB, Vijaya & Dena banks proposed

- The government of India proposed the merger of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third-largest bank.
- The decision was taken at the meeting of a panel, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, which oversees merger proposals of state-owned banks.
- The other members of the panel include Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

3400 Test Practice Centres inaugurated

- The Union Minister HRD has inaugurated a network of more than 3,400 Test Practice Centres (TPCs) spread across the 622 Districts in the country.
- These test centres have been set up to facilitate students appearing in entrance examinations for Higher Education to hold practice sessions.
- The TPCs will provide Mock Tests to the candidates of JEE (Main) and UGC-NET examinations.

U.P. to launch first-ever dial-FIR

- The Uttar Pradesh Police is set to launch a first of its kind 'dial-FIR scheme' in the country where a common man can register regular crimes without going to a police station.
- Besides this, the Uttar Pradesh Police is also expanding the counter-terror combat and response grid in the State.
- The aim is to enhance the strength of the ATS both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Science & Technology

ISRO's launch pad for Gaganyaan mission

- ISRO is setting up a third launch pad at Sriharikota to undertake the Gaganyaan manned space flight programme.
- In addition, ISRO is scouting for a location on the western sea coast near Gujarat to set up another launch pad for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV).
- ISRO will use its GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, which can carry the heavier payload of the Gaganyaan.

Cyclone-30 became operational at Kolkata

- Medical Cyclotron Facility, 'Cyclone-30' became operational at Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) in Kolkata.
- Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.
- This facility will provide for affordable radioisotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals used for breast cancer diagnosis and prostate cancer treatment, respectively.

PSLV-C42 launched 2 foreign satellites

- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C42) of Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched two satellites, 'NovaSAR and S1-4', from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 16th September 2018.
- The satellites belong to UK-based Surrey Satellite Technology Limited.
- NovaSAR carries S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar and S1-4 is a high-resolution earth observation satellite.

Committees & Recommendations

HC sets up panel to address NCLT

- The Delhi High Court constituted a committee to deal with the problems faced by lawyers and litigants in entering the building housing National Company Law Tribunal and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
- The committee is headed by the Registrar General of Delhi High Court.
- The committee will also comprise two members each nominated by the Bar associations of NCLT and NCLAT

IRDAI panel to examine fintech issues

 The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a committee to look into the concept of a regulatory sandbox in the country.



- The 10-member committee will have IRDAI general manager RK Sharma will be the convener.
- The committee will look into the key issues that fintech poses across the insurance value chain.

An independent Payments Regulatory Board

- An Inter-Ministerial Committee has rejected the view of the RBI and suggested setting up of an independent Payments Regulatory Board.
- The Committee, headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, has prepared a draft for Payment and Settlement System Bill 2018.
- The members of the committee include IT Secretary Ajay Prakash, UIDAI CEO Ajay Bhushan, and RBI ED Ganesh Kumar.

Business & Economy

Yes Bank pays ₹38 crore in GST fines

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has paid ₹38 crore in fines to the GST department for alleged violations in domestic remittances.
- A bank official said the money has been paid "in protest" and the lender believes that it has not violated any norms.
- However, the tax department is of the view that the bank underpaid GST.

RBI announces norms for PSL by banks, NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank announced guidelines for coorigination of priority sector loans by banks and NBFCs.
- It will **enhance the flow of funds** to the sector at competitive rates.
- These norms are applicable on Small Finance Banks and all Scheduled Commercial Banks except Regional Rural Banks.

SBI to raise \$500 million through green bonds

- State Bank of India (SBI) is in the international bond market to raise nearly \$500 million in green bonds, making it the maiden issuance for the bank.
- The tenor of the bonds is expected to be five years and the notes are to be issued by the bank's London branch.
- With this issue, SBI will become compliant with the global standards as prescribed by the Climate Bonds Initiative.

BSE, NSE got SEBI approval

 Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) have received the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval to launch commodity derivatives segment from October 1, 2018.

- BSE will enter the segment with non-agriculture commodities like metals.
- At present, the exchanges offer trading in equities, equity derivatives as well as currency derivatives.

SEBI approves KYC norms for FPIs

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved norms for settlement of cases and new KYC norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors.
- SEBI has approved a proposal to allow foreign investors to trade in commodity derivatives market, except for sensitive commodities.
- SEBI chairman also said that the mutual fund expenses will be brought down considering economies of scale.

IPPB, Bajaj Allianz for insurance products

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Bajaj Allianz announced a five-year partnership to sell life insurance products on a revenue share basis.
- Under the partnership, IPPB will facilitate customers to pay for Bajaj Allianz life insurance products through their accounts and Bajaj Allianz Life will offer life insurance solutions.
- IPPB was launched on September 1, 2018.

PayU India to operate its own NBFC

- PayU India has received Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to operate its own Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- The move will help PayU promote inclusive growth in the country by catering to the diverse financial needs of various segments of the society.
- PayU India is the digital payments firm owned by South Africa's Naspers Ltd.

Sports

India to host the Women's Boxing World C'ship

- India will host the Women's Boxing World Championships after more than a decade from November 15-24, 2018, in New Delhi.
- The marquee tournament was last held in India in 2006 and remains the best for the country in terms of performance.
- The first edition of the women's world championship was held in the Unites States in Scranton in 2001.

Eliud Kipchoge sets new marathon world record

- Kenyan runner Eliud Kipchoge has set a new world record, winning the Berlin marathon in 2 hours, 1 minute and 39 seconds.
- The Olympic champion broke the record set by fellow Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in 2014 by 1 minute and 18 seconds.



 Acclaimed as the greatest marathon runner of the modern era, Kipchoge has dominated marathon racing since making his debut in Hamburg in 2013.

Track Asia Cup starts

- India won 3 Gold, 3 Silver and a Bronze on the opening day of the 5th Track Asia Cup Cycling in New Delhi.
- Mayuri Lute won the country's first Gold in the Women's Junior 500 metres race.
- Another Gold came after the Indian men's junior team performed as expected in the team sprint event, by defeating Kazakhstan.

Hangzhou to host 2022 Asian Para Games

- Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) confirmed that Hangzhou in China will host the fourth edition of the Asian Para Games in 2022.
- Hangzhou will now be represented at the Closing Ceremony of this year's Asian Para Games, which will begin in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on October 6.
- Beijing will also host the Winter Olympics in 2022.

Silver medal at Medved Intl Wrestling

- Sakshi Malik settled for a Silver medal at the Medved International Wrestling tournament at Minsk, Belarus.
- In the Final of the 62 kg category, Sakshi lost to Hungary's Marianna Sastin, 2-6 to finish second best.
- Indian grappler Pooja Dhanda also bagged a Bronze medal in the 57 kg category.

IOC won MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup

- Indian Oil Corporation defeated Indian Railways by 4-0 in the final to win the 92nd All-India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup tournament.
- Murugappa Gold Cup is one of India's premier
 Hockey leagues and has been home to some of the
 top teams and shining talent in the sport.
- The former chairman of Murugappa Group MA Alagappan was the chief guest in the final.

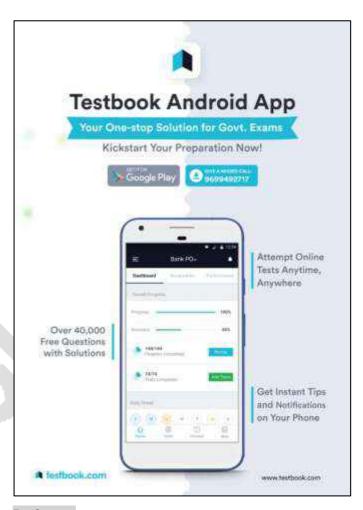
Indian boxers won 3 gold medals in Turkey

- Boxers Simranjit Kaur (64kg), Monika (48kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (81kg) won gold medals at the Ahmet Comert Tournament in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Simranjit, a former national medallist, defeated Turkey's Sema Caliskan.
- Bhagyabati was declared the most scientific boxer of the tournament, and the Indian women's team finished third.

MC Mary Kom won gold medal in boxing

 MC Mary Kom won gold medal in boxing at Silesian Open Boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice, Poland.

- Jyoti Gulia won the gold medal in the youth category of the Silesian Open Boxing Tournament for women in Gliwice, Poland.
- MC Mary Kom has won gold medal in the India Open in Delhi and the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.



Defence

India successfully test fires Prahaar missile

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed surface-to-surface short-range tactical ballistic missile 'Prahaar' on 20 September, 2018.
- 'Prahaar' has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with advanced on board computer.

Exercise Aviaindra-18 commenced at Lipetsk

- Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation.
- First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014.
- Exercise Aviaindra 18 is being conducted at Lipetsk, Russia from 17 Sep to 28 Sep 2018 and will be conducted in Jodhpur, India from 10 Dec to 22 Dec 2018.



 The aim of the exercise is focused towards antiterrorist operations.

DAC approved upgraded 'Akash' for army

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded a procedural approval for the procurement of an improved variant of the indigenously developed Akash Surface to Air Missile (SAM) systems for the Army.
- The Army has already inducted two regiments of Akash.
- Akash was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

IAF plans to make strategic base in Andhra

- The Indian Air Force has come up with major plans for Andhra Pradesh to make it a 'strategic base'.
- AF plans to set up a major **helicopter training** facility at **Donakonda in Prakasam** district
- A drone manufacturing facility in Anantapur district
- A cyber security centre in Amaravati.
- IAF has sought land in Guntur district to expand the existing Air Force Station.

Nepal-China joint military drill begins

- The 2nd edition of Nepal-China joint military exercise begins in China's Sichuan province.
- Military personnel from both the countries will attend the 12-day long military drill 'Mt Everest Friendship Exercise'.
- The exercise mainly focuses on anti-terrorism activities.
- Nepal has also been conducting battalion-level exercises 'Surya Kiran' with the Indian Army.

Indigenous anti-tank missile test-fired

- An indigenously developed Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) was successfully flight tested for the second time from Ahmednagar test range on 16 September 2018.
- It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- This low-weight MPATGM will complement the Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missile to be procured from Israel.

Polity

Gujarat High Court strikes down GST provision

- The Gujarat High Court has struck down a provision of the GST Act.
- Act prohibited 'first stage dealers from transitioning excise duty credit on goods procured more than a year before the rollout of the new indirect tax regime on July 1, 2017.

 Under GST, businesses are allowed to claim credit of taxes paid on goods bought within 12 months of the appointed date for GST or after July 1, 2016.

