

IMPORTANT

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SEPTEMBER 2018

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Awards & Honours

Kanha guide among winners of TOFTigers Awards

- Ramkali Dhurway, a guide from Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh won the "Billy Arjan Singh Memorial Award for Wildlife Guide" at TOFTigers Wildlife Awards.
- The theme of the 5th edition: "Inclusive Conservation - People and Wildlife".
- Also, a restaurant from Nepal and a nature tour operator from the Netherlands were some of the winners at the event.

Ahmedabad and Indore Airports- Best Airports

- AAI's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad were conferred with the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2016-17.
- Ahmedabad airport received the Best Airport Award in Major Cities category.
- Indore airport received the Best Airport Award in 'Rest of India' category.
- The awards were presented on World Tourism Day i.e 27 Sept 2018.

National Tourism Awards 2016-17

- Tourism Minister K J Alphons presented National Tourism Awards 2016-17 in various segments of the Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality.
- Andhra Pradesh bagged the first prize in state category for comprehensive development of tourism followed by Kerala.
- Rajasthan and Goa jointly shared the third prize.
- India will be the host country for official World Tourism Day celebrations in 2019.

PM Modi awarded UN Champions of Earth Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the prestigious United Nations Champions of the Earth Award.
- Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have been awarded in the Policy Leadership category, for their efforts regarding their International Solar Alliance.
- The Champions of the Earth prize is awarded to leaders whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.

Arjuna Awards for the year 2018

- The Arjuna Awards are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to recognize outstanding achievement in sports. The award was presented to 20 peoples, some winners of Arjuna Awards 2018 are as follows-
 - Neeraj Chopra- Athletics
 - Hima Das- Athletics
 - Smriti Mandhana- Cricket

- Manpreet Singh- Hockey
- Ankur Mittal- Shooting
- Shreyasi Singh- Shooting
- Manika Batra- Table Tennis

Dronacharya Awards for the year 2018

- The Dronacharya Award is a sports coaching honor of India. Following sportspersons were conferred with Dronacharya Awards for the year 2018:
 - Subedar Chenanda Achaiah- Boxing
 - Vijay Sharma- Weightlifting
 - Srinivasa Rao- Table Tennis
 - Sukhdev Singh- Athletics
 - Clarence Lobo- Hockey (Life Time)
 - Tarak Sinha- Cricket (Life Time)
 - Jiwan Sharma- Judo (Life Time)
 - V.R. Beedu- Athletics (Life Time)

Luka Modric won FIFA Best player award

- Luka Modric won FIFA's best male player award for 2018.
- Brazil and Orlando Pride forward Marta won the best female player award.
- Mohamed Salah's curling, left-footed strike in an October 12, 2017 match against Everton won the Puskas Award for the best goal.
- Peru's supporters won the Fifa Fan Award.

The advertisement features a central smartphone displaying the app's interface. The interface includes a weather widget for Delhi (01 APR, 31°C, 30°C, 28°C, 27°C, 09:18), a news article titled 'एक्सप्रेस बैंक और भारतीय महिला बैंक के साथ विलय के बाद, यूटी बैंक और इंडिया 41 लाख करोड़ रुपये के बैंकिंग सेक्टर के साथ टीए 50 फिलियल बैंक की जगह में प्रवेश करेंगे', and a 'Daily Quiz' section with three questions. The app is promoted as 'Download Top Rated Current Affairs App For all competitive exams' and has been downloaded by 20 lac students. It is available on Google Play and can be reached via a missed call at 9699492717. The testbook.com logo and website URL are also present.

'Village Rockstars' enters Oscars 2019

- Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' has been selected as India's official entry to the Oscars 2019.
- The film is directed by Rima Das.
- The film which had its World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and India premiere at the Mumbai Film Festival 2018.
- It also won the 'Best Feature film Award' at the 65th National Film Awards.

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 1960s.
- The Toronto film festival is the biggest in North America and has traditionally been a key event for Oscar-conscious distributors.

6 AAI-run airports bag international awards

- Six aerodromes of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have bagged seven international awards.
- The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2017 were presented by the Airports Council International (ACI) at the Customer Excellence Global Summit in Canada, on September 12 2018.
- The winning airports are Lucknow, Indore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune airports.

VRP & NSA-2016 ceremony on September 17, 2018

- Labour and Employment ministry will give away Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP) and National Safety Awards (NSA) for the performance year 2016 on September 17, 2018.
- These Award schemes are operated by the Ministry's Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes.
- The NSA is given in recognition of outstanding safety performance of industrial establishments.

Sawai Singh to be honoured with Meera Puruskar

- Jaipur-based poet and writer Sawai Singh Shekhawat will be honoured with Meera

Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.

- Meera award is the highest award of the Rajasthan Sahitya Academy.
- He also announced other awards to be given for the year 2018-19 in October 2018.

Manoj Jhalani selected for UNIATF Award

- Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) award.
- He was awarded for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and related Sustainable Development Goals.
- The ceremony will take place on 27th Sept in New York.

First Ever Award to Secondary Steel Sector

- Ministry of Steel has launched an Award Scheme to recognize the Secondary Steel sector for their contribution to the national economy.
- The first ever awards will be given on 13th September 2018 at a function in New Delhi.
- At present, the PM Trophy / Steel Minister's Trophy are given to large integrated steel plants having achieved crude steel production of 1 million tonnes per annum.

Balzan Prize awarded to NGO in Switzerland

- An international children rights charity based in Switzerland has been awarded the 2018 'Balzan Prize' for humanitarian achievement.
- The Balzan Foundation announced that 'Terre des Hommes' will receive 1 million Swiss francs (USD 1 million) for a project in the African nation of Mali.
- In 2018, prizes were awarded for social anthropology, global history, chemical ecology and fluid dynamics.

Aishwarya received 'Meryl Streep Award'

- Aishwarya Rai was felicitated with the 'Meryl Streep Award for Excellence' at the first edition of Women In Film and Television (WIFT).
- The award has been established to honour the best female talent in Bollywood and Hollywood.
- Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar received the 'Wylar Award for Excellence in Direction' at the same event

'Sarala Puraskar' for poet Satrugna Pandav

- Odia poet Satrugna Pandav will be honored with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad'.
- The annual Sarala Puraskar, recognized as one of the foremost literary awards.
- The 'Sarala Puraskar' - instituted by eminent Odia industrialist late Dr Bansidhar Panda and late Ila

Panda in 1979 and awarded by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).

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 Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe Supranational 2018, and the Yamaha 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.

Days & Events

Conference on Academic Leadership inaugurated

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' in New Delhi on 29 September 2018.
- It was attended by vice-chancellors and directors of over 350 higher education institutions.
- The theme of the conference is to deliberate on the challenges faced by the Indian education system and to work out a plan for achieving academic outcomes.

World Rabies Day: 28 September

- World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on September 28 to raise awareness about rabies prevention.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Rabies: Share the message. Save a life'.
- The day marks the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the French chemist, and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

World Tourism Day: 27 Sept

- World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27 September to raise awareness about the role of tourism in the international community.
- WTD 2018 theme: "Tourism and the Digital Transformation".
- The host country for WTD 2018 is Hungary.
- The World Travel and Tourism Council calculated that tourism in India generated Rs. 15.24 lakh crore or 9.4% of India's GDP in 2017.

Parakram Parv from 28-30 Sept

- The Indian Armed Forces will observe 'Parakram Parv' from September 28 - 30 to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes across the Line of Control.
- Stories of the recipients of the highest gallantry award, the Param Veer Chakra will also be highlighted during the Parv.
- 53 locations in 51 cities across the country will host events highlighting the valour of Indian Armed Forces.

25th September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas

- 25th September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- During the Antyodaya Diwas each Swachhagrahi will be asked to create a team of his/her own Swachhagrahis.
- Each of these team will work on Open Defecation Free activities in their villages.
- **22 States** and UTs have been **declared Open Defecation Free** so far.

DEPwD celebrated 'Int Day of Sign Languages'

- "International Day of Sign Languages" was celebrated by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 23 September 2018.
- International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September every year.
- The theme of International Day of Sign Languages is "With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!".

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 Day of Democracy on 15 Sept

- International Day of Democracy is observed on 15 September across the world.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World'.
- The United Nations General Assembly observed Democracy day for the first time in 2008.
- This day provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

Engineers Day observed on 15 September

- The Engineer's Community across India celebrates Engineers Day on 15 September every year.
- M Visvesvaraya's birthday is celebrated as Engineer's Day, he was a world-renowned civil engineer.
- He received the Bharat Ratna in 1955.
- M Visvesvaraya installed an irrigation system with water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir, Gwalior's Tigra Dam and Mysuru's Krishnaraja Sagara dam.

Hindi Divas being observed on 14 Sept

- 'Hindi Divas' is being celebrated across the country on 14 September.
- On this day in 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script became the official language of India under the Article 343.
- On this occasion, Vice President presents Rajbhasha Awards to chiefs of various departments, Ministries and offices for their outstanding performances in promoting the language.

World Suicide Prevention Day on Sept 10

- World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed annually on 10 September.
- WSPD is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP).
- The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.
- The theme for 2018 is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.

52nd International Literacy Day Celebrated

- International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on September 8, is an opportunity for governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates.
- The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- This year's theme is 'Literacy and skills development.'

Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th September

- Teachers' Day is celebrated throughout India on 5th September.
- The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of educationist and former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will give away National Teachers' Awards in New Delhi.
- The award is given as public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools.

Int Day of Charity observed on September 5

- The International Day of Charity is observed annually on 5 September.
- It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
- The prime purpose of the International Day of Charity is to raise awareness and provide a common

platform for charity related activities all over the world for individuals, charitable, philanthropic and volunteer organizations.

'Delhi Moveo Cyclothon' inaugurated

- The 'Delhi Moveo Cyclothon' organised by NITI Aayog was flagged off by Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju on September 2, 2018.
- The nine-km Cyclothon aims to create awareness about future of transportation and evolving technologies in the sector.
- The initiative mainly focuses on urban areas to curb congestion and vehicular pollution.

International Affairs

WHO launched SAFER initiative

- The World Health Organization (WHO) released a new initiative, named SAFER.
- SAFER is the WHO-led roadmap to support governments in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health by addressing the harmful use of alcohol.
- SAFER provides 5 high-impact strategic actions prioritised for implementation to promote health and development.

Argentina got biggest loan from IMF

- Argentina has received the biggest loan package ever from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The loan amount of \$57 billion will be disbursed over the next 3 years.
- The aim is to restore the Argentina's struggling economy.
- As per the loan agreement, IMF will only allow Argentina's central bank to intervene to stabilize its currency if the peso depreciates below 44 pesos to the dollar.

UN General meeting on ending TB

- The United Nations General Assembly's first-ever high-level meeting on tuberculosis (TB) to accelerate efforts in ending TB was held on 26 September 2018 in New York.
- The theme of the meeting was "United to end tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic".
- At the meeting, representatives adopted a declaration to "reaffirm" their promise to build a TB-free world by 2030.

Indra Jatra festival in Kathmandu

- The famous Indra Jatra festival is being celebrated in Kathmandu in September with gaiety and religious fervor in Nepal.

- The 8-day long annual festival is observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- It also marks the end of monsoon and beginning of harvest season and festivity.
- Nepal's living Goddess Trishna Shakya made her first public appearance in the festival.

UAE to host Interfaith Alliance Forum

- The UAE will host the Interfaith Alliance Forum in Abu Dhabi on 19th and 20th Nov 2018.
- The forum aims to address and discuss social challenges and to strengthen efforts by religious leaders for protection of the young individuals from extortion and crime via the internet.
- The alliance also highlight the importance of unifying views among religions to ensure the protection of children.

Ibrahim Solih won Presidential Election

- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the Maldives' presidential election on 24th September 2018.
- He defeated Maldives President Abdulla Yameen.
- Mr Solih entered the Parliament for the first time after defeating a ruling party candidate in 1994.
- He has been representing 'Lhaviyani Atoll' in the Maldivian Parliament.

Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang passed away

- Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang died on 21 September, 2018.
- A career security officer and four-star general, Quang was elected president of Vietnam in April 2016.
- He was the second most powerful man in the country after General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.
- He rose through the ranks at various positions at the Ministry of Public Security before being appointed the minister in 2011.

Women Foreign Ministers hold meet

- First women-only foreign minister conference was held in Montreal, Canada on 22 September 2018.
- It is aimed at highlighting women's key role in politics and decision-making processes.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Canada's top diplomat, Chrystia Freeland, and the foreign affairs representative of the European Union, Federica Mogherini.

WB, UN launched 'Famine Action Mechanism'

- World Bank (WB), the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as companies such as Microsoft, Google and Amazon launched a "Famine Action Mechanism" (FAM).

- FAM is an algorithm that will use analytics to identify areas that are likely to experience extreme food shortages.
- FAM will promote investments that tackle the causes of famine at the first warning signs.

Tiger population doubles in Nepal

- Nepal is likely to be the first country in the world to double its tiger population.
- Nepal announced that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the country, nearly doubling the baseline of around 121 tigers in 2009.
- Nepal conducted its national tiger survey between November 2017 and April 2018 in the transboundary Terai Arc Landscape (TAL).

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 cover-ups 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 hydrogen-powered 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.

Typhoon Mangkhut heading for Philippines

- Super Typhoon "Mangkhut" is heading for the Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong.
- The massive storm is the equivalent of a Category 5 hurricane, which at its peak became the strongest storm of 2018 with winds of 285 kph (180 mph).
- Mangkhut is known in the Philippines as Tropical Depression Kiko.
- The Philippines is hit by about 20 typhoons and storms a year.

Florence intensifies to 'major hurricane'

- Hurricane Florence threatening the southeastern coast of the United States strengthened into a Category 3 "major" hurricane.
- Hurricane Florence is a powerful tropical cyclone over the Atlantic Ocean.
- The hurricane's maximum sustained winds have increased to nearly 115 miles per hour (185 kilometres per hour).
- Florence is the first major hurricane of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season.

Om Prakash to be new Nepal Chief Justice

- Justice Om Prakash Mishra has been sworn in as new Chief Justice of Nepal.
- The President Vidya Devi Bhandari administered oath of office and secrecy to Justice Mishra in Kathmandu.
- Nepal's Parliamentary Hearing Committee (PHC) unanimously endorsed his name for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Justice Mishra was appointed as a justice of the Nepal's Supreme Court in 2014.

Russia prepares for biggest war games

- Russia will launch the biggest military drills in its history involving 300,000 troops as well as Chinese soldiers.
- The military exercise named "Vostok-2018" (East-2018) will start in eastern Siberia on September 11, 2018.
- The Russian army will roll out: Iskander missiles that can carry nuclear warheads, T-80 and T-90 tanks and its recent Su-34 and Su-35 fighter planes.

Alibaba founder Jack Ma to step down in 2019

- Alibaba founder and billionaire Jack Ma would step down as the Chinese e-commerce giant's Executive Chairman in 2019.
- Jack Ma will hand over the reins to Daniel Zhang who is at present the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Alibaba.
- Mr Zhang will be promoted to the executive chairman on September 10, 2019, while Mr Ma will remain a director on Alibaba's board.

China allows Nepal to direct transit

- China on Friday agreed to allow Nepal to use four of its seaports and three land ports for third-country trade reducing the landlocked country's dependence on India to conduct international commerce.
- Chinese authorities will provide permits to trucks and containers ferrying Nepal-bound cargo to and from Xigatse in Tibet, as per the new arrangement.

China launched satellite to monitor sea waters

- China launched a marine satellite to help improve the understanding of maritime waters and climate change.
- A Long March-2C rocket carrying the 'HY-1C satellite' was launched from China.
- The satellite will help monitor ocean colour and water temperatures, providing basic data for research on the global oceanic environment.

Qatar offers permanent resident status

- Qatar has decided to grant permanent resident status to a select band of expatriates.
- The government has identified certain categories of people for eligibility to obtain the proposed permanent resident card.
- The card will allow the permanent residents to buy houses and properties as well and entitle them to several privileges.
- Qatar has the highest per capita income in the world.

Xi Jinping announced USD 60 bn aid to Africa

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced a financial package of USD 60 billion aid, comprising investment and loans to Africa.

- The announcement was made during the ongoing Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit.
- The aid package is the same amount China had announced at the 2015 FOCAC summit.

Arif Alvi is Pakistan's new President

- Arif Alvi, one of the founding members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, was elected as President of Pakistan on 4th September, 2018.
- The new President will take the oath of the office on September 9, 2018.
- The outgoing President Mamnoon Hussain's five-year tenure ends on September 8, 2018.
- He won the National Assembly elections from NA-247 (Karachi) during the July 25, 2018 election.

Typhoon Jebi approaches Japan

- Japan issued evacuation advisories in the face of strong winds and heavy rain due to typhoon Jebi.
- Jebi - whose name means "swallow" in Korean - is the latest harsh weather to hit Japan.
- Japan is now in typhoon season and is regularly struck by major storm systems during the summer and autumn.

UAE announces first astronauts to go to space

- The United Arab Emirates has selected its first two astronauts to go on a mission to the International Space Station.
- UAE named the new astronauts as Hazza al-Mansouri and Sultan al-Neyadi.
- The UAE has its sights set on space with a programme worth 20 billion dirhams (USD 5.4 billion).

S Africa declares end of listeria outbreak

- South Africa declared an official end to the world's worst recorded listeria outbreak.
- Listeriosis or listeria is a serious infection usually caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium 'Listeria monocytogenes'.
- The infection mainly affects children and has an incubation period of up to 70 days, making it difficult to track.

Ukraine launched military drills with NATO

- Ukraine launched joint military exercises with the U.S. and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries.
- The annual 'Rapid Trident' military exercises, taking place in western Ukraine until September 15, 2018.
- Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States are part of NATO.

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.

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National Affairs

Bachendri Pal to lead clean Ganga

- Bachendri Pal will lead a month-long rafting expedition "Mission Ganga" to spread awareness on waste management.
- The expedition will start from Haridwar on October 5 and traverse through Bijnor, Farukhabad, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Buxar and end at Patna on Oct 30.
- Bachendri Pal, chief of Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF) is the first Indian woman to climb the Mount Everest.

EC on premature dissolution of assembly

- Election Commission has issued direction on the applicability of Model Code of Conduct in case of premature dissolution of the state assembly.
- The code of conduct will be followed by the caretaker government until the formation of new government.
- The direction has implications for Telangana where the government is continuing as a caretaker government after it dissolved the state assembly.

Assam to introduce methanol as cooking fuel

- The Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) will start a pilot project on October 5, 2018, on the use of methanol as an alternative to cooking gas.
- The use of methanol or methyl alcohol as an alternative to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will help reduce the cost of cooking.
- APL is a public sector undertaking of the Assam government.

Conclave of CMs of 12 Himalayan states

- A conclave of chief ministers and parliamentarians of 12 Himalayan states will be held in Shimla on October 5, 2018.
- The theme of the meet is "well-being of the next generation of Himalayan people through agriculture".
- The Himachal Pradesh government is organising the conclave in partnership with Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI).

SC allowed entry of women in Sabarimala temple

- The Supreme Court on 28 September 2018 allowed entry of women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in Kerala.
- The SC said banning entry of women to Kerala's Sabarimala temple is gender discrimination and the practice violates rights of Hindu women.
- The court gave its verdict on a clutch of pleas challenging the ban on entry of women at Sabarimala in Kerala.

India's first flood forecast system launched

- The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank launched the India's first flood forecasting and early-warning system.
- The system will provide real-time data on inundation, rainfall intensity, temperature, air quality and other climate-related data.
- This will help policy-makers to make informed decisions during disasters.

Delhi, 4 states agree on Uniform tax rates

- Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh on 25 September 2018 agreed to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum products.
- The states also agreed to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit.
- It was also decided to constitute a sub-committee, which would give the recommendation with regard to uniformity in tax rates.

Supreme Court struck down section 497

- The Supreme Court on 27 September 2018 declared adultery cannot be a criminal offence.
- The Supreme Court declared Section 497 from the penal code as unconstitutional.
- The Supreme Court declared that the adultery law violated Article 14, 15(1) and 21 of the Constitution and offends the dignity of a woman.

Navy inked pact to build two DSVs

- The Navy has signed a contract with the Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.
- The contract is for building two diving support vessels (DSVs), which are required for submarine support operations at sea.

- The DSV enables divers to remain underwater for long hours with their equipment.
- The Navy undertakes diving operations in the Indian Ocean Region for submarine rescue.

SC declared Aadhaar as constitutionally valid

- The Supreme Court on 26 September 2018 declared the government's Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid.
- The Supreme Court, however, struck down some of its provisions including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admissions.
- The Supreme Court held that Aadhaar would remain mandatory for the filing of IT returns and allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN).

Live streaming of court proceedings allowed

- The Supreme Court on 26 September 2018 agreed to live-streaming and video recording of court proceedings.
- The apex court said that necessary rules for balancing rights of public and protecting dignity of litigants will be placed soon.
- The verdict was passed on a batch of petitions filed by, law student Snehil Tripathi and NGO 'Centre For Accountability and Systemic Change' on the issue.

Smart City Expo India-2018 inaugurated

- Vice president Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur.
- The object of this 3-day long expo is to discuss experts and groups to utilize the benefits of new technology, town planning, and capacity management in the smart city sector.
- Near about 6000 delegates from MNC's of different countries, researchers and CEO's of different Smart cities, are participating in the expo.

"IND-Uzb: Dialogue of Cultures" inaugurated

- Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Shri Arun Goel inaugurated the exhibition "India - Uzbekistan: Dialogue of Cultures" in New Delhi.
- The Exhibition is dedicated to the visit of Uzbekistan President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev to India in October.
- This exhibition showcases original artifacts which include coins from the royal mints of Kushans including coins depicting portraits of Kanishka etc.

HMR is the 2nd largest metro rail in India

- Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) has now become second largest metro rail network in India.
- It is also the world's largest metro project under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model.
- The Hyderabad metro now has an operational network of 45 km.

- Delhi Metro Rail with an operational network of over 350kms is the largest metro rail network in India.

SC forms committee to look into jail reforms

- Supreme Court constituted a 3 member committee to look into the aspect of jail reforms across the country and suggest measures to deal with them.
- The committee is headed by the former judge Justice Amitava Roy.
- The committee will also look into the various issues concerning women prisoners.
- Supreme Court was hearing a matter relating to inhuman conditions in 1,382 jails across India.

SC: Legislators can practice as lawyers

- The Supreme Court said that the legislators could not be banned from practising as lawyers in courts.
- The Supreme Court also said that no law debars the MPs, MLAs and MLCs from practising in court.
- At present, only the ministers and legislators holding other constitutional positions are barred from giving legal counsel to clients.

4th India International Science Festival

- The 4th edition of India International Science Festival will be inaugurated by President of India in Lucknow on October 6, 2018.
- Science & Technology Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that IISF 2018 is a tribute to former PM Late Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- IISF is the biggest platform to bring together students, researchers to celebrate India's achievements in science and technology.

Jowai- Ratacherra section of NH 6 inaugurated

- Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the rehabilitation and up-gradation of Jowai-Ratacherra (Meghalaya Assam border) section of the National Highway- 06 at Shillong.
- The 102 km road is very important for the development of industries as it passes through cement and coal belts of the Meghalaya.
- NH 6, is a national highway running from Jorabat in Meghalaya to Selling in Mizoram.

Rs 25,050 crore needed to rebuild Kerala

- The World Bank, in its preliminary report, has estimated that an amount of Rs 25,050 crore is necessary for rebuilding the state.
- The report was prepared after the visits of World Bank and Asian Development Bank teams to several flood-hit areas of Kerala.

- The final report would be submitted on October 1, 2018, after incorporating the changes suggested by the State government.

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 'Spacetratics' 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 on-the-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.

2nd edition of 'Paryatan Parv' from Sept 16

- The tourism ministry would organise the 2nd edition of 'Paryatan Parv' from September 16 to September 27 2018.
- The event will be based on three main components - 'Dekho aapna desh' - encouraging domestic tourists to travel within India, 'Tourism for all' - promoting tourism across social classes, and 'Tourism and governance' - interactive sessions with stakeholders.

Welfare panels can't evaluate dowry complaints

- The Supreme Court modified its July 2017 order to form a committee to sift genuine complaints of dowry harassment from the frivolous ones.
- On July 27 2017, the court had ordered 'family welfare committees' to be set up in the districts.
- Getting rid of these committees, the Supreme Court held that such panels had no place under the established criminal procedural law.

Cabinet approves New Umbrella Scheme

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a new Umbrella Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA)
- PM-AASHA will provide MSP assurance to farmers as announced in the Union Budget for 2018
- This is an unprecedented step taken by Govt. of India to protect the farmers' income which is expected to go a long way towards the welfare of farmers.

100% Electrification of BG Routes of IR

- CCEA Committee chaired by PM Modi has approved electrification of remaining unelectrified broad gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways.
- Post electrification, Indian Railways is likely to save Rs 13,510 crore per annum in fuel bill.
- After electrification, there would be reduction in the consumption of high speed diesel oil by about 2.83 billion liters per annum and a reduction in GHG emissions.

Moderate earthquake in Assam's Kokrajhar

- A moderate earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale was recorded in Kokrajhar district of Assam.
- Tremors were also felt in parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Daga in Bhutan.
- Kokrajhar district is an administrative district in Assam, predominantly inhabited by the Boro tribe.
- Manas National Park is located in Kokrajhar district.

NITI Aayog to set up ICTAI

- NITI Aayog, Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI).

- The collaboration aims to bring together fundamental and applied research, innovation and technology to solve important problems.
- The initiative is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence'.

Haryana signs MoU with Indian Oil

- The Haryana government on September 10, 2018, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat.
- The plant with a proposed capacity of 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day will manage crop residue and prevent straw burning before the upcoming paddy season.
- The pact will be valid for one year.

Bengaluru to host 'Aero India 2019'

- The defence ministry announced that Bengaluru will host the five-day show 'Aero India 2019' from 20-24 February 2019.
- The event will comprise a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries and public air shows.
- The show is considered to be the largest aerospace exhibition in Asia organised at Indian Air Force's Yelahanka air base since 1996.

BJP national meeting to begin today

- The BJP national meeting is set to begin Saturday afternoon i.e. 8th Sept 2018.
- The two-day meeting will be attended by its key leaders from all states and Union territories besides its national leadership.
- The agenda of the meeting will be to formulate its strategy for the state assembly polls and the Lok Sabha elections and discussion about various issues.

Bengaluru to host AERO in 2019

- Defence Ministry announced that Bengaluru will host AERO India from 20th to 24th Feb 2019.
- The AERO will be hosted by strong Yelahanka Air Force strong station which has hosted all 11 editions of AERO India so far.
- This five-day event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.

ONGC discovered oil reserves in M.P., Bengal

- Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has made oil and gas discoveries in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal that may potentially open up two new sedimentary basins in the country.
- ONGC has found gas deposits in a block in Vindhyan basin in Madhya Pradesh.
- Oil and gas discovery has been made in Ashok Nagar of 24 Parganas district in West Bengal.



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Supreme Court decriminalises homosexuality

- A five-judge Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court legalised same-sex relations between consenting adults.

- Same-sex relations is considered taboo by many in socially conservative India and was reinstated as a criminal offence in 2013.
- Section 377 criminalised sexual activities "against the order of nature", including homosexual activities.

Person need not be resident to contest polls

- The Delhi High Court said a person need not be a resident of a constituency to contest elections from there.
- The response came after the office of the Lok Sabha speaker objected to a resident of Odisha's Cuttack seeking holding of bypoll for the vacant seat of Kendrapara.
- The court issued a notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Election Commission and the office of the Lok Sabha speaker.

Google to help EC track political ads

- Google will soon be helping the Election Commission (EC) keep tabs on online political advertising.
- The tech giant will develop a mechanism that will ensure the pre-certification of political advertisements.
- It will also enable it to share with the authority, details about the expenditure incurred on its platforms.

India to participate in Tsunami mock drill

- India along with 23 other nations will participate in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill IOWave18.
- The exercise is being organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- The purpose of the exercise is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout the region.

Hi-tech cruise 'Alaknanda' inaugurated

- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated first hi-tech cruise 'Alaknanda' on the banks of river Ganga in Varanasi.
- This double-decker cruise with around 2,000 square feet area can accommodate 60 passengers
- This is the first time a private company has started a cruise ferry for tourists, now tourists will have better options to see the beauty of Varanasi Ghats.

India & World

1st consignment of rice to China from Nagpur

- The first consignment of non-basmati rice of 100 tonnes have been shipped to China from Nagpur.

- The consignment will be received by China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation.
- 19 rice mills have been registered for export of non-basmati rice from India to China.
- The protocol to export rice was signed on 9 June 2018, at Qingdao, China, during Narendra Modi's visit.

ADB approved \$150 mn loan for Madhya Pradesh

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$150 million loan for establishing the first multi-skills park in Madhya Pradesh.
- The skills park will be equipped with international training facilities to enhance the quality of Madhya Pradesh's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system.
- Skills Park campus will be established in Bhopal.

Cabinet approves MoU b/w NITI Aayog, and MEDRF

- The Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NITI Aayog, and Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (MEDRF).
- The MoU is in the field of social, economic, industrial and regional development programs.
- It provides a framework and enabling environment to understand each other's strengths, market, technologies, policies, etc.

Cabinet approved MoU b/w India & Uzbekistan

- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and Uzbekistan on 26th September, 2018.
- The MoU will help in mutual cooperation in regulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and in combating drug trafficking.
- It is an effective framework to deal with all issues requiring mutual assistance and cooperation in the areas identified.

2nd REINVEST meet to be held in Delhi-NCR

- The 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018) will be held from 2-5 Oct 2018 in New Delhi.
- RE-INVEST is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
- The 2nd RE-INVEST will include a 3-day conference on renewables, clean tech and future energy choices, an expo of renewables-related manufacturers.

2nd Ministerial Meeting of IORA in Delhi-NCR

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will host 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association from 2-4 October 2018 in Delhi NCR.

- The event will be held in parallel with the 1st General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the 2nd Global RE-INVEST Meet & Expo.
- IORA is a dynamic organisation of 21 Member States and 7 Dialogue Partners.

First assembly of ISA in India

- The inaugural General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will take place in Delhi-NCR on 2 October.
- The Founding Conference of the ISA was jointly hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in March 2018.
- The ISA, formation of which was initiated by India and France, aims to bring all countries together for cooperation on solar energy.

\$500 mn loan for climate resilient infra in TN

- Asian Development Bank will provide a \$500 million loan to build climate resilient infrastructure in several cities of Tamil Nadu.
- Multi-tranche Financing Facility will develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities.
- ADB said this funding will be in three tranches between Sept 2019 and March 2022.

'Gandhi March' in Netherlands

- India will organise 'Gandhi March' from the iconic Peace Palace at the Hague in the Netherlands.
- 'Gandhi March' will see the participation of people of all nations and around 20 ambassadors from different countries.
- Also, special commemorative stamps will be issued by the Indian postal department at the Peace Palace complex.
- October 2 is also marked as International Day of Non-Violence.

India, China to sign security agreement

- India and China will sign an internal security cooperation agreement during the visit of China's Minister of Public Security in October 2018.
- The proposed pact is expected to cover areas of intelligence sharing, exchange programme, sharing of best practices, and cooperation in disaster mitigation.
- This will be the first such agreement between India and China which look after internal security.

India's MIB in UN Global Media Compact

- India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) is among more than 30 organisations from across the world that have come together to form a global media compact.

- The SDG Media Compact is an initiative to advance awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The Compact is an initiative of the United Nations, in collaboration with the UN Foundation.

India, Nepal agree to explore satellite images

- India and Nepal have agreed to explore the possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work during a meeting of the Nepal-India boundary working group (BWG).
- The BWG is a joint body constituted by Nepal and India in 2014 to carry out works in the fields of construction, restoration and repair of boundary pillars, including clearance of no-man's land.

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 \$525-million 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.

VP to visit Serbia, Malta and Romania

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a three-nation tour to Serbia, Malta and Romania from September 14 to 20 to boost ties with the Central European countries.
- Naidu will be visiting Serbia from September 14, 2018, to September 16, 2018.
- The capital of the above countries are as follows: Serbia-Belgrade, Malta-Valletta and Romania-Bucharest.

Cabinet approved MoU in space technology

- The Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Brunei Darussalam.

- The MoU is on Cooperation in the operation of Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand station for satellite and launch vehicles.
- The MoU enables India to continue to operate, maintain and augment its ground station meant for supporting India's launch vehicle and satellite missions.

Bihar-Nepal bus service inaugurated

- For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started on 11 September 2018.
- The bus services have been commissioned following the agreement between India and Nepal.
- Four Bihar-Nepal buses connecting Bodhgaya to Kathmandu via Patna, Raxaul and Beerganj have started.
- Similar four buses will ply from Patna to Janakpur that will go via Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi.

India, Iran, Afghanistan held trilateral meet

- India, Iran and Afghanistan held their first tripartite meeting in Kabul on 11th September, 2018.
- In the meeting, implementation of Chabahar port project and a host of other issues including ways to deepen counter-terror cooperation were discussed.
- The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale.

India steps up partnership with Afghanistan

- India and Afghanistan agreed to enhance cooperation under the 'New Development Partnership'.
- India had announced taking up 116 "high impact community developmental projects" in Afghanistan.
- The decision was taken at the 3rd meeting of the 'Joint Working Group on Political and Security Cooperation' between India and Afghanistan in Kabul.

India, Bangladesh inaugurated three projects

- India and Bangladesh jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh on 10th September 2018.
- These include 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, Akhaura - Agartala Rail Link and Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
- Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link would connect Akhaura in Bangladesh with Tripura's capital city Agartala.

MEA-TCIL sign pact to initiate e-Network

- The Ministry of External Affairs signed an agreement with the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) for the implementation of e-Network Project between India and Africa.

- The two projects namely e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) will work in the field of tele-education and tele-medicine.
- The projects will be completely funded by the Government of India.

Sushma Swaraj to visit Russia

- External Affairs Minister will visit Moscow on 13-14 September to hold the meeting of the '23rd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation' (IRIGC-TEC).
- IRIGC-TEC is a standing body which annually meets and reviews ongoing activities of bilateral cooperation.
- The last meeting of the commission was held in New Delhi in December 2017.

India to partner in Izmir International show

- India is the partner country in the 'Izmir International trade show' which began on September 7, 2018, in Turkey.
- India will also launch a business pavilion 'Source India' to increase exports to Turkey and other neighbouring countries.
- Source India, with 75 Indian participating companies, will be a multi-product pavilion.

The advertisement for the 'Current Affairs App' is presented on a light blue background. At the top, a dark blue icon with a book symbol and the text 'CURRENT AFFAIRS' is shown. Below it, the text reads 'Download Top Rated Current Affairs App For all competitive exams'. Two buttons are provided: 'GET IT ON Google Play' and 'GIVE A MISSED CALL: 9699492717'. A starburst graphic states '☆ 20 lac Students downloaded already ☆'. A smartphone is shown displaying the app's interface, which includes a news article titled 'एस्वीआई 'टीएन 50' ग्लोबल बैंक में शामिल' and a 'Daily Quiz' section. To the right of the phone, the text says 'Relevant News in Short' and 'Save Important News'. The testbook.com logo and website URL are at the bottom.

India, U.S. signed COMCASA agreement

- India and the United States signed Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).
- The agreement is on military and security cooperation.
- COMCASA will facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilise its existing US-origin platforms.
- India and the U.S. would also hold a first-ever tri-service exercise on the east coast of India in 2019.

India And France to collaborate on 'Gaganyaan'

- India and France have announced a working group for Gaganyaan.
- Gaganyaan is ISRO's first manned mission announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day.
- The announcement was made at the sixth edition of the Bengaluru Space Expo by French space agency president Jean-Yves Le Gall.
- India plans to send three humans to space before 2022.

India, US held inaugural edition of 2+2 talks

- India and the US on 6th September 2018, held the first edition of the 2+2 talks in New Delhi.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held the talks with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary James Mattis.
- The focus of the 2+2 talks will be to deepen global strategic partnership between the two countries.

India, Bulgaria signed various agreements

- India and Bulgaria signed agreements in an effort to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries.
- Agreements on cooperation in tourism, civil nuclear cooperation, the establishment of Hindi chair at the Sofia University and cooperation in science and technology were signed.
- President Kovind is on a state visit to Cyprus, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

India, Cyprus signed two agreements

- India and Cyprus signed two agreements on combating money laundering and cooperation in the field of environment.
- President Ram Nath Kovind met Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and held wide-ranging talks.
- Mr. Kovind is in Cyprus on the first leg of his three-nation visit to Europe to continue India's high-level engagements with European countries.

DG-level talks between India, Bangladesh began

- The 47th Director General Level Co-ordination meeting between the Border Security Force (BSF)

and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) started on September 3, 2018, in New Delhi.

- The Indian delegation will be headed by KK Sharma, Director General, BSF.
- The DG Level Border Co-ordination conference with BGB is a bi-annual conference being held since 1975.

President Kovind on a 3-nation tour

- President Ram Nath Kovind is on a three-nation visit to Cyprus, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic from 2-9 September.
- During his visit to Cyprus, he will address Cyprus' House of Representatives and will deliver a lecture at the University of Cyprus.
- The capitals of these countries are as follow- Cyprus- Nicosia, Bulgaria- Sofia, Czech Republic- Prague.

India, Singapore launched FTA Review

- India and Singapore launched the next round of review for their existing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a view to further boost bilateral trade and investments between the countries.
- The FTA is officially known as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.
- The review round of the FTA was launched by Union Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu and Singapore Minister of Trade S Iswaran

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.

Personalities in News

Mukesh Ambani tops Barclays Rich List

- Mukesh Ambani has topped the 'Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018' for the seventh consecutive year.
- Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018 is a compilation of the individuals in India having a net worth of ₹1,000 crore or more.
- The list was compiled on the basis of the net worth of living Indians as on July 31, 2018.
- Mukesh Ambani is followed by S.P. Hinduja and L.N. Mittal.

Naval officer Commander Abhilash Tomy rescued

- Naval officer Commander Abhilash Tomy who is representing India in Golden Globe Race 2018 was rescued by French vessel Osiri.
- Tomy in his sailing vessel 'Thuriya', was dismantled and had suffered a back injury in extreme weather and sea condition in the Indian Ocean.
- The GGR is a race to sail around the globe. Tommy is the only Indian to circumnavigate the globe non-stop on INSV Mhadei.

Varun and Anushka signed as ambassadors of SIM

- Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission (SIM), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Skill India Mission is led by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and aims to standardise vocational training.
- The two actors will dedicate time to promote the skilled talent in the country.

Satyarup climbed Mount Damavand in Iran

- Mountaineers Satyarup Siddhanta and Mousumi Khatu created history by climbing Asia's highest volcanic peak Mount Damavand in Iran.
- Mount Damavand is the highest peak and also a potentially active volcano.
- Mountain Damavand is known for its Sulphur discharge near its peak which can cause irreparable damage if exposed for a longer duration.

Environment

Air pollution control device inaugurated

- Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated air pollution control device 'Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit', (WAYU) in New Delhi.
- The device WAYU is developed by the Council of Science and Industrial Research to mitigate air pollution at traffic junctions.
- This device works on two principles mainly wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and active pollutants removal.

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.

Native plants choked in Western Ghats

- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court directed the National Board for Wildlife to look into the issue of the removal of invasive trees in the Western Ghats.
- Invasive species like eucalyptus, wattle, pine and cypress trees, as well as Lantana camara plants, are proliferating across the Nilgiris upper slopes.
- Prosopis juliflora, parthenium and eupatorium have spread on the lower slopes.

Ocean Cleanup aims to clear Pacific Garbage

- A system launched by 'The Ocean Cleanup' organization send a trash collecting device to clean the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
- The 2,000-foot long floating boom 'System 001' has been towed from San Francisco to clean the patch.
- The system has been created by Boyan Slat, from the Netherlands
- The device has a 10-foot skirt below the floating part which is supposed to gather the garbage.

Panel urges plan to save Himalayan springs

- A NITI Aayog constituted group of experts has urged the government to set up a dedicated mission to save and revive spring water systems in the country's Himalayan States.
- The group noted in its report titled 'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.'
- Spring water systems in the Himalayan States are an important source of water for both drinking and irrigation.

HP to have doppler radars, snow gazers

- The Indian Meteorological Department will set up three Doppler radars, a number of snow gazers and automatic weather stations in Himachal Pradesh for better weather, avalanche and landslide forecast.
- These radars will be set up at Kufri in Shimla district, Dalhousie in Chamba district and Kullu.
- The first radar would be set up at Kufri in Shimla district by the end of 2019.

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.

- Agmark is certification mark that assures conformity to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.
- In the new online application system, there are provisions for online receipt of fees from the applicants.

CoE for Data Analytics and DigiVaarta

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) and National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI) have jointly set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for data analytics to support the government.
- The Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) was launched on 28th September 2018.
- NIC is a technology advisor and ICT solution provider to Government at all levels.

'Incredible India' Mobile App launched

- The Union Tourism Minister, K.J. Alphons on the World Tourism Day launched the 'Incredible India' Mobile App.
- The app showcases India as a holistic destination, revolving around major experiences, such as spirituality, heritage, culture, yoga, wellness etc.
- The app has been developed by Tech Mahindra.
- The app is equipped with features to assist the traveler in each phase of their journey.

Centre steps up grant for disaster fund

- The government of India has enhanced its contribution in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90% with effect from April 2018.
- As per revised guidelines, the government of India will contribute 90% while states will contribute 10% to the relief fund.
- SDRF was established at the state level to meet the rescue and relief expenditure of disaster-affected states.

Government launched Financial Inclusion Index

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley, launched the Financial Inclusion Index.
- The index will have three measurement dimensions: (i) Access to financial services (ii) Usage of financial services and (3) Quality.
- The various components of the index will also help to measure financial services for use of internal policy making.

MHA merges police forces in 6 UTs

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified new rules merging police forces in 6 Union Territories.
- The National Capital Territory of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh (Police Service) Rules, 2018, was notified on September 25 2018.

Government Policies & Schemes

Rail Heritage Digitisation Project launched

- Minister of Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal has launched "Rail Heritage Digitisation Project" of Indian Railways in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture.
- The project is first of its kind in India, to showcase the country's Rail Heritage to the National and International audience.
- Under the project, 22 digital screens will be set up across different locations for showcasing this project.

Govt launched Agmark online system

- The government launched an online platform for processing applications related to quality certification mark 'Agmark' for agricultural products.

- The police officers, who are not direct IPS recruits, could be posted in any of the 6 UTs.

Ordinance to dissolve MCI passed by President

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to promulgate an Ordinance to set up a committee to run the Medical Council of India (MCI).
- The committee will have a 7-member Board of Governors led by NITI Aayog Member Dr V.K. Paul.
- The Bill provides for simplification of procedures and is aimed at spurring rapid growth in the number of undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats in the country.

Finance Ministry launches Jan Dhan Darshak App

- Finance Ministry has launched Mobile Application 'Jan Dhan Darshak' as a Part of Financial Inclusion.
- This App will provide guidance to the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
- Department of Financial Services (DFS) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed the app Jan Dhan Darshak.

Cabinet approved Digital Communications Policy

- The Union Cabinet has approved the National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) and re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the "Digital Communications Commission".
- The policy aims to facilitate India's effective participation in the global digital economy.
- The policy also aims to ensure digital sovereignty and the objectives are to be achieved by 2022.

Proposal to convert GSTN into govt entity

- The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to convert GST Network (GSTN) into a 100% government-owned company.
- GSTN provides IT infrastructure for the new indirect tax regime.
- After restructuring of GSTN, ownership will be equally divided between the Centre and states.
- Currently, the Centre and states together hold 49% stake in the GST Network.

Financial assistance for canal approved

- Union Cabinet approved Central Assistance of Rs. 620.42 Crore and Rs. 205.758 Crore for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively.
- Implementation of these twin projects would help in addressing the problem of water-logging in South-West Punjab.
- Funding to the Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind feeder shall be made through NABARD.

Scheme for acid attack victims

- The Haryana govt approved financial assistance to women and girl acid attack victims scheme.
- Under this scheme, the survivors of the crime after 2 May 2011 will be eligible for the monthly pension.
- Either the victim herself or her legal guardian can apply to the district social welfare officer for relief.
- The financial assistance will be given on the **basis of the percentage of disability**.

Helpline for tobacco users

- India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products.
- India is the fourth country in Asia after Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to have this government helpline for those looking at quitting tobacco.
- The quit-line number will be printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018.

Panel approves nutrition norms

- The National Technical Board on Nutrition has recommended that severely malnourished children must be fed freshly cooked food prepared from locally available cereals, pulses and vegetables.
- The measures are part of the community-based health management of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition.
- The guidelines outline the role of Anganwadi workers and auxiliary nurse midwives.

'Mysuraksha' app launched in Mysuru

- The Mysuru city police have launched 'Mysuraksha' app to ensure the safety and security of auto and cab passengers.
- The passengers can scan the QR (Quick Response) code printed on autos and cabs that will have the details of the vehicle and the driver.
- If the passengers encounter any trouble, they can transmit the details to the police control room just by pressing the SOS button.

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 from 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 talaq 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.

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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 rupee-denominated 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.

'Swachh Dhara' started in Amaravati

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu flagged off the 'Swachh Dhara' programme.
- The programme aims to provide clean drinking water across the state.
- As part of the scheme, tankers providing water across the state will be cleaned periodically through a six-layered cleaning process.
- The cleaning process involves the use of ultraviolet radiation to kill bacteria.

Government moves to stabilise rupee-II

- The government will take steps to attract more Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) into the corporate debt market.
- The government will review the mandatory hedging condition for infrastructure loans borrowed under the external commercial borrowing (ECB) route.
- Manufacturing companies borrowing up to \$50 million through ECBs will be able to do so only for a 1-year term.

Government moves to stabilise rupee-I

- The government announced a set of five measures aimed at supporting the rupee.
- The government will take steps to reduce non-essential imports and increase exports.
- To push Indian corporates to take the masala bond route, the government has exempted all such bond issues until March 31, 2019, from withholding tax.

'Swachhata Hi Seva' movement on Sept 15

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' movement on September 15, 2018.
- The 'Swachhata Hi Seva movement' aims at generating greater public participation towards Swachhata or cleanliness.

- It is being organized in the run-up to the fourth anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, on October 2nd, 2018.

Govt. launches program on energy efficiency

- Ministry of Power launched an ambitious program to encourage the deployment of Energy Efficient chiller systems in the country.
- The Chiller Star Labelling Program has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- The program envisages providing star rating in terms of its energy performance.

Bengal scheme to combat human trafficking

- The West Bengal government has launched a scheme, 'Swayangsiddha', in different districts of the State.
- The scheme will combat human trafficking.
- Swayangsiddha means self-reliance and will be executed by the West Bengal Police.
- The scheme aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage.

Policy to enhance oil production approved

- The Cabinet has approved the policy framework to encourage measures for increasing oil and gas production from ageing fields.
- Oil and natural gas production worth ₹50 lakh crore is expected to be unlocked from this policy.
- The Policy offers a 50% discount on cess charged for crude oil production and 75% discount on royalty charged for gas production.

Cabinet approved EXIM's blockchain research

- The Cabinet approved a joint research on the distributed ledger and blockchain technology by Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) with member-banks of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).
- Blockchain is a digitised, decentralised ledger to record real-time transactions across borders.
- Exim Bank promotes India's international trade through competitive financing.

Tamil Nadu bans e-cigarettes

- The Tamil Nadu government has prohibited the manufacture, sale (including online sale), distribution, trade, display, marketing, import and possession of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, popularly known as e-cigarettes.
- The use of e-cigarettes causes adverse health effects due to second-hand exposure to metals like nickel and chromium.
- These pose a risk to non-smokers and bystanders.

National Scholarship Portal App launched

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the country's first National Scholarship Portal Mobile App in New Delhi.
- Portal will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students belonging to poor and weaker sections.
- The portal will help in strengthening a transparent mechanism for the scholarships.

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.

Art and Culture

Festival of Nuakhai being celebrated in Odisha

- The festival of Nuakhai is being celebrated in Odisha on 14th September 2018.
- During this harvest festival of western Odisha, season's first crop (Nabanna) is offered to presiding deities.
- After offering the Nabanna, people relish different types of delicacies prepared from the newly harvested crop.

Science & Technology

Japan's rovers successfully land on asteroid

- Japanese space agency's MINERVA-II1 (Micro-Nano Experimental Robot Vehicle for Asteroid, the second generation) is the world's first rover to land on the surface of the asteroid Ryugu.
- The MINERVA-II1 consisted of two rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B.
- The rovers are designed to hop along the asteroid's surface, taking photographs and gathering data.

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

NASA tests foldable heat shield

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched and tested a new umbrella-like heat shield.
- The new technology, 'the Adaptable Deployable Entry Placement Technology (ADEPT)', stores like a folded umbrella inside smaller rockets.
- The shape allows it to protect larger areas than current heat shields.

India's 1st underwater robotic drone launched

- India's first underwater robotic drone, 'Eyerovtuna', was launched on 14th September 2018.
- It can send real-time videos of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance.
- It was handed over to the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO.
- Eyerovtuna was developed by EyeROV Technologies which is a Kochi-based Startup.

NASA's Satellite to track Earth's melting ice

- NASA is set to launch its Ice, Cloud and land Elevation Satellite-2, or ICESat-2 - that will track Earth's melting poles and disappearing sea ice - on Saturday.
- The satellite with a three-year mission is scheduled to launch on 15th Sept.
- The first ICESat satellite (2003-09) measured ice with a single laser beam, ICESat-2 splits its laser light into six beams to cover more ground (or ice).

'Apsara' reactor recommissioned after 9 yrs

- The country's oldest research reactor 'Apsara' has been recommissioned on September 10, 2018, with a higher capacity.
- The reactor was shut down permanently in 2009.
- The reactor came into existence in August 1956 and was utilised for various experiments including neutron activation analysis, radiation damage studies, forensic research, neutron radiography, and shielding experiments.

NASA's Dawn mission is coming to an end

- Dawn — NASA's space probe for the asteroid belt — is coming to an end due to lack of a key fuel.
- It was launched to study two of the three known protoplanets of the asteroid belt Vesta and Ceres, which when combined, make up 45% of the mass of the main asteroid belt.
- It was launched in September 2007.
- The spacecraft is likely to run out of a key fuel known as hydrazine.

ISRO unveils space suit for 2022 mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) displayed a space suit for

mission 'Gaganyaan' at the 6th edition of Bengaluru Space Expo.

- The orange-colored prototype space suit is developed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ISRO also displayed the crew capsule with a thermal shield for three astronauts that will be orbiting Earth at a 400-km altitude for 5-7 days.

6th edition of Space Expo inaugurated

- The 6th edition of the biennial Bengaluru Space Expo was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr.K Sivan in Bengaluru.
- The three-day event will showcase industry participation in Indian space programme.
- Dr.K Sivan also said that France will provide space medicines for Indian astronauts who will be part of India's first Manned Space Mission Gaganyaan.

Japan to test mini 'space elevator'

- A Japanese team has developed a "space elevator" and will conduct a first trial in September, 2018.
- The test equipment will be launched on an H-2B rocket being launched by Japan's space agency.
- The test involves a miniature elevator stand-in — a box just 6 cm long, 3 cm wide, and 3 cm high.
- It's the world's first experiment to test travel between two mini satellites in space.

ISRO's 1st station to come up at North Pole

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to set up its overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole.
- This would bolster the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) operations which are critically important in times like disaster management but also for the armed forces.
- However, ISRO has already two ground stations- IMGEOS at Shadnagar and AGEOS in Antarctica.

ISRO to make history by launching 19 missions

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to carry out 19 missions in a span of just seven months.
- The 19 missions include 10 satellite and nine launch vehicles scheduled to take off between September 2018 and March 2019.
- ISRO will begin its series of launches from September 15 with the PSLV C42 mission which will have the Novasar and S1-4- UK satellites as the main payload.

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.

Places in News

'Kalahandi Dialogue' conclave inaugurated

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the three-day 'Kalahandi Dialogue', a global conclave on development for Kalahandi district.
- The reason behind conclave is to create the collaborative platform to engage the youth in development dialogue and action.
- CM also congratulated the people of Kalahandi for making the district the "green basket" of Odisha.

PM Modi inaugurated Sikkim's first airport

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sikkim's first own airport at Pakyong on 24 September 2018.
- The airport, perched between the Himalayan ranges at a height of 4,500 ft, is India's 100th functional airport.
- The airport has been constructed by the Airports Authority of India.
- The first commercial flight from Pakyong would begin from October 4 2018.

India's first dedicated park for dogs

- Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation set up first-ever exclusive 'pet park' at Hyderabad.
- It is reportedly the first park in India to be developed to match international standards for pets, and to be certified by the Kennel Club of India.
- The park has an exclusive play area for dogs, training and play equipment, an amphitheatre, a separate enclosure for small and big dogs.

Udhampur becomes open defecation free district

- The district administration of Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir) declared the whole district as Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- A total of 75000 toilets have been constructed in all 230 panchayats of the district.
- A city/ward/district can be notified/declared as ODF city/ward/district if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open.

Nagar Untari town renamed as Banshidhar Nagar

- The Government of India has cleared Jharkhand government's proposal to rename Nagar Untari Railway Station as Banshidhar Railway Station and Nagar Untari town as Banshidhar Nagar.
- Nagar Untari, which borders Uttar Pradesh, is famous for Lord Krishna temple, which has astadhatur idol.

- The proposal to rename the Railway Station and town was cleared by the Union Home Ministry.

'Digital Village' inaugurated in Amethi

- Union textiles minister Smriti Irani on September 1, 2018 inaugurated a 'digital village' in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Under the digital village project, there would be 206 programmes available for the people.
- This includes a Wi-Fi Chaupal, LED bulb manufacturing, a unit to make sanitary pads and PM digital literacy initiative.

- A book on experiential learning based on Mahatma Gandhi's 'Nai Talim' (basic education) was released by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- It contains basic principles of Gandhi's 'Nai Talim', along with the work and education curriculum for schools.
- It has been brought out simultaneously in 13 languages in consultation with the state councils of educational research and training.

Committees & Recommendations

Govt formed panel to advice on boosting trade

- The commerce ministry has set up a High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) to look into the opportunities and ways to address the ongoing challenges in the global trade scenario.
- HLAG will be headed by economist Surjit S. Bhalla.
- The other members of the group include S. Jaishankar, Former Foreign Secretary and Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor.

Govt sets up panel to review CSR framework

- The government of India has formed an 11-member committee to look into the existing framework for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities under the companies law.
- The committee will be headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- Additional Solicitor General PS Narasimha, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, Prakash Padukone are part of the 11-member committee.

Govt forms Lokpal search committee

- The government has set up an 8 member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- The panel will recommend the names for the Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal
- Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, former SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Justice Sukha Ram Singh Yadav among others will be members of the panel.

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

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Books & Authors

PM Modi's 'Exam Warriors' in Telugu

- Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar released the Telugu version of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book, "Exam Warriors".
- The HRD Minister had launched 'Exam Warriors' in February this year, aimed at helping students to prepare to face the difficulties ahead of their exams.
- The 208-page book was also released in Odia in August this year.

Book on Mahatma Gandhi's 'Nai Talim' launched

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.

Mudgal to head awards panel

- Justice Mukul Mudgal was named the chairman of the 11-member selection committee to select Dronacharya and Dhyanchand awardees for 2018.
- The retired judge was previously appointed to probe into the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.
- Mukul Mudgal is currently the deputy chairman of the FIFA Governance Committee and Review Committee.

Government panel to look into e-com issues

- The Government of India has set up a 'group of secretaries' to look into the issues of e-commerce sector.
- The group will be chaired by the Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
- The other members of the group include Secretaries of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Commerce.

NGT forms monitoring committee

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a monitoring committee to prepare a time-bound action plan on groundwater recharge in Delhi.
- The committee will be headed by Justice (retd) S P Garg.
- The committee will comprise one representative each from the Delhi Jal Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Central Ground Water Authority and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) concerned.

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

Business & Economy

RBI cracks down on Bandhan Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cracked the whip on Bandhan Bank freezing the remuneration of its MD and CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh for violating norms.
- The action taken is for not bringing down promoters' shareholding in the bank to 40% within 3 years of operations as mandated by it while granting the bank license.
- RBI had also barred the Kolkata-based lender from opening new branches.

RBI eases cash reserve rules

- The Reserve Bank of India eased mandatory cash requirement rules for banks to provide "durable liquidity" to the economy.
- RBI said that banks could 'carve out' up to 15% of holdings under the Statutory Liquidity Reserves to meet their Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13% now.
- The relaxation in Statutory Liquidity Ratio requirement with effect from October 1, 2018

BSE can now launch gold, silver futures

- BSE has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch delivery-based futures contract in gold (1 kg) and silver (30 kg).
- The exchange will launch trading in these contracts on October 1 2018.
- The delivery centre of gold and silver futures contract will be BSE designated vaults at Ahmedabad initially.

Finance Minister launches web portal

- The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched a web portal as a transformative initiative in MSME credit space.
- The web portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 PSBs.

- The majority stake of is with SIDBI & 5 PSBs- SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya and Indian Bank.

Microsoft, Adobe, SAP in data alliance

- Microsoft, Adobe Systems and SAP have formed an alliance to offer a unified view of data on their respective end-customers.
- The partners announced the Open Data Initiative at a Microsoft conference in Florida.
- The initiative will enhance interoperability and data exchange between their platforms like- Adobe Experience Cloud, Microsoft Dynamics 365 and SAP C/4HANA through a common mode.

5 IT firms shortlisted to implement RBI's CIMS

- The RBI has shortlisted 5-IT firms for implementation of a Centralised Information and Management System for seamless data collection and validations.
- The 5 firms are- Capgemini Technology Services India, IBM India, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro Infotech and Tata Consultancy Services.
- The CIMS also include Centralised Analytics Platform to facilitate the creation of RBI Data Sciences Lab.

Tariffs on non-essential imports finalised

- The government has finalised the list of non-essential items on which it will be imposing import tariffs.
- The list would include electronics, gems, and select items of steel that are also manufactured in India, imported apples, and almonds, among others.
- The imposition of tariffs on the import of non-essential items is expected to help in stabilising the rupee's level.

Fitch raises India growth forecast

- Global research agency Fitch raised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8% from the earlier 7.4%.
- Fitch has revised the forecast for current fiscal 'on the back of the better-than-expected 2018 outturn'.
- Fitch's latest projection for the current fiscal is higher than what is estimated by the Reserve Bank of India (7.4%) and even the Government (7.5%).

BSNL signs deal with Softbank, NTT

- BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India.
- Under the agreement with Softbank, BSNL will look at collaborating with the NTT Communications for its satellite constellation to provide high speed internet services.
- BSNL has signed an agreement with Nokia and Cisco as well for developing 5G ecosystem.

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 co-origination 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.

RBI to buy G-Secs in open market on Sept 19

- The Reserve Bank will purchase government securities (G-secs) worth Rs 10,000 crore on September 19, 2018.
- The move is aimed at inducing liquidity in the system.
- The purchase of the government securities will be done through Open Market Operations (OMO).
- The RBI proposes to purchase G-secs having five different maturity dates.

Infosys acquired Fluidio to expand in Nordics

- Infosys, India's second largest software exporter, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Fluidio.
- Fluidio is a Salesforce advisor and consulting partner in Nordics and cloud consulting, implementation and training services company.
- Fluidio has offices in Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Slovakia.

Cisco signed agreements with NITI, BSNL

- Cisco has signed two agreements with the NITI Aayog and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to speed up its Country Digital Acceleration programme in India.
- Cisco is a U.S.-based firm which makes networkingtelecommunications equipment.
- Cisco has made over 25 strategic investments in growth stage companies in India.

Wholesale Inflation eases to 4.53% In August

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) presented India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Inflation for the month of August 2018.
- WPI stood at 4.53% compared to 5.09% of July 2018.
- Wholesale or headline inflation, however, quickened on an annual basis, from 3.24% in August 2017.

Samsung opens Mobile Experience Centre

- Samsung had opened world's biggest mobile experience centre at Opera House in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- At the centre a customer will be able to enjoy VR experiences such as the 4D sway chair, Whiplash Pulsar 4D chair that makes 360 degrees three-dimensional movements.
- Earlier this year Samsung has also launched the world's largest mobile phone-manufacturing factory in Noida in July 2018.

BPCL to invest ₹40,000 crore in new plant

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is planning to set up a ₹40,000-crore petrochemicals plant at Rasayani in Raigad District of Maharashtra.
- BPCL to manufacture polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene at this plant.
- The company also plans to shift its LPG bottling plant, storage facilities and bitumen plant to Rasayani, 60 km away from its Mumbai plant.

CPI Inflation Falls To 3.69% in August

- Data released by the Central Statistics Office on Wednesday, showed that retail inflation was at 3.69 percent in August compared to 4.17 percent in July.
- Consumer price inflation fell below 4 percent for the first time in 2018.
- Inflation is currently running below the MPC's forecast of 4.6 percent in the second quarter of the current financial year.

First Ever Award to Secondary Steel Sector

- Ministry of Steel has launched an Award Scheme to recognize the Secondary Steel sector for their contribution to the national economy.
- The first ever awards will be given on 13th September 2018 at a function in New Delhi.
- At present, the PM Trophy / Steel Minister's Trophy are given to large integrated steel plants having achieved crude steel production of 1 million tonnes per annum.

SC orders status quo on RBI's 12 Feb circular

- The Supreme Court ordered status quo on the implementation of 12 February circular of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The circular mandates insolvency proceedings for a debt servicing default beyond 180 days.
- SC ordered that insolvency proceedings should not commence against the defaulting power companies.
- Banks have exposure of about ₹1.74 lakh crore to stressed power assets.

Govt. notifies rules for shares issue

- The government mandated that issue of further shares and transfer of all shares by unlisted

public companies should be only in 'demat form' beginning October 2, 2018.

- This was notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- According to the government, the move would help eliminate risks associated with physical certificates such as loss, theft, mutilation and fraud.

CAD widens to 2.4% of GDP

- India's current account deficit (CAD) stood at \$15.8 billion i.e 2.4% of GDP in the Q1 of 2018-19 compared with \$15 billion (2.5 per cent of GDP) in the same period of last year.
- The widening of the CAD on a y-o-y basis was primarily due to a higher trade deficit at \$45.7 billion as compared with \$41.9 billion in 2017

IRDAI tests guidelines for 'Sandbox Method'

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is working on the guidelines for 'Sandbox'.
- 'Sandbox' method which will allow insurers to test products in a particular geography or among a set of few policyholders before they are available in the market.
- Industry participants believe that this move will lead to further innovation in insurance products.

Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma to retire at 54

- Alibaba co-founder and chairman Jack Ma plans to retire from the Chinese e-commerce giant on Monday on his 54th birthday.
- After retirement Jack Ma plan to devote his time to philanthropy focused on education.
- Jack Ma is among China's richest men with a net worth estimated by Forbes at \$38.6 billion.

HDFC Bank is India's most valued brand

- HDFC Bank retained its top spot in the BrandZ India Top 50 for the fifth year in a row.
- The total brand value of HDCF bank grew by 21 percent to \$21.7 billion in 2018.
- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) comes at the second spot due to the key role played by its pension plan business, while Tata Consultancy Services ranked third on the list.

BEL got contract for surface-to-air missiles

- Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has bagged an order worth Rs 9,200 crore for supply of Seven Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) systems.
- BEL has entered into a contract with Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) to supply LRSAM systems.
- The LRSAM will be fitted onboard seven ships to be built by these two shipbuilders.

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SBI Mutual Fund appoints Ashwani as CEO

- SBI Mutual Fund has appointed Ashwani Bhatia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- Bhatia takes over from Anuradha Rao after she returned to State Bank of India (SBI) as Deputy Managing Director.
- SBI Mutual Fund is a joint venture between the State Bank of India and Amundi, a European asset management company.

Asia Index launches S&P BSE Pvt Banks Index

- Asia Index Pvt Ltd, a joint venture between S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE Ltd, announced the launch of an index designed to measure the performance of private banks.
- The S&P BSE Private Banks Index is drawn from the constituents of the S&P BSE Finance Index.
- The index is calculated in Indian Rupees and US Dollar and is calculated real-time by BSE.

Amazon hits \$ 1 trillion in stock market value

- America's online shopping giant Amazon on September 4, 2018, became the second US company to hit \$ 1 trillion in stock market value.
- Apple was the first US company to hit \$ 1 trillion in stock market value.
- Amazon is owned by Jeff Bezos, who among other things also owns The Washington Post, a top American.

KVB rolls out tab-based loan processing system

- Karur Vysya Bank Ltd (KVB) has rolled out KVB Next, a tab-based digital initiative.
- This will help the retail and business customers get in-principle sanctions for loans within 15 minutes.
- Under the initiative, KVB will offer retail loans for up to Rs. 2 crore, loan against property for up to Rs. 3 crore and home loans for up to Rs. 1 crore.

IPPB replaces ATM/debit cards with QR cards

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) does away with ATM cards and debit cards for both cash and cashless transactions.
- IPPB will issue new QR (Quick-Response) cards which work on biometric authentication and not on passwords or PINs.
- QR card transactions can be done through postmen, post offices or Grameen Dak Sevaks (GDS).

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.

Sports

India lift Asia Cup for 7th time

- Indian team has lifted the Asia Cup for the 7th time by defeated Bangladesh by 3 wickets in the final match played at Dubai.
- Liton Das was named the man of the match for scoring 121 runs off 117 balls.
- Player of the series: Shikhar Dhawan (342)
- Participants: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong.

2nd Hornbill's Flight International Race

- The 2nd edition of the cycle race, 'Dalmia MTB Arunachal; Hornbill's Flight International Race' will be held on 14-22 November.
- The cycling track extends from Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh to Mechuka in the West Siang district about 650 km away.
- More than 100 cyclists from over 10 countries will participate.
- The total prize money for the race is of Rs 22.5 lakhs.

Asian Yoga Sports Championship in Kerala

- The 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship organised by Asian Yoga Federation was inaugurated on 27 September 2018 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The event have around 500 participants representing 14 Asian countries showcasing their yoga skills.
- Yogaratna Awards will be given away to foreign delegates who were instrumental in popularising yoga in their respective countries.

Sharmila won gold in women's javelin's throw

- Sharmila Kumari clinched a gold medal at the 58th National Open athletics championships in the women's javelin throw at Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
- Sharmila threw a personal best throw of 54.81m to beat former Asian Games bronze medallist Annu Rani.
- Kumari improved on her previous personal best of 54.21m that she had registered at the National Inter-State Championships in Guwahati.

Sinisuka and Carolina Won China Open

- Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting defeated Japan's Kento Momota to win the Men's singles China Open title.
- Spain's Carolina Marin defeated China's Chen Yufei to win the Women's singles title.
- The men's doubles title won by the Danish duo of Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup, who defeated Chinese duo of Han Chengkai and Zhou Haodong.

India won medals in Serbia Junior & Cadet Open

- In Table Tennis, India won the team titles in the girls and cadet boys category at the 2018 Serbia Junior and Cadet Open.
- India won gold in the Cadet Boys' singles, Cadet Boys' Team and Junior Girls' Team events.
- India won the silver medal in the Cadet Boys and Girls' team, the Cadet Boys' Doubles and Girls' Doubles categories.
- Payas Jain won the gold medal in Serbia Junior and Cadet Open

India won silver in Snooker Championship

- India won the silver medal in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship.
- India was defeated by Pakistan in final.
- The team India consisted of Pankaj Advani and Malkeet Singh.
- Pankaj Advani is a 19-time World Champion English billiards and snooker player from India.
- He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2018.

Deepak Punia won silver medal in wrestling

- India's Deepak Punia won a silver medal at the junior world wrestling championship in Slovakia.
- He was defeated by Turkey's Arif Ozen.
- India ended the championship with six medals, including three silvers and three bronze medals.

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.

Gurpreet won senior silver at ISSF WC

- Gurpreet Singh clinched a silver medal in the senior men's standard pistol event at ISSF World Championships.
- Vijayveer Sidhu, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh to claim the team gold 25m standard pistol event for junior men in International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) competition.
- India was placed third in the medals tally with 11 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze medals.

2 gold for India at Shooting Championship

- India won 2 junior gold medals at Shooting World Championship in Changwon.
- Udhayveer Singh, all of 16, shone bright with an individual gold in the junior men's 25m pistol, Singh shot a score of 587 (291 in precision and 296 in rapid) in the individual competition to grab the gold.
- Compatriot Vijayveer Sidhu finished fourth with a score of 581.

Sardar Singh set to retire from Int. hockey

- Sardar Singh, who was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna last year and is one of the most decorated stars of Indian hockey has announced his retirement from International Hockey.
- The former India captain made the decision after a disappointing Asian Games 2018.
- Sardar was part of the Indian team at the recent Asian Games where it finished third.

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ICC Test rankings: India still on No. 1

- India continued to be at the No.1 position in the ICC Test Team Rankings in September, after completing a 1-4 series against England at The Oval.

- The Virat Kohli-led side had started the series at 125 points but after the series loss, it is now on 115 points followed by South Africa.
- England improved its ranking to the fourth spot in the ICC Test Team Rankings after a series win over India.

Anderson becomes highest Test wicket taker

- James Anderson has become the highest wicket-taker among seamers in Test matches.
- He took 564 wickets and surpassed Australian great Glenn McGrath's 563 to become the most successful fast bowler in Test history.
- The list of highest wicket takers in Tests, however, is led by spinners – Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets), Shane Warne (708 wickets) and Anil Kumble (609 wickets).

Junior men's skeet team won silver at ISSF WC

- The Indian junior men's skeet team won the silver medal at the ISSF World Championships.
- Indian junior men's skeet team consisted Gurnihal Singh Garcha, Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Ayush Rudraraju.
- The gold medal was won by the Czech Republic, while the bronze medal was won by Italy at the premier International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) event.

Murray, Mattek won US mixed doubles title

- Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Jamie Murray won the US Open mixed doubles title.
- For Murray, it was a second successive mixed title in New York has teamed up with Martina Hingis in 2017.
- Murray has now won four Grand Slam mixed doubles titles.
- Murray and Mattek-Sands received \$155,000 for winning the championship.

Djokovic wins men's title in US open Tennis

- In the US Open Tennis, Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the Men's singles final.
- He defeated Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina.
- It was Djokovic's 14th Grand Slam title and the third US Open title.
- With this win, he has equalled Pete Sampras's mark of 14 Grand Slams.

Naomi lifted Women's singles title of US Open

- In tennis, Naomi Osaka of Japan has won the Women's singles title of US Open 2018.
- She won the Grand Slam by defeating Serena Williams of US.
- Osaka became the first Japanese to win a Grand Slam.

Arpinder won medal at IAAF in Triple Jump

- Arpinder Singh became the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup in Triple Jump event at Ostrava, Czech Republic.
- Arpinder clinched a bronze when he was representing the Asia-Pacific team in the event which is held once every four years.
- Reigning Olympic and world champion Christian Taylor of the United States took the gold with a jump of 17.59 meters

Ankur Mittal Won Gold in ISSF Championship

- Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the ISSF World Championship in Changwon on Saturday.
- The 26-year-old overcame the Chinese 4-3 to emerge triumphant after the Slovakian had missed his second shoot-off clay target to settle for bronze.
- After the seventh day of competition, India has 20 medals - seven gold, seven silver, and six bronze.

Hriday Hazarika won gold in 10m air rifle

- Hriday Hazarika won gold medal for India in the Men's 10m Air Rifle Junior event at the ongoing International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Championship.
- Mohammed Amir from Iran won the silver medal and Russia's Grigori Shamakov won bronze medal.
- Hriday Hazarika was the only Indian to qualify for the men's final.

Saurabh won gold medal in Shooting

- Saurabh Chaudhary won gold medal in 10m Air Pistol shooting at the ISSF Shooting World Championship in South Korea on 6th September, 2018.
- Saurabh Chaudhary has won gold medal in shooting at Asian Games 2018.
- Arjun Singh Cheema claimed bronze medal in the same event while Korea's Hojin Lim clinched silver medal.

Divyansh and Shreya won bronze in shooting

- Divyansh Singh Panwar and Shreya Agarwal won bronze medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team junior event at ISSF World Championships.
- The Italian pair of Sofia Benetti and Marco Suppini won gold, while Iran's Sadeghian Armina and Mohammed Amir Nekounam claimed the silver in the event.
- The championship is the first qualifying event for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Om Prakash won gold medal at ISSF Championship

- Om Prakash Mitharwal won the gold medal in the men's 50m Pistol event of the ISSF World Championship at Changwon in South Korea on 4th September 2018.

- He has won a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol and the 50m pistol events of the Commonwealth Games 2018.
- Since 50m pistol shooting is no longer an Olympic event, Mitharwal cannot qualify for Tokyo 2020.

Indian shuttlers won titles in Ukraine

- Young Indian shuttlers clinched the mixed doubles and men's doubles titles at the RSL Kharkiv International challenge in Kharkiv, Ukraine.
- The duo of Anoushka Parikh and Saurabh Sharma defeated Poland's Pawel Smilowski and Magdalena Swierczynska, in the Mixed Doubles clash.
- The pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Dhruv Kapila defeated Germany's duo in Men's Doubles event.

Anjum Moudgil won silver medal in shooting

- India's Anjum Moudgil won silver medal in the women's 10m air rifle event at the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Championships in Changwon, South Korea on September 3, 2018.
- Apurvi Chandela finished fourth in the women's 10m Air Rifle event of the ISSF World Championship.
- Anjum and Apurvi became the first Indian shooters to win a quota for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Indian men's Hockey team won Bronze

- The Indian men's hockey team beat Pakistan by 2-1 to clinch a bronze medal on the 14th day of Asian Games 2018.
- Akashdeep Singh (3rd minute) and Harmanpreet Singh (50th minute) scored two goals for India in the match.
- It was India's 69th medal at the Asian Games 2018.

Ikee Rikako named as MVP of Asian Games

- Japanese swimmer Ikee Rikako has been named as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 18th edition of Asian Games.
- She became the first female athlete to win the MVP title.
- Rikako bagged six gold and two silver medals in the tournament. She received \$50,000 as prize money.

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.

Defence

Successful flight test of Astra Missile

- Astra missile was successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force, on 26 September 2018 from Air Force Station, Kalaikunda.
- Astra is the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM).
- Astra, deemed to be the best in class weapon system, has undergone more than 20 developmental trials.

Parakram Parv from 28-30 Sept

- The Indian Armed Forces will observe 'Parakram Parv' from September 28 - 30 to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes across the Line of Control.
- Stories of the recipients of the highest gallantry award, the Param Veer Chakra will also be highlighted during the Parv.
- 53 locations in 51 cities across the country will host events highlighting the valour of Indian Armed Forces.

Naravane appointed as Eastern Army Commander

- Lt. Gen. M.M. Naravane has been appointed as the next Eastern Army Commander.

- Naravane is currently heading the Shimla-based Army Training Command (ARTRAC).
- Naravane will be the senior most officer in the army after the current army chief, General Bipin Rawat.
- Also, **Air Marshal Anil Khosla** who is currently the **Eastern Air Force Commander** has been appointed as the **Vice Chief of IAF**.

Procurement of 1000 engines for T-72 tanks

- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army.
- The engines will enhance mobility, agility, and acceleration of T-72 tanks making them more effective in the battlefield.
- Most of these engines will be manufactured by Ordnance Factories Board.
- The DAC has also approved amendments to Defence Procurement Procedure 2016.

INS Kochi 'affiliated' to J&K Light Infantry

- INS Kochi was affiliated to the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment (JAK LI) on 24 September 2018.
- An 'affiliation' between units is aimed at the synergy, coordination and 'jointness' between the services to ensure better coordination.
- The affiliation between naval and army units is an ongoing process and this is the 31st affiliation of an Indian Naval unit.

Prithvi interceptor missile test successful

- India successfully conducted an interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast.
- This Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of the earth's atmosphere.
- The interceptor is guided by high-accuracy Inertial Navigation System (INS) and is supported by a Redundant Micro Navigation System

Coast Guard commissions patrol vessel Vijaya

- Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijaya', the second in the series of 98 m offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), was commissioned in Chennai on 14 September 2018.
- The OPV is fitted with advanced technology navigation and communication equipment and sensors.
- On joining the Coast Guard fleet, the ship will be based at Paradip.
- The Ship will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance.

Missile tracking ship is ready for trials

- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) will undertake sea trials of India's first missile tracking ship in October 2018.
- The keel of the ship was laid on June 30, 2014.
- It will be named after its induction into the Indian Navy. For now, it is simply referred as VC 11184.
- This would put India in the elite of club of a few countries that have such a sophisticated ocean surveillance ship.

Indo-US joint military drill in Uttarakhand

- A joint military training exercise between India and USA named as "Yudh Abhyas 2018" will be conducted in Uttarakhand from 16 to 29 September.
- This is the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both the countries.
- The two-week exercise will see the participation of about 350 personnel of the US Army and 'Garud Division' of the Indian Armed Forces.

partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.

- The Indian contingent is represented by a contingent of '17 PUNJAB Regiment'.

BIMSTEC militaries begin joint exercise

- The military field training exercise for the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC) nations called 'MILEX-18' was inaugurated on 10th September 2018 at Aundh Military Station near Pune.
- The aim of the forthcoming exercise is to practice the BIMSTEC Nations in the planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations.

Tejas cleared maiden mid-air re-fuelling trial

- The first ever mid-air refuelling of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas was successfully carried out on 10th September 2018.
- With this first trial, the aircraft gets much closer to the important battle-ready tag, called the final operational clearance.
- India is now placed in an elite group of countries which have developed the air-to-air refuelling system for military aircraft.

Nepal won't join 1st BIMSTEC Military Exercise

- The Nepal Government has confirmed that they will not join the first ever BIMSTEC military exercise in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The field training exercise will be conducted between September 10 and 16 at the Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune.
- The BIMSTEC is a regional group comprising of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal.

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.

Advertisement for the Current Affairs App. The ad features a smartphone displaying the app interface with news articles in Hindi. Text on the ad includes "Download Top Rated Current Affairs App For all competitive exams", "20 lac Students downloaded already", and "testbook.com".

Exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 inaugurated

- Indo-Mongolia joint exercise 'Nomadic Elephant-2018', commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia on 10th September 2018.
- Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual, bilateral exercise which is designed to strengthen the

- The aim of the exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist 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.

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.

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.

Monsoon session in LS most productive in 18yrs

- The recently concluded monsoon session in Lok Sabha saw 110% productivity, the highest in 18 years, according to think tank PRS Legislative Research.
- The Lok Sabha spent 50% of its time on legislative business and had the highest number of private members' bill introduced since 2000, at 999 bills.
- Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha saw 68% productivity this monsoon session.

Triple Talaq bill deferred to next session

- The government has decided not to table the Triple Talaq bill in the Rajya Sabha, deferring it to the next Parliament session.
- The Lok Sabha cleared the bill last year but needs to pass it again due to amendments made by the Cabinet.
- The Cabinet approved a provision to grant bail to those found guilty of giving instant Triple Talaq.

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.

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