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NATIONAL NEWS

- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** launched the ‘**Paudhagiri**’ campaign, aimed at **increasing the green cover in the state**. Under this campaign, **22 lakh students** from class **6 to 12** of **all government and private schools in Haryana** will plant a sapling each during three months of monsoon — **July, August and September**.
- One of the country’s **first Defence incubators** will come up in **Hyderabad**, which is India’s missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries.
 - The **Telangana** State government proposes to accommodate the Defence **incubator in the upcoming Phase-2 of the T-Hub**.
- **ISRO** successfully conducted a ground test of its high thrust version of the **Vikas Engine** that would improve the payload capability of the space agency’s launch vehicles.
 - The test for a duration of **195 seconds** was conducted by scientists at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in **Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli** district of Tamil Nadu.
- **On 16th July 2018, the BrahMos** supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from an Integrated Test Range (**ITR**) in **Chandipur, Odisha**.
 - BrahMos is a joint venture of Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) of **India** and **NPOM of Russia**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **South Africa** has unveiled the **64-dish MeerKAT radio telescope**, slated to be the **world’s largest and most powerful telescope** on its completion in **2030**. Built

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for **\$330 million**, **MeerKAT** will be integrated into an array of **3,000 dishes** spread in a square-kilometre area. It is said to have **50 times** better resolution than **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope when fully operational**.

- **Militaries of India and Pakistan** will be part of a mega anti-terror drill in Russia named "**Peace Mission**" in **August 2018** which is being organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (**SCO**).
 - It will be for the **first time since Independence that India and Pakistan** will both be part of a military exercise.

ECONOMY

- The **International Monetary Fund** said **India** remains a key driver of **global growth**. However, the **World Economic Outlook** forecast cut **India's GDP** outlook one-tenth for this year to **7.3 per cent** and **three-tenths** for next year to **7.5 per cent**.

SPORTS

- Wrestling Federation of India (**WFI**) president **Brij Bhushan Saran Singh** is set to be named the Chef de Mission of the **Asian Games-bound Indian contingent**.

AWARDS

- **Prominent Carnatic vocalist Aruna Sairam** has been selected for this year's **Sangita Kalanidhi Award**, instituted by the **Music Academy, Chennai**. The executive committee of **the academy** **unanimously** selected her for the award.