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NATIONAL NEWS

- The **Elphinstone Road station in Mumbai** has been **renamed as Prabhadevi station**. The new name came into effect from the midnight of **July 18**.
 - The station code for newly renamed Prabhadevi station will be **PBHD**.
- For the **first time**, the **Indian Air Force** will **participate** with fighter aircraft in **Exercise Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18)**, which is scheduled from **July 24, 2018 to August 18, 2018 in Australia**.
 - The **IAF** contingent consists of **145 air-warriors** including the **Garud** team along with its four frontline **Su-30 MKI Fighters, One C-130 and one heavy lift C-17 aircraft**.
- National Institute of Wind Energy (**NIWE**) has installed a remote sensing instrument- **LiDAR** for assessment of offshore wind resource at **Gulf of Khambat, off the Gujarat Coast**.
- **Facebook** and the National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) have entered into **strategic partnership to train youth and entrepreneurs in the country on digital skills**.
- The indigenously upgraded artillery gun **Dhanush** has successfully completed final user trials and is ready for induction into the **Army**. Dhanush is an upgraded version of the **Swedish Bofors** gun procured by **India** in the **mid-1980s**.
 - The **first phase of trials** were conducted at the **Pokhran and Babina ranges**.
- **Indian Railways** will become a “**net zero**” carbon emitter by **2030**. It was announced by Railway minister **Piyush Goyal**.
 - With the current action plans on anvil for **100 per cent electrification**, coupled with renewable strategies, Indian Railways will become a net zero carbon emitter by **2030**. He added that the electrification in **2017-18** has increased **seven times**.

- The Visva-Bharati University (VBU), founded by **Rabindranath Tagore**, will set up a **yoga centre** inside the campus, named **yoga gram (village)**. The centre is aimed at increasing awareness about yoga. The Visva-Bharati University is located at **Santiniketan, West Bengal**.
 - The campus at **Santiniketan** will have several single-storied buildings, termed as kuthis (cottages) dedicated to different techniques of yoga.

INTERNATIONAL

- The **United States withdrew** from the **United Nations Human Rights Council** accusing it of a “**chronic bias against Israel**”.
 - **Nikki Haley**, the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations announced the withdrawal.
- US State Department has announced that the inaugural ‘**two-plus-two dialogue**’ between **India** and the **United States** will be held in **New Delhi in September 2018**. Recently, the US had postponed the dialogue due to ‘**unavoidable reasons**’.

BANKING & ECONOMY

- As per Asian Development Bank (ADB)’s Asian Development **Outlook report India** continues to be the **fastest growing economy in Asia** with projected **GDP growth of 7.3 per cent**.
 - Growth would accelerate to **7.6 percent in 2019**.
- **Kisan Mela** was organized at **State Bank of India's rural and semi-urban branches** across the country to **impart financial literacy to farmers**. It is one-of-its-kind initiative to develop connect with farmer customers, resolve their grievances and educate them about their various rights and bank's initiatives.

AWARDS

- **Repc Micro Finance Ltd**, a non-banking finance company promoted by Repco Bank, received **Nabard 2018 award** for its service to self-help group (SHG) linkage in **Tamil Nadu for the fiscal year 2017-18**.