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NATIONAL NEWS

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has organised the ‘**Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan**’ in five main Ganga basin states – **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
 - It was aimed to bring awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding the importance of **afforestation for the task of Ganga Rejuvenation**.
 - The afforestation drive was organised during July 9 to July 15, 2018 as ‘**Shubharambh Saptah**’. The campaign was initiated as part of the Forest Interventions in Ganga (FIG) component of **Namami Gange Programme**.
- The **West Bengal government** has signed an agreement to implement the **Centre’s health insurance scheme under the joint banner “Ayushman Bharat – Swasthya Sathi”**.
- The 28th meeting of the GST Council chaired by interim finance minister Piyush Goyal was held in New Delhi. The Council was deliberated upon a number of key issues on its agenda which includes **rate revision on a number of items, amendments to the GST law, simplification of return, and the setting up of a National Appellate Tribunal in Delhi**.
 - The GST Council **has exempted sanitary napkins from Goods and Services Tax**.
- Minister for Science and Technology **Harsh Vardhan** has unveiled the **first of a kind Air Quality and Weather Forecast System, SAFAR at Chandni Chowk in New Delhi**. The giant true colour LED display will give real-time air quality index on the **24×7 basis with colour** coding along with 72-hour advance forecast.
- NABARD has launched a centre for accelerating concerted action on climate change by various stakeholders including government, private and financial sectors.

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- The Centre for Climate Change has been **set up in Lucknow**.
- The Union Home Minister, **Shri Rajnath Singh** launched **The Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme** nationally.
 - **Objective**-To instill values and ethics to students through classes in schools and outside.
- On July 21, 2018, Scientists from **International Union of Geological Science (IUGS)** have classified as a new chapter in Earth's history – the **Meghalayan Age**.
- The **Tamil Nadu** government has set a **24-hour** helpline to assist and protect **inter-caste couples**.
 - A special cell has been formed in all districts and cities in the state, comprising district-level officers to receive complaints of harassment .

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **8th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** was held at **Durban, South Africa**. Indian delegation was led by Mr. J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. He stated that India is committed to eliminating TB by 2025.
- Facebook has confirmed it is working on a **new satellite project, named Athena**, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas. The company aims to launch satellite in early 2019.

SPORTS

- Indian wrestler **Mansi Ahlawat** has won the **silver medal** in the ongoing **Junior Asian Wrestling Championship**. The event was held in **Junior Asian Wrestling Championship**.
 - Another Indian wrestler, Swati Shinde, bagged a bronze medal in **53 kg division** by defeating **Thailand's Duangnapa Boonyasu**.