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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Minister of State for Communications announced** that all villages adopted by the Member of Parliament under ‘**Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**’ would get **free Wi-Fi services**.
 - Setting up of **25000 WiFi hotspots** at existing rural exchanges of **BSNL** will be done.
 - Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana’: **Launch year: 2014.**
 - The development of model villages, called **Adarsh Grams**, through the implementation of existing schemes, and certain new initiatives.
 - Creating models of **local development** which can be replicated in **other villages**.
 - **Each MP** to choose one village each from the constituency that they represent make it a **model village by 2019**.
- The Justice **B.N. Srikrishna** Committee on data protection in **India** has suggested amendments to various laws including the **Aadhaar Act** to provide for imposition of penalties on **data fiduciaries and compensations** to data principals for violations of the **data protection law**.
- All the **13 lakh employees** of the **Indian Railways** will take turns to swear an oath publicly to “**bring about integrity**” and “**eradicate corruption**”.
 - Termed “**Mission Satyanishtha**”, the program will involve railway men attending formal training course on probity and integrity in **public life**.
- The **Gauhati High Court** has declared the **Arunachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries** (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2007 as “**unconstitutional**” in line with **Supreme court’s**.
 - This was against a public interest litigation filed by **Kyoda Ram** on the matter of appointing parliamentary secretaries.

- The **Indian Coast Guard and Bangladesh Coast Guard** conducted a **2 day bilateral table-top exercise** on maritime pollution in **Kolkata** that was held from **July 26-27, 2018** in Kolkata.
 - This exercise was conducted in the backdrop of the **MoU** signed between India and South Asian Cooperation for Environment Protection (**SACEP**).
- The West Bengal Assembly passed the **Lokayukta** (Amendment) Bill, **2018**.
 - **Maharashtra** was the **first state** to introduce the institution of Lokayukta through The Lokayukta and **Upa-Lokayuktas** Act in **1971**.
 - The latest Lokayukta was established in **Tamil Nadu** On **July 09, 2018**.
- According to the **US-based** Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (**IEEFA**) report, **Karnataka** is the new national leader in renewable energy generation. It has surpassed **Tamil Nadu** that had for quite some time been **India's best renewable market**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **India and the United Kingdom** will enhance their **partnership** in the area of research and innovation. It was attended by Science and Technology and Environment Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan** and his **UK counterpart Sam Gyimah**.
 - The objective is to address challenges, such as **water pollution, life-threatening diseases and climate change**.
 - This was agreed to at the delegation level meeting of **6th India-Science and Innovation Council in New Delhi**.

AWARDS

- The Cochin International Airport Ltd (**CIAL**) has bagged the **‘Champion of Earth Prize -2018’**, the **highest environmental** honour instituted by the United Nations (**UN**).
 - CIAL has been selected for the award for its successful execution of one of the revolutionary ideas of using solar energy, which made CIAL the **world’s first fully solar-powered airport**.

SPORTS

- **India** captain **Virat Kohli** was presented with the **International Player of the Year award for 2017-2018** by **England’s Barmy Army**.
 - **Barmy Army** is a popular fan club of **English cricket supporters**. It was held after the conclusion of the **first day** of **India’s** tour match against Essex.