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NATIONAL NEWS

- **“World Biofuel Day 2018”** event was organized in **New Delhi on 10th August** with the Prime Minister **Sh Narendra Modi** addressing a diverse gathering, consisting of farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, students, government officials, and legislators.
 - On the occasion, Narendra Modi unveiled a Booklet on **“National Policy on Biofuels 2018”**, and launched **“Pro Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub”**[**PARIVESH**].
- The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **‘One District One Product’** Summit in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**. The special emphasis was laid on micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**).
 - Under the ‘One District One Product’ scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing employment to **25 lakh** people in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.
- Human Resource Development (**HRD**) Ministry announced a spending of **Rs 418 crore from 2018-20** on collaborative research between Indian and foreign institutes under the ‘Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration’ (**SPARC**).
 - The scheme, slated to be launched on October 1, will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Technology, **Kharagpur** and will consider only top 500 globally ranked Institutes for collaboration.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** government is observed **Adivasi Diwas** on **9 August**. he State government would facilitate achievers from the tribal community and distribute certificates to beneficiaries of **various welfare schemes**. The Government also felicitates meritorious tribal students.
- To create awareness about the ill effects of crop residue burning and management, **Parijat Urja Chakra** in collaboration with **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** organized a special campaign at **Fatehgarh village of Ambala in Haryana**.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **NASA** is all set to launch its historic small car-size probe to “**touch the Sun**” from Cape **Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida**. The probe is named after Eugene Parker, a solar physicist who in **1958 first** predicted the existence of the solar wind, the stream of **charged particles** and **magnetic fields** that flow continuously from the Sun.
 - The launch of the **Parker Solar Probe** will set it on a journey all the way to the Sun’s atmosphere, or corona — closer to the **Sun than any spacecraft in history**.

ECONOMY

- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) has emerged as the top source of inward remittances, while Kerala has received the maximum funds sent from abroad, according to the **Reserve Bank of India’s** survey of inward remittances for **2016-17**.
 - **UAE’s** share in total remittances was **26.9%**, followed by the United States (**22.9%**), Saudi Arabia (**11.6%**), Qatar (**6.5%**) and Kuwait (**5.5%**).
- The State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched the **Multi-Option Payment Acceptance Device or MOPAD**, a unified payment option that accepts **multiple payment methods**.

APPOINTMENTS

- **NCW** member **Rekha Sharma** has been appointed as the chairperson of **the National Commission for Women**. **Rekha Sharma** was earlier a member of the Commission and was holding the additional charge of chairperson.
 - The **National Commission for Women** is the apex national level organisation of India with the mandate of protecting and promoting the interests of women.
- The **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has chosen former Chilean **President Michelle Bachelet** to be the world body’s **new human rights chief**.
 - **Bachelet’s** appointment will also needs to be approved by the **193-member UN General Assembly**.

BOOKS

- Minister of State for Culture Mahesh Sharma released three books, including one on “**secret broadcasts**” during the Quit India movement, at the Indira Gandhi National

Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). The books are titled **“Jewellery: A Scientific Study of Social Tradition”, “Ghats of Banaras” and “Untold Story of Broadcasting”**.

- **“Untold Story of Broadcasting”** authored by historian **Gautam Chatterjee**, is about hidden developments during the **1942** Quit India movement — the **“secret broadcasts”** of the time — and the contribution of political leader Ram Manohar Lohia in the movement.
- The second book, **“Jewellery”**, written by author-journalist **Gulab Kothari**, examines a ritualistic use of jewellery worn on occasions, and the meaning of possessing **jewellery in an Indian context**.
- Another book, **“Ghats of Banaras”** has been co-authored by **IGNCA** Cultural Informatics Director **Pratapanand Jha and Sachidanand Joshi**. It is a monograph highlighting the importance of **ghats**, and is derived out of a **documentation conducted at Varanasi**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **August 10, World Biofuel Day**
 - The Objective of the World Biofuel Day is to raise awareness about the **significance of non fossil fuels which can be used as an alternative to fossil fuels**.
- **International Day Of The World’s Indigenous Peoples: 9 August**
 - The International Day of the World’s Indigenous People’s is observed on 9 August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population
 - 2018 Theme: **Indigenous peoples’ migration and movement**