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NATIONAL NEWS

- Ministry of Railways launches “**Digital Screens**” to spread awareness about **Indian Railways Heritage**. From the **Independence Day** on (August 15, 2018), “digital screens” has been made operational at **22 railway stations**.
 - This screens will show one to **two minute-long** movie clips on digital **LED screens** at the entrance gate of railway stations and also **at different comfort areas**.
- **West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee** lifted family income ceiling for the beneficiaries of women welfare scheme ‘**Kanyashree**’. Earlier the ceiling was : **Rs 120,000 or less**.
 - **Kanyashree** was launched in **2013** to prevent early marriage of girl children of socio-economically disadvantaged families whose annual income is Rs 120,000 or less.
- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **Dial 100 Mobile app**, to help the needy at the time of emergency. Once Madhya Pradesh **Police** receive a call through **Dial 100 mobile app**, they will reach the location as soon as possible, to help the people in distress.
- **ISRO Chairman** has announced that an Indian astronaut will be sent into space by **2022 on board Gaganyaan**. K Sivan has reciprocated Prime Minister **Narendra Modi’s Independence Day announcement**.
 - Prior to the actual launch by 2022, the ISRO will have two unmanned missions and spacecraft will be launched using **GSLV Mark-III**. **GSLV Mark III launch** vehicle will be fully equipped with crew module and life support system for manned mission in the next two years.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Indian Government** released additional **NPR 470 million** for the **Postal Highway** being constructed in **Southern Plains of Nepal**. **Indian**

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Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri handed over NPR 470 million to the Secretary of Nepal's Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport **Madhusudan Adhikari**.

- **Qatar King Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** has pledged to make direct investment in **Turkey** and announced a 15-billion US dollar investment into the country's financial markets and banks. The announcement came after holding talks with **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara**.
- The 24th **World Congress of Philosophy (WCP)** was held in **Beijing**, China for the first time. This event has been organized by the **International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University**. The theme for this event is: "**Learning To Be Human**".

ECONOMY

- PhonePe announced partnership with **IRCTC** app '**IRCTC Rail Connect**', to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments. This will enable **PhonePe's 100 million plus** users to now pay directly from their bank accounts using **UPI, credit and debit cards** and also the **PhonePe wallet**.

AWARDS

- James P. Allison, Carl June and Steven A. Rosenberg, have been conferred the 2018 **Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research**.
 - **James P. Allison** is from the **University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center** in **Houston**. **Carl June** is from the **University at Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine** in **Philadelphia**.
- **Smitha Crishna** has topped the India's wealthiest women list for **2018**, prepared by **Kotak Wealth-Hurun Report**.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** was re-elected as president of **Mali**. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita won **67 percent** of the **vote** and defeated his opponent **Soumaila Cisse** in the **presidential election**.
- 46-year-old **Mario Abdo Benítez** has been sworn in as the **new President** of Paraguay. He replaced **Horacio Cartes**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The multi-purpose **Barak 8 missile** defence system, jointly developed by **India and Israel**, will be procured by the **Israeli Navy**.
 - **Barak 8** has been developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), India's **DRDO**, Israel's Administration for the **Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure**, **Elta Systems**, **Rafael** and few other Indian defence companies.


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