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NATIONAL NEWS

- **India** successfully flight tested the **indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' from Pokhran in Rajasthan**. The weapon system tested for its full range was released smoothly from the launch platform. The missile hit the target with high precision.
 - The indigenously designed and developed guided bombs **Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** was also successfully flight tested from IAF aircraft at Chandan range in Jaisalmer.
- **NABARD All India Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS)**, conducted by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, was released by **Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog** in New Delhi. The report revealed that farm households register higher income than the families solely dependent on non-farm livelihood activities in rural areas.
 - The survey, with reference year of 2015-16, which covered 40,327 rural households, highlighted that the average annual income of an agricultural household is Rs 1,07,172 compared to Rs 87,228 for families engaged only in non-agricultural activities.
- To protect the interest of subscribers, **Pension fund regulator, Pension Fund and Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA)**, set a standing committee to suggest steps to deal with cyber security challenges.
 - The focus area of the committee is on **'Information Systems and Technology and Cyber Security'**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- A **platinum-gold alloy** has been engineered by US scientists from **Sandia National Laboratories**, that may be the most wear-resistant metal in the world.
 - It is the first alloy in the same class as diamond and sapphire, and has been **100** times more durability than **high-strength steel**.

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ECONOMY

- According to a report by Nomura, India's current account deficit (CAD) is expected to widen to 2.8 per cent of the **GDP in FY19 from 1.9 per cent of GDP, in 2017-18 fiscal**. Reasons for this are: rising oil prices, depreciating rupee and outflow of portfolio investments.
 - Moody's have predicted the **CAD to be 2.5% of the GDP of FY19**.
 - Current account deficit (CAD): It is the difference between the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange.
- The Receivables Exchange of India (**RXIL**) (Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra) said that the Hindustan Aeronautics (**HAL**) has become the first public sector enterprise to make a transaction on the **"TReDS platform"**.
 - According to the **NSE-SIDBI** joint venture, **TReDS** is an online electronic institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSME**) through multiple financiers.

AWARDS

- The **United States government awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander)** to **General Dalbir Singh Suhag (Retired)** chief of the **Army staff, Indian Army**. This was earlier announced by the US Government in **March 2016**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **August 19th** is annually observed as **World Humanitarian Day 2018**. It is observed to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives for humanitarian services.
 - The day was designated by the **UN General Assembly to commemorate the 19 August 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq**.
 - The **theme** for the **2018** World Humanitarian Day is : **#NotATarget**.