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Daily Current Affairs 21st August, 2018

NATIONAL NEWS

- Punjab Minister announced that **Punjab**, the **first state in India** to launch a **mobile app 'i-Hariyali'** to supply free saplings, has provided **13 lakh** saplings to people through this endeavour so far.
- **Telangana** Government has launched Disaster Response Force (**DRF**) vehicles in **Hyderabad** to handle situations like **flash floods, heavy rains**, building collapse and fire mishaps. The DRF vehicles will be parked at **24 locations** with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (**GHMC**) **DRF staff**.
- The indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile '**HELINA**' was successfully flight tested from an **Army Helicopter in Rajasthan's Pokhran**. The weapon system was tested for its full range and guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (**IIR**), it hit the target with high precision.
 - **HeliNA** stands for Helicopter-launched Nag and is a variant of the **Nag anti-tank guided missile** which is launched from **land**.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) constituted a group of experts from **the health and nutrition** sector to look into the issue of **food labelling**. The expert panel will be headed by B Sesikeran. Mr Sesikeran is the former director of National Institute of Nutrition (**NIN**) and comprises **Hemalatha and Dr Nikhil Tandon**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** inaugurated '**Panini Language Laboratory**' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (**MGI**) at Port Louis in Mauritius. She called on Prime Minister of Mauritius **Pravind Kumar Jagnauth** and discussed further deepening of the special ties between the **two nations**.
 - The Lab has been gifted by the **Government of India** and it will help **MGI** in the teaching of all Indian languages in **Mauritius**.

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- The historic **Esala Maha Perehera** festival started in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The festival will be held for **10 days**. It started with a grand procession from **Sri Dalada Maligawa, the biggest Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka**.

ECONOMY

- All India Financial Inclusion Survey (**NAFIS**), conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**), revealed that farm households **register higher income** than the families solely dependent on non-farm **livelihood activities in rural areas**.
 - The financial inclusion drive has resulted in proliferation of **bank accounts in rural areas** with **88.1 per cent of households** having savings accounts, according to the survey.

SPORTS

- Novak Djokovic (**Serbia**) beat Roger Federer (**Switzerland**) in straight sets, high-profile championship match at the **2018 Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati**. With this win, **Djokovic** became the first men's tennis player in history to win all nine **Masters 1,000** tournaments after finishing as the runner-up in Cincinnati five **different times**.
- **Vinesh Phogat** became the **first Indian woman wrestler to win an Asian Games gold** after she defeated **Japan's Yuki Irie** in the **50 kilogram** women's Freestyle final.
- **Wrestler Bajrang Punia** bagged the **first gold medal for India** at the **18th Asian Games** after defeating **Japanese Daichi Takatani 11-8** in **Men's 65kg freestyle** event.
- **India U-15 girls** won the **SAFF U-15** Championship after beating defending champion **Bangladesh 1-0** in the final played at the **Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Mosquito Day**, observed on **20th August** every year. This day is a honor of **British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897** that **female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans**. Mosquitoes have been around for over a hundred million years.