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NATIONAL NEWS

- **NITI Aayog released five thematic reports** on Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region. It was released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant and member Dr V K Saraswat in New Delhi.
 - The themes include **Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security, Sustainable Tourism, and Transformative Approach to Shifting Cultivation, Strengthening Skill and Entrepreneurship Landscape in the Himalayas.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi set rolling a new slogan, ‘**Saaf Niyat, Sahi Vikas**’, about his government as he gave away over **1 lakh houses to women** under the flagship **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (rural) scheme**, calling it a Rakshabandhan gift.
 - The PM was speaking at an event in **Jujwa village** in the tribal-dominated regions of **Valsad district in South Gujarat** after he ushered in ‘**e-Gruh Pravesh**’ in the houses to women. **Over 1.15 lakh** residential units have been built at a cost of **Rs 1,727 crore** under the scheme.
- Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** inaugurated the **Bhamashah Techno Hub** in **Jhalana** Industrial Area of **Jaipur**. She said the country’s biggest centre equipped with the ultra-modern technology will help around 700 entrepreneurs to work under one roof and realise their dreams.
- The **Odisha** Government has **tied up** with **Japan** for its mega **investment Conclave 2018** to take place in November this year. The state has already identified 600 acres near capital city Bhubaneswar that could serve as a dedicated industrial park for Japanese investors.
 - While **Japan** will be ‘**Country Partner**’ to the **Make in Odisha conclave**, **SBI** is **banking partner** for the event.
- Central Government launched **Draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme** to extend affordable air travel programme **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam**

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Nagrik) to international circuits.

- The Punjab Cabinet approved the formation of the state higher education council to offer quality education.
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name the upcoming **Bundelkhand Expressway** as '**Atal Path**' to honour former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajyapee.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **The World Bank launched 'bond-i'**, the world's first bond to be created, allocated, transferred and managed by using distributed ledger technology. This two-year bond successfully raised 110 million Australian dollars (USD 80.48 million).
- **Iran unveiled a new domestic fighter jet** with **President Hassan Rouhani**. The plane was first publicly announced on Saturday by Defence Minister Amir Hatami.
 - The jet was kept at the **National Defence Industry exhibition in Tehran**. The jet is a fourth-generation fighter, with "advanced avionics" and multi-purpose radar and it is "100 percent indigenously made".
- According to a report by **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, the maximum number of cyber attacks on official Indian websites are from **China, US and Russia**.
- The United States has imposed **preliminary anti-dumping duty of 50.55 % on India-made metal pipes**.

ECONOMY

- According to **Moody's Investor** services report called **Global Macro Outlook for 2018-19**, the Indian economy will grow by around **7.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019**.
 - The growth of the G-20 countries together has been predicted to be **3.3 per cent in 2018 and 3.1 per cent in 2019**.

APPOINTMENTS

- President Ram Nath Kovind re appointed **Arun Jaitley** as Finance Minister after

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he recovered from a kidney ailment. Jaitley will resume charge of both finance and corporate affairs portfolios.

- To decide mining company Vedanta's plea challenging closure of its **Sterlite copper plant at Tuticorin**, the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has appointed retired judge **S J Vazifdar** as head of a **three-member** committee.
 - This decision was taken by a bench headed by chairperson **A K Goel**.
- **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, the world's second largest sovereign wealth fund, has hired private equity veteran **Kabir Mathur** to head operations in India.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Europe launched a rocket named "**Aeolus**" from **French Guyana**. It is the world's **first** space mission to acquire profiles of Earth's wind on a global scale. This satellite will be put into orbit at an altitude of 320 kilometres (200 miles) above the Earth which will track global winds, allowing for improved weather forecasting.
 - It is part of the **Copernicus** project, a joint initiative of the **European Union** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to track environmental damage and aid disaster relief operations.
- Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, announced the launch of **Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI)** exclusively for startups in chip design.
- Scientists have developed a wireless '**in-body GPS**' system named "**ReMix**" that can accurately locate ingestible implants and track tumours inside the body.
 - ReMix was able to track implants with centimetre-level accuracy in animal tests. Similar implants can be used to deliver drugs to specific regions of the body.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- "**Sea Prayer**", the new book of writer **Khaled Hosseini** will be released on 30th August 2018.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **23rd August 2018**, International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition was observed throughout the world.
 - This day is commemorated as International Day for the Remembrance of the

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Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23rd August every year.

- **Top seeds Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan** notched up their **maiden men's tennis doubles gold medal at the Asian Games, in Palembang, Indonesia.** Bopanna and Sharan defeated **Aleksander Bublik and Denis Yevseyev of Kazakhstan.**


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