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NATIONAL NEWS

- The **Odisha** government signed a memorandum of understanding with **US-based 'Malaria No More' and India-based Malaria Elimination Trust** to curb Malaria menace in the state. The Health Department signed the MoU with both the organisations in presence of Health Minister Pratap Jena.
 - This MoU aims at making Odisha **"Malaria Free"** and creating awareness about the best practices to prevent Malaria in Odisha, said the Health Minister.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO** has unveiled **India's Gaganyaan programme for manned space flight before 2022** as announced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day.
 - The manned mission to space will be having 3 crew members in space for 5-7 days. It will be launched with the help of **GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle**.
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for implementation of an umbrella scheme **'Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)'**. The scheme encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.
- **The government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$375 million loan agreement** to contribute **to double farming incomes in Madhya Pradesh** by expanding irrigation networks and system efficiency.
- **The third edition of World's Biggest Open Innovation Model - Smart India Hackathon 2019** - was launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. **MHRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems and i4c** have joined hands to make a hat trick with their highly popular and innovative Smart India Hackathon initiative (SIH).
 - **For the 1st time, Private industry/organisations and NGOs can also send their problem** statements to students under SIH-2019.
- Computer chip manufacturer **NVIDIA** collaborated with NITI Aayog as its **Deep learning technology partner** to support **NITI Aayog's "MoveHack"** hackathon.
 - MoveHack is a global mobility hackathon to crowdsource solutions, which focuses on the future of mobility in India.
- The **Narendra Modi Government** has constituted a high power committee to advise it on policy matters related to **science, technology and innovation**.
 - It is named as **PM-STIAC (Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Committee)**. The 21-member committee will be chaired by **K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum** has begun in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The theme of three-day Forum is the **'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers'** Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.
- **NOTE**
 - Secretary-General of SAARC is **Amjad Hussain B. Sial**.
 - SAARC headquarters in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- **The 4th BIMSTEC Summit began in Kathmandu, Nepal**. The two-day Summit will be held with the main focus on countering terrorism, enhancing regional connectivity and boosting trade.
 - The theme of the summit is **'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with leaders of BIMSTEC countries on the sidelines of the summit.

ECONOMY

- The **Government of India** and the **IBRD of World Bank** signed a total of **\$300 million** agreement for the **India Energy Efficiency Scale-Up Program in Delhi**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** has released its annual report in Mumbai. It was mentioned in the report that due to the evolving economic conditions, **real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4%** from 6.7% in the previous year.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Google** announced **Project Navlekha** at its 4th edition of Google for India Event held in New Delhi. Project Navlekha has been launched to enable Indian publishers of regional languages to publish their content online, without facing the trouble of selling printed copies.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will outsource the production of the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs)** to private Industries. The Indian Space agency Chairman K Sivan informed that private industries will play a major role in capacity building.
 - The assistance of the **country's first astronaut Rakesh Sharma** and that of foreign space agencies will be sought for the training of astronauts.

SPORTS

- **Swapna Barman** created history by becoming the **first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold in Indonesia**, a feat she achieved despite a toothache.
- **Arpinder Singh** ended India's 48-year long wait for **a gold in triple jump at the Asian**

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Games with an effort of **16.77m**. India's last Asian Games gold medal in men's triple jump had come in 1970 from Mohinder Singh Gill.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- The **National Sports Day** is celebrated every year on **August 29** on the birth anniversary of Indian **hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand**.
 - He was famously known as ‘The Wizard’ for his superb ball control and had scored more than 1000 goals during his international career. The man known for his extraordinary goal-scoring skills has **won three Olympic gold medals (in 1928, 1932, and 1936)** during the time Indian hockey was the most dominant.


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