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SEPTEMBER

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TNPSC

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NATIONAL NEWS

- The Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **3-day Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference – 2018**, organised by **PHD** Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) in **New Delhi**.
- **Ministry of Railways** & Centre for Railway Information Systems (**CRIS**) organised a seminar on **“Leveraging IT for Mobility”** in **New Delhi**. Minister of Railways & Coal, **Shri Piyush Goyal** graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shri Goyal also launched a **new app – “AAPOORTI’** mobile App of ‘**Indian Railways e-procurement** system’ (**IREPS**).
- **India and Bulgaria** has signed MoUs, including **one on civil nuclear cooperation**, as President **Ram Nath Kovind** held talks with his **Bulgarian counterpart Rumen Radev**. The **four MoUs** between **India and Bulgaria** are investment, tourism, civil nuclear cooperation and the establishment of **Hindi Chair at Sofia University**.
- The **US** Secretary of State, **Michael R Pompeo**, and **US Defence Secretary, James N Mattis**, met their **Indian** counterparts **Swaraj** and **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** in the **first ‘2+2’ dialogue in New Delhi**.
 - According to the joint statement, the two sides signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**) that will facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilise its existing **US-origin platforms**.
- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the **3-day Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference 2018**, organised by **PHD** Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) in **New Delhi**.
- Rail Minister **Piyush Goyal** along with Chief Minister of **UP Yogi Adityanath** launched the official **website and app** for **Kumbh Mela, 2019** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Minister of State for Tourism (**I/C**) **Shri K.J. Alphons** announced the sanction of **Rs. 80.37 Crores** for **“Development of Rural Circuit: Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project’** in **Kerala** under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.

- The **Supreme Court decriminalised** a portion of **Section 377** of the **Indian Penal Code**, a colonial era provision that criminalises private consensual sexual acts between same sex adults. The judgment was delivered by a Bench of Chief Justice of **India Dipak Misra** and Justices **Rohinton Nariman, AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud** and **Indu Malhotra**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Indian navy ships** and aircraft have arrived in **Sri Lanka** to take part in the joint exercise **SLINEX-2018** to be held with **Sri Lankan navy at Trincomalee**. The exercise which was previously held biannually has been converted to an annual event from this year to enhance cooperation in the maritime domain and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the **two navies**.

ECONOMY

- **Maryland-based Lockheed Martin** announced that the wings of **F-16 Block 70 fighter** jets will be produced in India as a part of Make in **India initiative**. It entered into an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (**TASL**) for the production of the wings.
- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) bought **8.46 tonne** of **gold in financial year 2017-18**. This is the **first purchase** in almost nine years. **Earlier in November 2009**, RBI had bought **200 tonne** of gold from the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**).

APPOINTMENTS

- **Justice Arup Kumar Goswami** has been appointed the acting chief justice of the Gauhati High Court with effect from **6th September 2018**. His appointment has been made following the retirement of **Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajit Singh**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- India and France announced a working group for Gaganyaan, **ISRO's first manned mission at the sixth edition of Bengaluru Space Expo. India plans to send three humans** to space before **2022**.
- Indian Air Force for the first time successfully conducted mid-air refuelling of **Tejas MK I fighter** jet by **Indian Air Force's Russian** built **Il-78 tanker**. Dry link up means no fuel was transferred between the **2 aircrafts**.
 - The tanker was launched from **IAF's base in Agra** while **LCA Tejas** fighter was launched from **Gwalior**.
- **Japanese** researchers have developed a **"space elevator"**. Its first trial will be conducted on **11th September 2018**, by launching a miniature version on satellites.
 - The test equipment has been developed by researchers at Shizuoka University. It will be launched on an **H-2B rocket** by **Japan's** space agency from **Japan's Tanegashima Space Center**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- A book on experiential learning based on Mahatma Gandhi's **'Nai Talim'** (basic education) was released by **HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar**. It contains basic principles of Gandhi's 'Nai Talim', along with the work and education **curriculum** for **schools, D.Ed, B.Ed** and faculty development programmes for teachers.