



We Shine Academy™

guiding you to get through

நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

AUGUST - 2018

We Are Here..!! To Guide You..!!



We Shine Study Circle

Success is
Massive Utilization
of the **Ability** that You Have

Main Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Chromepet, Chennai

Phone : 8939144344,8939244344

Branch Office @

Weshine Study Circle

A-90, 3rd Street (Near K3 Police Station),
Annanagar East
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600102.

3rd Floor, West Wing, Gokul Arcarde,
No.2, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar
Chennai, Tamilnadu 600020.

<https://weshineacademy.com>

INDEX

04 - 32 National News

32 - 42 International News

42 - 47 Sports News

47 - 51 Science and Technology

51 - 55 Awards

55 - 60 Appointments

61 - 63 Important Days

64 - 69 Economic

69 - 70 Books



NATIONAL NEWS

August 1

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), Oil & Gas CPSEs and its offices celebrated **Swachhta Pakhwada** from **1st to 15th July, 2018**.
 - The theme of MoPNG initiatives in this Pakhwada were “**Innovation**” and “**Sustainability**”.
 - About **Swachata Pakhwada**:
 - Launched in **April 2016**.
 - It started with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of **Swachhata by engaging GOI Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions**.
- To promote exploration in the deep ocean to meet energy requirements of **India**, the **Union Ministry of Earth Science unveiled a blueprint** of Deep Ocean Mission (**DOM**) to explore Deep Ocean.
- The **IT ministry** launched a **desktop software e-Aksharayan in a conference** for Indian Languages Technology Industry ‘**Bhashantara**’, in **New Delhi**. The objective is to enable editing and printing of text in scanned documents. The **software e-Aksharayan was launched in 7 Indian languages**.
- National Health Agency (**NHA**) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the apex body for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (**AB-NHPM**), and Common Service Centres (**CSC**) scheme under the **Digital India Programme, have signed an MoU** to provide information and eligibility validation services to beneficiaries, especially in remote areas.

August 2

- **India and Germany** signed an agreement on **financial and technical cooperation**. According to this agreement, **Germany** will give nearly Rs 8,500 crore (**1,055 million Euros**) for development of **India**.
 - This will focus on sustainable urban development and renewable energy in areas of sanitation, solid waste management and promotion of urban mobility.

- Union Minister of State (**Independent Charge**) for **AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik** laid the foundation stone of the **2nd Phase of Construction** of North East Institute of Ayurveda & Homeopathy (**NEIAH**) at **NEIAH Campus** in **Mawdiangdiang, Shillong**.
- To know the availability of vessels in the market, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (**IWAI**) launched a dedicated portal named **FOCAL** to connect cargo owners and shippers with real time data on availability of vessels.
- **NITI Aayog** is set to host an **Investors' Conference for the Holistic Development of Islands**, at **Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra** in **New Delhi**.
 - This Conference will be inaugurated by **Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog**. It is expected to gain investment for the sustainable development of eco-tourism projects in **Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands**.
- A **two-day Indo-US Military Cooperation Meeting** began in **New Delhi** as a prelude to **2 plus 2 Dialogue** between the two countries scheduled in **September 2018**. The meeting was co-chaired by **Lt Gen Satish Dua**, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (**CISC**) and **Lt Gen Bryan Fenton, Deputy Commander, Indo-Pacific Command**.

August 3

- **Ranchi**-based software developer **Ranjit Srivastava** is developing the **world's first Hindi-speaking humanoid robot**, claimed to cost just **Rs50,000** so far.
 - **Named Rashmi**, the **AI-powered robot** can also speak **Bhojpuri, Marathi, and English**, and is equipped with facial expressions and recognition systems. He was inspired to create **Rashmi** after seeing **Hong Kong-made humanoid 'Sophia'** in **2016**.
- The Ministry of Culture launched a scheme called “**Seva Bhoj Yojna**” to reimburse central share of **CGST and IGST on food, prasada, langar or bhandara** offered by religious and charitable institutions.
 - The scheme will compensate such institutions of the Central Government share of Central Goods and Services Tax (**CGST**) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (**IGST**) so as to lessen the financial burden on religious and charitable bodies that provide **food/prasada/langar (community kitchen)/bhandara free-of-cost without any discrimination to public/devotees**.

- The **NITI Aayog** has launched **Move Hack, a global mobility hackathon** to crowd source solutions aimed at the future of mobility in India.
 - The **Hackathon** will be one of the **largest hackathons globally** and the **Move Hack is focused on 10 themes**.
 - The hackathon has a two-pronged campaign approach (i.e) **“Just Code It” and “Just Solve It”**.
- To create awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (**IPRs**), the Commerce and Industry Minister **Suresh Prabhu** launched a logo and tagline for Geographical Indications (**GI**).
 - The ministry had launched a contest for designing a **logo and tagline** for **GIs**. The slogan for the GI tag is: **Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India**.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) has launched Mission **Solar Charkha** for implementation of **50 Solar Charkha Clusters** throughout **India**.
 - This scheme will offer direct employment to around **1 lakh people**. This Mission was launched by President **Ram Nath Kovind** on the **UN Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (27th June 2018)**.

August 4

- In an effort to boost ties between India and Japan in the bamboo craft sector, a team from the **Japanese** embassy in **New Delhi** and stakeholders in the bamboo handicraft sector of Tripura took part in a workshop called **‘Bridging Japan and India by Bamboo’**.
- **FICCI Ladies** Organisation, the women’s wing of Federation of **Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry** has launched a **mobile application** aimed at creating awareness on preventive healthcare.
 - The mobile application **“WOW”** (Wellness of Women) is backed by city-based **Apollo Hospitals Group** that offers access to renowned doctors and provides **health tips**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched an awareness campaign named **“Horn Not Ok”** along with a statewide mobile app **“Shoor Nahin”** or no noise in **Shimla and Manali**.

- The **mobile app “Shoor Nahin”**, is an initiative to check noise pollution in the state. The app has been developed to report any noise pollution complaint to authorities.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministries of **Environment; Forest and Climate Change and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** took place up skilling and certification of **100,000 RAC** service technicians.
 - This is under under the Skill India Mission – Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (**PMKVY**).
- Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Power have joined hands under the initiative **SAATHI** (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries) in order to sustain and accelerate the adoption of energy efficient textile technologies in the power loom sector.
- Andhra Pradesh CM **Chandrababu Naidu** launched ‘**Mukhya Mantri-Yuva Nestham**’ scheme to allowance to unemployed youth in the state.
 - The allowance will be of **Rs 1000 per month**.
 - **12 lakh youths** in the age group of **22-35 years** will get the **benefit**.
 - The famous **Kadaknath chicken** meat from **Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh** has now got a Geographical Indication (**GI**) tag.
 - The application was made in the category of “**Meat Product, Poultry & Poultry Meat**“, was approved on **July 30**.

August 5

- According to a report called **N-SIPI** (State Investment Potential Index) series by economic think-tank **NCAER**, **Delhi** has topped the list and has replaced **Gujarat**.
 - It was done based on **6 parameters**: land, labour, infrastructure, economic climate, governance and political stability and business perceptions.
 - The **Top 3 of the List are**:
 1. **Delhi**
 2. **Tamil Nadu**
 3. **Gujarat**
- **Karnataka** government launched ‘**Swachha Meva Jayate**’ campaign. The campaign coincides with the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (**SSG 2018**) survey, being

undertaken by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**.

- The department of **Rural Development** also released the **logo of the campaign**: a little boy and a little girl standing in front of the map of Karnataka.

- **Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has inaugurated **India's first in-phone guide-Go Whats That at Rock Garden, Chandigarh**.

- **GoWhatsThat** is a creative **platform** which enables to view information in a hassle **free way and explore the spots** with multimedia content in various languages.

- The **Indian-origin U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams** is among the nine astronauts named by **NASA**. They will **fly the first missions** into space on commercially **provided rockets and capsules, starting next year**.

- The **nine astronauts** will launch on the **first crewed test flights and missions of new commercial spacecraft built** and operated by **The Boeing Company and SpaceX**.

- Loksabha Speaker **Sumitra Mahajan** handed over **5 croreth LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** to **Smt Takrdiran of Delhi in the Parliament House**. The 5 crore feat has been achieved in the time **period of over 2 years**.

- PM Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) on **1st May 2016** and it is **implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** through its **Oil Marketing Companies**.

August 6

- The iconic **Mughalsarai Railway Junction** in **Uttar Pradesh** has been renamed as **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Railway station**. **BJP National President Amit Shah** inaugurated the renamed station. A goods train with an all-woman crew was also **flagged off**.

- To address the issues, challenges and concerns of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**), GST council in its **29th** meeting decided to create a sub-

committee headed by **MoS Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla** for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

- The issues related to law would be taken up by the law committee and issues related to rates would be taken up by the **fitment committee**.
- Government has approved **122 new** research projects of **112 crore rupees** under its Impacting Research Innovation and Technology '**IMPRINT-2**' scheme. The initiative aims to **advance research in energy**, security and healthcare domains in the high education institutions.
 - It would cover the fields of Energy, Security, Healthcare, Advanced Materials, **ICT and Security/Defence**.
 - **IMPRINT: IMPActing Research INnovation and Technology**.
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched the Defence India Startup Challenge in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The challenge was launched with a vision to build an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in defence sector and make **India self-reliant for meeting defence requirements**.
 - **Raksha Mantri** also launched **SPARK** (support for prototype and research Kickstart) in defence, framework for **Iindex partners**, and promotion of start ups under **Make II procedure**.

August 7

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister unveiled the **world's first-ever high energy storage device in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.
 - The thermal battery, **first-of-its-kind** anywhere in the world, is a revolutionary and disruptive technology patented by **Dr. Patrick Glynn in 2016 in India**.
- **NITI Aayog's** International Conference on "**Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions**" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation, **Nitin Gadkari at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi**.
- **Startup India** has launched the **Startup Academia Alliance** programme, which is a unique mentorship opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains, to fulfill the **Indian Government's mission** to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in the country.

- To strengthen business ties between **ASEAN** countries and northeastern states. Also, to explore the potential of **Meghalaya** and its neighboring states, **5th Act East Business Show -2018** was held in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has launched an ambitious scheme which promises to provide **Rs 54,100** from the birth of a girl child till she graduates.
 - Kumar launched the '**Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana**' and expressed his government's resolve for empowerment of **women**.
- NITI Aayog has identified **117 districts** as '**Aspirational Districts**'. These districts have been selected on the basis of composite index which includes published data of deprivation enumerated under **Socio-Economic Caste Census, Health & Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure**.
- During the **second** phase of the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (**RUSA**), central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges(**MDCs**) in '**Aspirational Districts**' identified by NITI Aayog and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and the **Himalayan States**.

August 8

- The **world's first-ever facility to create thermal batteries** will be inaugurated in **Amaravati**, Andhra Pradesh. The Thermal batteries will be manufactured by Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (**BEST**).
 - These batteries are based on alternative sources of **energy production**, and their presence is expected to reduce the dependence on **fossil fuels**. Energy can be stored in it that can **power telecommunications, commercial enterprises, electric vehicles** as well as **charging systems**.
- NITI Aayog's International Conference on "**Sustainable Growth through Material Recycling: Policy Prescriptions**" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation, **Nitin Gadkari** in **New Delhi**.
 - It is expected that the deliberations at the conference will provide inputs for the policy formulation on various aspects related to **material recycling**.
- The **National Green Tribunal constituted a committee**, to be headed by a **former Allahabad High Court judge**, for monitoring the rejuvenation **project of Ganga from Haridwar to Unnao in Uttar Pradesh**.

- The **National Academy of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA)** celebrated its **64th Foundation Day** and the event was inaugurated by Minister of State for **Culture (I/c), Dr. Mahesh Sharma**.
 - A book on eminent artist **Ganesh Pyne– “A Painter of Eloquent Silence”** written by **Pranav Ranjan Ray** was launched.
- The Union Ministry of Water Resources, the **NABARD** and the National Water Development Agency (**NWDA**) signed a revised Memorandum of Agreement (**MoA**) for funding of central share of **99 prioritized** irrigation projects under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**.
- **Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar** and Tourism Minister **Manohar Ajgaonkar** flagged off the Goa Tourism Development Corporation’s **app-based taxi service** called ‘**GOAMILES**’ in Panaji.
 - It would ensure that **commuters are not cheated as there would be** transparency in **fares for the customers**. It will also ensure the increase in earnings of **taxi drivers** by “two to three” times.

August 9

- **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu** launched 'Niryat Mitra' – **mobile App** in **New Delhi**. The app developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (**FIEO**) is available both on **Android** and on **IOS** platforms.
- To reach out to the consumers and to safeguard their interests, the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** launches integration & availability of **TRAI Mobile Apps** namely **DND 2.0 & MyCall on UMANG platform** in a function held at **TRAI, New Delhi**.
- **DND 2.0 App:**
 - **DND (Do Not Disturb) Services App** enables smart phone users to register their mobile number under **DND**. It would avoid **Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC)/Telemarketing Calls/SMS**.
- **TRAI MyCall App:**
 - It is an application for crowd sourced **Voice Call Quality Monitoring**. It helps **Mobile phone users** to rate their experience about voice call quality in real time.
- **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)** and **Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI)** signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) to establish **India-Nepal Centre**.

- **Maharashtra** Government announced a special assistance of **Rs 500 crore** for **OBC** community to help them develop **employment opportunities for the youth**.
- **Karnataka** launched a round-the-clock information and grievance helpline for Scheduled Castes (**SCs**) and Scheduled Tribes (**STs**) across the state. **'Kalyana Kendra'** (welfare centre) helpline will allow members of these communities to get information on the state's welfare programmes for them as well as register complaints.
 - The helpline telephone number is **080-22634300** while **Whatsapp** and text messaging services can be accessed on **9901100000**.
- A mere **19 per cent** of people in the **15-65 age** group use **Internet in India**, according to a report named **"AfterAccess: ICT access and use in India and the Global South"**. It was published by **Lirneasia**, a policy and regulation think tank in collaboration with the Cellular Operators Association of India.

August 10

- **UNESCO** designated **World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)** included **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve** in its list. This decision was taken at the 30th Session of International Coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO held at Palembang, Indonesia, from July 23-27, 2018.
 - It is India's **11th** Biosphere Reserve that has been included so far.
- The **Ministry of HRD** has embarked on a major and new initiative Project called **'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM)**, which will provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
 - The objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.
- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Aviation Suresh Prabhu launched **'Niryat Mitra' – mobile App** in New Delhi. The app is developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).
 - It **provides wide range of information required to undertake international trade** right from the policy provisions for export and import, applicable GST rate, available export incentives, tariff, preferential tariff, market access requirements – SPS and TBT measures.

- **The Global Innovation Index 2018** was launched in New Delhi by **Ratan P Watal**, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog & Member Secretary of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The event was organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** – one of the founding partners of GII along with the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).
 - India’s rank on the Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved from 60 in 2017 to 57 in 2018. India has been consistently climbing the GII ranking for the past two years.

- The agriculture minister **Radha Mohan Singh** announced that government would implement **Swaminathan Committee’s report** to improve living standards of farmers and upliftment of farm sector.
 - In **2006**, President of the **National Commission on Farmers (NCF)** Swaminathan had recommended the following:
 1. reformatory schemes for welfare of farmers,
 2. transparency in the market, increase productivity and eliminate malnutrition.
 3. improving the infrastructure.

August 11

- **“World Biofuel Day 2018”** event was organized in **New Delhi on 10th August** with the Prime Minister **Sh Narendra Modi** addressing a diverse gathering, consisting of farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, students, government officials, and legislators.
 - On the occasion, **Narendra Modi** unveiled a Booklet on **“National Policy on Biofuels 2018”**, and launched **“Pro Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub”[PARIVESH]**.

- The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **‘One District One Product’** Summit in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**. The special emphasis was laid on micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**).
 - Under the ‘One District One Product’ scheme, the state government has set a goal of providing employment to **25 lakh** people in five years through the financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 crores.

- Human Resource Development (**HRD**) Ministry announced a spending of **Rs 418 crore from 2018-20** on collaborative research between Indian and foreign institutes under the ‘Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration’ (**SPARC**).

- The scheme, slated to be launched on October 1, will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Technology, **Kharagpur** and will consider only top 500 globally ranked Institutes for collaboration.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** government is observed **Adivasi Diwas** on **9 August**. The State government would facilitate achievers from the tribal community and distribute certificates to beneficiaries of **various welfare schemes**. The Government also felicitates meritorious tribal students.
- To create awareness about the ill effects of crop residue burning and management, **Parijat Urja Chakra** in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (**KVKs**) organized a special campaign at **Fatehgarh village of Ambala in Haryana**.

August 12

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a **defence industrial corridor in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh**. The move is part of the government's efforts to develop specialised zones dedicated to defence production in the state.
 - Six nodal points, Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi have been identified in state for the corridor. Another defence corridor was also launched in Tamil Nadu.
- The Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Minister of State for Environment Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated an exhibition entitled '**Prathibandhit Sahitya mein Swatantrata Sangram**' (**Freedom Movement through Proscribed Literature**) in the premises of National Archives of India, in New Delhi.
- Ahead of the Independence Day, the **Delhi Police inducted India's first all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team** for anti-terrorist operations.
 - After rigorous training of around 15 months from specialists all across India and abroad, 36 women commandos from the northeastern states have been inducted into this squad.

- On the eve of Independence Day, the **Rajasthan government will organise a human chain along the 650-km-long Pakistan border under a programme, ‘Shahadat ko Salam’**. The programme will be organised by the state government with the help of Border Security Force and the Army on August 14.
- **Operation “Madad”** was launched by the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi, in Kerala, to assist the Kerala state administration and to carry out disaster relief operations due to the floods.
 - Several parts of **Kerala** have been flooded due to continuous rainfall and release of excess water from Idukki and other dams.
- The **NITI Aayog** host an **investors’ conference** to attract investments for the development of eco-tourism on public private partnership (PPP) basis in **Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands**. The Conference will be inaugurated by **Shri. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog**.

August 13

- **Israel** has opened a **Visa Application Centre in Kolkata** for tourists from West Bengal and the northeastern states to encourage more **Indian travelers to visit that country**. Israel recently announced a reduction in visa fees to **INR 1,100 rupees** from its previous 1,700 charged from Indians.
- The **Union Government** has unlocked **green funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore** to increase the country’s forest cover. The fund is an accumulated amount of money, which user agencies have been depositing as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, including industries and infrastructure, **since the past 10 years**.
- Digital technologies to transform the lives of people of the northeast and enhance the ease of living, the Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology **Ravi Shankar Prasad** released **‘Digital North East Vision 2022’ in Guwahati**.
 - The foundation stone for a common facilitation centre and smart meter manufacturing facility at the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (**EMC**) in **Tech City at Bongara village** was laid.

August 14

- The Delhi Police inducted an all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, consisting of **36 commandos** – the **first** ever by any police force in India – for anti-terrorist operations. Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** announced the team.
- On the **eve of Independence Day**, the **Rajasthan** government will organise a **human chain along the 650-km-long Pakistan border**. It will be conducted under a programme, **"Shahadat ko Salam."**
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** released the **'Ease of Living Index 2018'** to assess the livability conditions in relation to **global and national benchmarks**.
 - Total **111** cities ranked under the index, **Pune** has been **ranked first** while **Navi Mumbai** has surfaced as the **second preferred spot in terms of 'liveability'**.
 - Among other Metro cities, **Chennai** ranked **14th** and **Delhi** ranked **65th**.
- To enhance air connectivity through **amphibian planes**, the **Civil Aviation Ministry** has approved a proposal for setting up of water aerodromes in the country.
 - In the **first** phase the places chosen for the development of such facilities are: **Chilika Lake** in **Odisha**, **Sardar Sarovar Dam** and **Sabarmati River Front** in **Gujarat**.
- National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank (NWGRB) was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
 - It is India's first genetic resource bank where the genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.
- **Chhattisgarh** has become the **first state in India** to **provide Right to Skills' Development** to the youth. This was said by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Raman Singh** after he flagged off 15 Skill Chariots to launch the government's **'Skills on Wheels'** project in **Chhattisgarh**.
- The Union Minister of State (**Independent Charge**) for Development of North Eastern Region (**DoNER**), **MoS PMO, Personnel, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr**

Jitendra Singh announced that **Jammu** will be the **first city in North India to get a full-fledged Space Technology Research Centre.**

- Railway minister **Piyush Goyal** announced that **Jodhpur in Rajasthan** topped in the cleanest railway station in the recent ranking of the ‘**Swach Rail**’. The survey was conducted by the Quality Council of India (QCI) on the **407 major railway stations (75 A1 category and 332 A category stations).**

August 15

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced that **Chhattisgarh is the first among the 28 other states in the country to provide Right to Skills’ Development to the youth.**
 - The Chief Minister along with Union Minister of State for Skill Development Anant Kumar Hegde flagged off fifteen Skill Chariots to launch the government’s project of ‘Skills on Wheels’ in the state.
- To develop the culture of documenting adverse effects, monitoring and surveillance of misleading advertisements of the drugs, **Ministry of AYUSH** introduced new Central Sector scheme for promoting **pharmacovigilance of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs.**
- The **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** has said the rollout of the Smart City projects will help New Delhi emerge as a world class city. The **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** has set an example before other aspiring Smart Cities in the country to follow.
 - He also launched **MTNL’s hi-speed Broadband on Optical Fiber & Hi-Speed Wi-Fi** in Connaught Place.
- The **Union minister Jitendra Singh** has announced that **Jammu and Tripura** will get the country’s **first full-fledged Space Technology Research Centre.** While the first centre in north India will function under the aegis of **Jammu-based Central University, the Tripura** centre will work under the aegis of Agartala-based **National Institute of Technology (NIT).**
- **NITI Aayog has launched “Pitch to MOVE”** - a mobility pitch competition that aims to provide budding entrepreneurs of India a unique opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished jury. Startups working in the various fields of

mobility can pitch their ideas to industry leaders and Venture Capitalists for raising investments.

- “Pitch to MOVE” is organised by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Invest India and **Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM)** as a part of a series of engaging featured events in the run up to the main event.

- **Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari** launched three short films for generating public awareness towards road safety.

- Film actor **Shri Akshay Kumar** has featured in these films, which are directed by Shri R.Balki. Mr Gadkari announced the appointment of **Shri Akshay Kumar as Road Safety Brand Ambassador.**

August 16

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, on the occasion of Independence Day, announced the launch of ‘**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan**’ on **September 25**. The scheme is the flagship project of **Ayushman Bharat**, the national healthcare policy launched by the Government earlier this year.
 - Ayushman Bharat, also referred to as ‘**Modicare**’, was launched by the Government of India in February this year. The ambitious healthcare policy promises to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families, based on **SECC** (Socio-Economic Caste Census) database, providing coverage up to **Rs 5 lakh** per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The Governor of **Manipur, Dr. Najma A. Heptulla** inaugurated the project ‘**Development of North East Circuit: Imphal & Khongjom**’ implemented under the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India on **August 14**.
 - The project is the **first project** to be completed under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the **Government of India**.
- The **72nd Independence Day** was celebrated in **Telangana** with the launch of two major schemes – **free eye screening for all citizens and life insurance for farmers**.
 - Under ‘**Kanti Velugu**’, the entire population of **3.7 crore** will be provided free eye care. The authorities will not only conduct eye screening but will also provide free medicines, spectacles and arrange for free surgeries, if required.

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced a universal health scheme – **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)** – in the state that will benefit **70 lakh families**.
 - Beneficiaries of the BSKY will get medical assistance of **Rs 5 lakh** and women will get an additional **Rs 2 lakh**.
- The Government of India has released **470 million** Nepali rupees grant for **Terai roads project** in **Nepal**. Indian Ambassador to **Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri** handed over a cheque of grant to Secretary, Ministry of **Physical Infrastructure and Transport** of Nepal, **Madhusudan Adhikari in Kathmandu, Nepal**.

August 17

- Ministry of Railways launches “**Digital Screens**” to spread awareness about **Indian Railways Heritage**. From the **Independence Day** on (August 15, 2018), “digital screens” has been made operational at **22 railway stations**.
 - This screen will show one to **two minute-long** movie clips on digital **LED screens** at the entrance gate of railway stations and also **at different comfort areas**.
- **West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee** lifted family income ceiling for the beneficiaries of women welfare scheme ‘**Kanyashree**’. Earlier the ceiling was: **Rs 120,000 or less**.
 - **Kanyashree** was launched in **2013** to prevent early marriage of girl children of socio-economically disadvantaged families whose annual income is Rs 120,000 or less.
- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **Dial 100 Mobile app**, to help the needy at the time of emergency. Once **Madhya Pradesh Police** receives a call through **Dial 100 mobile app**, they will reach the location as soon as possible, to help the people in distress.
- **ISRO Chairman** has announced that an Indian astronaut will be sent into space by **2022 on board Gaganyaan**. K Sivan has reciprocated Prime Minister **Narendra Modi’s Independence Day announcement**.
 - Prior to the actual launch by 2022, the ISRO will have two unmanned missions and spacecraft will be launched using **GSLV Mark-III**. **GSLV Mark III launch** vehicle will be fully equipped with crew module and life support system for manned mission in the next two years.

August 18

- **Rajasthan** Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** announced that the state will observe **September** as the “**month of nutrition**” to create awareness among people living in the state.
 - Raje announced that from **next month, students of Class 1 to 8 of government schools** will be **given milk daily instead of thrice a week**, for which additional funds of **Rs 203 crore** will be allocated.
- Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** dedicated the **state’s first civil airport at Hisar** to the people of **Haryana**, saying it would open the possibilities of **creating an economic corridor and vibrant industrial ecosystem**.
 - He also said that a **high-speed train** would soon be started from **Hisar to Delhi** to improve connectivity to the international airport at **New Delhi**.
- On the event of **heavy rainfall and flood in Kerala**, the Central government has constituted a coordination committee to work on the discharge of **floodwaters** between **Kerala-Tamilnadu**.
 - The committee is headed by the **Central Water Commission** Chairman **Narendra Kumar** to coordinate the discharge of floodwaters from inter-State projects involving Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- To help them understand and identify sexual abuse, **Amnesty International India** launched a new campaign named ‘**Our Safety, Our Rights**’, among children against sexual abuse.
 - The campaign will culminate on **October 11 – International Day of the Girl Child**.
- Commemorating its golden jubilee ‘**iCRAFPT ’18**’, the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (**IIFPT**), started an international conference on recent advances in food processing technology till **August 19, 2018** at its campus in Thanjavur.
 - The theme of the conference is: ‘**Doubling Farmers Income through Food Processing**’

- A special film festival on the theme “**Freedom Struggle and Freedom Fighters**” was held to mark **India’s 72nd Independence Day**, in **Mumbai**. The festival was organized by Films Division, **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.

August 19

- UIDAI announced a phased rollout of live face recognition feature with telecom service providers from **September 15**. This would be used as an additional mode of authentication by the telecom service providers. The ‘**live face photo**’ capture would be done to obtain eKYC for issuance of mobile SIMs.
 - The Authority had earlier planned to roll out face recognition feature from July 1, a target that was later pushed to August 1.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to form a three-member **committee to look into the draft food labelling and display regulations**. The regulations have proposed making red colour-coded labels mandatory on packaged food products which are high in fat, sugar and salt contents.
 - The expert panel will be **led by B Sesikeran**, former director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), and comprise current NIN director Hemalatha and AIIMS’ Nikhil Tandon.
- The **Agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh** has proposed to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to declare the year **2019 as international year of millets**. This will promote cultivation by amending cropping patterns of areas which are especially susceptible to climate change.
 - **India is celebrating 2018** as the **national year of millets**.

August 20

- **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’**.

August 21

- 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**.

August 22

- **Chhattisgarh** Cabinet approved the proposal to rename **Naya Raipur**, capital of Chhattisgarh as '**Atal Nagar**'. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Raman Singh** announced the renaming of some other institutions and projects after **Vajpayee**.
 - The **Bilaspur** University will be known as **Atal Bihari Vajpayee University**.
 - **Narrow Gauge Line** will be called Atal Path.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (**IIT-Kharagpur**) launched '**Aditya Choubey Center for Re-Water Research**' to treat and convert sewage water into **potable water**. This has been launched to handle the issues of sewage disposal in urban areas and access to **clean potable water**.
- The **Northern states** have decided to set up a joint secretariat at **Panchkula, Haryana** for data and information sharing to effectively fight the drug menace. The decision was taken at a meeting of Chief Ministers of Northern States in **Chandigarh, convened to evolve and formulate a joint strategy to fight the malady**.
- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) has extended **\$100 million (Rs 700 crore)** as financial assistance to rebuild the **southern Indian state** amid a host of other nations. Also, **Sharjah ruler Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi** donated **Rs 4 crore for Kerala flood victims**, whereas the **UAE** government had formed a **national emergency committee** to help the flood victims.
- The Supreme Court ruled that the '**None of The Above**' (**NOTA**) option will not be applicable for voting in the **Rajya Sabha** elections. The ruling was made by a bench of Justices comprising **CJI Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud**.

August 23

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the **International Buddhist Conclave in New Delhi**. The theme of the conclave is '**Buddha Path – The Living Heritage**' which aims to showcase Buddhist Heritage in India and boost tourism to the Buddhist sites in the country.
- **The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi** inaugurated various projects in **Junagadh district of Gujarat**. These included the Government Civil Hospital, a milk processing plant and some buildings of the Junagadh Agriculture University.
- The **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences** has decided to set up a **cyclone-warning centre in Thiruvananthapuram**.
 - At present, national weather forecaster India Meteorological Department (IMD) has cyclone warning centres only in Chennai, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.
- IIT-Kharagpur launched its **Re-Water Research Institute**, which will primarily look at treating and converting sewage water into potable water. The pilot plant at IIT-Kharagpur is expected to be ready by March 2019.
- **INS Vikramaditya**, India's only aircraft carrier, is going to be fitted with **marine hydraulic system** for the first time as part of its upgrade that will give an edge to the air-capable wing of the ship.
 - The systems would be fitted by Russia's Rostec State Corporation through its subsidiary, Technodinamika. This project is another step towards the development of military-technical cooperation between India and Russia.
- According to **Routsonline**, global airlines events organiser's Survey **Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport Secured Second Spot** and **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport Secured Sixth Spot** as fastest growing airport in the world during January to June this year.
 - **Tokyo's Haneda Airport topped** the Survey.
- **Odisha government** has decided to set up a state-of-the-art interpretation centre at **Bhitarkania National Park** to showcase its flora, fauna and rich biodiversity.
 - The project has been approved under **the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme (ICZMP)** at an estimated cost of Rs.3 crore.

August 24

- **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 Awaas 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 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.

August 25

- For the first time, **India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya** will be fitted with a marine hydraulic system to boost the air operations of the ship. Hydraulics technology uses fluid pressure to power machines.
- To ease transportation of goods across the country and export. A committee of secretaries has approved a proposal by department of commerce (DoC) to setup a **National Logistics Portal (NLP)**.
- The **Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)** along with its knowledge partner and the government Think Tank, **NITI Aayog** are organizing two-day **India Banking Conclave 2018 (IBC) in New Delhi**.
 - The conclave is planned with the objective of making the banking sector more adaptable to face multiple future challenges in the coming years.
- A panel has been set up by the **Department of Telecom** to prepare a roadmap for rollout of **5G telephony in India** expects the service to be operational by **2020**. The nine-member **Steering Committee, headed by AJ Paulraj**, recommended releasing additional spectrum for 5G services.
 - It submitted its report to **Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan**. The report said 5G services would have a cumulative economic impact of over \$1 trillion by 2035.
- The **ICOMOS**, a global monument conservation body, has launched an initiative to assess the damage to the rich cultural and built heritage **in flood-devastated Kerala** and set up an emergency response platform.
 - ICOMOS is also an advisory body to the **UNESCO for cultural heritage**, in particular for implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The ICOMOS-India chief has also approached the **International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)** to partner in the post-disaster work.
- **Former President Pranab Mukherjee** launched the **National Electoral Transformation (NETA)** mobile application to rate Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
 - '**Neta - Leaders' Report Card'** App, the brainchild of 27-year-old entrepreneur Pratham Mittal, is a platform where voters can review and rate their elected representatives and hold them accountable as well.

August 26

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** announced its decision to rename its **School of Management and Entrepreneurship** as **Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship**.
- India and Singapore signed the Second Protocol amending the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** in New Delhi. India and Singapore are planning to launch the 3rd Review of India-Singapore CECA in September 2018.
 - The Protocol was signed by Deputy Chief Negotiators, Rajneesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and Francis Chong, Senior Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore.
- India Banking Conclave 2018 was held in New Delhi. The conclave focused on reforming the banking sector. The India Banking Conclave 2018 was organized by **Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)**. Knowledge Partner of the conclave was **NITI Aayog**.
- To reduce the time taken for transportation of items and ensure early availability of stores to the field units, Air Marshal **RKS Shera**, Air Officer-in-charge Maintenance, IAF formally launched **The Stores, Proactive, Efficient and Expeditious Despatch of Extra Size/ Wt Consignment (SPEEDEX)** contract.
- **Telangana State Government** increased the **free electricity supply** to the families of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for domestic purpose from the **current 50 units to 101 units**.

August 27

- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **K Palaniswami** laid the foundation stone for developing a Special Investment Region (**SIR**) in **Krishnagiri** district, **Tamil Nadu**. The Special Investment Region (SIR) is developed as part of Tamil Nadu's efforts to enhance economic growth in northern parts of the state.
 - The SIR will be developed by **GMR Infrastructures Ltd** and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (**TIDCO**).
- To understand the way people travel how it contributes to air pollution and energy consumption, the **New Delhi-based think tank**, Centre for Science and Environment (**CSE**) released its analysis – titled **The Urban Commute in Kolkata** on pollution in urban commute.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **E.Palanisamy** launched an app and a **website on plastic pollution free Tamil Nadu**. He inaugurated a campaign to highlight the

impact of plastic pollution. He appointed actor **Vivek** as the **brand ambassador of the project**.

- Tamil Nadu Government has announced **plastic ban with effect from 1st January 2019**.
- The **highest pollution** is due to transport in the national capital of **Delhi**. At the same time, **Madhya Pradesh's** capital **Bhopal** has the lowest level of pollution. The Center for Science and Environment (**CSE**) has released the report named **The Urban Commute** after studying **14 cities** in the **country**.

August 28

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan launched an online portal for **enabling easy, efficient and transparent booking** of Common carrier capacity for natural gas transmission services under **GAIL's pipelines**.
 - The online portal is available at: www.gailonline.com. It is the first of its kind portal in the natural gas sector of India.
- **SpiceJet** would fly India's first biofuel-powered flight from **Dehradun to Delhi** on its **Bombardier Q400 turboprop** aircraft from Dehradun's Jolly Grant airport.
 - It has used a blend of the aviation turbine fuel and biofuel to power the flight. It would encourage sustainable and alternative fuels for the transportation & aviation sector under **National Biofuels Policy**.
- **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** opened its **first** regional centre in **Chilika**. The regional branch was inaugurated in the premises of the **Wetland Research and Training Centre (WRTC)** of the **Chilika Development Authority (CDA)** at Chandrapur in Chilika.
- **Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari** signed an MoU with six states for the construction of the **Lakhwar multi-purpose project in the upper Yamuna basin** to deal with water crisis.
 - Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh (Yogi Adityanath), Rajasthan (Vasundhara Raje Scindia), Uttarakhand (Trivendra Singh Rawat), Himachal Pradesh (Jai Ram Thakur), Haryana (Manohar Lal Khattar) and Delhi (Arvind Kejriwal) signed the MoU.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch the **second phase of the FAME India scheme** offering incentives for mass adoption of electric vehicles with an outlay of **Rs 5,500 crore** on September 7.

- The prime minister would unveil the scheme at the inaugural session of the **‘MOVE’ — a global mobility summit**.
 - With an aim to promote eco friendly vehicles, the government had launched the FAME India scheme in 2015.

August 29

- A **Coast Guard offshore patrol** vessel was launched at **L&T Shipyard** in Kattupalli in **Chennai**. It is the third of series of the seven offshore patrol vessels under construction by **L&T Shipbuilding Ltd**.
- **India’s first Indian human mission** will be launched by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** by **2022**. The programme will make India the fourth nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission.
 - So far, only the **USA, Russia and China** have launched human spaceflight missions. . PM Modi had earlier announced **‘Gaganyaan — India's maiden human spaceflight programme’**
- An MoU was signed between the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **National Health Agency (NHA)**, to provide capacity building for **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.
- **Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palaniswami** laid the foundation stone for the **GMR Krishnagiri Special Investment Region**. The **₹2,420 crore project**, spread across **2,100 acres**, is a joint venture between the **Tamil Nadu Industrial Corporation Ltd. (TIDCO)** and **GMR Group**.
- Madhya Pradesh forest department has written to the National Tiger Conservation Authority to revive the plan to reintroduce cheetahs in the **State’s Nauradehi sanctuary**. It was estimated that an amount of **Rs 25 crore to Rs 30 crore** would be needed to build an enclosure in an area of 150 sq km for the cheetahs in Nauradehi.
- To promote rich culture and art of **Jharkhand** and international art and give recognition to local artists, Jharkhand government held the **International water colour festival** at the Audrey House in capital city of **Ranchi**.

- The Union Minister of Civil Aviation Shri **Suresh Prabhu** announced the **Drone Regulations 1.0**. These regulations will enable the safe, commercial usage of drones starting **December 1, 2018**.
 - Introduction of the **Digital Sky Platform** , the first-of-its-kind national unmanned traffic management (UTM) platform that implements “**no permission, no takeoff**” (NPNT). Users will be required to do a one-time registration of their drones, pilots and owners.
- Chief minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched the ‘**Mu Hero...Mu Odisha**’ Campaign in Cuttack that aims to recognise exemplary works by Odia boys and girls towards social transformation.
 - Under the campaign, part of the Biju Yuva Vahini programme, six specially-decorated canters will ply in a defined route plan and cover all 314 blocks and 113 urban local bodies over a period of four months.

August 30

- 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**.

August 31

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu** has been invited by the United Nations (UN) to deliver a keynote address at an event, titled ‘**Financing Sustainable Agriculture: Global Challenges and Opportunities**’ – to be organised on the sideline of the annual UN General Assembly in **New York on September 24**.
 - “**UN Environment is privileged to support your ambitious efforts to scale-out zero chemical farming to 6 million farmers across the state by 2024,**” he said.
- The **Central government and the World Bank** have signed **300 million** dollar loan agreements for **India Energy Efficiency Scale up Programme**. They signed **220 million dollar Loan Agreement** and an **80 million** Guarantee Agreement for the **Efficiency Scale-Up Program**.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) and National Health Agency (**NHA**), to

provide capacity building for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**PMJAY**) to ensure effective rollout and continued quality implementation.

- In order to meet the challenge of providing sustainable livelihoods for a rapidly growing population and to motivate and attract **youth in agriculture**, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (**DARE**) & Director General (**ICAR**), inaugurated a two-day conference at **NASC**, New Delhi on Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture (**MAYA**).
- The Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**), Ministry of Science and Technology, and the International Energy Agency (**IEA**) signed an MoU on Enhancing Innovation for Clean Energy Transition.
- 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.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

August 1

- The **US** has **elevated India's status** in the export control regime and designated it as a **Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1)** country.
 - Currently there are **36** countries on **STA-1** list.
 - **India is the only South Asian country** to be on the list.
 - Other **Asian** countries designated as **STA-1** are **Japan and South Korea**.
- **India** has **jumped 22 places to 96th rank to break into the top 100 of the United Nation's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2018**. **Denmark**, with an index value of **0.9150**, topped the **2018 E-Government Development Survey**. The E-Government survey is released by the United Nations in every two years. The 2018 edition was titled as '**Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies**'.
- Defence acquisitions council (**DAC**), chaired by **India's Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, approved the acquisition of the **National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II)** worth around **\$1 billion**.

August 2

- To foster greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing among the think tanks of the two countries, ‘**Nepal-India Think Tank**’ Summit held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- France’s Parliament has signed into law a controversial asylum and immigration bill. The bill is designed to accelerate asylum procedures by cutting the maximum processing time from the current **120 days to 90 days** after entering France.
 - The **United States Congress** has passed the **National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19)** which capped its security-related aid to **Pakistan** to **\$150 million**, significantly below the historic level of more than \$ 1 billion to **\$750 million per year**.
 - This year’s defence legislation removes certain conditions like action against **Haqqani network or Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** as was the case in the past **few years** for disbursement of **US aid to Pakistan**.

August 3

- The United States Congress has passed the **National Defense Authorisation Act-2019 (NDAA-19)** which capped its security-related aid to Pakistan to **\$150 million**, significantly below the historic level of more than **\$ 1 billion to \$750 million per year**.

August 4

- **Typhoon Jongdari** made landfall in **Shanghai’s coastal Jinshan district**, according to the **National Meteorological Centre**. The situation has been handled in a **timely manner and the rain has weakened, it said**.
- **Facebook** announced the launch of a “**Digital Literacy Library**” to help young people build the skills they need to **safely enjoy online technology**.

August 5

- **AIBD India** has been elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (**AIBD**) for a period of **two years**. India got elected against Iran during voting which took place at the **44th annual gathering of AIBD in Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
 - Director General of **All India Radio F. Sheheryar** was **re-elected as chair** of the executive board while **Sri Lanka was elected as vice-chair**.

August 6

- According to Bloomberg's data Japan is now the **world's second-largest** stock market. It has overthrown China as its total equity is **\$6.17 trillion** and that of China's is **\$6.09 trillion**.
 - The **United States** is the **world's biggest market for stocks**, with total worth just over **\$31 trillion**.
- **Six Israeli** startups working on healthcare, agriculture and water management sectors have been selected under the "**Israel-India Bridge to Innovation**" program to interact with various Indian businesses.
- The **UK government** has announced new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation to address the urgent need for organs within the **Indian-origin communities** in the **country**. The proposed new system of consent for organ and tissue donation is expected to come into effect in **England in 2020**, as part of a drive to help Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (**BAME**) people desperately waiting for a life-saving **transplant**.

August 7

- Exercise '**Maitree**' is a joint military exercise between **Indian Army and Royal Thai Army** which is running on in **Thailand**. It is a platoon level exercise which comprises of infantry component.
- **Sri Lanka's Hambantota** port is gearing up to become a leading port in the **Indian Ocean region**. The location of the port had always been extremely advantageous as it was located just a little less than half a **nautical mile from the sea lanes**.
 - China Merchants Port Holdings (**CM Port**) entered into partnership with the **Sri Lanka Ports Authority in July** last year to develop and manage the port.

- **China** successfully tested “**Xingkong-2**” or “**Starry Sky-2**”, its **first waverider hypersonic aircraft** that could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems.

August 8

- The opening ceremony of **Exercise Maitree**, a joint military exercise between **Indian Army and Royal Thai Army**, was held in **Chachoengsao province, Thailand**. It will be conducted between **August 6-19th 2018**.
 - It is an annual reciprocal training event. Earlier it took place in **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh in 2017**.
- **Google** has released its latest version of **Android Operating System — Android 9 Pie**, which harnesses the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to predict how users would like to experience their devices while offering a smoother navigation system and an easier way to **track and limit usage of apps**.

August 9

- **China** has successfully tested its **first cutting-edge hypersonic aircraft** which could carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence systems. The **Xingkong-2 or Starry Sky-2**, was launched in a target range located in **Northwest China**, the state-run China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA).
 - The flight vehicle reached **30 kms** in altitude at **Mach 5.5**. The hypersonic aircraft was designed by the **CAAA** in collaboration with the **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation**.
- The **U.K.** government has announced **new plans to change the law for organ and tissue donation** to address the **urgent need for organs within Indian-origin communities in India**. The proposed new system of consent for organ and tissue donation is expected to come into effect in England in **2020**.
 - It will be implemented as a part of the drive to help black, Asian and minority ethnic (**BAME**) people desperately waiting for a **life-saving transplant**.

August 10

- To develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in the Asia Pacific region to work together in times of disaster, Pacific Endeavor-2018 (PE-18), a communication exercise under the **Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP)** begun in Kathmandu, Nepal.

August 11

- **NASA** is all set to launch its historic small car-size probe to “**touch the Sun**” from **Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida**. The probe is named after Eugene Parker, a solar physicist who in **1958 first** predicted the existence of the solar wind, the stream of **charged particles** and **magnetic fields** that flow continuously from the Sun.
 - The launch of the **Parker Solar Probe** will set it on a journey all the way to the Sun’s atmosphere, or corona — closer to the **Sun than any spacecraft in history**.

August 12

- The **communication exercise ‘Pacific Endeavor-2018 (PE-18)’** under the **Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP)** started in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
 - It aims to develop common communications operating procedures to enable military forces in the Asia Pacific region to collectively work in the wake of disaster.
- As part of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** initiatives, **SCO Peace Mission Exercise** is conducted biennially for SCO member states. The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted by **Central Military Commission of Russia** from 22 August to 29 August 2018 at **Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia**.

August 13

- **Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018** has begun in **Birgunj, Nepal**. The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Province **2 Mohammad Lalbabu Raut**. The festival is aimed at strengthening **Indo-Nepal ties**.
 - On this occasion, eminent writers from both the countries were also felicitated. Around **250 participants from India and Nepal** attending the two-day festival. The event is organised by **Nepal India Co-operation Forum**.

- A special meeting of Senior Officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) was held in Kathmandu today. The meeting also agreed to recommend a theme "**Towards a peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region**" for the Summit.
- **Santhali** has become the **first Indian tribal** language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script. **Wikipedia** contributors from **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** generated the content.

August 15

- **Vienna** for the **first time** topped the **Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index** as 'world's most pleasant city to live in'.
 - Earlier the 1st spot was owned by Melbourne, Australia seven times which now ranked at 2nd spot. Osaka, Calgary and Sydney ranked 3rd, 4th and 5th. Among Indian Cities, **New Delhi** tops the Index by attaining **112th** Position, **Mumbai** Ranks next at **117th** Position.
- **Iran** has successfully test fired and unveiled the latest generation of its Fateh ballistic missile named **Fateh Mobin or Bright Conqueror**. It is a short-range ballistic missile. It has a range between 300-500 kilometers.

August 16

- India plans to launch an "**Understanding India**" programme in China to "demystify" the country and create a better understanding of it.
 - Indian Council of **Cultural Relations** President **Vinay Sahasrabudde**, who was in **Beijing** to attend the **World Congress of Philosophy**, said that by watching **Bolly wood and reading websites** one can know India only superficially.
- The **Indian Embassy** in **Nepal** handed over **30 ambulances and six buses** to various hospitals, non-profit charitable organizations and educational institutions of Nepal on the occasion of **India's 72nd Independence Day**.

August 17

- **Indian Government** released additional **NPR 470 million** for the **Postal Highway** being constructed in **Southern Plains** of **Nepal**. **Indian Ambassador** to Nepal

Manjeev Singh Puri handed over NPR 470 million to the Secretary of Nepal's Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport **Madhusudan Adhikari**.

- **Qatar King Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** has pledged to make direct investment in **Turkey** and announced a 15-billion US dollar investment into the country's financial markets and banks. The announcement came after holding talks with **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara**.
- The 24th **World Congress of Philosophy (WCP)** was held in **Beijing**, China for the first time. This event has been organized by the **International Federation of Philosophical Societies, and Peking University**. The theme for this event is: **"Learning To Be Human"**.

August 19

- The **11th World Hindi Conference** begins in **Mauritius**. Prime Minister of Mauritius Praveen Kumar Jagannath will inaugurate the conference in **Port Louis**.
 - **"Hindi World and Indian Culture"** is the theme of conference.
 - World Hindi Conference was started in **1975** to make Hindi language a medium of service and knowledge and enable it to move forward with the time.
- Cricketer-turned-politician **Imran Khan** took oath as **Pakistan's new prime minister**. Khan, the chairman of **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)**, secured **176 votes** while his only rival and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief Sharif got 96 votes, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser announced.

August 21

- 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**.
- 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**.

August 22

- The **first-ever joint** air exercise involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced at **Subang Air Base in Malaysia**. This is the inaugural bilateral exercise between **IAF & RMAF**.
 - It was inaugurated by **Gp Capt CUV Rao**, team leader **IAF & Col Mahadzer**, **Ex** director of **RMAF**. It's a platform to exchange Knowledge & Good practices with each other.
- **India and Japan** has resolved to expand their maritime cooperation and work together to ensure peace and stability in the **Indo-Pacific** region, which is witnessing growing Chinese assertiveness.
 - In their wide ranging talks, Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and her **Japanese** counterpart **Itsunori Onodera** also agreed to deepen the overall defence cooperation between the two countries including in areas of co-development of **military platforms and weapons**.

August 23

- The fourth Summit of Heads of State/Government of **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** will be held at Kathmandu in Nepal on August 30 and 31.
 - The group was formed in 1997 and it brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka Myanmar and Thailand. Nepal is the current chair of BIMSTEC.
- Iran unveiled its first domestic fighter jet "**Kowsar**" which means **river in paradise** in Islam, at the National Defence Industry exhibition in Tehran, which is 100 percent indigenously made.
 - **President Hassan Rouhani** insisting that Tehran's military strength was only designed to deter enemies and create "lasting peace".

August 24

- **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**.

August 25

- For the **first** time, the militaries of India and Pakistan are taking part in a mega anti-terror drill of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** named **The Peace Mission 2018 in Russia**.
 - It is aimed at expanding cooperation among the member countries to deal with terrorism and extremism.
 - India is participating in the drill for the first time since becoming a full member of the SCO in June 2017.
- India’s only aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya** will be upgraded and fitted with a marine hydraulic system to boost the air operations of the ship for the first time.
 - Hydraulics technology uses fluid pressure to power machines and the systems to be installed are named “**GS-1MF**” and “**GS-3**”.

August 26

- **9th edition of Mountain Echoes Literary Festival 2018** was held in **Thimphu, Bhutan**. This year’s festival celebrated 50 years of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.

August 27

- The **8th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee** was held in **Nairobi, Kenya**. The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu** and **Mr Peter Munya**, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for **Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of Kenya**.

- In **Sri Lanka**, the **fourth** Asian electoral stakeholder’s forum (**AESF-IV**) begins in Colombo to discuss the state of elections and democracy in the region. The **two-day forum** is being held for the **first time in South Asia** with support from the Election Commission of **Sri Lanka** and the Asian network for free elections (**ANFREL**).
 - The theme is, ‘**Advancing Election Transparency and Integrity: Promoting and Defending Democracy Together**’. India is being represented by Chief Electoral Officer of **Maharashtra Ashwini Kumar** and an **NGO**.

August 28

- The **8th** meeting of **India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee** was held in **Nairobi, Kenya**. The meeting was co-chaired by :
Indian side: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Mr.Suresh Prabhu** and, Kenya’s Side: Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of Kenya **Mr. Peter Munya**.
- The **G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting** was held at **Salta’s Fine Arts Museum, and Salta Convention Centre** in **Salta, Argentina**. It was chaired by **Andrés Ibarra**, Argentine Minister of Modernization, and **Lino Barañao**, Argentine Minister of Science, Technology and Innovative Production.
- Sweden has released a handbook of its “**feminist foreign policy**” for rights groups and foreign governments. It showcases lessons from the Scandinavian nation’s flagship approach to promoting women’s rights globally. It has been led by **Sweden’s Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom**.

August 29

- Indian government and the European Union (EU) partnered for **Rs. 240 crore** research programme to develop a Next Generation Influenza Vaccine to protect people throughout the world.
 - EU and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, have committed EUR 15 million each to fund for this cause through “**Horizon 2020**” programme.

August 30

- **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.

August 31

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu**, is leading the Indian delegation for the **6th RCEP Trade Ministers’ Meeting** which begins in **Singapore**.
 - The Minister will participate in the meeting consisting of **10 ASEAN** countries and **six ASEAN FTA** partners namely, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and **New Zealand**. The meeting is being held on **30th-31st August 2018**.
- After having been deployed to the **South China Sea and Pacific Ocean** for over four months, which included representing Indian Navy in multinational exercises **MALABAR 18** at Guam and **RIMPAC 18** at **Hawaii**, **INS Sahyadri** entered the Port of Darwin, Australia on **29 Aug 18 to participate** in Exercise **KAKADU 2018**.

SPORTS

August 1

- **Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** won a gold medal in the **Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland**. **Neeraj Chopra** made a throw of **85.69 meters** and won the gold medal.

- **Dustin Johnson** won the **2018 RBC Canadian Open at the Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville in Canada**. Dustin Johnson shot a 6-under par 66 and won his **first RBC Canadian Open at 23-under par**. He is currently in world number one position.

August 6

- **Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar** grabbed his maiden European Tour title at the Fiji International in **Natadola Bay**. He won with a one-stroke win over a charging Anthony Quayle of Australia. It was **Bhullar's first win on the European Tour, ninth Asian Tour title and 10th crown overall**.
- In Women's **Hockey World Cup 2018**, the **Netherlands** has been crowned the world champions for a record eighth time. The defending champions recorded a **stunning 6-0 victory** over Ireland in the summit clash at **London, UK** to extend their unbeaten run in all competitions to **32 matches**.
 - **Spain** won the third-place match by beating Australia to claim their **first ever World Cup medal**. **India** finished the tournament at the **8th spot**.

August 7

- Ace Indian shuttler **P V Sindhu** finished **second best** yet again in a major tournament final as she went down tamely to **Carolina Marin of Spain in the World Championships' women's singles** title clash at **Nanjing, China**.
- **India's Swastika Ghosh** won a bronze medal in the **junior girls' doubles** along with Singapore's **Jingyi Zhou** in the **2018 Hang Seng Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open**, in Hong Kong.

August 8

- **Indian men's hockey team** has improved one rank and has reached the **5th spot in the latest FIH rankings chart released on 7th August 2018**.
 - Men's **FIH** rankings released on 7th August 2018
 1. **Australia**
 2. **Argentina**
 3. **Belgium**

- In the women's rankings, the Indian team improved one spot to and reached **9th position**. **Netherlands** remained in the top position of women's FIH rankings.

August 14

- **Indian golfer Viraj Madappa** became the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour, as he won his **first title on the Asian Tour at Take Solutions Masters in Bengaluru**.
- **17-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal** clinched his fourth **Canadian Masters 1000 title** at the Rogers Cup in **Toronto**. He defeated **Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas**.

August 15

- **Indian golfer Viraj Madappa** won his maiden title on the **Asian Tour** at Take Solutions Masters **in Bengaluru**. Now, he became the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour.
- **Madurai Panthers** won the **Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL 2018) title**. They defeated **Dindigul Dragons** by seven wickets.

August 16

- **International Master Nihal Sarin** became the **53rd Grandmaster of India** despite losing his final round game to **Richard Rapport of Hungary in the ninth and final round of Abu Dhabi Masters**.
 - The **14-year-old Nihal** tallied **5.5 points** out of a possible nine and the final GM norm came the **Kerala** boy's way with one round to spare.

August 18

- **International Master Nihal Sarin** became the **53rd Grandmaster of India** despite losing his final round game to Richard Rapport of Hungary in the ninth and final round of **Abu Dhabi Masters**.
- **Indian cyclist Esow Alben** has won **India's first medal** (a silver medal) at the **2018 UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland**.

August 19

- The 2018 Asian Games began on August 18 with a grand opening ceremony at **Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia**. The 18th Asian Games is to be held in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang and this will be the **first time the Asian Games are co-hosted in two cities**.
 - Motto of the games is “**Energy of Asia**”.
 - **Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra was India’s flag-bearer at the glittering opening ceremony**.

August 21

- 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**.

August 22

- Indian shooters **Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma** bagged the **gold and bronze medal**, respectively in the **Men’s 10 metre Air Pistol** final in the **ongoing 2018 Asian Games at Jakarta, Indonesia**.

August 23

- **Odisha** for the **First time** is Organizing the **2018 Men's Hockey World Cup**, which will be the **14th edition of the Hockey World Cup field hockey tournament**. It is scheduled to be held from 28 November to 16 December 2018, at the **Kalinga Stadium** in **Bhubaneswar**, India.

August 25

- **Indian women's team fast bowler Jhulan Goswami** announced her retirement from T20 Cricket Internationals. The veteran player played 68 T20 Internationals and took 56 wickets at an economy rate of 5.45.

August 26

- **India's Tejinder Pal Singh Toor** wins the **Gold medal in Men's Shot Put final** at the 18th Asian Games in Indonesia. He brought India its seventh gold medal by winning the men's shot put event with an **Asian Games record throw of 20.75 meters in Jakarta**.
 - Tajinder is the first Indian to win the men's shot put gold at the Asian Games since Bahadur Singh Sagoo, who had thrown a best of 19.03m to win the gold in Busan in 2002.

August 27

- **18-year-old Hima Das** won the **Silver medal in 400-meter race** in ongoing **Asian Games 2018, Indonesia**. **Hima** clocked **50.79 seconds** to complete her race. **Muhammed Anas** won **Silver medal in Men's 400m race**. **Dutee Chand** also bagged **silver medal** in women's **100 meter** race.
- **Japan** won its **first FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title** at the **La Rabine Stadium** in **Vannes**, France.

August 28

- **Neeraj Chopra** became the **first-ever Indian javelin thrower to win a gold medal** at the Asian Games. The 20-year-old junior world record holder hurled the javelin to a distance of 88.06m to bag the Asiad gold.
 - Notably, Neeraj had also become the first Indian to bag gold in javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

- **The U-20 Japan Women's National Team** won against the U-20 Spain Women's National Team at the final of the **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup France 2018**, taking down the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup title for the first time in Japanese football history.

August 29

- **India's 28-year-old sprinter Manjit Singh** won the gold medal in the men's 800m event at the 2018 Asian Games, securing the **ninth gold for the country**.
 - Another Indian sprinter **Jinson Johnson, who is ranked first in Asia, won the silver** at the event. Meanwhile, Dutee Chand secured herself a place in the women's 200m finals, while Hima Das was disqualified.
- **World number three PV Sindhu** lost to world number one **Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan) in the women's singles final** to bag India's first-ever silver medal in badminton at Asian Games. Saina Nehwal had won bronze medal in the event.

August 30

- **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 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.

August 31

- India won gold in the women's **4×400 metre** event. **The Indian quartet of Hima Das, Raju Poovamma, Saritaben Laxmanbhai Gayakwad and Vismaya Koroth** registered a time of **3 minutes and 28.72 seconds** to finish at the top of the podium. India clinched the silver medal in the men's **4×400 metre** event.
- **India's Jinson Johnson** claimed the **gold medal** in the men's **1500m** event in the **Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia**. **Manjit Singh, 800m champion**, however, **finished fourth**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

August 1

- **China** successfully launched **Gaofen-11 satellite**, an optical remote sensing satellite, as part of its high-resolution **Earth observation project**.
 - The **Gaofen-11 satellite** was launched on a **Long March 4B rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** in **northern Shanxi Province, China**.

August 6

- **Indian-origin U.S.** astronaut **Sunita Williams** is among the **9** astronauts selected by **NASA** (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to fly the first missions into space on commercial spacecraft, starting in **2019**.
- Chinese scientists have created the **first single-chromosome yeast** without affecting the majority of its functions. It could also lead to the creation of new man-made species **in future**.

August 8

- **ISRO** announced that it would launch the heaviest communication satellite **GSAT -11** from **French Guiana** on **November 30, 2018**. This satellite weighs over 5.7 tonnes or **5700 kg**. It will be launched from the **European spaceport Arianespace**.
 - This will help in increasing internet speed of the country of **14 gigabit per second data transfer speed**.

August 13

- **India** will launch its second lunar mission "**Chandrayaan-2**" on **January 3, 2019**, to land on the moon with a lander and rover. According to Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman **K. Sivan**, **ISRO** is aiming to launch the mission but the window to land on the **lunar** surface is open till **March 2019**.
 - The 800-crore rupees is the cost of lunar mission named "**Chandrayaan-2**". The 3,890-kg Chandrayaan-2, which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch **Vehicle Mk-3**, will orbit around the moon

and study its lunar conditions to collect data on its **topography, mineralogy and exosphere.**

- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe, the world's first mission to touch the Sun,** was launched from **Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station,** in United States.
 - The Parker Solar Probe was carried by a **United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket.**
 - The **Parker Solar Probe** has been sent on a **7 year** long mission to study the **Sun's outer atmosphere** and its effects on space weather.

August 14

- The Space Commission has approved **ISRO's** proposal of naming the **Chandrayaan-2 lander 'Vikram'** after **Vikram Sarabhai,** the father of Indian space programme. Apart from this, as part of the centenary celebrations of **Vikram Sarabhai** next year, It has planned a series of lectures at **the national and international level.**

August 17

- The multi-purpose **Barak 8 missile** defence system, jointly developed by **India and Israel,** will be procured by the **Israeli Navy.**
 - **Barak 8** has been developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), **India's DRDO, Israel's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, Elta Systems, Rafael** and few other Indian defence companies.

August 19

- **ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission,** India's first mission to study the solar corona, is planned to be launched in 2019-2020, by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL) from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
 - **Aditya – L1:** Aditya – L1 will be inserted in a **halo orbit** around the **Lagrangian point 1 (L1)** that is 1.5 million km from the Earth. Solar corona is the outer layers of the Sun.

- Lagrangian point is a point where the attraction by the Sun and the Earth becomes equal. This point does not experience gravitational force.

August 20

- 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**.

August 24

- 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.

August 25

- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has designed 2 virtual reality applications named: **NASA Selfies app** and **NASA’s Exoplanet Excursions**, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Spitzer Space Telescope.
 - Through the NASA Selfies app users can take selfies in a virtual spacesuit and can pose in front of various cosmic locations.

- The NASA's Exoplanet Excursions takes the users on a virtual guided tour of the TRAPPIST-1 planetary system.

August 27

- Successfully sent twin **BeiDou navigation satellites** into the space on the **Long March-3B** carrier rocket from **Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in southwest **China's Sichuan Province**.
 - This was the **283rd mission of the Long March-3B carrier rocket**. They were developed by the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

August 28

- NASA's **OSIRIS-Rex (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer)**, an asteroid sampling spacecraft, caught its first image of asteroid Bennu, last week after a 2-year journey.
 - OSIRIS-REx is the **first mission of NASA to visit a near-Earth asteroid**. It will survey the surface, collect a sample and deliver it to Earth.

August 30

- **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.

AWARDS

August 1

- **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** has been chosen for the **24th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** for his contribution in promoting communal harmony, peace and goodwill.
 - **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** is a former governor of **West Bengal**. He will be presented with this award at an event on **20th August 2018 at Jawahar Bhawan in Delhi**.

August 2

- **Akshay Venkatesh**, a renowned **Indian-Australian** mathematician, is one of **four winners of mathematics' prestigious Fields medal, known as the Nobel prize for math**. **New Delhi-born Venkatesh, 36**, who is currently teaching at Stanford University, has won the **Fields Medal** for his profound contributions to an exceptionally broad range of subjects in mathematics.

August 3

- **President Ram Nath Kovind**, presented the Outstanding **Parliamentarian Award** for the years **2013-2017**, in **New Delhi**.
 - Winners of the award are listed below:
 - **Dr Najma Heptullah-2013**
 - **Hukum Dev Narayan-2014**
 - **Ghulam Nabi Azad-2015**
 - **Dinesh Trivedi-2016**
 - **Bhartruhari Mahtab-2017**

August 4

- **Hindi Academy Delhi** has given its **highest Shalaka Samman for 2017-18** to bollywood lyricist and poet **Javed Akhtar**. He is a father of **Actor-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar**.

August 5

- **K.Anvar Sadath** is the first Indian to receive the **International Contributions Award** given by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), USA.

- He is the vice chairman and executive director of the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (**KITE**) also known as **IT@school Project**.

August 9

- Indian-American high school student **Avi Goel** has won the world **championship** at the **International Geography Bee's junior varsity** division which was held in **Berlin, Germany**. **14-year old Avi** is a tenth grader at **Silver Creek High School** in Evergreen, **San Jose, California**.
 - He won a gold medal in seven out of the **10 medal events**, and a silver medal in two of the events, **topping the overall medals table**.

August 13

- **Indian-American Aruna Vishwanathan** was one of the **3 women** honoured with '**Women in Business: Making a Difference Award**' at the **19th annual** Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (**IACCGH**) gala, in Houston, United States.
 - The **3 women** honoured with '**Women in Business: Making a Difference Award**' are: **Aruna Vishwanathan (Indian)**, **Carlecia Wright (American)**, **Jewel Smith (American)**

August 16

- **Rifleman Aurangzeb** and Major **Aditya Kumar** of Indian Army will be conferred the **Shaurya Chakra** along with **18** others Armed Forces Personnel and members of **Paramilitary Forces**. **Aurangzeb**, who has been selected posthumously, was abducted and later killed by terrorists in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

August 17

- James P. Allison, Carl June and Steven A. Rosenberg, have been conferred the **2018 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research**.
 - **James P. Allison** is from the **University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center** in **Houston**. Carl June is from the **University at Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine** in **Philadelphia**.
- **Smitha Crishna** has topped the India's wealthiest women list for **2018**, prepared by **Kotak Wealth-Hurun Report**.

August 19

- **63** year old Chinese oscar-winning director **Ang Lee** will be one of the recipients of the annual **Directors Guild of America (DGA)**. The event will be held at the DGA Theatre in **New York City** on **October 18, 2018**.
- The **2018 Albany Medical Center Prize** was announced to be awarded to **3 US Scientists**. They are : **James Allison, Carl June and Steven Rosenberg**.
 - They were awarded in **Medicine and Biomedical Research** for their research in **immunology** that have led to innovative treatments **for cancer, HIV and other diseases**.
- Delhi government's additional director of health **S K Arora** has been awarded the prestigious **WHO World No Tobacco Day 2017 Award** for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
 - The National Health Policy 2017 of the Government of India has set targets of relative reduction in tobacco prevalence by 15 per cent by 2020 and 30 per cent by 2025.

August 20

- 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**.

August 22

- The **Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi** was honoured with this year's **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award** for promoting communal harmony and **peace**. The award was presented on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**.
- The **Delhi** government's additional director of health **S.K. Arora** has been awarded the prestigious **WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award** for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
 - Tobacco prevalence in Delhi has come down by **6.5% in the past six years**, which is more than the rest of **India average figures**. Delhi has already achieved these targets **before 2017**.

August 23

- An English retired professional **footballer David Beckham** will be presented the **2018 UEFA President's Award** by European football's governing body, in recognition of his remarkable career and humanitarian efforts.
- **“Xhoixobote Dhemalite” (Rainbow fields)**, an Assamese film directed by Bidyut Kotoky has won another award for screenplay at Treasure Coast International Film Festival in Florida. This film narrates sensitive issue of children growing up in violent times.

August 26

- **Appa Rao Podile**, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been selected for the **J C Bose Fellowship of Department of Science and Technology** by the Government.
 - This fellowship has been awarded as a recognition of his work in plant-microbe interactions and induced resistance in plants.

August 27

- **Asia Society**, a global cultural organization announced that **PepsiCo's CEO Indra Nooyi** will be honoured with the **Game Changer of the Year** title of the **2018 Asia Game Changer Awards in October 2018**.

August 31

- **Indian** poet-diplomat **Abhay K.** has become the **first Indian** poet invited to record his poems at the **Library of Congress in Washington D.C.** in **‘The Poet and the Poem’** series conducted by poet **Grace Cavalieri**.
 - He is the author of a memoir and **seven collections of poems** including **The Seduction of Delhi (2014)**, **The Eight-eyed Lord of Kathmandu (2017)** and **The Prophecy of Brasilia (2018)**. He received the **SAARC Literary Award in 2013**.

APPOINTMENTS

August 3

- **Oscar Kerketta** was appointed the **next High Commissioner of India** to the **Republic of Rwanda**. At present, **Oscar Kerketta** is **Additional Secretary** in the Foreign Service Institute (FSI).

August 4

- President **Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zanu-PF – Zimbabwe’s ruling party**, was declared the winner of the **first Presidential Elections** without the former’s successor, **Robert Mugabe**.

August 5

- **Man Mohan Bhanot** appointed as the **next Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India** to the Republic of **Equatorial Guinea**.
 - He will be the **first resident Ambassador of India to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea**.

August 9

- **S Gurumurthy and Satish Marathe** were appointed as part-time directors on the **Reserve Bank of India** board by The **Cabinet’s Appointments Committee for a four-year term**.
- **Ivan Duque** was sworn in as the **newly elected President of Colombia**. He pledged to unite the country and improve economic growth.

August 10

- NDA candidate and JD(U) member **Harivansh** was elected as **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman**.
 - The election process in Rajya Sabha was initiated by Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. Harivansh secured 125 votes and **defeated Congress MP B K Hariprasad** who got 105 votes.

August 11

- NCW member **Rekha Sharma** has been appointed as the chairperson of the **National Commission for Women**. **Rekha Sharma** was earlier a member of the Commission and was holding the additional charge of chairperson.

- The **National Commission for Women** is the apex national level organisation of India with the mandate of protecting and promoting the interests of women.
- The **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has chosen former Chilean **President Michelle Bachelet** to be the world body's **new human rights chief**.
 - **Bachelet's** appointment will also needs to be approved by the **193-member UN General Assembly**.

August 12

- **Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani** was appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Madras High Court**. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Prohit will administer the oath of office.
 - She replaced Justice Indira Banerjee who has been appointed as Supreme Court judge.
- **Justice Aniruddha Bose** took an oath as the **12th Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court**. His oath was administered by Jharkhand governor **Droupadi Murmu**.
- Justice **Rajendra Menon** was sworn in as **Chief Justice of Delhi High Court**. Delhi Lt Governor Anil Baijal administered the oath of office to Justice Menon.
 - He was earlier the Chief Justice of **Patna High Court**.

August 13

- **Justice M R Shah** has been appointed as Chief Justice of Patna High Court. He became a judge of the **Gujarat High Court** on **March 7, 2004** and was confirmed as permanent judge on **June 22, 2005**.
- Justice **Rajendra Menon** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the **Delhi High Court** by Lt Governor **Anil Baijal** at a ceremony held at the **Raj Niwas in New Delhi**.

August 14

- **Justice Kalpesh Satyendra Jhaveri** has been appointed as the **30th new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court (HC)**. He will succeed Chief **Justice Vineet Saran**,

who has been elevated to the **Supreme Court**. He has earlier been a **Gujarat HC Judge and a Rajasthan HC judge**.

August 15

- **Ashish Kumar Bhutani** was appointed the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY): Launched in – 2016**
 - Launched by – Prime Minister Narendra Modi
 - Administered by – Ministry of Agriculture
 - It is in line with one nation one scheme theme
 - It provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop and helps to stabilise the income of the farmers.
- 40-year-old former India spinner **Ramesh Powar** has been appointed as head coach of the **women's national cricket team** till the ICC World T20, scheduled to be held in November, by BCCI.

August 16

- **Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel** was sworn in as Governor of **Chhattisgarh**. **Chhattisgarh High Court Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi** administered the oath of office to **Anandiben Patel**.
- **D Bala Venkatesh Varma** has been appointed as the Ambassador to **Russia**. He will succeed **Pankaj Saran** who has been appointed as the deputy **National Security Advisor**.

August 17

- **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** was re-elected as president of **Mali**. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita won **67 percent** of the **vote** and defeated his opponent **Soumaila Cisse** in the **presidential election**.
- 46-year-old **Mario Abdo Benítez** has been sworn in as the **new President** of Paraguay. He replaced **Horacio Cartes**.

August 18

- **Former Senator Mario Abdo Benítez** has been sworn in as president of Paraguay after narrowly winning the presidential election in **April**.
- **IAS officer K S Srinivas** has taken over as Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority (**MPEDA**).
 - Prior to this appointment, he had served as **Joint Secretary in Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare in Ministry of Agriculture**.

August 22

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** appointed governors for seven states — **Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura**. Governor **Satya Pal Malik** has been transferred from **Bihar to Jammu and Kashmir** to replace **NN Vohra**, while senior **BJP** leader **Lalji Tandon** has been appointed the Governor of Bihar, replacing Malik.
- **Newly appointed governors of all the 7 states:**
 - **Satya Pal Malik** - Jammu & Kashmir (Replaced NN Vohra)
 - **Tathagata Roy** - Meghalaya (Replaced Ganga Prasad)
 - **Lalji Tandon** - Bihar (Replaced Satya Pal Malik)
 - **Ganga Prasad** - Sikkim (Replaced Shriniwas Patil)
 - **Kaptan Singh Solanki** - Tripura (Replaced Tathagata Roy)
 - **Satyadev Narayan Arya** - Haryana (Replaced Kaptan Singh Solanki)
 - **Baby Rani Maurya** - Uttarakhand (Replaced K K Paul)

August 24

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

August 25

- Industry chamber Assocham appointed former bureaucrat Uday Kumar Varma as its new Secretary General. He will succeed DS Rawat.
 - Mr. Varma was a former Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- Australia's **Malcolm Turnbull** has been ousted as prime minister after confusions for one week. He will be replaced by **Scott Morrison**, one of the architects of Australia's tough immigration policy, who is now the country's sixth prime minister in just over a decade. Mr Morrison won a leadership contest against Peter Dutton.
- The **Maharashtra government** has appointed **Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon** as the brand ambassador of the city-based **Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)**. It was announced by Maharashtra Forest Minister **Sudhir Mungantiwar**.

August 26

- **Dr. G Satheesh Reddy** has been appointed as the **chairman of DRDO** for a two year term. He will also be the **Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DoDRD)**.
 - He will be replacing **Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra** who was holding the position as an additional charge after the retirement of S Christopher in May 2018.

August 28

- **Prashant Agrawal** was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Namibia**.
- **Sandeep Kumar** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Ireland**.

August 29

- **Satya S Tripathi**, an Indian development economist, has been appointed as the Assistant Secretary General and Head of the New York Office of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

August 7

- **73rd Hiroshima day**
 - **August 6, 2018**, marks the **73rd** anniversary of the bombing of **Hiroshima**. On this day in **1945**, the **US bomber Enola Gay** dropped **the first atomic bomb** nicknamed **'Little Boy'** ever used in military combat on Hiroshima. The Atomic Bomb Dome was located almost directly underneath the explosion was designated as a **World Heritage Site in 1996**.

August 10

- On **9th August 2018**, the **76th anniversary of Quit India movement** named as **August Kranti Day** was observed in India.
 - On 9th August 1942, father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi started the **Do or Die** campaign to drive away Britishers from India. The movement started from Gawalia Tank in Mumbai. This day is observed as August Kranti Day every year.

August 11

- **August 10, World Biofuel Day**
 - The Objective of the World Biofuel Day is to raise awareness about the **significance of non fossil fuels which can be used as an alternative to fossil fuels**.
- **International Day Of The World's Indigenous Peoples: 9 August**
 - The International Day of the World's Indigenous People's is observed on 9 August each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population

- 2018 Theme: **Indigenous peoples' migration and movement**

August 13

- **18th International Youth Day**
- **August 12** is annually celebrated as **International Youth Day**. It is an awareness day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.
 - The Theme for **IYD 2018** is: **“Safe space for Youth”**.
 - The **first IYD** was observed on **12 August, 2000**.
- **August 12** is annually celebrated as **World Elephant Day**. It is an international annual event dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
 - To celebrate this day in India, the Coochbehar Mountaineers Club (**CMC**) have started awareness programmes and campaigns at **Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal. It was started in August 12, 2012**.

August 19

- India's 72nd Independence Day, **Rajasthan government** announced that it would observe **September** as **‘month of nutrition’**.
 - The schemes introduced from the ‘month of nutrition’: The Rajasthan CM launched **‘Annapurna Milk Scheme’**. Students of **Class 1 to 8** of government schools will be given milk **daily** instead of thrice a week.

August 20

- **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**.

August 21

- **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.

August 22

- **Sadbhavana Diwas 2018 (74th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi)** will be celebrated all over the **India** on **20th of August**.
- **World Senior Citizen Day, 2018** will be observed worldwide on **August 21**. The main aim of observing the World Senior Citizens Day is to raise awareness of the condition of elder people and support them through the process of senescence.
 - The World Senior Citizens Day on 21 august 2017 is kept with the theme of **“Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.”**
- The month of September will be celebrated as the **National Nutrition Month** every year to mark India's fight against malnutrition. This announcement was made by the Ministry of **Women and Child Development** at the **second** meeting of **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** under the **Poshan Abhiyaan** on **25th July 2018**.

August 24

- **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 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**.

August 30

- 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.

ECONOMY

August 1

- According to **Nomura**, **GDP** growth to **peak to 7.8%** in **April-June** quarter and then moderate to **7.2 per cent** in the **second half of 2018**. The GDP growth was at **7.7 per cent** in **January-March** quarter 2018.

August 2

- **RBI** hikes interest rate by **0.25% or 25** basis points on inflationary concerns.
 - RBI has raised benchmark repo, or the short term rate at which it lends to other banks, by **0.25 per cent to 6.5 per cent**.
 - Reverse **repo rate** stands at **6.25%**, **Marginal Standing Facility** stands at **6.75%**.

August 3

- **Morgan Stanley** has predicted, India’s gross domestic product (**GDP**) to grow by **7.5 %** in this **financial year 2018 – 2019**.
 - **Morgan Stanley’s** report forecasts Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) inflation to remain above the inflation target of **4 %** and the current account deficit below **2.5 % of GDP**.
 - Morgan Stanley said that, **India’s GDP** is expected to grow by **7.5 %** in this financial year **2018-19** as against **6.7 %** in **2017-18**.

August 4

- The commerce and industry ministry joined hands with Invest India to offer its three-month programme ‘**Integrate to Innovate**’ for startups in the sector.
 - This programme would be carried out by the department of industrial policy and promotion (**DIPP**).
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank** launched a new deposit scheme ‘**Vikas Bonanza 456**’, offering higher rate of interest. The scheme is **applicable to all segments of depositors**.

August 7

- To minimize the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications to enhance the impact of these technologies, Startup India launched the “**Startup Academia Alliance programme**”, which is a special mentorship **opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains**.

August 10

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has projected India’s **GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) to grow at **7.5 %** in the **2019-2020** fiscal year.
 - India’s GDP forecast is **7.3 %** in fiscal year **2018/19** and **7.5 %** in 2019/20.
- **International Monetary Fund (IMF):**
 - CEO – Christine Lagarde
 - Headquarters – Washington, D.C., United States

August 11

- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) has emerged as the top source of inward remittances, while Kerala has received the maximum funds sent from abroad, according to the **Reserve Bank of India’s** survey of inward remittances for **2016-17**.
 - **UAE’s** share in total remittances was **26.9%**, followed by the United States (**22.9%**), Saudi Arabia (**11.6%**), Qatar (**6.5%**) and Kuwait (**5.5%**).
- The State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched the **Multi-Option Payment Acceptance Device or MOPAD**, a unified payment option that accepts **multiple payment methods**.

August 14

- The **Industrial production in India** expanded at a **five-month high in June** with all **three major sectors —manufacturing, mining and electricity — contributing to the recovery**. The growth as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (**IIP**) stood at **7%** in June compared with **3.9%** in **May**, according to data released by the statistics office.

August 15

- **India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI)** is considered to be the most **patriotic brand**, according to a survey. SBI is followed by **Tata Motors, Patanjali, Reliance Jio and BSNL**. The survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm **YouGov**.
 - In terms of sectors, the **financial sector** topped the chart of the most patriotic brands with two leading names -SBI and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) – followed by **auto, consumer goods, food and telecom sectors**.

August 16

- The Indian economy is expected to grow at **7.4%** in the current fiscal, higher than the previous year, according to **Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey**.

August 17

- PhonePe announced partnership with **IRCTC** app '**IRCTC Rail Connect**', to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments. This will enable **PhonePe's 100 million plus** users to now pay directly from their bank accounts using **UPI, credit and debit cards** and also the **PhonePe wallet**.

August 18

- India Ratings and Research (**Ind-Ra**) has revised down its **FY19** economic growth forecast **to 7.2% from 7.4% earlier**.
 - It cited the headwinds emanating from elevated global crude oil prices and the government's decision to **fix the minimum** support prices of all **kharif crops** at **1.5x** of the production cost as the reason for the downward revision.

August 20

- 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.

August 21

- 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.

August 23

- **The Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL)** informed that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) became first Public Sector Unit to transact on **RXIL Trade Receivable e-Discounting System (TReDS)** platform.
 - It executed its first digitized invoice discounting transaction on **RXIL TReDS platform**, when it accepted the digital invoice uploaded by Narendra Udyog , a Nasik-based MSME vendor.
- No ATM will be replenished with cash after **9pm in cities** and **6pm in rural areas** from next year, and two armed guards will accompany crisp notes in transit as per a new directive issued by the home ministry.
 - The deadline for putting money in the ATMs located in **Maoist-hit areas is 4 pm** while private cash handling agencies must collect money from the banks in the first half of the day and transport notes only in armored vehicles.

August 24

- 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.

August 26

- The **World Bank** has launched the **world's first public bond** created and managed using only blockchain technology. It has been named : **Bondi Bond** stands for **Blockchain Operated New Debt Instrument**.
 - The **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** is the sole manager of the deal that has been priced by the World Bank at **A\$100 million (\$73.16 million)** with a **two-year** maturity.

August 27

- A **central government report** has ranked Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) as the best **PSU bank in the overall digital transactions category in India**. According to a PNB statement on **Saturday**, the report card on the banking sector's performance in **digital transactions** was prepared by the **Ministry of Finance**.

August 28

- According to a report of **Department of Financial Services, Punjab National Bank** has been rated as **number one** state-owned bank in terms of **digital transactions**. The bank is rated as **'Good'** by the government with a score of 71 which is the highest category of performance.
- According to a report named **Ecowrap** published by **SBI**, the current account deficit of the country will rise to **2.8%** of the GDP in the current financial year.

August 29

- **Prasar Bharati** and **Mizzima Media Group** of **Myanmar** signed an MoU for cooperation and collaboration in **broadcasting** and **content sharing** in New Delhi.
- According to Department of Financial Services report, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has been rated it as number one state-owned bank in terms of digital transactions. It is also rated as the **sixth overall** amongst all banks in India for digital performance.

August 30

- 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.

August 31

- The Reserve Bank expects **India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4%** in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon.
 - **RBI** releasing its annual report in Mumbai said due to the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4 per cent from 6.7 percent in the previous year.

BOOKS

August 10

- **Actress Manisha Koirala** has penned her first book titled **“The Book of Untold Stories”**. Manisha, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2012, will reportedly be authoring the book about the experience of surviving the illness.

August 11

- Minister of State for Culture Mahesh Sharma released three books, including one on “**secret broadcasts**” during the Quit India movement, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). The books are titled “**Jewellery: A Scientific Study of Social Tradition**”, “**Ghats of Banaras**” and “**Untold Story of Broadcasting**”.
 - “**Untold Story of Broadcasting**” authored by historian **Gautam Chatterjee**, is about hidden developments during the **1942** Quit India movement — the “**secret broadcasts**” of the time — and the contribution of political leader Ram Manohar Lohia in the movement.
 - The second book, “**Jewellery**”, written by author-journalist **Gulab Kothari**, examines a ritualistic use of jewellery worn on occasions, and the meaning of possessing **jewellery in an Indian context**.
- Another book, “**Ghats of Banaras**” has been co-authored by IGNCA Cultural Informatics Director **Pratapanand Jha and Sachidanand Joshi**. It is a monograph highlighting the importance of **ghats, and is derived out of a documentation conducted at Varanasi**.

August 13

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the Book ‘**Bebak Baat**’ written by **Vijay Goel**, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Programme Implementation, in New Delhi.

August 17

- PhonePe announced partnership with **IRCTC** app ‘**IRCTC Rail Connect**’, to facilitate convenient, fast and secure payments. This will enable **PhonePe’s 100 million plus** users to now pay directly from their bank accounts using **UPI, credit and debit cards** and also the **PhonePe wallet**.

August 22

- **Indian** cricketer **VVS Laxman**, known for the suppleness of his wrists, plans to release his emotional journey as cricket player through his autobiography “**281 and Beyond**” on **November 20, 2018**.
- **Australia** Cricketer and bowling spin legend **Shane Warne** plan to release his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography ‘**No Spin**’ which will be published on **October 2018**.

August 24

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

August 27

- “**Atal Ji Ne Kaha**” a book on former Indian Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
 - **Atal Ji Ne Kaha** has been written, compiled and edited by **Brijendra Rehi**. The book has been published by **Darpan Publication**.