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WORLD / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik Inaugurates 4th International Ayurveda Congress at Netherlands

2. 4th BIMSTEC Summit Concludes

The 4th BIMSTEC Summit has been successfully concluded in **Kathmandu**, the capital of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli presented draft **Kathmandu declaration** which was unanimously adopted by the all member states.

. Key points of the Kathmandu Declaration:

- The Kathmandu Declaration has underlined the importance of **multidimensional connectivity**, highlighted the importance of **trade and investment** and strongly **condemned terrorism** in all its forms.
- An MoU was also signed during concluding session of 4th BIMSTEC summit on the establishment of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection to enhance energy cooperation among the member states.
- **Sri Lanka has become the new chair of the BIMSTEC.**

3. International Tourist Arrivals Hit Record High In 2017: UN Report

- International tourist arrivals hit record high in 2017 with India leading the growth in South Asian region.
- In India, international tourists arrivals grew from 14.57 million in 2016 to 15.54 million in 2017. International tourism receipts for India grew from 22.42 billion dollars in 2016 to 27.36 billion dollars last year.

4. 6th East Asia Summit And 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting Held in Singapore

- Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) in Singapore. **Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN.**
- The 6th East-Asia Economic Ministers' Meeting was **chaired by Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore**, and was attended by Economic Ministers from 10 ASEAN countries and their eight dialogue partners, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

5. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 Held In Kathmandu , Nepal

- Vice President of Nepal Nanda Bahadur Pun inaugurated the summit. The theme of the 3-day event is **"Equality begins with Economic Empowerment"**.

6. Arif Alvi Elected Pakistan's New President

- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi was elected as the 13th President of Pakistan. He will **succeed outgoing President Mamnoon Hussain** and assume office on September

7. 87th Izmir International Tradeshow Begins in Turkey

- India is the Partner Country in the 87th Izmir International tradeshow which begins in Turkey. In this tradeshow India will also be launching a mega business pavilion 'Source India' hosting 75 Indian companies with the aim of tie-ups in order to increase India's exports to Turkey and other neighbouring countries.
- The 87th Izmir International tradeshow will be held in Izmir, the third most populous city in Turkey, after Istanbul and Ankara. .

8. second World Hindu Congress Begins In Chicago – attended by VP Vaikayiah Nadu

- The theme of World Hindu Congress is **'think collectively, achieve valiantly'**. This year marks the 125th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Historic Speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893.

9. Hunger Reached 'Alarming' 10-year high in 2017: UN Report

- As per a UN report on the 'state of food security and nutrition in the world', the number of undernourished globally increased to 821 million in 2017, which means that **one in every nine** people, does not have enough to eat.
- It was published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

10. 23rd Meeting of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission Held In Moscow

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation at the 23rd meeting of India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC) to discuss the expansion of Russia-India relationship across all sectors.
- The meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov.

11. The Global Climate Action Summit 2018 was held at San Francisco, California, United States. Over 4000 businesses, cities, states and civil society delegates attended the summit and showed their commitments to achieve the goals set by the Paris Agreement.

12. G-20 Trade And Investment Ministerial Meeting Held in Argentina

- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu participated in *G-20 trade and investment ministerial meeting* at Mar del Plata in Argentina.

13. Jaipur Literature Festival Begins in Houston at the Asia Society of Texas (USA). The festival, touted as the world's largest free literary gathering, started with a soulful music performance by Indian Sufi singer Zila Khan.

14. India, Sri Lanka Inks MoU For Construction Of 5000-MT Temperature Controlled Warehouse in Dambulla, Sri Lanka. It is mainly for fruits and vegetables to minimize its post-harvest losses.

- The warehouse will be constructed with an Indian grant assistance of 30 crore Sri Lankan rupees.

15. Bangladesh Cabinet Clears Deal With India for Port Usage

- Bangladesh's Cabinet has approved a draft agreement with India to enable New Delhi to use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from northeast India. The agreement will be effective for five years with a provision of automatic renewal for another five years.

16. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih Won Presidential Election In Maldives

- Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won the Maldives' presidential election, a surprise defeat for President Abdulla Yameen. Results released by the Elections Commission showed Solih had secured 58.3% of the popular vote.
- The European Union and the United States, meanwhile, have threatened sanctions if the vote is not free and fair.

17.. UN Declared Nelson Mandela Decade Of Peace 2019-2028

-Nelson Mandela International Day- July 18

18. Argentina Gets Biggest Loan in IMF's History At \$57 billion

- Argentina has received \$57.1 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the biggest loan package ever from the global body aimed at boosting the country's struggling economy.
- The loan, \$15 billion of which has already been received by Argentina, will be disbursed over the next three years. Argentina had originally secured a \$50-billion loan in June this year.

19. High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis At 73rd Session Of UNGA Held In New York

- J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare addressed at the 'High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis at 73rd session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at New York'.
- He stated that India has shown personal commitment to tackle TB head-on as India plans to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the SDG target of 2030, by launching the TB Free India Campaign.

20. Nepal to become world's first country to double its tiger population

- Nepal is set to become the first country in the world to double its tiger population as part of the World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme which aims to double the number of tigers all over the world.
- The government of Nepal announced on September 23, 2018, on the occasion of National Conservation Day, that there are now an estimated 235 wild tigers in the nation, nearly double the number (235) from around 121 in 2009.

21. Facebook to build first Asian data centre in Singapore

22. China to host world Internet conference in November

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Prime Minister Launches India Post Payments Bank

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a payments bank of the Department of Posts that will take banking to the doorstep of every citizen through an unmatched network of post offices and almost 3 lakh postmen and 'Grameen Dak Sewaks'.
- The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will be like any other banks but its operations will be on a smaller scale without involving any credit risk. It will carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but would not advance loans or issue credit cards.
- The payments bank will accept deposits of up to Rs 1 lakh, offer remittance services, mobile payments/transfers/purchases and other banking services like ATM/debit cards, net banking and third-party fund transfers. The IPPB would be available through 650 branches and 3,250 access points.

2. India, Nepal Sign MoU on Preliminary Survey Of Railway Line Between Raxaul (Bihar) & Kathmandu.

- India and Nepal had agreed in April 2018 to construct a new electrified rail line with India's financial support connecting the border city of Raxaul in India to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.

3. India Along With 23 Other Nations Participates In Tsunami Mock Drill

- India along with 23 other nations participated in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill which will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal states.
- The exercise, known as '**IOWave18**', is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of December 2004 tsunami.

4. September: National Nutrition Month Being Celebrated Across Country to mark the fight against malnutrition.

- During this month, various programmes have been organized by the Women and Child Development Ministry to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition like stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children.

5. Rajasthan Government To Provide Free Mobile Phones To Women of BPL Families

- In a bid to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Digital India' campaign, Rajasthan government will soon distribute mobile phones to women under the **Bhamashah Yojana**.

6. International Aviation Summit Held in New Delhi

- The seminar has been jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

5. India To Have 'One-Nation-One-Card' Policy For Transport Soon: NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant announced that India will shortly unveil a One Nation-One Card policy for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport (bus, metro, train, local train, toll payment).

7. Government Approved Proposal To Increase Wages Of Artisans By Over 36%

-The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) approved a proposal by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the wages of artisans by over 36%.

8. Suresh Prabhu Launches Technology Initiatives For Coffee Stakeholders

- Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched **Coffee Connect** - India coffee field force **app** and **Coffee KrishiTharanga** - digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders at a function in New Delhi. The mobile app Coffee Connect has been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency. The Coffee KrishiTharanga services are aimed at providing customized information and services to increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

9. PM Jan Dhan Yojana To Be Open-Ended Scheme With More Incentives

- The Government has decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts. The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that the overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 under the Yojana.

- The age limit for availing overdraft facility under it has also been revised to 18 to 65 years from the earlier 18 to 60 years. The accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh.

10. Homosexuality Not A Crime In India Anymore: SC Abolishes Section 377

-The Supreme Court abolished Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the 1862 law which criminalised homosexuality.

- **The Delhi High Court had decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, but the decision was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013.**

11. India-US Hold Maiden 2+2 Talks In New Delhi

- India and the US held the **first edition** of the two-plus-two talks in New Delhi. The meeting was aimed at further strengthening bilateral **defence** and security collaboration as well as boosting their global strategic partnership, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held talks with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary James Mattis.

12. India-US 2+2 Dialogue: India-US Sign COMCASA

- India and US have signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) that will facilitate India to obtain critical defence technologies from the US, and access critical communication network to ensure interoperability among the US and the Indian armed forces.

13. Telangana Cabinet Passes Resolution to Dissolve Legislative Assembly seek fresh elections six months ahead of schedule.

14. Home Minister Inaugurates Defence & Homeland Security Expo and Conference in New Delhi.

-organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - The expo is being organised for the first time to make leading policy makers and luminaries from diverse defence segments take part with special focus on MSMEs in defence production and procurement.

15. PM Inaugurates India's 1st Global Mobility Summit 'MOVE' in New Delhi.

- The summit deliberated on 5 themes, comprehensive: electrification & alternative fuels, reinventing public transport, goods transport & logistics and data analytics and mobility. The main focus of the summit is to make cities of India pollution free.

16. Piyush Goyal Launched 'AAPOORTI' App Of 'Indian Railways e-Procurement System'

-This App provides information and data related to e-tendering and e-auction related activities of Indian Railways. For e-tendering activities, users can see details related to tenders published, tenders closed, purchase orders placed.

17. 6th Edition of biennial Bengaluru Space Expo inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr.K Sivan in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**18. Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan To Head Panel To Select New CEA (chief economic advisor).
-as previous CEA Arvind Subramanian resigned from office.**

19. Union Minister for HRD Prakash Javadekar Inaugurates 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) at New Delhi.

20. Ayushman Bharat Call Centre Inaugurated In Bengaluru

- Ayushman Bharat call centre was formally inaugurated in Bengaluru by CEO of Ayushman Bharat Dr. Indu Bhushan. This national call centre is operational since August 25.
- The call centre functioning 24x7 in collaboration with Medi assistant is sharing info in English and Hindi initially and 9 more regional languages to be added later.

21. India, Bangladesh Jointly Inaugurate 3 Projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, and Chief Ministers of West Bengal- Mamata Banerjee and Tripura- Biplab Kumar Deb jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh via video conferencing. These include:

1. 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh,
2. Akhaura – Agartala Rail Link, and
3. Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

- Akhaura-Agartala rail project is about 12 km long of which 5.5 km would be laid in India while 6.5 km would be in Bangladesh. The total cost of the project would be about 960 crore rupees.

22. India Joins Elite Group of Countries Capable Of Air-to-Air Fuel Transfer

- The first ever mid-air refuelling of the indigenously developed light combat aircraft **Tejas** was successfully carried out, placing India in an elite group of countries having air-to-air refuelling capacity for military planes. The Air-to-Air refuelling capability for Tejas is a force multiplier for the Indian Air Force, giving the aircraft the potential to stay airborne for much longer periods of time.

23. 1st Regional Workshop On RERA (Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act) Inaugurated by Hardeep Puri in Pune

24. NRTI, India's 1st Railway university Starts Operations In Vadodara

NRTI -National Rail and Transportation Institute. The university started with two undergraduate courses - BSc Transportation Technology and BBA Transportation Managements- with 50 students each.

25. Health Ministry Implements HIV AIDS Act 2017

- According to the law, every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 has the right to live in a shared household and enjoy its facilities. The act criminalises any kind of discrimination against people suffering from AIDS in terms of treatment, employment and workplace. Those violating the act could be jailed for up to two years or fined up to Rs1 lakh or both.

26. 1st Ever Bus Services Between Bihar And Nepal Flagged Off

-For the first time, bus services between Bihar and Nepal have started. The bus service was flagged off **from Patna** by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Four buses will ply from Bodhgaya to Kathmandu. Similarly, four buses will ply from

Patna to Janakpur. The Kathmandu bound bus will go via Patna, Raxaul and Beerganj. The Janakpur bound bus will go via Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi.

27. NITI Aayog, Intel And TIFR To Set Up Model International Center For ICTAI

- NITI Aayog, Intel and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) are collaborating to set up a Model International Center for Transformative Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI).

28. APSARA, Uranium Reactor Becomes Operational at BARC

- 'Apsara', the first research reactor in Asia became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in August 1956. After providing more than five decades of dedicated service to the researchers, the reactor was shut down in 2009.

- Nearly sixty-two years after Apsara came into existence, a swimming pool type research reactor "Apsara-upgraded", of higher capacity was born at Trombay. The reactor, made indigenously, uses plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU).

29. Indian Railways Launches Web Portal 'RailSahyog' www.railsahyog.in

- The web portal will provide a platform for the Corporates and PSUs to contribute to the creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

30. Haryana Signs MoU With Indian Oil For Ethanol Plant

-The Haryana government signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up an ethanol plant in Panipat with an outlay of over Rs 900 crore.

- The initiative with a proposed capacity of 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day will manage crop residue and prevent straw burning before the upcoming paddy season. The pact will be valid for one year.

31. 2-Day Regional Conference On Good Governance Begins In Bhopal

32. Andhra Launches e-Rythu To Boost Cashless Farm Ecosystem

-The government of Andhra Pradesh launched a mobile platform, e-Rythu (e-farmer in Telugu) which will enable small-scale farmers to market their produce at reasonable prices. The platform has been developed by Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi, Kenya, and has been customized for India use by the Labs team based at Pune.

33. Cabinet Approves New Umbrella Scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan' - PM-AASHA.

- The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018 and is comprised of:

1. Price Support Scheme (PSS),
2. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), and
3. Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

34. PM Modi Announces Launch Of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement'

-The Swachhata Hi Seva movement aims at generating greater public participation towards Swachhta. It is being organized in the run-up to the fourth anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, on October 2nd, 2018, which will also mark the commencement of the 150th year celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

35. BSNL, Unlimit Ink Partnership For IoT/M2M Services In India

- Unlimit, end-to-end IoT service provider in India announced its partnership with State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to offer comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to the enterprise customers across India.

36. Government Approves 100% Electrification Of Railways By 2021-22

37. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched the country's first "National Scholarship Portal Mobile App" (NSP Mobile App) in New Delhi. This App will ensure a smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weaker sections.

38. Country's 1st Tribal Tourism Circuit Launched in Chhattisgarh (connecting 13 tourism sites in Chhattisgarh.)

- The project was implemented under the Tourism Ministry's **Swadesh Darshan** scheme launched in 2014-15 for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner.

39. India Approves MOU on Joint Blockchain Research with BRICS Members

40. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) Releases HIV Estimations 2017

- The HIV Estimations 2017 is the **14th round** in the series of HIV Estimations under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP). **Maharashtra has the highest number** of people living with HIV in India. **Andhra Pradesh** and **Karnataka** were on second and third place, respectively.

- NACO undertakes HIV estimations biennially in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS).

- **The first round of HIV estimation in India was done in 1998, while the last round was done in 2015. As per the report, in 2017, India had around 21.40 lakh people living with HIV (PLHIV) with the adult prevalence of 0.22%.**

41. Festival of Nuakhai being celebrated in Odisha

- The festival of Nuakhai is being celebrated in Odisha. During this harvest festival of western Odisha, new produce Nabannis offered to presiding deities. After offering the Nabann, people relish different types of delicacies prepared from the newly harvested crop.

- The **Nuakhai Juhar** is a major ritual of the festival, during which greetings are exchanged with friends, relatives, and well-wishers.

42. New Website For '15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019' Inaugurated

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the website for the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2019, www.pbdindia.gov.in.

- Guests at the PBD 2019:

1. Prime Minister of Mauritius **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth will be the Chief Guest.**
2. Member of Parliament of Norway Himanshu Gulati will be the Special Guest.
3. Member of Parliament of New Zealand Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi will be the Guest of Honor.

43. Bengal Scheme to Combat Human Trafficking: Swayangsiddha

- Swayangsiddha, which **means self-reliance**, will be executed by the West Bengal Police. The scheme aims to empower young boys and girls to make informed choices so that they are less vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage. As per the NCRB data, West Bengal has highest recorded case of trafficking among the States.

44. India Gets Its 1st Ever Dedicated Dog Park in Hyderabad

- For the first time in India, dog owners will have a dedicated dog park to visit. Set up in Hyderabad. The park houses dog training equipment, play equipment, splash pool, fountain, areas for exercise, amphitheatre, lawns, separate kennels for small and big dogs and a dedicated dog clinic.

45. India Ranks 3rd On Family-Owned Business List: CSRI Report

- **India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned** businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of \$839 billion. India closely follows China with 159 firms and the US with 121 firms, according to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018.

46. Cisco Signs Agreements With NITI Aayog and BSNL

- Cisco, a U.S.-based firm, that makes networking telecommunications equipment, has signed two agreements with the NITI Aayog and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to speed up its Country Digital Acceleration programme in India.

47. -India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the Indo-Pak border at the BSF Headquarters in Ploura, Jammu. Smart fencing uses a number of devices for surveillance, communication and data storage.

- The pilot project entails deploying laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug vulnerable gaps along frontiers.

48. India-Morocco Tourism Bilateral Meeting Held in New Delhi

49. Delhi, Seoul Sign MoU To Tackle Air Pollution

- The Delhi government signed an MoU with the Seoul Metropolitan Government to work closely in the fields of environment, tourism, wastewater and solid waste management, infrastructure and public health.

- The MoU on the 'Friendship and Cooperation Agreement' was signed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Seoul mayor Park Won-Soon in Seoul.

50. Piyush Goyal Inaugurates 1st Ever India Tourism Mart 2018 in New Delhi. - The India Tourism Mart is being organized by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) and with support of State /UT Governments.

51. Cabinet Approves Ordinance Making Triple Talaq A Punishable Offence

- The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance making triple talaq a punishable offence. The Supreme Court had in a verdict in August last year declared it illegal and unconstitutional.

- It was cleared by the Lok Sabha but was stuck in the Rajya Sabha. Though the ordinance has been cleared, for now, it must be placed before the Parliament and the bill would still need to be passed.

52. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly launched the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project through video conferencing. The project will go a long way in strengthening the Indo-Bangla ties.

- India-Bangladesh Friendship Product Pipeline Project:

The 130-kilometre pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. The capacity of the pipeline will be 1 million metric tons per annum.

The estimated project cost will be Rs 346 crore and it will be completed in 30 months time.

This will be the first such pipeline through which **refined diesel** will be supplied to Parbatipur depot from Numaligarh of Assam in India.

53. Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba Launches 'e-Sahaj' Portal For Grant Of Security Clearance

- The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.

- With the introduction of online portal, the process has become standardized, resulting in a process which will be faster, transparent and easy to monitor.

54. India And Morocco Sign Air Services Agreement enabling greater connectivity through a modernized agreement.

55. India and Niger signed an MoU for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey, Niger with the Indian government's grant assistance.

56. Health Ministry Partners With Dell And Tata Trusts to provide a technological platform for nation wide prevention, control, screening and management program of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

57. India Contributes 1 Million to UN's Ambitious Solar Project

- India has contributed one million US dollars for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building at the world body's headquarters in New York. The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy. According to India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India is the first responder to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for climate action.

58. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space signed an MoU for setting up of an state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Ministry of Home Affairs.

59. PM Modi Laid Foundation Stone For World-Class Convention and expo Centre In Dwarka Delhi

- The facilities provided at the centre will be on par with the best in the world in size and quality.
- It will rank among the top 10 in the world and the biggest indoor exhibition space in India. The project is planned over an area of 221.37 acres in Sector 25, Dwarka, at an estimated cost of Rs 25,703 crore.

60. PM Modi launches world's largest healthcare scheme launched **Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana** from **Ranchi, Jharkhand**. Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health assurance worth five lakh rupees each, every year. This is the world's largest government-funded healthcare program targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries. The scheme will provide cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

61. PM Modi inaugurates new airport in Odisha's Jharsuguda

- it will attract investors to the mineral-rich area. The airport has been developed under the Centre's UDAN scheme.
-UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) is a Regional Connectivity Scheme.

62. PM Modi Inaugurated Sikkim's First Airport In Pakyong (The project cost Rs 553 crore.)

- The airport is the Sikkim's first and only airport. Currently, the nearest airport for the people of Sikkim is 124 kilometre (km) away in Bagdogra, West Bengal. The airport is spread over 201 acres. **The foundation stone for the greenfield airport was laid in Pakyong in 2009.** It is constructed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

63.AP, Odisha & MP Bag Award Under Amrut

- Andhra Pradesh has topped the charts among States in terms of **"Ease of Living Index"** rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). It was followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
- The three States were awarded the three best performing States under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018.

64. Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Smart City Expo India-2018 in Jaipur.

65. Cabinet approves National Digital Communications Policy

- The cabinet has approved the new telecom policy, now named National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018, which aims to attract USD 100 billion investment and create 4 million jobs in the sector by 2022. According to the draft of the policy, NDCP is focused on increasing high-speed broadband penetration, with use of modern technologies like 5G and optical fibres across the country at affordable rates.

66.Aadhaar Linking Must For PAN and Filing Income Tax Returns

- The Supreme Court declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as Constitutionally valid. The Supreme Court ruled that linking the Aadhaar card to PAN card is mandatory and is needed for filing income tax returns. **The apex court, however, said Aadhaar is not mandatory for opening bank accounts and linking with existing accounts.**

- The Supreme Court also struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act that allowed private companies to avail Aadhaar data. Calling the section unconstitutional, the court asserted that **private companies cannot insist on having Aadhaar number of customers.** Aadhaar authentication records cannot be stored beyond six months, striking down the current rule of five years.

Chairman, UIDAI- J. Satyanarayana

CEO, UIDAI- Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey

67. Supreme Court Allows Live Streaming Of Cases of Constitutional importance

- The Supreme Court agreed to live-streaming and video recording of court proceedings, saying “**sunlight is the best disinfectant**”. The Supreme Court allowed live streaming of **cases of Constitutional importance** that take place in the **Court of the Chief Justice of India**.
- The bench said that they want to implement the concept of 'open court' in a bid to decongest the court. As per the court the public had a "right to know" what happens inside the courtroom. The decision came on the back of a clutch of petitions filed by senior lawyer Indira Jaisingh, law student Snehil Tripathi and NGO Centre For Accountability and Systemic Change.

68. Adultery No Longer A Criminal Offence, SC Strikes Down Section 497 of IPC

- A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra scrapped the pre-Independence provision of adultery in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which treats a married woman as a commodity owned by her husband. Section 497 (adultery) gives a husband the exclusive right to prosecute his wife's lover. If found guilty, the adulterer faces five years behind bars.
- A similar right is not conferred on a wife to prosecute the woman with whom her husband has committed adultery. Secondly, the provision does not confer any right on the wife to prosecute her husband for adultery.

69. Tourism Minister Launches Incredible India Mobile App

- The Union Minister for Tourism (IC), Mr. K.J. Alphons launched the ‘**Incredible India** Mobile App’ and the “Incredible India Tourist Facilitators Certification” programme.
- The Minister announced that India will be the host country for official World Tourism Day celebrations in 2019.

70. India And UN Signed A Five-Year Sustainable Development Framework

71. 2 MoU's Signed Between India and Uzbekistan for strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries in ICT sector.

72. Government Forms Lokpal Search Committee

- The government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**. Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, former SBI Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Justice Sukha Ram Singh Yadav among others will be members of the panel.
- An official order issued by Ministry of Personnel stated that the panel will recommend the names for the Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal to the Lokpal Selection Committee.

73. Locate Public Toilets on Google Maps with Loo Review Campaign

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM – U), has partnered with Google to launch the **Loo Review campaign** to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.
- This campaign is part of a feature which allows all citizens to locate public toilets in their cities on Google Maps, Search and the Assistant and also provide feedback on the same. 500+ cities in India with more than 30,000 toilets with the name of “SBM Toilet” are currently live on Google Maps.

Open Defecation Free States/UTs till date-24 states.

Swachh Bharat Mission launched on - 2nd October 2014.

74. India's 1st Corn Festival Starts in in Chhindwara ,Madhya Pradesh

- The festival is one of a kind international event.
- Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest corn producing states in India, with Chhindwara being the highest corn producing district.

75. Indian Railways, Google Arts Launch 'Rail Heritage Digitisation Project'

- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the 'Rail Heritage Digitisation Project' of Indian Railways in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture Association.

76. PM inaugurates Pashupatinath Dharmashala in Kathmandu

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, jointly inaugurated the Pashupatinath Dharmashala in Kathmandu, with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri K.P. Oli.

77. U.S. returns two antique statues stolen from India

The first statue, 'Lingodhbhavamurti', a 12th century granite sculpture depicting an iconic representation of Lord Shiva, dates back to the Chola dynasty. Currently valued at about \$225,000, it was stolen from Tamil Nadu and was on display at the Birmingham Museum in Alabama.

The second phyllite sculpture depicts the bodhisattva of wisdom, 'Manjusri', holding a sword and painted in gold leaf. This statue was stolen from a temple in Bihar in the late 1980s.

78. India to generate 100 GW solar energy by 2022

79. Odisha to name Jharsuguda airport after Veer Surendra Sai

The Odisha Assembly has passed a resolution unanimously to name the newly-constructed Jharsuguda airport after noted freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai.

80. 3rd edition of MahaBiz 2018 to be held in Dubai

MahaBiz is considered a bridge for business opportunities between Maharashtra state and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. **GCC is a political and economic alliance of six middle eastern countries. It includes Saudi Arabia , UAE , Kuwait , Oman , Bahrain and Qatar.**

81. AYUSH Information Cell set up at the Indian Embassy in Romania to disseminate authentic information about AYUSH system of medicine and encourage Ayurveda practice in Romania.

82. Finance Ministry Launches Mobile Application " Jan Dhan Darshak" as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative

. As the name suggests, this app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country. While over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) have been mapped on this App, approx. 1.35 lakh Bank Mitras would be on-boarded by 01.12.2018.

83. Kolkata launches India's first flood forecast system

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, has launched the country's first flood forecasting and early-warning system.

84. ESIC Approves Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna For Cash Relief To Insured Persons

-The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- *Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna* for Unemployed Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act.

- The decision was taken at the ESIC board meeting chaired by the Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar in New Delhi.

- The ESIC also approved the proposal for increasing the funeral expenses from existing 10 thousand rupees to 15 thousand rupees being paid on the death of Insured Person.

85. Supreme Court Constitutes Committee To Look Into Jail Reforms

- The Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by its former judge Justice **Amitava Roy** to look into the aspect of jail reforms across the country and suggest measures to deal with them.

1. Banks With Over 10 Branches To Have Internal Ombudsman: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all scheduled commercial banks with more than 10 branches to appoint an Internal Ombudsman (IO). The apex bank has, however, excluded regional rural banks (RRBs) from appointing IOs.

2. Monetary Limit For Filing Cases In DRT Doubled To Rs 20 Lakh

- The government of India has doubled the monetary limit to 20 lakh rupees for filing loan recovery application in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) by banks and financial institutions.

- As per the Finance Ministry, the move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in DRTs. There are **39 DRTs** in the country. To make the tribunals more effective and to facilitate fast disposal of debt recovery cases, the government has made several amendments in different laws, including the SARFAESI Act.

3. Samsung Opens World's Largest Mobile Experience Centre In Bengaluru

-After launching the world's largest mobile phone-manufacturing factory in Noida in July 2018, Samsung has now opened its biggest experience centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Opera House, the 33,000 sq ft iconic building in the city's central business district, has been given a facelift to showcase Samsung's mobile devices and other consumer electronic products. It has a service centre for phones and is equipped with high-speed public Wi-Fi.

4. Infosys Acquires Finnish Company 'Fluido' For Rs 545 crore

5. Centre Proposes To Merge Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank to create India's 3rd largest globally competitive Bank.

6. No Withholding Tax On Interest Payment Of Masala Bonds

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) announced that no withholding tax will apply on interest payments made by an Indian company or a business trust to a non-resident in respect of offshore rupee-denominated bonds issued between September 17, 2018 and March 31, 2019.

7. Provision Of Penalties Incorporated For States, Insurance Companies for Delay in Settlement of Claims

- The government has incorporated provision of penalties for States and Insurance Companies for the delay in settlement of insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). According to the new guidelines, the farmers will be paid **12% interest by insurance companies** for the delay in settlement claims beyond two months of prescribed cut-off date.

- State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the delay in the release of the State share of subsidy beyond three months of prescribed cut-off date submission of requisition by insurance companies.

8. Vodafone Idea Board Approves Merger With Aditya Birla Telecom

- The Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Limited, India's largest telecom operator, approved the merger of the Vodafone Idea Limited with the Aditya Birla Telecom Limited (ABTL), the parent company of Idea Cellular. The merger was approved under the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

- The merger is now subjected to approval of the National Company Law Tribunal. The Aditya Birla Telecom Ltd holds 11.15% stake in telecom infrastructure firm Indus Towers Ltd.

9. IRDAI Raised Minimum Driver Insurance Cover To INR 15 Lakh

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has raised the minimum insurance cover for owner-driver to Rs. 15 lakh for a premium of Rs. 750 per annum, a move to provide some succour to road accident victims.

- Currently, the capital sum insured (CSI) under this section for motorised two-wheelers and private cars/commercial vehicles is Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh, respectively. The owner-drivers also have the option of a cover over and above Rs. 15 lakh on payment of additional premium.

10. BSNL Signs Deal With SoftBank, NTT to Roll Out 5G In India

- State-run telecom firm BSNL has inked a pact with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to roll out 5G and internet of things (IoT) technology in India. BSNL will look at collaborating with Softbank for its satellite constellation which will have around 900 satellites.

11. Fitch raises India growth forecast to 7.8% this fiscal

12. FDI in Telecom Sector Jumped Five Times In Three Years

- FDI in the telecom sector has jumped nearly five times in the last three years – from USD 1.3 Billion in 2015-16 to USD 6.2 Billion in 2017-

13. According to Union Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha, the draft National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 aims to attract investment of USD 100 billion or about Rs.6.5 lakh crore in the Digital Communications Sector.

- India has also announced plans to launch commercial 5G networks by the year 2020.

14. Finance Ministry Launched Mobile App "Jan Dhan Darshak"

- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) have jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative. This app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.

- While over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) have been mapped on this App, approx. 1.35 lakh Bank Mitras would be on-boarded by 01.12.2018. Phone number of bank branches are available in the app, with the facility of call button for integrated dialling.

The NIC was established in 1976.

15. RBI Eases Cash Reserve Rules To Ease Liquidity

- The Reserve Bank of India allowed banks to dip **further** into statutory cash reserves in a bid to ease a liquidity squeeze afflicting the nation's money markets. The move by the central bank follows concerns over tight liquidity conditions and banks' unwillingness to lend to NBFCs.

- As per the RBI, banks could 'carve out' up to 15% of holdings under the statutory liquidity reserves to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements as compared to 13% now.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Dr Poonam Singh re-elected For 2nd Term (another five-year) As Regional Director WHO South-East Asia

- Dr Singh is the first woman to have been elected to this position.

2. Indian Boxer Mary Kom Signed As Brand Ambassador By BSNL for two years.

3. SBI Appoints Anshula Kant As Managing Director for 2 years.

4. India's ace sprinter Hima Das Appointed Sports Ambassador of Assam

5. **Justice Ranjan Gogoi Appointed Next Chief Justice Of India** (46th CJI). He succeeds Justice Dipak Misra

6. Moutaz Mousa Abdallah Becomes Sudan's New PM

- Sudan has been grappling with an acute foreign exchange shortage and inflation above 65% for several months.

7. Varun Dhawan, Anushka Sharma Signed As Ambassadors of Skill India Campaign

8. Top Scientist KN Vyas Appointed Atomic Energy Commission Chief

9. Justice Om Prakash Mishra Sworn In As new Chief Justice Of Nepal

10. Google appoints Keith Enright as its Chief Privacy Officer

11. Vikram Misri Appointed India's Next Ambassador to China

12. B. S. Mubarak appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Guatemala

13. Anil Kumar Chaudhary appointed as new SAIL chairman

14. Anil Khosla to be appointed as new Vice Chief of Air Force

15. Rajni Kant Misra appointed BSF chief,

16. S S Deswal appointed director general head SSB

17. Kalraj Mishra appointed chairman of House panel on defence

A Former minister in the Narendra Modi government, Kalraj Mishra, replaced former Uttarakhand chief minister Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri as the chairman of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence. **There are 24 parliamentary standing committees, of these 16 are under the administrative control of the Lok Sabha and eight under the Rajya Sabha.**

18. Jaya Prada appointed goodwill ambassador for Nepal tourism

Former Member of Parliament and Bollywood actress Jaya Prada has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the promotion of Nepal tourism.

19. Tahira Safdar becomes first woman to head a Pakistan high court

Justice Tahira Safdar was sworn in on as the first woman chief justice of a Pakistani high court. she sworn in as the chief justice of Balochistan High Court at a ceremony held at the Governor House in Balochistan. She made history in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan.

AWARDS

1. 'Sarala Puraskar' For Poet Satrugna Pandav

- Noted **Odia poet** Satrugna Pandav will be honoured with the prestigious 'Sarala Puraskar' for his poetry collection '**Misra Dhrupad**'.

2. 1st Ever Secondary Steel Sector Awards For Contribution To National Economy

- Ministry of Steel gave away Secondary Steel sector awards, for the first time, to 26 mini steel companies in recognition of their contribution to the national economy.

3. PNB Wins Hindi Implementation Award

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) bagged the "**Rajbhasha Kirti**" award for outstanding performance in implementing the Official Language Policy during 2017-18. The award was given on the occasion of Hindi Diwas (14th September).

4. INSV Tarini Crew Bestowed With Tenzing Norgay Award

- **All-women crew** of INSV Tarini has bagged the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure award for beating the odds in water with their enduring skills and **sailing across the world for eight long months.**

- The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.

5. Kerala Tourism Wins 2 PATA Gold Awards

- Kerala Tourism has won two prestigious gold awards of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns. The awards were presented at a glittering function in Langkawi, Malaysia during PATA Travel Mart 2018.

6. Dr Raghupati Singhania Conferred With Civilian Honour of Mexico

- Chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., Dr Raghupati Singhania has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico. .

7. Anushka Sharma Receives Smita Patil Award for best actor.

8. PM Modi Got UN's Highest Environmental Honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded with the UN's highest environmental honour, (also given to five other individuals and organizations) for his leadership of the International Solar Alliance and pledge to eliminate single use plastic by 2022.

Cochin International Airport was given the award for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy.

French President Emmanuel Macron and Mr. Modi have been jointly recognised in the Policy Leadership category for their pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance.

9. National Tourism Awards 2016-17

-Andhra Pradesh bagged the first prize in state category for comprehensive development of tourism. Kerala bagged the second prize for comprehensive development of tourism.

10. 'Village Rockstars' (movie) Is India's Official Entry To Oscars 2019

- village rockstar is 2017 Indian-Asamese language film written,edited,co-produced, and directed by **Rima Das**. This movie receives 65th national film award.

-Hindi film Newton was India's official submission to the Oscars last year

11. Kohli, Chanu received Khel Ratna on September 25

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu received the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna on September 25.

The list of awardees:

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chanu.

Arjuna Awards: Neeraj Chopra, Jinson Johnson and Hima Das (athletics); N. Sikki Reddy (badminton); Satish Kumar (boxing); Smriti Mandhana (cricket); Shubhankar Sharma (golf); Manpreet Singh and Savita (hockey); Ravi Rathore (polo); Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal and Shreyasi Singh (shooting); Manika Batra and G. Sathiyam (table tennis); Rohan Bopanna (tennis); Sumit (wrestling); Pooja Kadian (wushu); Ankur Dhama (para-athletics); Manoj Sarkar (para-badminton).

Dronacharya Awards: C. A. Kuttappa (boxing); Vijay Sharma (weightlifting); A. Srinivasa Rao (table tennis); Sukhdev Singh Pannu (athletics); Clarence Lobo (hockey, lifetime); Tarak Sinha (cricket, lifetime); Jiwan Kumar Sharma (judo, lifetime); V. R. Beedu (athletics, lifetime).

Dhyan Chand Awards: Satyadev Prasad (archery); Bharat Kumar Chetry (hockey); Bobby Aloysius (athletics); Chougale Dadu Dattatray (wrestling).

12. Poet, writer Sawai Singh Shekhawat to be honoured with Meera Puruskar

Jaipur-based poet and writer Sawai Singh Shekhawat will be honoured with Meera Puruskar by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy for his contribution to Hindi literature.

13. Mumbai neurosurgeon named for Dr B.C. Roy award The highest medical honour of India, instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1962, it will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 1 next year, the National Doctors Day.

14. Shabana Azmi, Nandita Das receive Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Puraskar

SPORTS

1. England's highest Test run-scorer Alastair Cook Announces International Retirement

2. Anjum, Apurvi Becomes 1st Set of Indian Shooters To Secure Quota Places For 2020 Olympics

- Anjum finished second on the podium and won a silver in the women's 10m air rifle event of the International Shooting Sports Federation's (ISSF) World Championship in Changwon, South Korea. Apurvi finished fourth in the same event.

3. Indian fast bowler RP Singh Announces Retirement From International Cricket

4. ISSF World Championship: Saurabh Chaudhary Clinches Gold

- India's Saurabh Chaudhary, The 16-year-old, clinched the 10 metres Air Pistol Junior gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Championship in Changwon, South Korea.

- **Arjun Singh Cheema claimed bronze in the same event.**

5. ISSF World Championship in South Korea. : Hriday Hazarika Wins Gold in 10 m Air Rifle

6. ISSF World Championship: Ankur Mittal Wins Double Trap Gold

7. ISSF World Championship: Udhayveer Singh Wins Gold In Junior Men's 25m Pistol Event

8. Luka Modric (Croatian national) Wins 'UEFA Men's Player of The Year Award'

- Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2017/18. Modric beat off competition from former Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah.

9. Naomi Osaka Beats Serena Williams To Win U.S Open

- Naomi Osaka became the **first Japanese woman** to win a Grand Slam title after she defeated over Serena Williams in the finals of the U.S

10. Former Indian Hockey Captain Sardar Singh Announces Retirement from international hockey. He made the decision after a disappointing Asian Games where India failed to defend their title and had to settle for a Bronze medal.

11. MC Mary Kom Wins Gold at Silesian Open Boxing In Poland

12. Maldives Defeats India to Lift SAFF Cup

- Maldives have lifted the 2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup. In the **final at the Bangabandhu Stadium in Dhaka**, they defeated defending champions India 2-1. The win for Maldives comes 10 years after their first SAFF Cup title in 2008.

13. Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin (Germany), smashing the previous best as he clocked 2 hours 1 minute 39 second.

14. Hangzhou to Host 2022 Asian Para Games

- The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) confirmed that Hangzhou in China will host the fourth edition of Asian Para Games in 2022.

15. India to Host The Women's Boxing World C'ships

- will be held from November 15-24, 2018, in New Delhi.
- This tournament was last held in India in 2006.

16. 8th Asian Yoga Sports Championship Begins In Thiruvananthapuram

17. India Defeats Bangladesh To Win 7th Asia Cup Title

- India has defeated Bangladesh to win the **Unimoni Asia Cup Title** 2018. This was the second successive Asia Cup final where India took on Bangladesh. In 2016, India had decimated Bangladesh in the final (of the Asia Cup T20).
- **Overall, this was India's seventh Asia Cup triumph. Liton Das was the Player Of The Match and Shikhar Dhawan was declared as the Player Of The Series.**

18. US Open 2018: Novak Djokovic beats Juan Martin del Potro to win title

Novak Djokovic produced an impeccable performance to beat Juan Martin del Potro in the US Open final and win **his 14th Grand Slam title.**

19. India Blue win Duleep Trophy

India Blue thrashed defending champion India Red by an innings and 187 runs in the final to win the Duleep Trophy. The Duleep Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket competition played in India.

It is named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinhji.

20. Subramaniam Badrinath Retires From All Forms Of Cricket

Former India and Tamil Nadu batsman Subramaniam Badrinath has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

ASIAN GAMES

(MOSTLY COVERED IN AUGUST'S CURRENT AFFAIRS)

1. Amit Panghal Wins Gold In Boxing

- India's 22-year-old boxer Amit Panghal defeated 2016 Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov (Uzbekistan) in the men's 49kg final to bag gold at the Asian Games 2018.

2. Pranab Bardhan and Shibnath sarkar Wins India's 1st Ever Bridge Gold

- India's 60-year-old Pranab Bardhan and 56-year-old Shibnath Sarkar won the men's pair bridge event to bag the country's first-ever gold in bridge at the Asian Games.

- Bridge card is a **card game** which has been featured as a sport at the 18th Asian Games for the first time, in the 2018 edition. China won silver in this event.

3. Ikee Rikako Named 'Most Valuable Player'(MVP) Of Asian Games

-**Japanese swimmer** Ikee Rikako has been named as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the recently-concluded 18th edition of the Asian Games. The 18-year-old, who bagged six gold and two silver medals in the tournament, became the **first female athlete** to win the MVP title.

4. India Finishes With Biggest Ever Medal Tally of 69

The 18th Asian Games came to a close, with India achieving its best-ever medal tally of 69 and equaling its best gold medal haul of 15 after 67 years.

OBITUARIES/DEATHS

1. Jain Muni Tarun Sagar Passes Away at the age of 51 in Delhi's Radhapuri Jain temple due to prolonged illness.- He was known for his lecture series 'Kadve Pravachan', was suffering from jaundice and other ailments.

2. Gujarati Author and Journalist Bhagwati Kumar Sharma Passes Away

3. Agri-economist & Padma Bhushan laureate Vijay Shankar Vyas passes away

4. Former Union petroleum minister Satya Prakash Malviya Passes Away. Mr. Malaviya had served as the petroleum minister in the cabinet headed by former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar.

5. Former Odisha Minister Dolagobinda Pradhan Passes Away

- A follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he took part in the Quit India Movement in 1942 and got imprisoned by the then British government.

6. Anna Rajam Malhotra -Independent India's 1st Woman IAS Officer Passes Away (served in Madras Cadre under then Chief Minister C. Rajagopalachari).

7. Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang Has Passed Away

8. Former BCCI President Biswanath Dutt Passes Away

He is best known in the Indian cricket fraternity as Jagmohan Dalmiya's mentor, passed away aged 92 after suffering from acute lung infection.

10. Renowned filmmaker Kalpana Lajmi passes

11. Pandit Tulsidas Borkar passes away

The legendary harmonium artiste Pandit Tulsidas Borkar passed away in Mumbai on 28 September 2018, after a brief illness. He was 83.

12. Former Union minister (congress minister) Shantaram Potdukhe passes away

13. Writer Brij Katyal passes away

Veteran film writer Brij Katyal, who penned the story of Shashi Kapoor-Nanda hit "Jab Jab Phool Khile", passed away at a hospice in suburban Bandra.

14. Former Maharashtra footballer Arthur Pereira dead

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of Charity: 5 September

National Teachers' Day: 5 September

It marks the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was born on September 5, 1888. A great scholar, philosopher and a Bharat Ratna recipient, Dr Radhakrishnan was the first Vice President and second President of independent India.

2. International Literacy Day: 8 September

- This year's theme is 'Literacy and skills development.'

3. Hindi Diwas: 14 September

- Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September because, on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.
- **Under the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, on 26 January 1950, Hindi, written in Devanagari script was adopted as the official language.**

4. International Day of Democracy: 15 September

-Theme- 'Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World'.

5. Engineer's Day: 15 September

- Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya's birthday is celebrated on 15 September as Engineer's Day. Fondly referred to as Sir MV, **M Visvesvaraya was a world-renowned civil engineer who was a master of irrigation design.** He was also referred to as the father of engineers by many.
- In 1924, Sir MV designed the Krishna Raja Sagara Lake and dam, the largest reservoir in India at the time, and oversaw the construction of the project. The dam is known to have provided drinking water for several cities.

6. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

Theme-'Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol'.

7. International Day of Peace: 21 September

- Theme- "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70". The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

8. World Tourism Day: 27 September

- "Tourism and the Digital Transformation" is the theme of this year's World Tourism Day (WTD). Hungary is the host country for this year's WTD.

9. World Rabies Day: 28 September

- 28 September also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

10. World Heart Day: 29th September

11. Assam observed September 22 as Rhino Day

The Assam government observed September 22 as Rhino Day to generate public awareness on protection of the one-horned pachyderm.

BOOKS

1. 'The Rule Breakers' – Authored by Preeti Shenoy

2. PM releases book to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, released the book "Moving On, Moving Forward – A Year in Office" to mark one year in office of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. Finland Topped In 'Human Capital' Score, India Ranked 158th

- India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and health care.
- The study, published in journal The Lancet, says that India is ranked at 158 out of 195 countries.

-Finland topped the list, followed by Iceland and Denmark.

2. Mukesh Ambani Toped Barclays Hurun Rich List For 7th Time In A Row with the total net worth of INR 371,000 crore. Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018, a compilation of the individuals in India having a net worth of INR 1,000 crore or more, featured 831 Indians compared to 617 last year. Mr Ambani is followed by London-based S.P. Hinduja, and L.N. Mittal, and then Azim Premji, in the list.

3. India ranks 130 in UN's human development index

India climbed one spot to 130 among 189 countries in the latest human development index released by the United Nations Development Programme.

Within South Asia, India's human development index (HDI) value is above the average of 0.638 for the region, with Bangladesh and Pakistan, countries with similar population size, being ranked 136 and 150 respectively.

In 2016, India's HDI value of 0.624 put it at 131 rank.

India's HDI value for 2017 is 0.640, which put the country in the medium human development category

Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany led the ranking, while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores.

4. India ranked 96th among 162 countries on Economic Freedom Index

Hong Kong and Singapore again topped the index, continuing their streak as the first and the second country.

5. Uttarakhand ranked best among states in PMGSY

Uttarakhand has been ranked the best among states in the country for the construction of maximum number of roads under the PMGSY during 2017-2018.

The state constructed a maximum of 1,839 kilometre roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana against a target of 1,500 km set for the year 2017-18.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

1. NASA Launches Satellite To Track Decreasing Polar Ice

- NASA launched its Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2, known as **ICESat-2**, which will use an extremely precise laser to collect measurement data to track the Earth's shrinking polar ice from **Vandenberg Air Force Base in California**.

- The laser, known as **ATLAS (Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System)**, splits into six beams and fires 10,000 pulses per second to collect very precise measurements for scientists to analyze.

2. ISRO Launched 2 British Earth Observation Satellites Onboard PSLV-C42

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched PSLV C 42 with two British earth observation satellites **NovaSAR** and **S1-4** in precision from the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- The satellites were put into sun-synchronous orbit just over 17 minutes after liftoff from the first launch pad.

3. India Successfully Test Fires Prithvi Defence Vehicle

- India successfully conducted an **interceptor missile** test off the Odisha coast, achieving a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system. According to Defence sources, the interceptor was launched from **Abdul Kalam Island** of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).

- This Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 kilometres of the earth's atmosphere.

4. Dr. Harsh Vardhan Inaugurated Air Pollution Control Device "WAYU" (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) WAYU for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi

-WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as a part of Technology Development Project being funded by Department of Science and

Technology. **This device can purify the air in an area of 500 square meters.** 54 more such devices will be installed by 15th October in Delhi

Prime Minister of India is the chairman of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

5. Japan Landed Rovers On Asteroid In Historic Mission

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**) landed a pair of rovers on an asteroid, marking the **world's first moving, robotic observation of an asteroid surface.** The two rovers **Hayabusa2** managed to land on the asteroid are expected to take advantage of the low gravity and jump around the surface, reaching heights of up to 15 meters.
- The small compact **MINERVA-II1**(Micro Nano Experimental Robot Vehicle for Asteroid, the second generation) rovers separated from the Hayabusa2 spacecraft. The MINERVA-II 1 consists of two rovers, Rover-1A and Rover-1B. The Hayabusa2 probe was launched in December 2014 to explore the surface of the asteroid known as Ryugu. If all goes well, the Hayabusa2 will return to earth with soil and rock samples in 2020.

6. Germany Launches World's 1st Hydrogen-Powered Train

- Germany has rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train (costlier but more eco-friendly technology).
- The two Coradia iLint trains were built by French train-maker firm **Alstom.**

3. ISRO Technology Incubation Centre Inaugurated at NIT Agartala

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated ISRO's first Space Technology Incubation Centre(STIC) at the National Institute of Technology Agartala via remote from Bengaluru.
- The Centre was launched at the first edition of 'Spacetronics' organised by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA).

DEFENCE NEWS

1. DAC approves procurement of one thousand engines for T-72 tanks

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army at an approximate cost of over 2,300 crore rupees.
- Post-transfer of technology, most of these engines will be manufactured by Ordnance Factories Board. The DAC has also approved several amendments to Defence Procurement Procedure 2016, the manual governing the defence procurements.

(DAC was set up in 2001).

DAC Chairperson- Union Defence Minister (Current Chairperson- Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman)

2. Ukraine Conducts Joint Military Exercises With NATO Nations: Rapid Trident

- Ukraine has launched annual joint military exercise named **Rapid Trident with the United States and other NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries. Its main goal is to practice countering armed aggression in conditions of the hybrid war.

3. Russia Launches Biggest War Games 'Vostok-2018' Since Cold War

involving about 300,000 service personnel, **in eastern Siberia.** China, Mongolia as well as NATO member Turkey, are invited to the exercise.

- The last Russian exercise of similar scale was in 1981, during the Cold War, but Vostok-2018 involves more troops.

3. Indo-Kazakhstan Joint military Exercise 'KAZIND 2018' Held in Kazakhstan (Otar region).

- This is the third joint military exercise between the two countries which have a history of extensive cooperation in the defence arena.

4. India-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise SLINEX-2018 Begins in Sri Lanka

- Indian navy ships and aircraft have arrived in Sri Lanka to take part in the joint exercise SLINEX-2018 to be held with Sri Lankan navy at Trincomalee. The exercise which was previously held biannually has been converted to

an **annual event** from this year.

5. Nepal And China Conducts 2nd joint military exercise named Mt Everest Friendship Exercise-2018 (Sagarmatha Friendship-2018) in China's southwestern Sichuan province.

- Sagarmatha is the Nepali name for Mt Everest, which stands in between both the countries.

6. Bi-Annual Talks Between Indian and Bangladeshi Border Forces Begin in New Delhi

- This is the 47th DG-level conference between the two sides since it began in 1975.

7. Bengaluru To Host Aero India In February 2019: Defence Ministry announced. This five-day event will combine a major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.

-Yelahanka Air Force station in Bengaluru has hosted all the 11 editions of Aero India so far and has emerged as a premier air show in Asia.

8. 1st Edition of BIMSTEC Military Exercise MILEX-18 Inaugurated at Aundh in Pune.

- The aim of MILEX-18 is to practice the BIMSTEC Nations in planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations. Participating countries are Armies of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. Nepal is not taking part in MILEX-18.

9. Indo-US Joint Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2018' To Start in Uttarakhand

- This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both countries.

10. DRDO Successfully Flight Tested Tactical Missile 'Prahar'

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the **indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar'**, from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore, Odisha.

- **'Prahar' is a contemporary weapon system capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and neutralizing a wide variety of targets.**

-**DRDO Headquarters in: New Delhi, Founded in: 1958.**

-**Dr G Satheesh Reddy is the present Chairman of the DRDO.**

11. IAF Successfully Test Fires Air-To-Air Astra Missile

-The Indian Air Force successfully test fired the **indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile Astra from a Su-30 aircraft**. The missile, tested at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station, "successfully engaged a manoeuvring target with high precision."

12. PM Modi Inaugurated Parakram Parv Exhibition In Jodhpur

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Parakram Parv exhibition at the military station in Jodhpur to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes carried out by the Indian Army across the LoC.

- **On September 29, 2016, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes on seven terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) as a response to an attack on its base in Uri. Konark Corps is organizing this three days exhibition on Indian Army's Combat Capability.**

13. Indigenously Developed Weapon System 'MPATGM' Successfully Flight Tested

- Indigenously developed weapon system Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM), was successfully flight tested for the second time from the Ahmednagar range, Maharashtra. All the mission objectives have been met.

4. Exercise Aviaindra-18 Commences at Lipetsk (Russia)

Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation. First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise.

Exercise Aviaindra 18 is being conducted at Lipetsk, Russia from 17 Sep to 28 Sep 18 and will be conducted in Jodhpur, India from 10 Dec to 22 Dec 18.

5. IAF & French Air force Conduct Basic Training in India

Indian Air Force (IAF) recently participated in Exercise Pitch Black 2018 at Darwin, Australia. Sixteen different nations from across the globe, including French Air Force (FAF) participated in this exercise. On the return, FAF and IAF carried out basic joint training, which included fighter sorties by pilots in their respective aircraft with observers onboard each other's transport aircraft supporting the missions.

6. Centenary of the Battle of Haifa Celebrated

The Embassy of India held a ceremony in Haifa to mark the Centenary of the Battle of Haifa.

On 23 Sep 1918, Indian soldiers from the Jodhpur, Mysore and Hyderabad Lancers liberated the city of Haifa (Israel).

7. Coast Guard commissions patrol vessel 'Vijaya'

The Indian Coast Guard commissioned the indigenously built patrol vessel 'Vijaya', fitted with advanced navigation and communication equipment. The 98-metre ship will be based at Paradip in Odisha for extensive surveillance in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

8. INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018

Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, **Ullanbaatar**.

RAMANA ACADEMY