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AWARDS & HONOURS

NAME OF THE WINNER	NAME OF THE AWARD	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences of New Delhi	Best Dental College in India	Evaluation from reports of independent rating agencies of Hansa Research, Drshti Strategic Research Services and Nielsen India.
Actor Irrfan Khan	Icon Award	Awarded at London Indian Film Festival
Anjolie Ela Menon	National Kalidas Samman for Visual Arts	Awarded by Madhya Pradesh government
Former Team India captain Rahul Dravid	Fifth Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.	Anil Kumble, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi and Kapil Dev were already inducted.
Milan Shankar Tare – fisherman	National Maritime Search and Rescue Award	He saved 12 fishermen
Michael Ondaatje's best selling novel 'The English Patient'	Golden Man Booker International prize 2018	
Dr Ravi Mehrotra - Chairman of Foresight Group International Ltd	Lifetime achievement award	Awarded at the Seatrade 30th Anniversary Award Ceremony held at the Landmark, London.
Ishwar Sharma	British Indian of the Year	In the Young Achiever category for his achievements in the field of Yoga.
Repc Micro Finance Ltd	NABARD 2018 award	For its service to self-help group (SHG)
Sri Lankan-born Canadian author Michael Ondaatje	Man Booker Prize	For his latest novel "Warlight"
Sonam Wangchuk & Bharat Vatwani,	2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award	Sonam Wangchu was the inspiration for the character Rancho in the movie '3 Idiots'
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	INFRA Icon Award	'Global Energy' category

Third BRICS Film Festival concluded: Complete List of Indian Winners

Third BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa, along with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF). The last day of the festival (27th July) was celebrated as India Country Day, followed by Awards and Closing Ceremony. The film festival is aimed at celebrating world-class film productions from the BRICS nations with the objective of inspiring more collaboration from these nations. Awards won by Indian films in the 3rd BRICS Film Festival, Durban, South Africa:

1. Best Actress: Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars,
2. Best Film: Newton by Amit Masurkar,
3. Special Jury Award: Village Rockstars by Rima Das.

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APPOINTMENTS

NAM OF THE PERSON	POSITION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Sathyasri Sharmila	First transgender to be enrolled as a lawyer in Tamil Nadu	She was worked as a transgender activist for 11 years
Ravi Thapar	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Costa Rica	He served as Ambassador of India to Panama
Antonio Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino	Director General of International Organization for Migration	
Andrés Manuel López Obrador	Mexico's President	
Indian American Seema Nanda	CEO of Democratic National Committee (DNC)	She replaces interim CEO Mary Beth Cahill.
K B Vijay Srinivas	Director and General Manager of United India Insurance Company	
Janardan Singh Gehlot	President of the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF)	
Uttam Dhillon	Acting Administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration	Indian-American lawyer
Vishwas Patel	Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI)	
Mukesh Ambani	Reliance Industries Chairman for another five years	
Supreme Court judge Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel	Chairman of National Green Tribunal	For a period of 5 years
Manoj Kumar Pingua	Acting Managing Director of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).	He is a joint secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Jeremy Hunt	UK Foreign Secretary	Appointed by British Prime Minister Theresa May
Martin Schwenk	MD and CEO for Mercedes-Benz India	
Vidya Balan	Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group	Muthoot Pappachan Group CMD – Thomas John Muthoot
Kaptan Singh Solanki	Governor of Himachal Pradesh	Additional Charge
Raghunath A Mashelkar	Chancellor of Jio Institute	Reliance Foundation has proposed his name
Indian sprinter Hima Das	Assam's Sports Ambassador	Hima Das won gold medal (400 m) at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships. T
T Latha	MD, CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank	For a period of three years
Dipa Karmakar	Tripura's Brand Ambassador	She bagged gold medal in the women's vault event at the Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup in Mersin in Turkey

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Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan	Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)	Appointed by Vice President of India and President of ICWA, M. Venkaiah Naidu.
Former Indian cricketer Ramesh Powar	Interim coach of the Indian women's cricket team	
T.V. Narendran	Chairman of Bhushan Steel	Bhushan Steel has been acquired by Tata Steel
Arman Ali	Executive Director of National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP)	
Chief Justice Rajendra Menon	Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.	
Rishi Srivastava	CEO & MD of Tata AIA Life	
Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu	Chancellor of Pondicherry Central University	
Surendra Rosha	CEO of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)	
Indian American Seema Nanda	CEO of the Democratic National Committee.	

BANKING & FINANCE

India at 73rd place in terms of Swiss bank money, UK on top

India has moved up 15 places to 73rd in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks in 2017, while the UK remains on top. The UK accounted for over 27% (403 billion francs) of the total foreign money while India accounted for 0.07%. The money held by Indians rose 50% to 1.01 billion francs (₹7,000 crore).

One Nation One Tax: GST Day observed on July 01

GST Day is observed on July 01 to commemorate one year of the implementation of Goods and Services Tax. Addressing a function in New Delhi Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said that Goods & Service Tax has long term benefits for the economy. Union Minister Arun Jaitley hailed GST on the completion of one year and said that GST was necessary for the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Congratulated countrymen on the special occasion of GST completing 1 year.

PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to March 31, 2019

The Central Board of Direct Taxation has extended the deadline for the PAN-Aadhaar linking from June 30, 2018, to March 31, 2019. This is the fifth time the government has extended the deadline for individuals to link their PAN with their Aadhaar. Over 16.65 crore PANs out of 33 crore were linked with Aadhaar till March this year.

India's seafood exports cross \$7 billion for the first time

India's seafood exports crossed \$7-billion mark for the first time in 2017-18, with frozen shrimp and fish continuing to be the flagship export items. The exports fetched \$7.08 billion compared to \$5.77 billion in FY17. The US and South East Asia retained their positions as major import markets of India's seafood products, with a share of 32.76% and 31.59% respectively.

I-T Dept launches 'instant' e-PAN based on Aadhaar

The Income Tax Department has launched an 'instant' Aadhaar-based PAN allotment service for individuals seeking the unique identification number for the first time. The PAN obtained by this mechanism will have the same name, gender, date of birth, and address present in the individual's Aadhaar. This facility, which is free of cost, is available only for a limited period.

RBI issues licence to Bank of China for operations in India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reportedly issued a licence to Bank of China to operate in India. The decision was reportedly based on the commitment made by PM Narendra Modi to Chinese leadership during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit. Bank of China is one of China's four major state-owned banks and has a market capitalisation of \$153 billion.

HDFC Bank most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China

There are four lenders from India that now rank among the world's 500 most valuable companies. HDFC Bank is followed by its housing finance cousin Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India.

◆ There are now 11 Indian companies among the world's 500 biggest firms in terms of market cap. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tops the chart with a market cap of \$103 billion, followed by Reliance Industries.

◆ HDFC Bank has gone past Russia's Sberbank to become the most valuable bank in the emerging market outside China. HDFC Bank's current market capitalisation is \$78.4 billion against Sberbank's \$74.4 billion.

◆ Industrial & Commercial Bank of China topping the list with a market cap of \$273.4 billion, followed by China Construction Bank (\$225.1 billion).

Reliance Industries becomes India's largest taxpayer in the private sector

Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries limited (RIL) is India's largest payer of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Excise and Customs Duty, and Income Tax in the private sector. RIL's consolidated net profit for the fourth-quarter (January-March) of fiscal 2017-18 stood at Rs. 9,435 crore, up by 17.3 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

RBI cancelled licence of Alwar Urban Co operative Bank

Alwar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Alwar, Rajasthan is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits.

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On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 1,00,000 from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

India world's 6th largest economy, surpasses France: World Bank

India is the sixth largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$2.59 trillion in 2017, according to a recent World Bank report. India surpassed France and is behind the US, China, Japan, Germany and the UK. Further, the World Bank estimated the Indian economy to grow by 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5% in the next two years.

Incomplete education of girls costs \$15-30 tn: World Bank

Failing to let girls complete 12 years of education cost countries between \$15-30 trillion in lost lifetime productivity and earnings, according to a World Bank report. About 13.2 crore girls worldwide aged between 6 and 17 don't attend school, it said. The report added women who have a secondary education earn almost twice as much as those with no education.

India joins European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

India formally joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), becoming the London-based multilateral lender's 69th member. The membership will help Indian companies undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates. EBRD, whose core operations pertain to the private sector, has worked with Indian companies including Tata group and Jindal group.

Indian Army signed MoU with SBI on the Defence Salary Package

Defence Salary Package will include free personal accident death, free permanent total disability cover and other accidental benefits to the deceased soldier and family. The first MoU between SBI and the Indian Army was signed in 2011 and was renewed in February 2015. The renewed MoU will be valid till January 3, 2019.

HDFC securities enable MF transactions through Facebook messenger

A subsidiary of HDFC Bank, HDFC securities launched Mutual Funds (MF) transactional capabilities on Facebook Messenger through their virtual assistant, Arya. Arya also facilitates a quick overview of total portfolio holding, getting the latest stock quotes and opening an account.

IMF projects 7.3%, 7.5% growth rate for India in 2018 and 2019

The International Monetary Fund has projected a growth rate of 7.3 per cent in 2018 and 7.5 per cent in 2019 for India as against 6.7 per cent in 2017, making it the fastest growing country among major economies. However, the latest growth rate projection for India is slightly less — 0.1 per cent in 2018 and 0.3 per cent in 2019 than its April projections.

Govt approves Rs 11,300 crore capital infusion in 5 banks

The government has approved capital infusion of Rs 11,336 crore in five state-run banks including PNB, Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank to help them meet regulatory capital

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requirement, according to reports. This is the first ever capital infusion in the current fiscal. The infusion is a part of remaining Rs 65,000 crore out of Rs 2.11 trillion capital infusion over two financial years.

NTPC signs ₹1,500 crore loan agreement with HDFC Bank

India's biggest power producer NTPC has signed a term loan agreement with HDFC Bank for availing a loan of ₹1,500 crore. The loan is extended at an interest rate linked to 3-months marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR) of the bank. The loan has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years and will be utilised to partly finance capital expenditure of NTPC.

RBI to issue new ₹100 notes in lavender colour soon

The Reserve Bank of India announced it will shortly issue lavender coloured new ₹100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has the motif of Gujarat's archaeological site 'Rani ki vav' on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage, the RBI added. Dimension of the new banknote will be 66 mm × 142 mm.

India moving towards \$5 trillion economy: PM in Lok Sabha

During his speech in the Lok Sabha on the no-confidence motion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is moving towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy. "Our Government has opened bank accounts for the poor....Women are leading a smoke-free life due to Ujjwala Yojana. Toilets have been constructed across India at a record pace," the PM added.

RS passes bill on 7-yr jail term for bribing public servants

The Rajya Sabha passed the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 which prescribes that anyone who is caught bribing government officials can be sentenced to a jail term of up to seven years. The bill also prescribes immunity for someone who declares, within a fortnight of bribing the official, that he/she was bullied into giving the bribe.

India fastest growing economy in Asia; on track to meet FY18 target: ADB

Led by India, South Asia will continue to be the fastest growing economic area despite new trade tensions in Asia and Pacific region, Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a new report.

Growth in Asia and the Pacific's developing economies for 2018 and 2019 will remain solid as it continues apace across the region, despite rising tensions between the US and its trading partners, said a supplement to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO).

Karnataka Bank launched DigiLocker facility

Karnataka Bank launched DigiLocker facility for its customers as part of its digital initiative. The facility is being given by integrating bank's MoneyClick internet banking channel. DigiLocker is a key initiative to store the digital documents, by National E-Governance Division under Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Only 35 goods left in 28% GST slab from 226 at launch

The GST Council has pruned the 28% slab by cutting rates on 191 goods over the past one year, leaving just 35 items in the highest tax bracket. The items remaining in the 28% bracket include automobiles, digital cameras, tyres, yachts, aircraft, aerated drinks and cigarettes. The Council cut rates on TV, fridge and washing machine among others.

NABARD launches South East Asia's first ever Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow

NABARD launches South East Asia's first ever Centre for Climate Change in Lucknow. It aims at accelerating concerted climate action by various stakeholders in government, private, financial and non-government sectors.

The centre will help NABARD in enhancing its capacity building efforts manifold. It will extend professional support to stakeholders for designing climate related projects and take up collaborative studies and action research projects in the area.

Federal Bank got RBI nod to enter Bahrain, Kuwait, Spore

Federal Bank was waiting for local clearances to start operations around Bahrain, Kuwait, Spore already it has representative offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The bank mainly focuses on the digital alternatives to reach out to more customers. It's turnover around 380 crores.

Banks and Financial institutions in India signed Pact on Bad Loan Resolution Framework

22 public sector banks (including India Post Payments Bank), 19 private sector banks, 32 foreign banks and financial institutions like LIC, HUDCO, PFC and REC signed the Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) framework, which is part of project 'Sashakt', to take concerted efforts towards resolving dud loans under Rs. 500 crore.

This Project is proposed by a committee headed by Sunil Mehta (non-executive chairman of PNB). The new framework is applicable to accounts with exposures of over ₹2,000 crore where lenders must implement the resolution plan within 180 days.

Oxigen announces a Strategic Partnership With Fincare Small Finance Bank

Oxigen and Fincare Small Finance Bank signed an agreement to roll out the Branchless Banking services using Oxigen flagship Point of Sale device called the Oxigen Micro ATM Super PoS. The event hosted by Brand Ambassador Grand Master Viswanathan Anand. Oxigen has been marching forward on its financial inclusion agenda to offer Branchless banking services to India's rural unbanked/underbanked segments.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Lok Sabha MPs can ask only 5 questions from next session

Lok Sabha MPs will be allowed to ask a maximum of five questions in the house per day from the upcoming Monsoon Session, a Lok Sabha Questions Cell bulletin has revealed. The MPs were earlier permitted to ask 10 questions, due to which the number of notices for questions exceeded 230 per day, the bulletin added.

UNESCO announces new heritage sites around the world

Mountain monasteries in South Korea, a Saudi oasis and Mumbai's art deco buildings are among a number of sites to make it on to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Being listed gives them legal protection under international treaties. The UN's cultural organisation, meeting in Bahrain, have been agreeing which landmark sites around the world need preserving for their cultural, historic or scientific significance.

Indian Army officer completes 'world's toughest triathlon'

Major General Vikram Dogra has become the first Indian Army officer to complete the Ironman Triathlon, considered the world's toughest triathlon, in Austria. Ironman Triathlon comprises three consecutive events: a 3.8-km swim, 180-km cycling and 42.2-km marathon, to be completed within 17 hours. Major General Dogra completed the triathlon in 14 hours and 21 minutes to earn the 'Ironman' title.

Govt cancels export of goats to UAE after protests by Jains

Following protests by the members of the Jain community, the government has cancelled the export of sheep and goats to the UAE that was to begin from Nagpur airport. The project was aimed at increasing the income of farmers. A Jain organisation said there are several other options to increase farmers' income rather than sending livestock to slaughterhouses.

CCI provides approval for merging of Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers

Bharti Airtel-owned telecom tower company Bharti Infratel Limited got an approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to merge with Indus Towers Limited. As per the deal, Bharti Infratel will offer 1,565 shares for every one share of Indus Towers. Indus Towers Ltd is the largest tower company in India with around 27 per cent market share.

India to host 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology

India will host the "International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) 2018" in Navi Mumbai from October 23-27, 2018. The focal theme for this 19th edition of the prestigious congress is 25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries – Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

Google aims to add 40 million WiFi users in India by 2019

Google's public WiFi project aims to capture 40 million new users in India by 2019, a company executive has said. It will result in around \$20 billion being added to India's GDP, according to Google and research firm Analysys Mason's study. They also revealed over 100 million users will spend an extra \$3 billion annually on mobile broadband and handsets.

Sports Authority of India to be renamed Sports India: Rathore

Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has revealed the name of Sports Authority of India will be changed to Sports India. Rathore added the body will be made leaner as "some posts won't be retained after officers on them retire". He further said that daily expenses of food for athletes will be raised and a committee for it is being formed.

Govt approves hike in Minimum Support Price for kharif crops

The GOI has approved the raise in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for kharif crops in line with its budget announcement to ensure that farmers get at least 1.5 times of the production cost. The MSP for paddy has been hiked to around Rs 1,750 per quintal from previous year's Rs 1,550 and corn increased to Rs 1,700 from Rs 1,131.

Indian scientists discover exoplanet 600 light years away

Indian scientists at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, found a sub-Saturn or super-Neptune size planet about 600 light years away from the Earth. The discovery was made by measuring the mass of the planet using the indigenously designed "PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search" (PARAS) spectrograph integrated with 1.2 m Telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu.

Govt asks states to check mob violence over WhatsApp rumours

The Home Affairs Ministry has asked states and union territories to check mob violence incidents triggered by child-lifiting rumours on WhatsApp and other social media platforms. States have been asked to "identify vulnerable areas and conduct community outreach programmes for creating awareness". The ministry further stressed that kidnappings should be properly investigated to instill confidence.

Mukesh Ambani launches JioGigaFiber broadband services

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has launched JioGigaFiber fixed-line broadband services at the company's 41st Annual General Meeting. JioGigaFiber will be extended to homes, merchants, and small and medium enterprises across 1,100 cities. Ambani said the service would provide Ultra HD entertainment on TV, voice-activated assistance, VR gaming as well as smart home solutions.

India's 1st taxi ambulance service flagged off in Delhi

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off India's first taxi ambulance services in Delhi, a service by a Gurugram-based startup Wagon Cab. The cabs are equipped with medical supplies

and medically trained drivers. The drivers will approach accident victims as soon as they are notified and will get an additional ₹500 for every victim that they tend to.

NBWL adds 4 species in Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given its nod to include four diverse species — Northern River Terrapin (riverine turtle), Red Panda, Clouded Leopard and Arabian Sea Humpback Whale — in the recovery programme for critically endangered species. This decision will lead to targeted conservation of these species whose population is on the decline. They fall in the critically endangered to vulnerable categories as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

NITI Aayog to organise India's First Global Mobility Summit

Government think tank Niti Aayog will hold on September 7-8 here the India's first 'Global Mobility Summit', to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit will help drive government's goal for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth and also speed up India's transition to a clean energy economy. 'MOVE: Global Mobility Summit' will be organised in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners.

Cabinet approved renaming Agartala airport

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of renaming Agartala Airport in Tripura as Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport, Agartala. The decision comes in the demand of both the people of Tripura as well as Government of Tripura for paying tribute to Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore.

AAI to set up Civil Aviation Research Organization at Hyderabad

State-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) will set up Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. AAI has allocated Rs 1,200 crore for this project that will be spent over 12 years for research and development. The objective is to solve growing air traffic and to enhance safety, capacity and efficiency of aircraft operations in India.

Semi high speed train named 'Train 18' built by India's Integral Coach Factory

India's much-awaited indigenously manufactured semi high-speed train called "Train 2018", code-named Train 18, is expected to be rolled out in September. It is built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai to promote Make in India, and is capable of running at a speed of 160 km per hour.

NITI Aayog proposed National Health stack

NITI Aayog has disclosed the blueprint of National Health Stack (NHS), a shared digital healthcare infrastructure usable by both the Centre and states across public and private sectors. The aim is to implement the scheme 'Ayushman Bharat' and other public healthcare programmes in the country.

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It also includes electronic health registries, coverage and claims platform, digital health ID cards, federated personal health records (PHR) framework and the National Health Analytics Framework.

Internet to remain free, fair: Govt approves net neutrality

Access to internet will remain unrestricted and non-discriminatory, as the Indian government approved net neutrality. Net neutrality implies that telecom service providers must treat all internet traffic equally, without any regard to the type, origin or destination of the content. No internet access service provider can block, degrade, slow down or grant preferential speeds to particular content.

BSNL becomes India's 1st network to launch 'internet telephony'

BSNL became the country's first telephone network to launch 'internet telephony' service, which makes landline work like mobile. BSNL users will be able to call on any network's number by installing BSNL's app 'Wings' on their devices including smartphone, tablet or laptop. Until now, phone calls on mobile apps were possible only within users of a particular app.

Farming in India has been unprofitable for 2 decades: Study

India's agriculture hasn't been able to generate enough revenues to keep the farmers profitable for nearly two decades, a study by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and research firm ICRIER has found. According to the study, India is one of three countries where this has happened. Keeping food prices low is the main reason, the study said.

Annual Conference of Intraocular Implant & Refractive Society of India

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the Conference of Intra-ocular Implant & Refractive Society of India, in Chennai. Inaugurating the Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Convention-2018, he said the younger generation in the country was being affected by various eye problems.

Indian Railways to start Shri Ramayana express from November 14

The Indian Railways is planning to start a special train, 'Shri Ramayana Express', which will cover important destinations related to the epic in a 16-days journey in the month of November. The train will begin its journey from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station on November 14, 2018.

The tour will be spread across India as well as Sri Lanka. The cost of the trip will be Rs.15,120 per person, which will cover all meals, accommodation, wash and change facilities in Dharmashalas, all transfers, sightseeing arrangements and a dedicated tour manager.

FSSAI started The Eat Right Movement

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has unveiled 'The Eat Right Movement'. It is built on two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'.

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It aims at engaging and enabling citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices and to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.

Western ghats is marked as the fourth best tourist spot by Lonely Planet

The Western Ghats, one of India's Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots and UNESCO World Heritage site, has been marked fourth in the Lonely Planet's top five '2018 Best in Asia' list.

Older than the Himalayas and well known for its rich and unique flora and fauna, the Western Ghats supports the life of 7,402 species of flowering plants, 1814 species of non-flowering plants, 139 mammal species, 508 bird species, 179 amphibian species, 6000 insects species and 290 freshwater fish species.

Global Innovation Index (GII): India ranks 57th

India was ranked 57th in the latest **Global Innovation Index (GII)** rankings released in New York. India was ranked 60th in the year 2017 which shows that it has been constantly climbing up its GII rankings since 2015.

On the global front, Switzerland maintained its number one position in the Global Innovation Index rankings. Other countries that fell in the top 10 list were Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, the US, Finland, Denmark, and Germany.

China, scored the rank 17th rank this year, which is an upgrade from the previous 44th rank in 2017.

Mukesh Ambani dethrones Alibaba's Jack Ma as Asia's richest person

Reliance Industries Chairman and India's richest person Mukesh Ambani dethroned Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba's Co-founder Jack Ma to become Asia's richest person as RIL shares hit an all-time high. Ambani's net worth now stands at \$44.3 billion as compared to Jack Ma's \$44 billion wealth, according to Bloomberg. Ambani has added \$4 billion to his wealth this year.

Government sets up task force on ways to reduce import

The government has set up a high-level task force under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha to identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on import. The task force includes secretaries from departments of commerce, industrial policy and promotion, skill development, revenue, defence production, steel, petroleum, electronics and telecommunications.

The move assumes significance as India is heavily dependent on imports of several items such as oil, electronic hardware, machinery, ingredients for pharmaceuticals, gold and chemicals. On an average, India's imports stand at around \$450 billion per year.

Dharohar Bhawan: PM Narendra Modi inaugurates new HQ building of Archaeological Survey of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurated Dharohar Bhawan – the new Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The new Headquarters building of ASI has been equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including energy efficient lighting and rainwater harvesting. It includes a Central Archaeological Library with a collection of about 1.5 lakh books and journals.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launches Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018). An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts from 1st to 31st August 2018, and the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts and states on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation (Swachhata) parameters. The top performing states and districts are expected to be awarded on 2nd October 2018.

Elderly parents can take back property from son if ill-treated: HC

Elderly parents can take back property gifted by them to their son if he fails to look after them in their old age, the Bombay High Court has ruled. The court cited the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, which makes it a legal obligation for children to provide for parents above 60 years of age.

Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in the Delhi. An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts and the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts and states on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters.

India becomes vice chair of Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation

India has become the Vice-Chair, Regional head, of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years, from July 2018 to June 2020. The underlying Theme of the Inaugural Ceremony is “Customs – Fostering Trade Facilitation”.

WCO represents 182 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.

LS Speaker accepts no-trust motion against Modi govt for 1st time

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan accepted a no-confidence motion against PM Narendra Modi-led government for the first time. Mahajan said discussions regarding the motion led by the TDP will take place on Friday. TDP filed the motion against Centre's denial to give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh as promised to it before 2014 general elections.

Lok Sabha passes Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018

The Lok Sabha passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 after it was supported by majority of the Lower House. It aims to allow authorities to attach and confiscate properties of economic offenders who flee the country. Cases where the total value involved in such offences is ₹100 crore or more, will come under the bill's purview.

Ganga cleanliness situation extraordinarily bad: Green panel

Expressing dissatisfaction over the cleaning of River Ganga, the National Green Tribunal said the situation was extraordinarily bad and hardly anything effective had been done. "It's the most prestigious river in the country which 100 crore people respect but we're unable to protect it. Let's try to make the mechanism as strong and effective as possible," it said.

Lok Sabha passes bill allowing detention for Class 5, 8 kids

The Lok Sabha has passed a bill allowing the detention of school students in Class 5 and 8. Schools will now be allowed to withhold students' promotion to the next class if they fail in either class. Earlier, it was stipulated that no child will be held back in any class or expelled till the completion of elementary education.

Parliament passes State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017

Parliament has approved the bill to merge six subsidiary banks with the State Bank of India (SBI) with the Rajya Sabha clearing the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017. The bill repeals the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, and State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 besides amending the State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955. The State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore were constituted under the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. The Union Cabinet granted its approval in February 2017, which allowed the SBI to acquire these subsidiaries.

New Electronic Voting Machines manufacturing facility inaugurated

Election Commissioner Sunil Arora inaugurated a new manufacturing facility for EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) production at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), in Bangalore. Braille EPI Cards (Electors Photo Identity Card) were distributed for the first time in Karnataka to four visually impaired voters.

Union Government to launch Student Police Cadet Programme

The Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme will be launched nationally on July 21, 2018, by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of the Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar and the Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal.

The programme will not have any prescribed textbook and nor will it include an exam. The topics covered under this part include values and ethics, respect for elders, empathy and sympathy, tolerance, patience, attitude, team spirit and discipline.

Centre to set up high-level committee to probe mob lynchings

The Centre has announced a four-member committee headed by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to suggest laws against lynching and mob violence. A Group of Ministers was also constituted to make recommendations to the Prime Minister for legislation on lynching. This comes after the Supreme Court asked the Parliament to come up with a law on lynchings.

Groundwater where Sterlite plant located contaminated: Govt

The Centre has confirmed that, according to a study by the Central Ground Water Board, the groundwater in the SIPCOT area of Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin where the Sterlite copper plant is located is polluted. Notably, the plant was closed two months ago following a protest which resulted in the death of 13 protestors in police firing.

19th Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations begin

19th Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations begin at Drass War Memorial in Jammu and Kashmir. The Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated for three days; from 24th July till 26th July; every year, to commemorate India's emphatic victory against Pakistan.

It remembers the supreme sacrifice of 500 war heroes who laid down their lives and those who are still alive. Various cultural programmes have been organised for the three-day event.

Govt reduced minimum yearly deposit for Sukanya Samriddhi account

The government has slashed the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) to Rs 250 from Rs 1,000. The maximum amount that can be deposited in a year is Rs 1.5 lakh.

Sukanya Samriddhi scheme was launched in January 2015, under which a parent or legal guardian can open an account in the name of the girl child until she attains the age of ten years.

The account opened under the scheme will be valid for 21 years from the date of opening, after which it will mature and the money will be paid to the girl child in whose name the account is opened.

Lok Sabha passed NCTE (Amendment) Bill

The Lok Sabha passed the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill to post-facto approval to Central/State institutions that are conducting teacher education courses without NCTE approval.

HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said that it has been done as a one-time measure to ensure the benefit of the students who have appeared for B.Ed, M.Ed and various other exams in institutes that are not recognised. He also said that there are also plans to start an integrated four-year B.A.-B.Ed, B.Sc.-B.Ed and B.Com-B.Ed courses to benefit the students.

Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill passed in Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018, which empowers authorities to confiscate the assets of economic offenders who flee the country. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on July 19. The bill proposes the formation of a special court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to declare a person a fugitive economic offender.

NCW recommends abolishing practice of confession in churches

National Commission of Women (NCW) has recommended abolishing the practice of confessions in churches as it can lead to blackmailing of women. "The priests pressure women into telling their secrets," said the NCW chairperson. This comes amid the recent case wherein five priests of a Kerala church were accused of using a woman's confession to sexually abuse her for years.

Lok Sabha passes anti-human trafficking bill

Lok Sabha passed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018. The legislation calls for punishment ranging from 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of not less than ₹1 lakh to offenders. "Bill isn't intended to harass those voluntarily in the profession...it has a compassionate view of sex racket victims," said Union Minister Maneka Gandhi.

Women and Child Development Ministry launches 'Childline1098' Contest

To mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, Women and Child Development Ministry has invited people to send logo and tagline for 'Childline 1098', which is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. At present, Childline 1098 is operational at 450 locations, including 76 key railway stations, across India. Union Minister of Women and Child Development is Maneka Gandhi.

Ramachandra Guha wrote a new book on Mahatma Gandhi

A book titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" has been written by Ramachandra Guha. This book will be released in September 2018 and narrates the story of Gandhi's life, from his departure from South Africa to his assassination in 1948.

This book will be published by Penguin Random House India. The author has written several bestselling books like "India After Gandhi" and "Gandhi Before India".

National Sports Day has been postponed to September 25, 2018

The Sports Ministry has postponed the National Sports Day to September 25, 2018. It has also announced that the outstanding performances of players at the Asian games could be considered for the National Sports Awards.

Every year, the Sports Day is traditionally celebrated on August 29. But this year, with the Asian Games going on, the ministry has decided to postpone the event this time. The Asian Games are scheduled from August 18-September 2. Hence the National Sports Day will be held on September 25.

Srikrishna panel submits data protection report to govt

A panel headed by retired SC judge BN Srikrishna submitted its report to the government on suggestions for a data protection law that will also cover Aadhaar. The panel recommended certain measures for protecting personal information, defining obligations of data processors and the rights of individuals. It also suggested various penalties for violation of data privacy.

DoT gives final approval to Vodafone-Idea merger

The Department of Telecom has given its final approval to the merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular, which will create India's largest mobile operator with around 430 million subscribers. The firms made a joint payment of Rs 7,268.78 crore "under protest" to DoT. Commenting on this, Idea Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said it marks the beginning of an "exciting journey".

Lok Sabha passes bill seeking death penalty in child rape cases

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018, which provides for stringent punishment including death penalty for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years, was passed in Lok Sabha. The new provision also proposes that trials in courts for rape cases should be presided by a woman judge. The bill will now be sent to Rajya Sabha.

All Indian kids win gold at Int'l Physics Olympiad for 1st time

All the five participating students from India have won gold medals at the 49th International Physics Olympiad held in Portugal this year, in a first since India started competing in 1998. Of the 396 students participating from across the world, only 42 were awarded gold medals. The olympiad consists of theoretical and experimental exam which are of five-hour duration each.

IRDAI Forms Panel To Review 3rd Party Motor Cover Costs

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) constituted a 16-member committee to examine motor third party insurance pricing aspects and make recommendations on the premium rates for 2019-20.

IRDAI Member P.J. Joseph appointed as the Chairman of the committee. This is for the first time IRDAI has formed such a committee. The committee has also been tasked to revisit the classification of vehicles, in view of the development in the industry.

Union Minister JP Nadda launches National Viral Hepatitis Control Program

To eradicate viral hepatitis by the year of 2030, Union Minister J P Nadda launches National Viral Hepatitis Control Program. He released the Operational Guidelines for National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, National Laboratory Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Testing and National Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Viral Hepatitis.

India post joined hands to promote tiger reservation on Global Tiger Day

On Global Tiger Day, July 29, India post released a special cover in order to promote tiger reservation at Bandipur. In all, 6,500 covers have been printed and will be made available to the public at a cost of Rs. 25 each.

International Tiger Day is held annually on 29 July. It is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation. It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.

India into deep ocean exploration

India has allocated Rs.8,000 crore for a deep ocean exploration. This plan will extend for 5 years. The Union Earth Sciences Ministry revealed the blueprint of the 'Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)'. The plan includes an offshore desalination plant based on tidal energy and developing a submersible vehicle that can go to a depth of at least 6,000 metres with three people on board.

Deep Ocean Mission will focus on advanced technologies that will be used for deep-sea mining, underwater vehicles, underwater robotics and ocean climate change advisory services.

Indian Railways launches Mission Satyanishtha

The Indian Railways launched 'Mission Satyanishtha' and a programme on Ethics in Public Governance, in a first-of-its-kind event, at a day-long function held at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.

Indian Railways Minister Piyush goyal administered the oath to the officers and supervisors at the programme. The first-of-its-kind event was inaugurated by Ashwani Lohani, Chairman, Railway Board.

The Satyanishtha mission aims to sensitize all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work.

BEML agreed to ally with HEC agree for mining equipment

Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (HEC) to manufacture and market heavy engineering and mining equipment. The MoU was signed in the presence of Coal India Ltd. Chairman Anil Kumar Jha.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Air pollution significant contributor behind diabetes: Study

A study conducted by the researchers at USA's Washington University has found that air pollution leads to a significantly increased risk of diabetes. According to the study, air pollution levels, even when deemed 'safe' by agencies like WHO, lead to reduction in insulin production which hampers the body's ability to convert blood glucose into energy.

Sri Lanka moves naval base to China-run Hambantota port

Sri Lanka is moving a naval base currently situated in the district of Galle to the Hambantota port which is built and controlled by China. This comes amid concerns by India and the US that China could use the port for military activities. Sri Lanka formally handed over the port to China in December last year.

UAE plans to tow icebergs from Antarctica for drinking water

The National Advisor Bureau Limited of the UAE has proposed to tow icebergs from Antarctica to use them as new sources of water in the Middle East. With an estimated cost of \$50-60 million, the project will begin with the pilot phase in 2019. The company is also developing a technology to ensure that the ice doesn't melt during transportation.

Japan to open an International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT) in September 2018

Japan will open an international arbitration body specializing in intellectual property in September 2018, the first one in Asia with an aim to resolve the growing number of patent disputes in the region within a period of one year.

The International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT) will resolve disputes not only to Japanese companies but also to non-Japanese companies if both parties agree.

Russia to build two nuclear power units in China

Russia will build two nuclear power units in China which are expected to be operational by 2026 and 2027 respectively. Russia's state nuclear power corporation Rosatom and China's National Energy Administration signed a deal to build the two 1,200-megawatt units at the Tianwan nuclear power plant. Russia has built 35 nuclear power units around the world under intergovernmental agreements.

World's first digital art museum opens in Tokyo

The world's first all-digital art museum has opened at the MORI Building Digital Art Museum in Japan's Tokyo. It features around 50 kaleidoscopic installations triggered by motion sensors, which are projected across every surface of the 100,000-square-foot exhibit space with the help of lights. The museum appears to be a set of halls with black walls without the lights.

Rhino embryo created for 1st time to save nearly extinct species

Researchers have created the world's first rhino embryos in a test tube to save near-extinct northern white rhinos, which has only two females alive globally. For this, the team fertilised southern white rhinos' eggs with dead northern white rhinos' sperm. Researchers also plan to use this process on last two northern white females to produce pure northern white rhino embryos.

Baidu to launch fully self-driving buses in Japan in 2019

Chinese technology giant Baidu has partnered with Softbank's public-transportation subsidiary SB Drive to launch a self-driving bus service in Japan next year. Baidu is also working with

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Chinese automaker King Long to build the buses and has made 100 of them so far. The buses, which can seat 14 passengers, will come without a driver's seat or a steering wheel.

Nasscom opened a CoE for Data Science and AI

National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) opened a Centre of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and signed a MoU with NITI Aayog to collaboratively foster applied research, accelerating adoption and ethics, privacy and security.

The aim is to strengthen the country's Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem. Nasscom will also include NITI Aayog as a knowledge partner.

Mark Zuckerberg becomes the 3rd richest person in the world

Facebook's 34-year-old CEO Mark Zuckerberg has dethroned Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett to become the world's third-richest person with \$81.6 billion wealth, according to Bloomberg. Zuckerberg gained \$8.8 billion this year despite Facebook's data-privacy crisis that slumped its stock by 18%. Amazon's Jeff Bezos remains the world's richest, while Microsoft's Bill Gates second-richest.

Former Pak PM Nawaz Sharif sentenced to 10 years in jail

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was sentenced to ten years in prison in a corruption case. His daughter Maryam and her husband Captain Safdar were also sentenced to seven years and one year in jail respectively. The case pertains to the purchase of flats in London and came to light after the Panama Papers leak in 2016

China launches 2 spy satellites for Pakistan

China launched the PRSS-1 and the PakTES-1A satellites for Pakistan from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. According to the Chinese state media, the PRSS-1 will be used for land and resources surveying and monitoring of natural disasters, among other purposes. The PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan.

Ethiopia, Eritrea declare end to 20-year war

The leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a declaration to fully implement a peace deal reached in 2000, ending the 20-year war between the two countries. Both the nations also agreed to re-establish trade and diplomatic ties. Eritrea seceded from Ethiopia in 1993, and the two countries fought a border war from 1998 to 2000.

WHO classifies sex addiction as mental illness

Sex addiction has been recognised as a mental health disorder by the World Health Organisation in its International Classification of Diseases list. A person is addicted when they have a "persistent pattern of failure to control intense, repetitive sexual impulses or urges resulting in repetitive sexual behaviour", WHO stated. Earlier, WHO declared gaming addiction as a mental health disorder.

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UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2427 to protect children in armed conflict

The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.

Resolution 2427, which won unanimous approval of the 15 members of the council, strongly condemns the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and abductions.

Iceland replaces US at UN Human Rights Council

Following the US administration's decision to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) last month, the UN General Assembly has elected Iceland to replace the US on the Geneva-based organisation. Iceland's term begins immediately and it will serve until December 31, 2019. US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley had termed the UNHRC a "hypocritical and self-serving organisation".

China, Pakistan open first land-based communication link

The first-ever land-based communication link between China and Pakistan was inaugurated. The Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable project includes an 820-kilometre underground cable that starts from Pakistan's Rawalpindi and ends at Khunjerab bordering China and connects with optical fibre in the Chinese side. It is a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

UNSC adopts Resolution 2428 to impose arms embargo on South Sudan

The Security Council has adopted a resolution to impose an arms embargo on South Sudan in addition to current sanctions, till May 31, 2019. Resolution 2428 won nine votes in favor, the minimum requirement for adoption. The remaining six members of the Security Council — Bolivia, China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Russia — abstained. To be adopted, a Security Council resolution needs nine votes in favor and no veto from any of the five permanent members of the council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

UN Secretary General sets up panel on digital cooperation to tackle cybersecurity threats

UN chief Antonio Guterres has established a first-of-its-kind panel on digital cooperation aimed at addressing concerns of cybersecurity threats and rise in hate speech and named senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill as the executive director of the panel's secretariat.

The high-level panel on digital cooperation will be co-chaired by US philanthropist Melinda Gates and China-based Alibaba founder Jack Ma. It will have 20 members in total and include leaders from industry, civil society and academia.

Hungary to withdraw from UN migration pact

Hungary will withdraw from the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration agreement which will be adopted in December, Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto has said. The Hungarian government which has opposed migration, argued that the UN agreement could aid

the flow of migrants to Europe and force countries to shelter them. The US withdrew from the pact last year.

Iran to jointly produce defence equipment with Pakistan

Iran is planning to jointly manufacture defence equipment with Pakistan and present them as a joint achievement of Muslim nations, the Iranian state media reported. The announcement followed a meeting between Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain.

UK topped Global Ranking of Nations' soft power

In 2018 'Soft Power 30' index, published by UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy, France placed second and Germany as third followed by the US.

India does not figure on the list, but this year's report also features a chapter dedicated solely to Asia, listing 10 countries in the region, ranking India's soft power as eighth.

EU and Japan signed major trade deal

Japan and the EU signed a trade deal, as an act against protectionism, as Washington puts up barriers and threatens a trade war. The deal which is signed in Tokyo is the largest ever negotiated by the EU.

It is aimed to create a massive free trade zone, eliminating tariffs for everything from Japanese cars to French cheese. The agreement is expected to enter into force in 2019.

European Union and Japan signed a 'landmark' free trade deal

The deal signed in Tokyo by the EU's top officials and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is the biggest ever negotiated by the EU and creates a free trade zone covering nearly a third of the world's GDP.

This deal comes as Washington imposes new tariffs and threatens a trade war with China. Under this free trade agreement, the EU will open its market to Japan's auto industry, with Tokyo in return scrapping barriers to EU farming products, especially dairy, cheese and wine.

Google fined \$5 Billion By EU In Android Antitrust Case

The European Union (EU) regulators slapped Alphabet-owned Google with a record 4.34 billion euro (\$5 billion) antitrust fine for abusing the dominance of its Android mobile operating system.

According to the EU, Google's parent company favoured its own services by forcing smartphone makers to pre-install Google apps Chrome and Search in a bundle with its app store.

Amazon is the second company To Hit \$900 Billion Valuation After Apple

Amazon company crossed \$900-billion market cap for the first time in its history becoming only the second company after Apple to achieve this milestone. Amazon sold over 100 million products during its Prime Day sale. Apple is currently the world's most valuable company with a market cap of \$935 billion.

Trump invites Russian President Putin to US

US President Donald Trump has invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to Washington this autumn, the White House has said. Trump and Putin met earlier this week in Helsinki, Finland for their first bilateral talks. Trump had said that he looked forward to his second meeting with Putin to work on several issues, including Ukraine and the Middle East.

Myanmar Joins International Solar Alliance

Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA) and it became the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy. Myanmar Minister for International Cooperation Kyaw Tin handed over the ISA Framework Agreement to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during a bilateral meeting on Delhi Dialogue 2018.

Democratic Republic of Congo declares end of Ebola outbreak

The Democratic Republic of Congo has declared the end of an Ebola outbreak which was first reported in the month of May in Bikoro province. More than 30 people were killed and over 50 people were infected in the outbreak, the Health Ministry said. It was the ninth Ebola outbreak since the discovery of the virus in Congo in 1976.

Pakistan gets its first woman chief justice of high court

Justice Tahira Safdar has been nominated as the first woman chief justice of a Pakistani high court. She will take charge of her new role following the retirement of incumbent Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Noor Meskanzai on August 31. In 1982, Safdar became the first woman civil judge in Balochistan.

China offered a gift of USD 295 million to Sri Lanka

Chinese President Xi Jinping offered a gift of \$295 million to Sri Lanka, as Beijing tries to expand its influence in the island nation.

President Maithripala Sirisena of Sri Lanka, a partner in China's Belt and Road project, made the announcement at a ceremony to mark the start of construction of a Chinese-funded kidney hospital in his home constituency of Polonnaruwa. China has gifted \$295 million for the utilization of the project.

FB to open startup incubator in China despite website ban

Facebook has obtained a licence to set up a startup incubator in China despite its website being banned in the country since 2009. The \$30-million subsidiary will be located in Hangzhou city,

to reportedly make small investments and give advice to local businesses. It is the first time Facebook got its name into the country after China blocked the platform.

PTI chief Imran Khan declares victory in Pakistan elections

After votes in 49% polling stations were counted, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan declared his party's victory in the Pakistan general elections. "I thank God. After 22 years of struggle, my prayers have been answered," said Khan, who is expected to be the country's Prime Minister. He also said he wants to fix Pakistan's relations with India.

New Zealand demands Australia to change its flag

As the Flag of New Zealand looks similar to that of Australia, Acting New Zealand PM Winston Peters is demanding Australia to change their flag. Notably, the New Zealand flag was adopted 52 years before the Australian flag and was adopted in 1902, replacing the union jack. The Australian flag was adopted in 1954, after going through three previous iterations since 1901. Both the Australian and New Zealand flags are based on the British blue ensign.

Ireland to hold international conference of female parliamentarians

Named "The International Congress of Parliamentary Women's Caucuses" will be held at Dublin Castle on September 9-10 and the event will be attended by an estimated 300 delegates from over 27 countries. This conference is organised by the Irish Women's Parliamentary Caucus (IWPC), a cross-party forum for female parliamentarians within the Irish parliament.

US plans to establish 'Arab NATO' to counter Iran

The US is planning to establish an "Arab NATO" force to counter Iran's military expansion in the region, a spokesperson for the US National Security Council said. The proposed security and political alliance, known as the Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA) will consist of the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan.

UN verifies 7,000 child casualties in Syria war since 2013

More than 7,000 children have been killed or injured in Syria's civil war since 2013, the United Nations has confirmed. Virginia Gamba, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said the first quarter of 2018 saw a 348% increase in the killing and maiming of children. The recruitment and military use of children rose by 25%.

Somalia announces 1st female genital mutilation prosecution

Somalia will prosecute a female genital mutilation (FGM) case for the first time in the country's history after a 10-year-old girl died from the procedure. Deeqa Dahir Nuur suffered severe bleeding after her mother took her to a traditional cutter. Deputy PM Mahdi Mohamed Gulaid said that the practice is not a part of the Islamic religion.

Entire island of Vanuatu told to evacuate again as volcano erupts

The Pacific nation of Vanuatu on Friday reimposed emergency and ordered a mandatory evacuation of residents of Ambae island as a volcano erupted and filled the sky with ash.

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Ambae, once home to about 10,000 people, was temporarily evacuated last September when the eruption cycle began. People are being encouraged to permanently relocate to two neighbouring islands since March.

India plans to buy missile shield from U.S. for USD 1 billion

India is aiming to buy an advanced air defence system from the U.S. to defend the National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks like 9/11-type. The cost estimated for buying National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II) is \$1 billion. The buying process has been initiated.

India is also planning to buy a very long range S-400 air defence systems from Russia. India is also developing an indigenous Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system. Phase-I of the BMD will be deployed soon.

International Army Games 2018 declared open in Moscow

The International Army Games 2018 at Patriot Park in Moscow region was declared open by Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Indian teams are taking part in two major competitions– Tank Biathlon event at Alabino ranges and Moscow region and Elbrus Ring competition in Caucasus mountains.

The games are being held from July 28 to August 11 at 24 training grounds in seven countries namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, and Russia.

Russia establishes new Army wing to promote patriotism

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree establishing a new directorate in the Russian Army to promote patriotism. Colonel-General Andrei Kartapolov, a Russian Army veteran who previously served in the country's conflict in Syria, will head the directorate. A similar directorate existed in the Soviet Army to ensure that the soldiers remained loyal to then-ruling Communist party.

France bans smartphones in schools

French lawmakers passed a law banning smartphones, tablets and other internet-enabled devices in schools. The new rules apply to pupils aged between three and 15 years and mandate that the devices must be turned off or left at home. However, the law provides exceptions for educational use, extra-curricular activities and for students with disabilities.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

India to invest in 'world's emptiest airport' in Sri Lanka

India will develop Sri Lanka's loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota, called the 'world's emptiest airport'. With India's investment, the project is expected to handle 5 million passengers, 50,000-ton cargo, and over 6000 air traffic operations every year by 2028. This comes in the backdrop of China developing the Hambantota seaport project in the country.

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India and Nepal to jointly promote tourism

The second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on tourism cooperation between India and Nepal was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Both the countries agreed to jointly promote Buddhist and Ramayana circuits and adventure tourism.

They agreed to improve critical tourism enabling infrastructures such as overland road connectivity, further streamline of scheduled bus route operations, including luxury bus coaches. The meeting also decided to set up an industry-led India Nepal Tourism Forum.

India to hold annual Delhi dialogue with ASEAN leaders in July

India will hold another round of Delhi Dialogue with ASEAN leaders on 19th and 20th July 2018. The dialogue is an important platform for engagement with ASEAN on political, security and economic issues. Foreign minister Sushma Swaraj will chair the ministerial session on July 19.

This will be the 10th round of Delhi Dialogue which has been held annually since 2009. Economic ties between India and ASEAN will again be under focus as ASEAN is looking at India to conclude negotiations soon for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The RCEP aims at liberalizing norms for trade in goods and services and boost investment among 16-member countries.

HRD Minister inaugurated 17th World Sanskrit Conference in Canada

Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference held at Vancouver, Canada, from July 9-13, 2018.

There will be a special panel discussion on topics such as – History and Education of Women in Vedic Literature, Sanskrit Buddhist Manus, Mimamsa Beyond the Yagasala, the Yuktidipika forging a place for Sankhya, introducing Bhagavata Purana Commentaries and research on the Gargiyajyotisa.

India and South Korea signed 5 MoUs in the field of Science & Technology

India signed 5 MoUs with South Korea in the field of Science and Technology in New Delhi. Science and Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and his South Korean counterpart Mr. You Young Min signed three MoUs for (i) Programme of Cooperation 2018-21; (ii) Establishment of Future Strategy Group; (iii) Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bioeconomy.

Two other MoUs were signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Korean National Research Council for Science and Technology, IIT Mumbai, Korea Institute of Science and Technology, to further accelerate future-oriented cooperation.

Indian Navy aircraft joins world's largest naval exercise

In a first, Indian Navy's P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft has been inducted at Hawaii for participating in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, which is the world's largest international maritime exercise. As many as 26 countries will take part in the drill this year and

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will undertake tactical exercises, including anti-submarine warfare and maritime reconnaissance missions.

India and South Korea signed MoUs and pledged to double trade

India and South Korea signed MoUs and agreements and vowed to more than double trade in the next decade. The MoUs included a statement on expanding the 2010 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and a joint vision statement that committed to more military exchanges and enhancing defence projects together.

The two countries agreed to try to increase their bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030, up from current levels of \$20 billion.

India, Rwanda sign MoU for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue

For the first time, the Rajya Sabha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its counterpart in a foreign country, Rwanda, for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu became the first Rajya Sabha chairman to sign such an agreement when he inked the MoU with the visiting President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Bernard Makuza.

The MoU, with six articles of cooperation, seeks to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue, capacity building of the parliamentary staff, organisation of conferences, forums, seminars, staff-attachment programmes, workshops and exchanges.

India to buy S-400 missile from Russia despite US sanctions

India will buy the Russian S-400 Triumf air defence missile despite US sanctions on military transactions with Russia, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. She said the law under which the US has imposed sanctions is an American law and not a UN law. India has conveyed its position on the matter to the US, she added.

India, US to hold their first-ever 2+2 talks in September

India and US will hold their first-ever 2+2 dialogue in the first week of September, Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. The US had earlier postponed the talks as Secretary of State Michael Pompeo was due to travel to North Korea. The talks will feature India's Ministers for External Affairs and Defence and the US Secretaries of State and Defence.

India and UK signed an agreement on exchange of experience by legal professionals

India and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the exchange of experience by legal professionals and government functionaries for resolution of disputes before various courts and tribunals. The agreement was signed by Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and UK's Secretary of State for Justice David Gauke in London.

The MoU sought to enhance bilateral cooperation in legal affairs which would provide a framework for promoting greater cooperation between the judicial and legal professionals in

both countries through the exchange of expertise and training. The MoU was cleared by the Union Cabinet.

India-Bangladesh signs Revised Travel Arrangement (RTA)-2018

Home Minister Rajnath Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart have signed the Revised Travel Arrangement (RTA)-2018. Home minister announced the withdrawal of the existing e-token system for submission of Visa applications. The Minister along with his Bangladesh counterpart opened a new integrated state-of-the-art Indian Visa Application Centre at Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka, the largest Indian visa centre in the world.

India, Pak to be part of anti-terror SCO drill in Russia

Militaries of India and Pakistan will be part of a mega anti-terror drill in Russia next month which is being organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) with an aim to expand cooperation among the member countries to deal with terrorism and extremism.

Around 200 Army and Air Force personnel from India will be participating in the exercise scheduled from August 20-29 at Chelyabinsk city in west-central Russia. The exercise will be joined by all SCO member countries including Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

China, India signed a deal to reduce tariffs on Indian medicines, anti cancer drugs

Indian drugs, specially cancer curing medicines, are in big demand in China. About 4.3 million people are diagnosed with cancer annually in China, according to a report of the state-run China Central Television.

Beijing, which earlier announced a cut on import duties on over 8,500 Indian items, will relax taxes on more goods from India and other countries as its trade war with the US heats up.

China builds unmanned weather station near India border

China has built an unmanned automatic weather observation station in Tibet near its border with India, the Chinese state media reported. The station will provide meteorological support for national defence and further promote border development. Situated in the township of Yumai, the station will also offer support during live-fire conflicts, officials said.

ISRO signed with 3 partners

The nodal satellites division U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed with three partners, two private and one government-run firm, to help it assemble 27 satellites at a quick pace over the next three years.

The partners are Alpha Design Technologies P Ltd and its six consortium members, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, Hyderabad.

A URSC official signed the agreements with the three entities in the presence of URSC Director M. Annadurai.

India and US to hold first '2+2 dialogue' on September 6

The inaugural 'Two-plus-Two Dialogue' between India and the US will be held on September 6 in New Delhi. Last month, the US had postponed the much-awaited dialogue due to "unavoidable reasons". Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary James Mattis would travel to India for the dialogue.

The dialogue was announced last year during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House. After June last year, the two countries have tried to schedule the dialogue many times with several dates having been considered.

4th BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August

4th BIMSTEC Summit will be held in Kathmandu from 30 to 31 August. Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali has said that connectivity and poverty alleviation will be top priority of the summit.

The Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional economic bloc comprising seven member states lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

India and Ghana signed two Memorandum of Understanding

India and Ghana signed two agreements in an effort to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar announced that two MOUs on Cultural Exchange Programme and on cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards and Ghana Standards Authority.

PM Modi to gift 200 cows to Rwandan President

PM Narendra Modi will gift 200 cows to Rwandan President Paul Kagame on his upcoming visit as a contribution to the latter's flagship 'Girinka' programme, wherein each poor family is given one cow. The cows will be sourced from Rwanda since they are adapted to local surroundings. Earlier, PM Modi gave ex-Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif a shawl for his mother.

India and Japan hold 4th Round Of Maritime Affairs Dialogue

India and Japan held the fourth round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue in New Delhi. During the dialogue, key issues related to the Indo-Pacific region and maritime security were discussed.

The Indian delegation at the dialogue was led by Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) in the External Affairs Ministry and the Japanese side was led by Ambassador Kansuke Nagaoka, Policy Planning and International Security Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

India topped the list of skilled visa immigrants in Australia

For those coming to Australia on the skilled visa, India with 2,34,395 individuals (19 per cent) bagged the top rank, followed by England and China at 160,558 (13 per cent) and 146,842 (12 per cent) people, respectively. According to a data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 1,54,012 Indians have acquired Australian citizenship.

Under the family visa programme, China with 95,532 immigrants (14 per cent) ranked first, followed by UK at 60,108 (8.8 per cent) and India at 56,406 (8.3 per cent).

India and Rwanda sign several MoUs

India and Rwanda signed eight agreements in the field of Defense, Cultural exchange programme, MoU in Cooperation in Leathers among others. The documents were exchanged following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Rwanda on the first leg of his three-nation Africa tour, becoming the first Indian premier to visit the East African country.

PM Modi addresses Indian Community in Kampala; India-Uganda exchange 3 MoUs

PM Modi thanked President Museveni for his long association with India and for taking special care of people of Indian origin in Uganda. India and Uganda exchanged 3 MoUs covering the defence sector, cultural exchanges and diplomatic passport holders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India will continue to assist Uganda in its growth journey in every possible field. He also announced a gift of a state of the art Cancer therapy machine to the Uganda Cancer Institute.

Iran becomes India's second largest oil supplier

Iran has overtaken Saudi Arabia to be the second largest supplier of crude oil to Indian public sector firms during April-June quarter. Iraq remains India's No:1 supplier of crude. State firms that buy oil from Iran include Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL). New Delhi shipped in 7.27 million tonnes of oil from Iraq, while shipments from Saudi Arabia totalled 5.22 million tonnes.

Thaawar Chand Gehlot attended Global Disability Summit 2018 In London

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended the Global Disability Summit held in London, UK. The main motto of the Conference is to firm up the commitments of the country leaders towards the cause of persons with disabilities. The Global leaders expressed their commitments towards elimination stigma and discrimination, promoting inclusive education, economic empowerment, technology and innovation in assistive devices, data desegregation.

Indian Air Force to participated In Australia's Pitch Black Exercise

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of four Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft landed at Darwin Air Force Base, Australia for participating in the Exercise Pitch Black-2018. This is the first time that an Indian Air Force contingent is participating in this multinational air exercise in

Australia. The Indian Air Force contingent consists of 145 personnel. The contingent will undertake simulated air combat exercises in a controlled environment.

Sixth India-UK Science & Innovation Council Meeting Held In New Delhi

The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi discussed a range of issues on S&T cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences & Environment, Forests and Climate Change, India and Mr. Sam Gyimah, Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, UK led the Indian and UK delegations respectively.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

cVigil: Election Commission launches app to report model code violations

The Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat, along with the Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa launched a mobile app, called 'Cvigil', for citizens to report any violation of the model code of conduct during elections. "cVIGIL" is a user-friendly and easy to operate Android application. It will be operational only where elections are announced. However, the beta version of the app will be made available for the public and election staff to download so that they can acquaint themselves with its features and also try sending dummy data.

NSG becomes 1st central force to opt for e-ticketing

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) signed a MoU with the National Security Guard (NSG) at the headquarters of the special force, New Delhi. This system will eliminate the need for carrying railway warrants by the NSG personnel.

The NSG is the first central paramilitary force to opt for e-ticketing instead of the railway warrant under an agreement signed with the IRCTC. The IRCTC is also developing an e-ticketing-cum-warrant management system for the Central Reserve Police Force.

Piyush Goyal launched the 'Khan Prahari' App and Surveillance system for unauthorised coal mining

Union Minister of Coal, Piyush Goyal launched the Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application 'Khan Prahari', which has been developed by CMPDI, Ranchi, a Subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Bhaskarcharya Institute of Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG). It aims to report, monitor and take suitable action on unauthorised coal mining activities.

ISROs first 'pad abort' test conducted successfully

The PAT (Pad Abort Test) was conducted at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It marks the first step to qualify India's indigenous Crew Escape System technology for launching astronauts into space.

The Crew Escape System is an emergency accident avoidance measure designed to quickly get astronauts and their spacecraft away from the launch vehicle if a malfunction occurs during the

initial stage of the launch. A prior critical experiment was carried out on December 18, 2014, when the CARE (Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment) capsule successfully demonstrated that it could survive atmospheric re-entry.

BSNL unveiled internet telephony service ‘Wings’

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will roll out its new internet telephony service with brand name “Wings” from August 1. Those subscribing to “Wings”, entailing one-time registration fee of Rs 1,099, will be able to make calls using any internet connection including broadband, WiFi, 3G or 4G data network of any operator, thus overcoming connectivity problems even in areas having patchy signals.

CBIC launched GST ‘Verify App’

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched a mobile app ‘GST Verify’ developed by B Raghu Kiran, joint commissioner GST Hyderabad. It is an android app to verify if the person collecting GST from the consumer is eligible to collect it or not.

Telescope that found 5,000 planets ‘put to sleep’ over low fuel

Expected to run out of fuel in a few months, NASA has placed its Kepler Space Telescope in a no-fuel-use safe mode to download its latest scientific data. Launched in 2009, Kepler has discovered over 5,000 candidates and confirmed exoplanets. The Earth-orbiting observatory will point its antenna towards the planet for data transfer and will begin operations in August, said NASA.

Fungus causing fatal skin disease to frogs in western ghats

‘Scientific Reports’ revealed that the chytrid fungal pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, which causes the infectious and fatal skin disease chytridiomycosis, is present in frogs across the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Himalaya, northeastern hill ranges, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Seven years ago, Indian scientists discovered a dreaded chytrid fungus, which is notorious for causing frog declines and extinctions worldwide, in the Western Ghats. Now, a team has detected that the pathogen is spread in all major biodiversity hotspots in India.

WhatsApp launches ‘forward label’ feature for texts globally

Facebook-owned WhatsApp has launched a ‘forward label’ feature which will highlight the forwarded messages on the platform. The feature will help users in determining that the sender is not the creator of the message. The move is part of WhatsApp’s efforts to prevent the spreading of fake messages that prompted many mob lynching cases in India.

Mexican scientists develop hybrid chayote fruit to battle cancer

Researchers from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) developed a hybrid chayote fruit from two wild Mexican species, which could be used to battle cancer. The raw extract of this fruit is as effective as Cytarabine, a medication used to treat some types of cancer.

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According to figures from the World Health Organization, cancer is the second cause of death in the world, killing nearly 9 million people a year.

Aurobindo Pharma gets USFDA approval for manufacturing Azithromycin tablets

Aurobindo Pharma, a drug firm, has received its final approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Azithromycin tablets, in strengths of 250 mg and 500 mg, which is used for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate infections, in the US market.

IR-BMS: Indian Railways launches consolidated Bridge Management System

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched BMS for “meaningful assimilation, analysis and dissemination of information related to various activities” about its bridges. The web-based platform will show the bridge master data, works data, information regarding inspection/monitoring and maintenance of the bridges and other essentials. Goyal at the launch, also felicitated artists whose work at seven railway stations across the country won them the top prize in the national transporter’s in-house station beautification contest.

Mumbai-based automaker unveils India’s first hypercar ‘Shul’

Mumbai-based automaker Vazirani Automotive has unveiled India’s first turbine-electric hypercar called ‘Vazirani Shul’ at the 2018 Goodwood Festival of Speed. The car is essentially an all-wheel-drive with four individual motors for each wheel, hence enabling torque vectoring. However, the model is still at a conceptual stage and the company will not release it until the end of this year.

South Africa unveils \$330 mn telescope set to be world’s largest

South Africa has unveiled the 64-dish MeerKAT radio telescope, slated to be the world’s largest and most powerful telescope on its completion in 2030. Built for \$330 million, MeerKAT will be integrated into an array of 3,000 dishes spread in a square-kilometre area. It is said to have 50 times better resolution than NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope when fully operational.

Scientists discover world’s oldest colours from Sahara desert in Africa

1.1 billion-year-old bright pink pigments extracted from rocks deep beneath the Sahara desert in Africa. The pigments taken from marine black shales of the Taoudeni Basin in Mauritania, West Africa, were more than half a billion years older than previous pigment discoveries.

DRDO successfully test fired BrahMos Missile from Odisha

Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO), and the Indian Army have test fired a supersonic BrahMos cruise missile under “extreme weather conditions”, in Balasore district in the eastern Indian state of Odisha.

The missile – named after the Brahmaputra River in India and the Moskva River in Russia – is a derivative of the Russian-made P-800 Oniks over-the-horizon supersonic anti-ship cruise missile.

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Walmart partners with Microsoft for cloud solutions

Retail giant Walmart said it has entered into a five-year partnership with Microsoft to leverage its cloud solutions for making shopping faster for its customers globally. As part of the partnership, Walmart will tap into the full range of Microsoft's cloud solutions, including Microsoft Azure and Microsoft 365, for enterprise-wide use to help standardise across the company's family of brands, the Bentonville Arkansas-based firm said in a release.

IIT-Madras unveils world's first remotely operable LEAP microscope

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras yesterday launched a Rs. 40 crore remotely operable microscope, claimed to be the world's first of its kind, that would enable precise view of atoms of a material. The Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) had been developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions in the country.

Government to create National Database of Arms Licenses system

Names of all arms licence holders will be included in a national database and will be issued a unique identification number (UIN) as part of government's move to ensure that such documents are not issued to people with criminal antecedents. The decision has been taken by exercising powers under Section 44 of the Arms Act, 1959 (54 of 1959) by amending the Arms Rules, 2016 and these rules will be called the Arms (Second Amendment) Rules, 2018.

ISRO successfully conducts ground test of high thrust version of Vikas Engine

ISRO has successfully conducted a ground test of its high thrust version of the Vikas Engine that would improve the payload capability of the space agency's launch vehicles. The test for a duration of 195 seconds was conducted by scientists at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. The Vikas Engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine used to power the second stage of the ISRO's trusted Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

12 new moons discovered around Jupiter; 1 likely to collide

American astronomers have discovered 12 new moons around Jupiter, where one of them is on a collision course which could create a crash large enough to be visible from Earth. This brings the total number of Jovian moons to 79, the most for any planet. Researchers made the discovery while hunting for a ninth planet beyond the orbit of Neptune.

India ranks 109th, stands behind Pakistan in 4G speeds

India ranks 109th in overall 4G mobile internet speeds with an average download speed of 9.12 Mbps which is less than Pakistan (14.03 Mbps), according to data speed tester Ookla. Out of the list comprising 124 countries, Qatar ranked first in the list with 63.22 Mbps average download speed. Norway stood second in the list with 62.14 Mbps download speed.

Earth's latest phase named Meghalayan Age after Indian state

The most recent age in Earth's 4.54-billion-year history started 4,200 years ago and has been named the Meghalayan Age, after the Indian state. The designation comes after the discovery

of a stalagmite rock in Meghalaya's Mawmluh cave. The rock's chemical signature indicated a substantial weakening monsoon, making it the first official marker of a geological time period change in India.

USFDA approved Sun Pharma for cancer treatment injection

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has received approval from the United States Food & Drug Administration (USFDA), the U.S. health regulator, for its INFUGEM injection which is used for the treatment of cancer.

The approval is for INFUGEM injection (gemcitabine in 0.9% sodium chloride injection) 10 mg/mL, for intravenous use in a ready-to-administer bag.

Lupin Limited gets USFDA approval for generic erectile dysfunction drug

Lupin Limited, a transnational pharmaceutical company has received a tentative approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), U.S. health regulator, for the marketing of its Tadalafil tablets which is indicated to treat erectile dysfunction and prostate gland enlargement.

SpaceX launches world's heaviest communications satellite

Elon Musk-led space startup SpaceX launched the Telstar 19 Vantage satellite, the world's heaviest commercial communications satellite weighing over 7,000 kg, through its Falcon 9 rocket. Its upgraded first stage booster flew itself back and landed on an off-shore dronship. This was the second successful launch of the new version of SpaceX's Block 5 rocket.

NASA launches toolkit to promote commercial use of satellite data

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' to promote commercial use of satellite data.

This toolkit was launched with an aim to make it easier for users to find, analyse and utilise the relevant satellite data for their research, business projects or conservation efforts.

Govt to use MicroDots technology to check vehicle thefts

In this technique, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including their engines.

This tech is termed as MicroDots and it is almost impossible to remove these dots. Hence, the car's identity can be established at any stage.

The government's highest automobile technical standard making body CMVR-TSC (Central Motor Vehicles Rules -Technical Standing Committee) will finalise the rules and its guidelines in the next one or two months.

Facebook to Launch Satellite Athena in 2019

Facebook is working on a new satellite project, named Athena, that will provide broadband internet connections to rural and underserved areas. The company aims to launch a satellite in early 2019. In 2016, Facebook's internet satellite for Africa was lost when SpaceX's rocket exploded.

IIPH-H to introduce Drone delivery system for medical supplies

Indian Institute of Public Health – Hyderabad (IIPH-H) is developing a drone delivery system for medical supplies, with a temperature-controlled payload box, to be delivered to a remote village in the State without delay.

The aim of the Digital Drone-based Real-Time Advanced Medical Modular Logistics system (2DREAM) project is to reach the remote areas and deliver the temperature-sensitive payload in 30 minutes.

Spray loaded with microscopic electronic sensors made

Using tiny 2-D materials, researchers have built microscopic chemical sensors that can be sprayed as aerosols. Each sensor comprises a chip with dimensions 1 micrometer x 100 micrometers with circuits that include a chemical detector and photodiode, which converts light into electric current. The devices could help monitor environmental pollution or diagnose diseases, said researchers.

Mars to be closest to Earth in 15 years on July 31: NASA

Mars will appear brightest from July 27 to July 30 and make its closest approach to the Earth on July 31, NASA said. At a distance of 57.6 million km, it will be the closest since 2003. In 2003, Mars was the closest in nearly 60,000 years, at 55.7 million km, which won't be repeated until the year 2287.

Scientists claim to revive 41,700-year-old frozen worm

A group of Russian and Princeton University scientists claim to have revived a pair of frozen roundworms that were 32,000 and 41,700 years old and were found buried in Siberia. Around 300 prehistoric worms were defrosted, brought to 20°C, and surrounded by food. After weeks of cultivation, two nematodes reportedly showed signs of life by starting to move and eat.

BAN2401, a new drug for Alzheimer disease

BAN2401, a new drug that reduces plaques in the brain and slows down the cognition for Alzheimer disease has been introduced by Eisai, a Japan-based company and Biogen, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is hoped that this drug may be the first to successfully attack both the brain changes and the symptoms of Alzheimer's dementia.

NASA to launch world's first mission to touch the Sun

Mankind's first mission to the Sun, Parker Solar Probe, a car sized probe, will study the Sun closer than any human-made object ever has. This mission is expected to take off no earlier

than August 6. This probe will swoop to within 4 million miles of the solar surface, facing heat and radiation like no spacecraft before.

New Ebola virus has been found in bats in Sierra Leone

A new Ebola virus has been found in bats in Sierra Leone. Two years before an outbreak of Ebola killed over 11,000 across West Africa. Researchers who found the new virus in the northern Bombali region are now working with the Sierra Leone government to determine whether any humans were infected. As precautionary measures, people have been asked to refrain from eating bats.

AIIMS has developed a diagnostic test with high sensitivity and specificity for TB meningitis

A team led by Prof. Jaya Sivaswami Tyagi from the Department of Biotechnology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has developed the diagnostic test for TB meningitis with nearly 100% sensitivity and about 91% specificity. The diagnostic test is based on a derivative of a DNA aptamer that shows high binding affinity in the nanomolar range and high specificity to a TB antigen (HspX). The performance of the diagnostic test was evaluated in 87 cerebrospinal fluid samples obtained from paediatric subjects.

USFDA approved Aurobindo Pharma for generic anticoagulant injection

United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has approved Aurobindo Pharma Limited for the manufacturing and marketing of Bivalirudin injection with the strength of 250 mg/vial. It is used as an anticoagulant in patients with certain conditions.

The approved Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) is a generic equivalent to the reference listed drug product Angiomax injection of The Medicines Company. Aurobindo Pharma has a total of 381 ANDA approvals from the USFDA. The drug will be launched in the month of September.

NASA's TESS started its planet searching operation

NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), the newest planet hunter, has started its search for planets around nearby stars. TESS was launched in April 2018. It began its science operations on July 25.

It is expected to transmit its first series of science data back to Earth in August. The mission will last for the next two years monitoring the nearest and brightest stars for periodic dips in their light. These events, called transits, suggest that a planet may be passing in front of its star. It is expected that thousands of planets using this method can be found and some of which could potentially support life.

Jio to invest ₹50,000 crore to build JioGigaFiber business

India's richest person Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio will spend about ₹50,000 crore in the next six to eight quarters to build its broadband business JioGigaFiber. Jio plans to offer the service in at least 1,100 cities and towns and had invited registrations from August 15. It is targeting 5 crore JioGigaFiber home customers and 3 crore small merchants and shopkeepers.

China launches satellite to monitor Belt and Road Initiative

China launched an optical remote sensing satellite which will be used to monitor its Belt and Road Initiative. The Gaofen-11 satellite was launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre as part of the high-resolution Earth observation project. The satellite can be used for land survey, urban planning, road network design, agriculture, and disaster relief, the state media reported.

Scientists find radioactive molecule in space for 1st time

Astronomers have detected the first radioactive molecule in space, believed to be from a stellar explosion that was visible in the 17th century by the naked eye. The molecule, Aluminium monofluoride, is made of Aluminium-26, a radioactive isotope of aluminium. The explosion had resulted from the merger of two stars, creating a red nova, a new class of eruptive stars.

OnePlus beats Apple, Samsung to become top premium smartphone brand

OnePlus has emerged as the market leader in the premium segment of smartphones in India beating Samsung and Apple in the last quarter, according to a report. It reached over 40% market share in the premium segment (₹30,000-plus) in the April-June quarter. Samsung was pushed to the second spot with 35% share while Apple was third with around 14% share.

STATE RELATED CURRENT AFFAIRS

Madhya Pradesh will be awarded for reducing Maternal Mortality

Madhya Pradesh has been registered an unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths as per the report of the Registrar General of India from 2014 to 2016. Under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign, Madhya Pradesh will be awarded for reducing maternal mortality.

Nissan signs MoU with Kerala government for digital hub

Nissan Motor signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Kerala to establish a new global center for its digital operations in India. The Nissan Digital Hub in Kerala will serve as an important engine to drive Nissan's global digital transformation.

Monti Rajkhowa, the First Assamese Woman To Scale Mount Kanchenjunga

Monti, who is professionally an executive engineer of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) based in Mumbai, is the first lady ONGC officer among her male counterparts to have managed to scale the world's toughest peak.

She was born and brought up in Meghalaya. The ONGC Kanchenjunga expedition was flagged off by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in April 2018. Mount Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world.

Haryana Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets

Haryana will host 33rd World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference in Gurugram from October 10-13 this year. Heads of 200 mandis from across the world will

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participate in this Conference. Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board will organise this conference.

Countries from Asia, North and South America, Africa and Europe will also participate in the conference. Information related to reforms all over the world will be shared so that India could move towards a single unified world market.

Delhi launches 'Happiness Curriculum' for govt schools

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and the Dalai Lama launched a 'Happiness Curriculum' for students studying in Class Nursery to Class 8 in government schools. The curriculum will include a 45-minute 'Happiness' class, which will include meditation, value education, and mental exercises. "Only India has the ability to combine modern education with ancient knowledge," the Dalai Lama said.

Rajasthan started scheme to provide milk to 62 lakh school students

The Rajasthan government has launched a scheme to provide milk thrice a week to 62 lakh students in government schools and madrassas. While students till Class 5 will get 150 ml, students in Class 6-8 will get 200 ml. This scheme was launched by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje during the launch of Annapurna Dudh Yojana, in Jaipur.

Himachal gets national award for best performance under PMSMA

For the performance under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritav Abhiyan (PMSMA) in the country, Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged first among state. This award was conferred by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda.

Himachal Pradesh government had launched PMSMA in August, 2016, and established around 495 clinics in which ante-natal check-ups were conducted by the doctors. Under PMSMA pregnant women are supposed to get antenatal check up on 9th of every month by a doctor.

Jharkhand to set up India's first Khadi mall

While addressing the 'Karigar Panchayat' organized by the Khadi Board at the Tana Bhagat Indoor Stadium, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that, within 15 days, land in the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) campus will be made available to the Khadi Board to develop the country's first Khadi mall.

'Gaumutra' better cure for cancer than chemo: Guj university

A team of researchers at Gujarat's Junagadh Agriculture University claimed that 'gaumutra' or cow urine is more effective in treating cancer than chemotherapy. The researchers conducted experiments for a year, researching on cancer cells procured in a bottle, with their attempt to kill cells using cow urine emerging successful. They will now conduct experiments on rats.

CEAT signs MoU for greenfield plan

Tyre major CEAT, the flagship company of the RPG Group, signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu State government to invest Rs.4,000 crore in a greenfield plant in Sriperumbudur near Chennai to boost the State's tyre manufacturing capacity.

This plant would boost its capabilities in the motorcycle and car tyre segments. The company would start with car radial tyres, with an initial capacity of around 250 tonnes per day.

Uttarakhand High Court declared animals to be 'legal persons'

A division bench of Justices Rajiv Sharma and Lokpal Singh bestowed the unique status on the animal kingdom while issuing a series of directions to prevent cruelty against animals.

The Uttarakhand High Court in the past had given a similar right to river Ganga when it ordered that the river is a human entity and will enjoy all corresponding rights.

Rajasthan government approved 1 percent reservation for 5 communities, including Gujjars

This comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in Jaipur on July 7. The five communities who benefit from this order of the Rajasthan government are – Godia Lohar, Banjara, Gujjar, Raika and Gadaria.

Two separate orders have been issued by the state government – one for admission to educational institutions, and the other for government jobs.

Gujarat CM launched 'Poshan Abhiyan' to eradicate malnutrition

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched 'Poshan Abhiyan' – a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children by providing them nutritious food through Anganwadi centres. He also launched 'Purna' project to eliminate malnutrition among girls in the age group of 14 to 18, at an allocated cost of Rs 270 crore.

◆ Full form of PURNA – Prevention of Under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.

◆ Nationwide Poshan Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Rajasthan on March 8 this year.

Madhya Pradesh government launches subsidised power scheme named Sambal

Under Sambal Yojana, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families would be provided electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per month. The scheme is expected to benefit 88 lakh families in the state. The main objective is to make sure that all the households in Madhya Pradesh have power facility. People who are not using air-conditioners, electric heaters and whose power consumption is below 1000 watts would be eligible for this scheme.

WB CM announces 'one person, one car' policy for ministers

In an attempt to cut the costs incurred by the state over travel expenses of ministers and bureaucrats, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the 'one person, one car' policy. Further mandating economy class travel in low-cost airlines for all domestic air trips, she added that foreign travels will be sanctioned only by her.

MoEFCC declared the area around Mudumalai as an ESZ

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) declared 438 sq.km. of the area around the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the Nilgiris as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ). This is to prohibit construction and commercial mining activities and restrict hotels and resorts near the reserve.

Uttar Pradesh orders plastic ban from July 15, third time since 2015

During a programme in Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced ban on plastic bags, cups and glasses across the state from July 15 onwards. Maharashtra had banned the use of plastic from June 23. The latest announcement came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing a plan to completely end the use of single-use plastic in India by 2022.

Andhra Pradesh tops ease of doing business ranking for 2nd year

Andhra Pradesh has topped the ease of doing business 2016-17 rankings released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) for the second year in a row with a score of 98.42%. Andhra Pradesh is followed by Telangana, Haryana, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. Meghalaya has been ranked last in ease of doing business.

Samsung opens world's largest mobile phone factory in Noida

South Korean multinational conglomerate Samsung on Monday opened the world's largest mobile phone manufacturing factory in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The facility, inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, is spread over 35 acres in Noida's Sector 81. Built at a cost of ₹5,000 crore, the facility can produce 12 crore mobile phones every year.

Himachal Pradesh banned use of thermocol cutlery

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur had announced the ban on the World Environment Day on June 5, but it was observed that it was still in use.

The Himachal Pradesh government recently issued fresh notification banning use of thermocol cutlery including cups, plates, glasses, spoons or any other item in the state. The state government has set a deadline of three months for manufacturers to dispose of their stocks.

Delhi's black carbon pollution 5 times more than US: Study

A study by UK's University of Surrey has revealed average black carbon concentration on roads in New Delhi was up to five times higher compared to Europe or North America. Black carbon is produced by carbon-rich fuels like petrol and diesel. The study also found that Asian residents are exposed to nine times more air pollution than their Western counterparts.

Himachal CM announces ₹1.55-crore cow sanctuary project

Himachal Pradesh CM Jairam Thakur announced a ₹1.55-crore project to set up a cow sanctuary at Kotla Barog. Unlike gaushalas where the animals are kept indoors and fed in-house, the animals will be free to roam in the fenced area meant to keep a fixed number of cows. The move aims to solve the problem of stray cattle.

Rajasthan government signed MoU with Microsoft

Rajasthan government signed a MoU with Microsoft to provide digital training to 9,500 students of government colleges. It will also train 500 faculty members.

The initiative is to enhance the youths' employability and empower them with technical education and to improve the standards of digital literacy in Rajasthan.

Maharashtra will launch 'One farmer one transformer' scheme from 15th August

In order to reduce electricity losses, the Maharashtra government will launch a new scheme allocating "one transformer per farmer".

Two lakh farmers will be given electricity connection for high voltage distribution line which will ensure uninterrupted power supply.

Farmers who lose their cattle in attack by wild animals will now get Rs 40,000, up from Rs 25,000 earlier. Rs 2 lakh hike in the compensation given to the kin of people killed in an attack by wild animals was announced. Each affected family will now get Rs 10 lakh instead of Rs 8 lakh earlier.

Gujarat approved Rs 39 crore 'Seema Darshan' Project for infra development

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani gave in-principal approval for the project "Seema Darshan", which is also referred as border tourism project at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district.

The approval was given at a review meeting held in Gandhinagar, which entails development of an exhibition hall and a parade ground with an amphitheatre for 5,000 people, under phase-2 of the project. The project will encourage local economic activity in the Rann of Kutchh region and in adjoining flamingo and wild ass sanctuaries.

Prez approves bill on 7yr jail for witch hunting in Assam

President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill, which was passed by the state Assembly in 2015. The bill proposes a jail

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term of up to seven years and a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh for calling and identifying a person as a witch. It is aimed at eliminating superstition from society.

Ola signs MoU with Haryana government to create 35,000 jobs

Ola has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Haryana government to create 35,000 job opportunities in the state. The MoU is part of the state's Saksham Haryana initiative rolled out last year for various skill development initiatives. A part of these opportunities also aim towards the development of the driver-partner ecosystem in Haryana.

ISRO join hands with J&K to set up telemedicine centre at 12,700 feet

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) joined hands with J&K's Directorate of Health Services-Kashmir (DHS-K) to set up a telemedicine center at an altitude of 12,700 feet to provide service to pilgrims en route to the Amarnath shrine.

The Panjtarni Base Camp Hospital on the Pahalgam cave shrine route will provide real-time treatment for high-altitude and other ailments that pilgrims frequently face in the region. An Intensive Care Unit will be set up to handle critically ill patients.

Bihar to get world's cheapest clean drinking water

Sulabh International introduced the concept of 'Sulabh Sauchalya' in India, which is cost-effective innovative water project to provide the cheapest drinking water in the world, only in 50paise/litre.

The first of such a water project was launched in Bihar's Darbhanga district, Haribol Pond.

Odisha to get India's 1st skill training centre

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan announced that the Centre is planning to set up one National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) in every State to meet the rising demand for skilled manpower in the country.

He laid the foundation stone of country's first such skill training institute at Barang near Bhubaneswar. The Institute costing Rs 160 crore will come up over five acres of land and have state-of-the-art facilities.

The 'Sulabh Jal' project converts contaminated pond and river water into safe drinking water. The total cost of installing this project would cost around Rs 20 lakhs.

World famous Rath Yatra celebrated in Odisha

Popularly known as the 'Festival of Chariots', Rath Yatra festival in honour of Puri's Lord Jagannath is one of the most awaited festivals of Orissa and is falling on July 14.

This yatra is conducted from Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple. Apart from Indian, this festival attracts a large number of international tourists in Puri.

Haryana CM launched Paudhagiri Campaign

Under the campaign, 22 lakh students studying in Class 6th to 12th of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each, during these three months of monsoon – July, August and September.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched this ‘Paudhagiri Campaign’ by planting a ‘maulsari’ sapling in Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex premises of Gurugram, to increase the green cover in the state.

First Pondicherry International Film Festival announced

Puducherry Tourism has announced the first Pondicherry International Film Festival (PIFF), which will showcase over 100 films from more than 25 countries. The inaugural edition of PIFF will be held from September 26 to 30. France is the partner country for the festival and there will be a special focus on French cinema, art and culture.

ASI has planned to upgrade seven monuments in Tamil Nadu

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has planned to upgrade infrastructural and tourist-friendly facilities at seven sites, which are approved under Adarsh Smarak Scheme for Conservation of Monuments, in Tamil Nadu.

The Adarsh Monuments proposed to be upgraded by the Ministry of Culture include the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram, Vellore Fort, Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, Kailasanathar Temple in Kancheepuram, Sittannavasal Caves, Gingee Fort and Moovar Koil in Kodumbalur. The work has already begun at the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram.

India’s first Defence incubators will come up in Hyderabad

The incubator will be housed at T-Hub and will be India’s missile development centre and fast emerging the hub for aerospace industries.

The incubator will be funded through the Ministry’s Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme. Initially, a corpus of ₹100 crore has been created by two PSUs- HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) and BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited), each contributing ₹50 crore.

Cabinet approves Central University for Andhra Pradesh

The Cabinet approved Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2018, to set up Central University in Andhra Pradesh. Minister Prakash Javadekar tweeted that the Central University of Andhra Pradesh will start its academic session on 5th August. Also, this will result in more facilities for Andhra Pradesh in higher education.

Tenth Edition Of Delhi Dialogue Begins In New Delhi

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will deliver the keynote address of the two-day event. The theme of which is, ‘Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation’.

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Main AIM:-To find a common ground and expanding the scope of cooperation between India and ASEAN nations.

The Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual event to discuss politico-security, the economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Udaipur ranked 3rd among World's 15 Best Cities

The heritage city of Udaipur has been ranked third among a list of 15 best cities in the world by Travel + Leisure. The first two cities on the list are San Miguel de Allende and Oaxaca, both in Mexico. Rajasthan's Udaipur city is also known as "City of Lakes" and the "Venice of the East".

Chhattisgarh launches Abhar Aapki Sewa Ka app for pensioners

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh announced a Chhattisgarh Online Pension Management System (OPMS). It is an E-payment to e-procurement to provide internet to every village has been done. It is under e-governance, fulfilling the dream of Digital India plan of India and Digital Chhattisgarh.

Kerala best in governance, Bihar worst: Think tank report

Kerala has been rated as the best-governed state in India for the third consecutive time in the Public Affairs Index released by Bengaluru-based think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC). While Tamil Nadu was rated second on the index, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar were ranked the lowest. The index was based on 100 indicators, which were derived from government data.

Volkswagen has planned to set up a design centre in Pune

German auto major Volkswagen (VW) Group has planned to set up a design centre in Chakan near Pune. It is aimed to expand the production capacity of the company. VW would be investing ₹8,000 crore, in phases, in the design centre, development of new models and other activities.

The group is targeting to achieve a 5% market share in India by 2025, from the current 1.8%, across brands. Currently, Volkswagen has 121 dealers across 104 cities in India and it is planning to increase the number of touch points.

World class exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal to be hosted at Kolkata

A world-class permanent exhibition on four eminent personalities of Bengal – Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and Syama Prasad Mukherjee. It will be opened at the National Library in Kolkata in the near future. This is announced by Raghvendra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

Delhi AIIMS signed MoU with IIT Kharagpur for education and research purposes

The AIIMS has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, for collaboration in education, research outreach and medical services. The agreement included initiating joint degrees such as PhD, M.D.-PhD, M.Sc-PhD and coordinated internship programmes.

Regulator asks J&J to reveal powder ingredients: Report

India's drug regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has reportedly asked Johnson and Johnson (J&J) to reveal the composition of its talcum powder. The move comes after J&J's US parent was ordered to pay \$4.7 billion on claims that asbestos in its powder caused ovarian cancer. Talcum powder is made from talc, a mineral composed of silicon, magnesium and oxygen.

Sitamarhi becomes 1st ODF district in Bihar

Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Construction of over two lakh toilets in the last two months ensured that Sitamarhi became the first open defecation free (ODF) district in Bihar. Sitamarhi became the 416th ODF district in India. The district administration disbursed Rs 12,000 per toilet to 50,000 beneficiary households on July 21. Presently, Bihar needs to construct another 6 lakh toilets across its 37 remaining districts.

Three Indian States launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018

Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG-2018), which was announced by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on July 13, 2018.

Under the SSG 2018, an independent survey agency will conduct survey in all districts from August 1 – 31, 2018 on the basis of sanitation (Swachhata) parameters. The top performing states and districts would be awarded on October 2, 2018, i.e., birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 6980 villages in 698 districts across India will be covered.

Odisha Government launches Green Mahanadi Mission

Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Green Mahanadi Mission'. The CM launched the mission by planting a sapling on the bank of river Mahanadi during his visit to Boudh and Subarnapur districts in western Odisha.

The 'Green Mahanadi Mission' is a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along the Mahanadi river and its tributaries. The main objective of the mission is to stop soil erosion on river banks and recharge the groundwater reserve.

West Bengal passes resolution to change name of state to 'Bangla'

The ruling Trinamool Congress government placed a proposal in the state assembly to change the name of West Bengal to "Bangla" in all languages. The proposal will now be sent to the Home Ministry for approval, and the name of the state will be changed only if the Ministry approves it.

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On August 29, 2016, the state Assembly had passed a resolution to change the name of West Bengal to 'Bengal' in English, 'Bangla' in Bengali and 'Bangal' in Hindi. The Union ministry of home affairs rejected the proposal saying that a state cannot have three different names in three different languages.

Karnataka became India's Top State in producing Renewable Energy

According to the report of 'The Institute For Energy Economics and Financial Analysis' (IEEFA), Karnataka has emerged as the leading state for generating renewable energy in India this year, with a total installed capacity of 12.3 gigawatts (GW), as of March 2018.

Tamil Nadu ranks second in producing Renewable Energy. The world's largest solar park was set up at an investment of Rs 16,500 crore at Pavagada in Karnataka's Tumakuru district. This 2,000 MW park is named as 'Shakti Sthala'.

DMK's Karunanidhi becomes first to lead a party for 50 years

DMK President M Karunanidhi became the first Indian political figure to lead a party for 50 years. Elected as DMK chief on July 27, 1969, the 94-year-old leader has served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu five times. However, as his health started deteriorating, his son MK Stalin was appointed as DMK's Working President in 2017.

Youngest Indian girl scales Kilimanjaro in 3 days

Shivangi Pathak, the 17-year-old from Haryana, who became the youngest woman from India to reach the peak of Mount Everest from Nepal side, has now scaled Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, in three days. Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro measures 5,895 metres in height.

Odisha CM Inaugurates Rs 300 Crore Irrigation Dam Project

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Rs 300 crore Rukura Medium Irrigation Dam project in Sundargarh district. This project will irrigate 5,800 hectares of the agricultural field.

He stated that his promises to provide irrigation to an additional 10 lakh hectare of land ahead of 2014 elections, will be fulfilled by 2019.

Threat by kala azar in Kozhikode's Sooppikkada village, Kerala

Kozhikode's Sooppikkada village, Kerala faces kala-azar or visceral leishmaniasis. Kala-azar is also known colloquially as black fever and Dumdum fever and is associated with high fatality. Precautionary measures are being taken in the area by spraying with insecticides to kill the infected sandflies which spread the disease.

PM Modi launches 81 projects worth ₹60,000 crore in UP

PM Narendra Modi launched 81 investment projects worth ₹60,000 crore in what he termed as a "record-breaking" event in Uttar Pradesh. While Reliance Jio Com and BSNL are investing

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₹10,000 crore and ₹5,000 crore respectively for laying optical cable network in the state, Adani Power is investing ₹2,500 crore to lay the Ghatampur-Hapur transmission line, reports said.

Rajasthan signed MoU for the first Cow Sanctuary in State

Rajasthan Government signed a MoU with a private trust Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build its first 'Cow Sanctuary', a shelter for 10000 cows. The cow sanctuary will be spread over an area of more than 220 hectares in Bikaner district. This will be the first cow sanctuary in Rajasthan and will be situated in Bikaner's Napasar.

Chhattisgarh CM launched Mobile Distribution Scheme Mobile Tihar

Actress Kangana Ranaut and Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojana.

The scheme includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children and setting up of 556 new mobile towers. The Chhattisgarh government is working towards improving network connectivity and empowering youth with smartphones.

Delhi govt approves proposal to delink Aadhaar from pensions

Delhi government approved a proposal to delink Aadhaar number and Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for availing old age, disability and widow pensions. It will pay at old rates all the pensions halted due to lack of Aadhaar. Further, increased pension will be provided with effect from April 2018 to all beneficiaries who're getting pension on old rates, said a government statement.

SPORTS

Argentina's most capped player retires after World Cup exit

Defender Javier Mascherano, who holds the record for most appearances for Argentina (147), has announced his retirement from international football after crashing out of the World Cup on Saturday. "I will (now) be just another fan of the...team. It's over. The illusion is shattered," the 34-year-old said. He represented Argentina in four World Cup editions and five Copa América tournaments.

India reach second spot in ICC T20I team rankings

Following their thrashing of Ireland in the two-match T20I series, the Indian team reached the second spot in the ICC T20I team rankings. The change in rankings occurred after Australia lost their only T20I against England. Pakistan occupy the top spot in the table with an eight-point lead over India. India will next face England in a three-match T20I series.

India beat Iran to lift Kabaddi Masters 2018 title

The Indian kabaddi team beat Iran 44-26 to lift the Kabaddi Masters 2018 title in Dubai. The Indian team remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. India had also beaten Iran in the final of the World Championships two years ago. Notably, India's Ajay Thakur has not lost a single match as captain of the Indian team.

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Brazil become highest scoring team in FIFA World Cup history

Forward Neymar's 51st-minute goal in FIFA World Cup Round of 16 match against Mexico helped Brazil surpass Germany's tally of 226 goals to become the highest scoring team in the tournament history. Brazil, who won the match 2-0, have now scored 228 goals in 108 World Cup matches. As many as 79 Brazilian players have scored WC goals.

Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix

Verstappen (20-year-old Dutch driver) won Red Bull's home Austrian Grand Prix Formula One to claim his first win of the season. Kimi Raikkonen was a close second, with teammate Vettel third.

Australia won Hockey Champions Trophy Final 2018, India finish Runners Up

India lost 1-3 to Australia in the final match of "Champions Trophy Hockey 2018" held in Breda, the Netherlands. India captain PR Sreejesh receives the award for the best goalkeeper of the tournament. The Netherlands beat Olympic champions Argentina 2-0 to win the bronze medal playoff.

Lee Chong Wei won Malaysian Open Badminton singles title

Malaysian veteran Lee Chong Wei has won the Malaysian Open Badminton singles title for a historic 12th time. In the final match, he defeated Japanese shuttler Kento Momota in straight games 21-17 23-21 in 71 minutes.

OTHER RESULTS

- Mixed doubles: Zheng Siwei-Huang Yaqiong defeated Wang Yilyu-Huang Dongping.
- Women's doubles: Misaki Matsutomo-Ayaka Takahashi defeated Chen Qingchen-Jia Yifan.
- Women's singles: Tai Tzu-ying defeated He Bingjiao.
- Men's doubles: Takeshi Kamura-Keigo Sonoda defeated Hiroyuki Endo-Yuta Watanabe

India wins Kabaddi Masters Dubai 2018 Title

India thrashed Iran 44-26 to emerge champions of the six-nation Kabaddi Masters Dubai. The three-time world champions did not give Iran any ground to recover with captain Ajay Thakur (nine points) and youngster Monu Goyat (six) leading the raid charts. India's defence was also excellent with Surjeet Singh returning with seven tackle points.

US defeat Belgium to win Quidditch World Cup for third time

The US defeated Belgium in the fourth Quidditch World Cup's final to clinch their third title. As many as 29 countries competed in the 2018 Quidditch World Cup, which is based on the game mentioned in JK Rowling's Harry Potter books. Two teams of seven players run around with broomsticks between their legs and engage in a full-contact contest.

Rohit Sharma becomes first Indian to hit three T20I hundreds

Team India opener Rohit Sharma has become the first Indian cricketer to smash three centuries in T20I cricket. The 31-year-old achieved the feat by reaching the three-figure mark in 56 balls during the third T20I against England. Rohit is only the second cricketer after New Zealand's Colin Munro to register three tons in T20I cricket.

Gymnast Dipa wins int'l gold on return from injury after 2 yrs

Arjuna-awardee gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who finished fourth at Rio Olympics, clinched the gold medal in the vault event of Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup. The victory marked the 24-year-old athlete's return to action after a lay-off of around two years due to injury. She scored 14.150 to win gold after topping the qualification with a score of 13.400.

Indias Bajrang Punia won gold medal at Tbilisi Grand Prix, Deepak won bronze

Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia won the gold medal at Tbilisi Grand Prix in Georgia with a 9-3 win over Iran's Mehran Akbar Nasirifrahali in the 65kg category final. Deepak Punia won the bronze medal in the 86kg category by defeating Turkey's Osman Gocen 5-3.

Ronaldo leaves Real Madrid after 9 years, joins Juventus

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo has left Spanish club Real Madrid after nine years, joining Italian side Juventus in a reported £105-million (₹956-crore) four-year deal. The five-time Ballon d'Or-winner scored 451 goals in 438 matches for the Spanish team, winning two La Liga titles and four Champions League trophies. He also became Real Madrid's all-time record goalscorer during his tenure.

Indian goalkeeper, Sreejesh is to lead Indian Hockey Team at Asian games 2018

Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will lead the 18 member Indian men's hockey squad and Chinglensana Singh Kangujam will serve as his deputy in the 18th Asian Games. It will begin in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia in August 2018.

- Coach – Harendra Singh
- Captain – PR Sreejesh
- Deputy Captain – Chinglensana Singh Kangujam

Croatia beat England to reach World Cup final for 1st time

Croatia defeated England 2-1 after extra time in the second semi-final to reach FIFA World Cup final for the first time in history. England have now failed to reach the World Cup final in every edition they have played since winning the quadrennial tournament in 1966. Croatia will face 1998 champions France in the summit clash.

Hima wins India its first track gold at World Junior C'ships

Hima Das won the women's 400m event at the IAAF World Junior Championships to become the first-ever Indian to clinch track gold in a world championship across all age groups. The

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18-year-old clocked 51.46 seconds to claim the first position. Das had clocked an Indian U-20 record of 51.32 seconds to finish sixth in 2018 CWG 400m final.

Anish and Manu won gold in shooting

In the 28th Meeting of Shooting Hopes international championship, Anish Bhanwala won in junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol and Manu Bhaker won the junior women's 10m air pistol.

Belgium defeat England to finish 3rd at 2018 FIFA World Cup

Belgium defeated England in the third-place playoff to finish third at the 2018 FIFA World Cup. This is Belgium's best-ever World Cup finish after having finished fourth in the 1986 edition of the quadrennial tournament. Further, this is the second time England have finished fourth at the World Cup after securing the position in 1990.

Kerber beats 7-time champ Serena to win maiden Wimbledon title

Former world number one Angelique Kerber defeated seven-time champion Serena Williams 6-3, 6-3 in the women's singles final to clinch her first-ever Wimbledon title. Overall, it was the 30-year-old's third Grand Slam title after having won the Australian Open and US Open in 2016. Despite the defeat, 181st-ranked Serena will move 153 places to rank 28.

Dhoni fastest wicketkeeper-batsman to score 10,000 ODI runs

MS Dhoni has become the fastest wicketkeeper-batsman and third fastest Indian to score 10,000 runs in ODI cricket, achieving the feat in his 273rd innings during the second ODI against England. Overall, the 37-year-old is the fourth Indian after Sachin Tendulkar (259), Sourav Ganguly (263) and Rahul Dravid (287) to cross the 10,000-run mark in ODI cricket.

Rishi Narain wins All India Seniors Golf Championship

Former Asian Games gold medallist Rishi Narain won the Indian Golf Union's 48th annual All India Seniors Golf Championship in a sudden death shootout against three-time senior winner Gangesh Khaitan. Cricket legend Kapil Dev finished in third place at the Jaypee Greens Golf Resort.

Book titled 'Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly' released

This book is written by Abhirup Bhattacharya and has an interesting story about Sourav Ganguly gambling on young players like Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Zaheer Khan, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh to build the concept of 'Team India' and 'Men in Blue'.

The author has previously wrote "Winning Like Virat: Think & Success Like Kohli".

Mayweather named world's highest paid celebrity with \$285 million

Undefeated boxing champion Floyd Mayweather has been named the world's highest paid celebrity by Forbes with earnings of \$285 million in the last 12 months. Lionel Messi (\$111 million) and Cristiano Ronaldo (\$108 million) were the only other athletes in the top 10.

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Meanwhile, Conor McGregor, who took part in second richest fight in history with Mayweather, earned \$99 million.

France defeat Croatia to win FIFA World Cup after 20 years

France defeated first-time finalists Croatia 4-2 in 2018 FIFA World Cup final to win the quadrennial tournament for the first time since 1998. France became the first team since Brazil in 1970 to score four goals in a World Cup final. This was the first time since 2002 that the World Cup final was decided in regulation time.

England captain Harry Kane won the Golden Boot award for scoring the most goals (6) at 2018 FIFA World Cup. Croatia's Luka Modric won the Golden Ball award, given to the competition's best player. France's 19-year-old forward Kylian Mbappé, who scored four goals, was named the tournament's best young player, while Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois won the Golden Glove award.

Djokovic clinches his 4th Wimbledon title, 13th Grand Slam

Ex-world number one Novak Djokovic defeated Kevin Anderson to clinch his fourth Wimbledon title and overall 13th Grand Slam. Djokovic became the fourth player after Roger Federer (8), Pete Sampras (7) and Björn Borg (5) to win Wimbledon men's title four or more times in Open Era. The title is Djokovic's first at any level since July 2017.

Angelique Kerber clinched maiden Wimbledon title against Serena Williams

Angelique Kerber defeated seven-time champion Serena Williams in the women's singles final to clinch her first-ever Wimbledon title. Angelique Kerber hails from Germany.

Coming back from a difficult pregnancy, and 10 months after giving birth to daughter Olympia, she was in a major final after just 13 matches. Overall, it was the 30-year-old's third Grand Slam title after having won the Australian Open and US Open in 2016.

Neeraj Chopra wins gold at international meet

Neeraj Chopra, who had become the first Indian to win gold in javelin throw at Commonwealth Games in April this year, won gold at Sotteville Athletics meet in France on Tuesday. The 20-year-old hurled the javelin to a distance of 85.17 to bag the gold medal. Keshorn Walcott, who had bagged gold in 2012 Olympics, finished fifth at the event.

Indian youth boxers wins 7 gold medals at Serbian youth boxing tournament

Indian boxers won 7 gold medals in the 36th Golden Glove of Vojvodina youth tournament held at Subotica, Serbia. Four men and three women finished with gold medals at the tournament, which featured 17 countries. India claimed the numero uno position with 17 medals, including six silver and four bronze.

India jump to 5th rank in latest Men's Hockey World Rankings

In the latest list of Men's hockey world rankings issued by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), India jumped one place to the fifth position, and Champions Trophy winners Australia

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(1906 points) remained on top of the chart. Argentina ranked second with 1883 points, followed by Belgium (1709 points) and Netherlands (1654 points).

Vinesh Phogat won gold at Spanish Grand Prix

24-year-old Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat grabbed a gold in the women's 50kg freestyle category at the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid, by defeating Canada's Natasha Fox 10-0 in the final match. She had won a gold at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in the 50kg category.

Sajan clinches gold in Junior Asian Wrestling Championships

Indian wrestler Sajan clinched India's first gold on the opening day of the Junior Asian Wrestling Championships.

Sajan outplayed Iranian Shayan Hossein Afifi in the title clash of the 77kg category Greco-Roman bout 3-0. The first point was scored after the opponent was penalized for passivity and Sajan managed to throw Afifi out of the mat for two more in the first round.

Marc Marquez won German Grand Prix for 9th time

Honda's Marc Marquez clinched his ninth consecutive German Grand Prix victory and took a 46-point championship lead over Valentino Rossi into the summer break after dominating what is set to be the final MotoGP race at the Sachsenring. Seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi finished second with his Yamaha team-mate Maverick Vinales third.

The next senior FIFA World Cup will be held in France

The next senior Football World Cup: the women's tournament will be held in France, next year. The quadrennial international men's football championship – 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar.

OMC becomes official partner for Hockey Mens World Cup 2018

Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) is announced to be the official partner for the Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 which is scheduled to be held from November 28 to December 16 at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. India will be hosting this event for the third time.

Fakhar Zaman becomes 1st Pakistani to slam double ton in ODI history

Opener Fakhar Zaman has become the first Pakistani and overall sixth batsman to smash a double hundred in men's ODI cricket history, achieving the feat against Zimbabwe. Zaman reached the 200-run mark off 148 balls, becoming the fourth fastest batsman to reach the milestone. The left-handed batsman scored 210* off 156 balls in the innings.

Virat Kohli held No.1 spot in the ICC ODI player rankings

In the International Cricket Council (ICC) ODI player rankings for batsmen, India skipper Virat Kohli tops the chart by touching a career-high 911 points. England Test skipper Joe Root is at the No.2 spot, with 818 ratings points. Indian Bowler Jasprit Bumrah ranked No:1 in bowling with 775 points. Kuldeep Yadav broke into the top-10 of the bowlers' chart at sixth.

Lewis Hamilton wins German Grand Prix

Four-time world champion Lewis Hamilton won the German Grand Prix despite starting from the 14th position on the grid. Hamilton's championship rival Sebastian Vettel crashed while leading the race with 15 laps to go. The Mercedes driver now leads Vettel by 17 points in the championship standings with 10 races to go.

Indian captain Sunil Chhetri named AIFF Player of 2017

Indian men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri has been named as the 2017 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player of the Year. The 33-year-old had recently become the second Indian footballer after former captain Bhaichung Bhutia to play 100 matches for the national team. Chhetri scored 22 goals in 30 matches for Bengaluru FC across all competitions last season.

India gets first Asian Jr C'ship men's gold winner in 53 yrs

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen became the first men's singles player from India in 53 years to win the gold medal at the Asian Junior Badminton Championships. The 16-year-old beat world number one Kunlavut Vitidsarn to become only the third Indian after Gautam Thakkar and PV Sindhu to bag a gold medal at the Asian Junior Championships.

Ukrainian 1st man to hold all 4 world cruiserweight titles

Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk beat Russian rival Murat Gassiev by a unanimous decision to become the first man to hold all four world cruiserweight titles. With the win Usyk also claimed the inaugural World Boxing Super Series Ali Trophy. Usyk, the 31-year-old Olympic gold medallist, ended Gassiev's 26-match unbeaten streak to claim the WBA and IBF titles from him.

Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's 2nd highest mountain

Poland's Andrzej Bargiel became the first person to ski down the world's second-highest mountain, the 8,611-metre high K2 peak in Pakistan. K2 also known as "Savage Mountain" is considered to be a more challenging climb than the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

India Won 8 Medals and Iran tops at Junior Asian Wrestling Championship

India won 8 medals in the Junior Asian Wrestling championship. The medallist comprises of 2 gold, 3 Silver and 3 bronze. Sachin Rathi won gold in the category of 74 kilograms. Deepak Punia won gold in the category of 86 kilogram category. Iran topped the championship with the 189 points. India secured 173 points and Uzbekistan secured 128 points.

Muhammed Anas Yahiya Breaks Own National Record In 400m

Star sprinter Muhammed Anas Yahiya entered the record books as he broke his own national record to win the 400 metres race at the Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji meets in the Czech Republic. Anas set a time of 45.24 seconds to break his own record of 45.31 seconds which he had set during the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast in April 2018.

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched gold medal at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2018

Sixteen-year-old Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen secured a gold medal at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships after defeating World junior champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in straight games in the final. He scored 21-19, 21-18 and won over Vitidsarn in the final which clocked 46 minutes.

Tokyo introduced mascots for 2020 Olympic Games

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Organising Committee launched the official Olympic Game mascot named 'Miraitowa' and Paralympic Game mascot christened 'Someity'. A big-eyed, blue-checked character "Miraitowa" name was a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity, expressing "hope for a bright future stretching off forever." The pink, pointy-eared "Someity" name comes from the word for Japan's iconic cherry blossoms and also sounds a bit like the English words "so mighty".

The next Olympic Games will be held in Tokyo between July 24 and August 9, 2020 and Paralympic Games from August 25 to September 6, 2020.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won 2018 German Grand Prix

Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton won the 2018 German Grand Prix, a race that Sebastian Vettel should have actually won. Hamilton finished 4.5 seconds ahead of Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas (who secured 2nd spot), and 6.7 clear of Ferrari's third-placed Kimi Raikkonen.

Indian women's compound archery team reaches world rank 1

Indian women's compound archery team created history by becoming the world rank one side in the category. The team is six points ahead of Chinese Taipei team. The Indian Archery team had recently shocked the Chinese Taipei team in 2018 archery World Cup in Berlin, defeating them to reach the final of the tournament.

Hamilton wins last Grand Prix race before F1 summer break

Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton won the last Grand Prix race before the Formula One's summer break in Hungary. With nine races remaining in the season, Hamilton now holds a 24-point advantage at the top of the drivers' championship. The other two spots on the podium were occupied by Ferrari drivers Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen.

First Indian CWG javelin champ wins two gold medals in 11 days

Neeraj Chopra, who became the first Indian to win gold in javelin throw at Commonwealth Games in April this year, won gold at the Savo Games in Finland. The 20-year-old hurled the javelin to a distance of 85.69m to bag the gold medal. Chopra had earlier won gold at the Sotteville Athletics meet in France on July 17.

Thomas becomes 1st Welshman to win cycling's Tour de France

Geraint Thomas became the first Welshman to win the Tour de France cycling race in Paris. The 32-year-old and his teammates enjoyed champagne while riding on their bikes during the 21st and final stage of the race in Paris. Notably, Thomas was a support rider in four of defending champion Chris Froome's Tour de France wins.

Kapil Dev selected in Indian golf team for tournament in Japan

India's 1983 Cricket World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev has been selected in the national golf team to take part in the 2018 Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Championship, which will be held from October 17 to 19 in Japan. The 59-year-old qualified after finishing third in the All India Seniors Golf Championship that was held in Noida earlier in July.

Cricket Curry festival organised in Japan to promote cricket

International cricket's governing body, ICC, organised the 'Sano Cricket Curry Festival' in the Japanese city of Sano to promote cricket in the nation. A cricket match between the Japanese cricket team and an Indian team was held at the event. The festival also featured cultural events and food from cricket-playing nations like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Sourabh Verma won Russian Open Badminton Trophy

Ace Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma won the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok. Sourabh won the Chinese Taipei Masters in 2016 and finished runners-up at Bitburger Open the same year. In Mixed Doubles, the pair of Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg lost in the Final against the Russian-Korean team of Vladimir Ivanov and Min Kyung Kim, 19-21, 17-21.

Bajrang Punia won second consecutive international gold at Yasar Dogu International

Bajrang Punia won his second consecutive international gold and Sandeep Tomar won a silver medal at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey. Indian wrestlers returned with 10 medals, including seven by women, from the ranking event. In the women's competition, Pinki gold medallist in the 55kg category with her 6-3 win over Ukraine's Olga Shnaider in the final. The Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik failed to reach the medal round in the 62-kilogram category.

Mohun Bagan Ratna Conferred On Pradip Chowdhury

Mohun Bagan 'Ratna', the highest honor of Mohun Bagan club was awarded to former India international Pradip Chowdhury at its foundation day programme.

Pradip Chowdhury is a former Mohun Bagan captain. He is the 18th recipient of Mohun Bagan 'Ratna' award. This award was first given to Sailen Manna in 2001.

Other awardees are:

1. Goalkeeper Shilton Paul– Best Footballer for the year 2017-18,
2. Sudip Chatterjee– Best Cricketer,

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3. Sourav Das– Best Youth Footballer Player,
4. Special award – Rahim Ali for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.

Dustin Johnson won the Canadian Open 2018

Dustin Johnson, an American professional golfer, won the Canadian Open title. This is his third Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) victory in 2018. This win is the 19th title of his career.

OBITUARY

NAME OF THE PERSON DIED	ASSOCIATED FIELD
Matt Cappotelli	Former WWE Champion
Krishna Kumari	Rajmata of the erstwhile Marwar principality and former MP
JG Nadkarni	Former Navy chief Admiral
Steve Ditko	co-created the superhero Spider-Man
Dada JP Vaswani	Spiritual leader and head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission
Kalpesh Yagnik	Group Editor of media house Dainik Bhaskar
Rita Bhaduri	Actress
Dr Gopaldas Neeraj	Noted Hindi poet and lyricist
Ramchandra Singhdeo	Former and first Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh
Swapan Sarkar	Sports journalist
Japan's Chiyo Miyako	World's oldest person. Age 117

IMPORTANT DAYS IN JULY

DATE	DAY OBSERVED	THEME
July 02	World Sports Journalists Day	
July 06	World Zoonosis Day	
July 07	International Day of Cooperatives	Sustainable consumption and production of goods and services.
July 11	World Population Day	Family Planning is a Human Right
July 12	International Malala Day	
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	
July 17	International Justice Day	
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day	
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas	
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	Eliminate Hepatitis
	World Nature Conservation Day	
July 29	International Tiger Day	
July 30	World day against trafficking in persons	Responding to the trafficking of children and young people