

First in Banking, Finance and Industry

Rajasthan Launches India's Largest Business Incubator Bhamashah Techno Hub In Jaipur

- In a big step forward to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Rajasthan, the Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched India's largest business incubator — the Bhamashah Techno Hub — in Jaipur in August 2018 (August 23).
- The incubator will provide end-to-end support to startups, ranging from infrastructure, technology, angel funding, access to venture capitalists, mentorship, exposure to national and international organisations and experts and much more.

Axis Bank introduces iris authentication for Aadhaar-based transactions

- Axis Bank has become the first bank in the country to introduce Iris Scan Authentication feature for Aadhaar-based transactions through its micro ATM tablets.
- This service, which requires a customer to scan their iris on a tablet, will boost the bank's financial inclusion efforts by making Aadhaar authentication process hassle-free and offering easier access to digital banking for consumers especially in the rural parts of the country.

ICICI Lombard launches India's first AI to automate instant health insurance claims

- ICICI Lombard has launched India's first Artificial intelligence (AI) based technology to facilitate instant health insurance claims approval. As a result, the traditional cashless claim request which takes an average of 60 minutes of processing has been drastically brought down to a minute using AI.
- The varied medical procedures where AI is being deployed includes Cataract, Maternity, Appendicitis, Hemodialysis and Hysterectomy.

Telangana Government Launches Country's First 'Blockchain District'

- The government of the Telangana, a southern Indian state, is partnering with a major IT firm to establish a district exclusive to blockchain startups in the state's capital city.
- The Telangana State Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Department (ITE&C) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with multinational IT services giant Tech Mahindra to establish what is being billed as 'India's first Blockchain District'.
- As reported by financial news daily the Economic Times, the Blockchain District will function as an incubator for domestic blockchain startups and companies to develop real-world applications of the decentralized technology. Specifically, the government-backed physical premises of the 'district' will be situated in Hyderabad, the state's capital city known for its technology-forward agenda over the last decade.

Telangana launches life insurance scheme worth Rs 5 lakh for farmers

- The state government of Telangana on August 6, 2018 launched the first-of-its-kind life insurance programme worth Rs 5 lakh for the farmers in the state.

- The scheme, which is called Rythu Bandhu Life Insurance Bonds, is expected to benefit 2.8 million farmers and their families. The launch comes ahead of the 2019 state and parliamentary elections.
- Under the programme, the families of the farmers will get the insurance amount irrespective of whether the farmer's death is natural or accidental.
- The insurance amount will be given to the farmer's family within 10 days itself.
- The distribution of insurance papers to the farmers would begin from August 15.
- The scheme has been launched with a rough investment of Rs 650 crore.

First in India

ISRO unveils Gaganyaan Mission to put Indians in space before 2022

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on August 28, 2018 unveiled the details of the Gaganyaan mission for manned space flight before 2022.
- The Gaganyaan mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech. PM Modi announced that this manned space mission will take Indian astronauts to space on board 'Gaganyaan' by 2022.
- ISRO Chairman, Dr K. Sivan said that the programme will make India the fourth nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission. So far, only the USA, Russia and China have launched human spaceflight missions.
- India's first manned space mission 'Gaganyaan' will be launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by 2022.
- Gaganyaan will be launched with 3 persons for 7 days in space.

India's first flight powered by biofuel lands at IGI Airport

- India's first flight powered by Biofuel landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on August 27, 2018. The test flight had taken off from Dehradun.
- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu, Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Minister Jayant Sinha were present to receive the flight as it landed following its maiden run.
- The experiment is first-of-its-kind in India. Its successful implementation provides a significant boost to encourage alternative fuels in transport and aviation sector, as envisaged in the National Biofuel's Policy.

Aadi Mahotsav hosted in Nagaland to promote the tribal handicraft

- Recently, in a bid to promote the tribal handicraft and handloom products of the region and to showcase it to the world the essence of ethnicity, the northeastern province of Nagaland hosted the first ever 'Aadi Mahotsav' under the aegis of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- True ethnicity is the perfect term that reveals the real identity of the handloom and handicraft items from the northeastern states of India. Home to more than 200 tribes, the region's tribal artisans have contributed largely in churning out some of the best quality handloom and handicraft products that hold the viewers captivated with their magnetic charms.

India's SCO anti-terror exercise with Pakistan begins

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Exercise began in August 2018, bringing Indian and Pakistani militaries to participate for the first time in a joint exercise under the anti-terror setting.
- The six-day SCO Exercise, which has brought the two countries together for the Exercise Peaceful Mission 2018, will continue till August 29 at Chebarkul town in Chelyabinsk Oblast in Russia. The Indian contingent will return on August 30.

India's first inter state connected wind power project commissioned, says MNRE

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in August 2018 said 126 MW wind power capacity, part of country's first inter state transmission system (ISTS) auction, is commissioned in Bhuj.
- State-run Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) had conducted India's first auction of wind power projects in February 2017 in which tariff of Rs 3.46 was discovered, which was much lower than feed in tariffs in vogue those days, a ministry statement said.

Delhi Police gets India's first all-women SWAT team

- After more than a year of being put through their paces - learning to scale buildings, defuse bombs and rescue hostages - India's first all-female commando team started work in August 2018, breaking a traditionally male bastion.
- The 36 women underwent 15 months of rigorous training in weapons handling, counter-terrorism and Krav Maga - the military self-defence technique pioneered by Israel's security forces - to enter the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

Santhali becomes India's first tribal language to get own Wikipedia edition

- Santhali has become the first Indian tribal language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script after the Santhali Wikipedia went live earlier this month.
- "The Santhali Wikipedia got approval from the language committee of the Wikimedia Foundation on June 28 and went live on August 2," said Jayanta Nath of the Indian chapter of Wikimedia Foundation, which runs Wikipedia.
- Wikipedia contributors from India, Bangladesh and Nepal generated the content to make this page possible, Nath said.

India, Japan to expand defence ties, to hold first joint Army exercise this year

- India and Japan have decided to further expand their defence ties, with more bilateral combat exercises, military exchanges and top-level visits as well as collaboration in maritime security and defence production, with an eye firmly on an aggressive and expansionist China.
- Towards this end, India and Japan will hold their first-ever joint Army exercise in the domain of counter-terrorism later this year, while cranking up the level of ongoing naval exercises and interactions, including those in the areas of anti-submarine warfare and mine counter-measures.

World's first thermal battery plant to be inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh

- The world's first-ever thermal battery plant will be unveiled in Andhra Pradesh by the state's Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on August 6, 2018.
- Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST), the first-of-its-kind batteries will aim to boost renewable sources of energy production and reduce the dependence on non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.
- The technology, which will help in mitigating carbon emissions, is best suited for grid balancing and stabilisations.

First-ever dragonfly festival in Delhi

- The dragonfly festival is being organised from August 3 to September 1, 2018 at World Wide Fund (WWF) auditorium, New Delhi.
- The aim is to spread awareness about the role of Dragonflies in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Odisha CM Inaugurates India's First "Skill Museum" In Cuttack

- With an aim to promote skills through ITI, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in August 2018 inaugurated India's first Skill Museum at the State-run Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Cuttack.
- The Skill Museum has been set up with several skill-based equipment and machineries, a world-class exhibition that will provide information about skills to students. An auditorium was also constructed at a cost of ₹73 lakh. The museum has been set up in an area of 2600 sq ft.

Kerala police's first ever women battalion with 578 members formed

- After Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) inducted 500 women personnel in Kashmir, Kerala police formed its first all-women battalion with 578 members on August 1, 2018.
- The passing-out parade was held at the Kerala Police Academy ground and the battalion was addressed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- While addressing the battalion, the CM said that new recruits should stand for secularism and women empowerment.

Kerala, Rajasthan top India's first state index for energy efficiency

- On 1 August, India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a sub-agency of the Ministry of Power, released the country's first energy efficiency index for Indian states. The 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index' was prepared by the body in conjunction with Niti Aayog, India's policy incubator.
- Kerala and Rajasthan achieved "front-runner" category on the index, along with Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab. The index breaks down each state's level of achievement in a specific sector.

First in World

European Space Agency launches world's first wind-sensing satellite Aeolus

- European Space Agency (ESA) successfully launched wind-sensing satellite named 'Aeolus' into orbit on board of Vega rocket from French Guyana.
- It is world's first wind-sensing satellite dedicated to map Earth's wind on global scale in particular tropical winds which are very poorly mapped.

World Bank launches world-first blockchain bond

- The World Bank has priced the world's first public bond created and managed using only blockchain in a A\$100 million (\$73.16 million) deal designed to test how the technology might improve decades-old bond sales practices. Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the sole manager of the deal, said in a statement that the two-year bonds had priced to yield 2.251% and would settle 28 August.
- The prototype deal, dubbed a "Bondi" bond - standing for Blockchain Operated New Debt Instrument as well as a reference to Australia's most famous beach — is being viewed as an initial step in moving bond sales away from manual processes towards faster and cheaper automation.

Apple becomes first company to reach \$1 trillion market cap

- Silicon Valley technology giant Apple in August 2018 became the first public company in U.S. history to reach a \$1 trillion market value, ahead of rapidly rising Seattle-based Amazon, cementing Apple's long-held place as the world's most valuable company.
- The milestone is the culmination of Apple's persistent growth and continued delivery of hugely popular products. From the early days of the Macintosh computer in the 1980s to the portable iPod, iPad, iPhone and Apple Watch with their app-based services, Apple's products and vision have lifted the company to extraordinary heights.

Researchers develop world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics

- Researchers from the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) have successfully developed the world's first-ever 4D printing for ceramics that can be used to create complex, shape-changing objects.
- 4D printing is conventional 3D printing combined with the additional element of time as the fourth dimension, where the printed objects can re-shape or self-assemble themselves over time with external stimuli, such as mechanical force, temperature, or a magnetic field.

Scientists discover new shape called scutoid

- Scientists have discovered a new shape called scutoid while studying nature's way of moulding tissue to form the skin, cavity linings and the building blocks of organs.
- The shape has five sides on one end and six on the other and a triangular surface on one of its longer edges.

Chinese researchers 'create' world's first single-chromosome yeast

- Researchers from China have claimed to have created the world's first single-chromosome yeast while not affecting the majority of its functions.
- The researchers involved in the creation are molecular biologists from the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences in China. The research was published on the website of the journal – Nature on August 2, 2018.

World's 1st hypersonic aircraft that can fire nuclear warheads successfully test fired by China

- Beijing successfully tested its first hypersonic aircraft which has the ability to carry nuclear warheads and penetrate any current generation anti-missile defence system owing to its high speed and 'unpredictable trajectory'.
- The test of the Xingkong-2, or Starry Sky-2, was conducted in a target range located in northwest China in August 2018, the state-run China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA) said in a statement.
- Launched by a multi-stage rocket, China's hypersonic aircraft wave rider was released in the air after about 10 minutes

First Persons

Justice Gita Mittal becomes first woman Chief Justice of J&K High Court

- In its nine decades-long history, the Jammu and Kashmir have got its first woman Chief Justice as well as the first woman judge.
- Justice Gita Mittal, the acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the J&K High Court. President Ram Kovind on August 3 issued a notification in this regard.
- Gita Mittal is the first women from the field of law and justice to be conferred the Nari Shakti Puraskar, India's highest civilian honour for women.

First Muslim woman set to be elected to US Congress

- A 42-year-old Muslim woman has won the Democratic nomination to run unopposed for a House seat in Michigan, bringing her closer to becoming the first female from the minority community to be elected to the US Congress, according to a media report.
- Rashida Tlaib, a former state Representative, has won a crowded battle to replace former US Representative John Conyers Jr. in Michigan's 13th Congressional District Democratic primary, The Detroit News reported.

Dheemanth Nagaraj, first Indian technologist to get Intel Fellow award

- For the first time in its 20-year history, an executive at the Intel India Design Centre has earned the distinction of being designated an Intel Fellow.
- Dheemanth Nagaraj got the honour, which is given to outstanding technological experts within the company, for his innovations such as conceiving and building the Intel Xeon D processor, a density-optimised and low-power chip for the hyper-scale cloud, networking and storage.

First in Sports

Japan wins first ever U-20 Women World Cup

- A very relentless Japanese side overpowered Spain to lift their first ever Under 20 Women's World Cup, beating Spain 3-1 in France in August 2018.
- The finals was obviously entertaining for the fans at the Stade de la Rabine, Vannes, as the Europeans held possession early in the first half but their persistent opponent took the lead.
- Hinata Miyazawa took the Asians off to a historic start in the 38 minute, displacing defenders and creating a beautiful finish.

Anderson becomes 1st bowler to take 100 wickets at Lord's

- England fast bowler James Anderson in August 2018 became the first bowler to take 100 Test wickets here at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground.
- The 36-year-old achieved the feat on day four of the second Test in the ongoing five-match Test series against India, and it was India's opening batsman Murali Vijay who became his 100th Test wicket.

Teen cyclist creates history by claiming India's first ever medal

- Teen cyclist Esow Alben has created history by claiming India's first ever medal - a silver- at the UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Aigle, Switzerland.
- He put enormous pressure on Czech Republic's Jakub Stastny in the final sprint before settling for the silver medal.
- Esow finished just 0.017 seconds behind gold medalist Stastny in the thrilling photo-finish of a race.

India's Records in Asian Games 2018

India secured a **bronze medal in the men's team regu event** which was the country's first medal in **sepak takraw** since the debut of the sport in the 1990 Asian Games.

India secured its **first ever medal in table tennis in the Asian Games as the men's team won a Bronze medal** by defeating Japan in the quarterfinal of the Table tennis at the 2018 Asian Games.

In the 25 meter rapid fire pistol event, **Rahi Sarnobat became the first Indian woman to clinch the gold medal in a shooting event of Asian Games.**

Vinesh Phogat, who won gold in the women's freestyle 50 kg category, **became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Games.**

Saina Nehwal & P. V. Sindhu won India's first ever medal in the women's singles event in badminton at the Asian Games when they reached the semifinals at Jakarta.

P. V. Sindhu became the first Indian shuttler to reach the final of a singles badminton event at the Games and eventually won a silver.

Neeraj Chopra won the country's **first javelin gold medal**, setting a new national record.

Indian pair of Pranab Bardhan & Shibnath Sarkar won the gold medal in the inaugural edition of **Contract bridge at the 2018 Asian Games – Men's pair.**

Vikas Krishan Yadav sets the record to **become the first Indian boxer to clinch a medal in three successive Asian games.**

Swapna Barman becomes first Indian heptathlete to win Asian Games gold.

Arpinder Singh wins India's first triple jump gold in 48 years.

India's 23-year-old **Tajinder Pal Singh** clinched the gold medal in men's shot put with an Asian Games record by smashing the national and world record.