

NATIONAL**Maharashtra****Government proposes to extend benefits of Employees Provident Fund**

- The Maharashtra government has proposed to extend benefits of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) as well as insurance schemes to those cutting, harvesting and transporting sugarcane.

INTERNATIONAL**Climate fund approves 1B for projects in poor countries**

- A UN-backed fund has approved more than 1 billion dollars for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.

US will withdraw from nuclear arms treaty with Russia

- President Donald Trump has confirmed that the US will pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, INF treaty that it had signed with Russia during the Cold War.

Hurricane Willa

- Hurricane Willa has grown rapidly into an extremely dangerous near-Category 5 storm in the eastern Pacific, on a path that could hit Mexico's western coast in the coming days.

SCIENCE**Rare 5 kg moon rock auctioned for over \$600k**

- An extremely rare lunar meteorite — comprised of six fragments that fit together like a puzzle — has been sold for \$612,500, according to US-based RR Auction.

Bacteria to degrade toluene

- Using bacteria isolated from soil and effluents near an oil refinery, researchers from the University of Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, have successfully degraded toluene into less-toxic byproducts.

Europe, Japan send spacecraft on 7-year journey to Mercury

- European and Japanese space agencies said an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a unmanned BepiColombo spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun.

NASA names gamma-ray constellations after Godzilla, Hulk

- NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations and named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk and Godzilla.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**Income Tax returns growth of over 80 per cent**

- The number of Income Tax returns filed in the last four financial years has registered a growth of over 80 per cent.
- The number was 3.79 crore in the year 2013-14 which has increased to 6.85 crore in 2017-18.

GST Council Secretariat asks six states to set up appellate authorities

- The GST Council Secretariat has asked six states to expeditiously set up appellate authorities to enable aggrieved entities to file appeals against orders of the Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR).

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**Sagar conference**

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the second edition of the Sagar conference at Bambolim, Goa being organised by the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).

'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan'

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a three-day 'Vishwa Shanti Ahimsa Sammelan' at Mangi Tungi in Nashik district of Maharashtra.

4th edition of NITI Lecture Series on artificial intelligence

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the fourth edition of NITI Lecture Series being organised at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- Theme is 'Artificial Intelligence for All: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Growth'.

SCHEMES**First cruise service 'Angriya' launched between Mumbai and Goa**

- To develop Cruise Tourism in the country, the first cruise service has been launched between Mumbai and Goa. Union Shipping, Ports and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the service in Mumbai.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS**Centre notifies special courts for benami transaction cases**

- The Centre has issued the notification that Sessions Courts in 34 states and union territories, will act as Special Courts for the trial of offences under the benami transaction law.

AWARDS**Award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces**

- The Prime Minister announced an annual award in the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary forces for commendable contributions in disaster relief operations.

SPORTS**Delhi Half Marathon men's race**

- Ethiopian Andamalak Belihu won in the men's elite field to win his maiden Airtel Delhi Half Marathon.

India Vs West Indies Cricket

- India win Guwahati one day international beating West Indies by 8 wickets

Denmark Open Badminton

- Top-seeded Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan defeats Saina Nehwal in women's singles final.

World Wrestling Championships

- India's Sumit Malik recorded one of the biggest results of his career by reaching the semifinals of the World Wrestling Championships.
- Bajrang Punia has entered 65 kg category Final at the World Wrestling Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

Asian Champions Trophy hockey

- India beat Pakistan 3-1 in Asian Champions Trophy hockey.

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