

CURRENTAFFAIRS SNIPPETS: SEPTEMBER 2018

BUSINESS & TRADE

S&P BSE Private Banks Index: Asia Index Pvt. Ltd launched index to measure performance of private banks

This index is designed to provide market participants with transparent and rules-based benchmark that measures performance of private banks listed in India. Only common stocks classified as banks by BSE Sector Classification model and that are not classified under BSE scrip category as PSU are eligible for this index. The index will be calculated in Indian Rupees and USD in real-time by BSE, Asia's oldest exchange.

Coca-Cola acquired British coffee chain Costa

Coca-Cola acquired the British coffee chain Costa, the second-largest coffee house in the world, for about \$5.1 billion as soda companies reconfigure their businesses while consumers shift away from sugary, carbonated drinks.

NSE, LSE ink MoU for dual listing of masala bonds

NSE & London Stock Exchange (LSE) have signed MoU to collaborate on creating dual listing route for masala bonds & foreign currency bonds of Indian issuers. Through approval of single listing document, issuer can obtain dual listing on LSE's International Securities Market and NSE's GIFT City. It will serve as potential precursor of further joint listings that could see foreign currency bonds in India also being able to list in London

BSE, NSE get SEBI approval to launch commodity derivatives segment

The capital markets regulator SEBI has allowed India's top two stock exchanges BSE & NSE to launch commodity derivatives trading from 1 October, 2018. This approval is part of SEBI's December 2017 announcement of having unified exchange regime wherein stock exchanges will be allowed to offer trading in commodities derivatives. As per unified exchange regime, stock exchanges need not to set up different entities to offer commodity trading

GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Minority Affairs launched National Scholarship Portal Mobile App

The app aims to provide smooth, accessible and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor & weaker sections. The beneficiaries will get all information regarding various scholarships on this mobile app. They will be able to apply for scholarships sitting in their home

Health Ministry prohibits manufacture, sale and distribution of Fixed Dose Combinations

Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has prohibited manufacture, sale & distribution of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations for human use with immediate effect. It was imposed over fears that these drugs cause anti-microbial resistance and might even cause organ-failure because of high toxicity. The action was also aimed at curbing the misuse of medicines

LK Advani renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha

Senior BJP leader L K Advani was renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha. He was renominated by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan

Apsara: BARC re-commissions upgraded version of India's oldest research reactor

BARC has re-commissioned India's oldest nuclear research reactor named 'Apsara', which was shut down permanently in 2009 for repair. The refurbished version of this reactor has been named as 'Apsara-upgraded' (Apsara-U) and also has double capacity compared to earlier version

NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR collaborate to set up Model International Center for Transformative AI

This collaboration is part of NITI Aayog's National strategy for Artificial Intelligence'. The model center is aimed at solving major challenges in India with special focus on application-based AI research in healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility. It will aid in Developing & deploying AI-led application-based research projects. It will conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three

important areas – healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility – by bringing together expertise of TIFR and Intel

Odisha Assembly passed resolution for creation of Legislative Council

The resolution was passed with as many as 104 of total 147 legislators casting their votes in its favour. The resolution now will be sent to Central Government (Union cabinet) for approval, following which it will be tabled in both houses of the Parliament. Thereafter, presidential assent is required to make it Act

Government launched National Mission on Government eMarketplace

Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) for increasing awareness and accelerating use of GeM by major central Ministries, State Governments & their agencies. GeM provides online, end to end solution for procurement of commonly used goods & services for all Central Government Departments & State Governments

Government indefinitely extends Atal Pension Yojana

Union Cabinet has indefinitely extended Atal Pension Scheme, which had lapsed in August 2018. It also has broadened its scope by keeping it open-ended. The extension was given by taking into consideration of mass participation

India Post Payments Bank to offer loans, MFs & insurance through third party tie-ups

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with PNB to offer loans, mutual funds. IPPB & Bajaj Allianz announced a five-year partnership to sell life insurance products on a revenue share basis. Under the partnership, IPPB will facilitate customers to pay for Bajaj Allianz life insurance products through their accounts. Launched on September 1, the IPPB has gained around 9 lakh customers

Bogibeel: India's longest rail-cum-road bridge by Indian Railways likely to open in October 2018

The Bogibeel Bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam, which is expected to complete at the end of 2018. Sited about 17 km downstream of Dibrugarh town, the

4.94km bridge will facilitate road & rail connectivity between north & south banks of the Brahmaputra in the eastern part of Assam & Arunachal Pradesh

First Ever Bihar-Nepal Bus Service Flagged Off

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar flagged off the first bus service between Bihar & Nepal. The service will link Bodh Gaya & Patna in Bihar to Kathmandu & Janakpur in Nepal & intends to strengthen relations between India & Nepal

Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv

Second Anniversary of Surgical Strike was celebrated as Parakram Parv or Surgical Strike Day on September 29 - 30, 2018 by Indian Army to showcase gallant action of brave Army in the conduct of Surgical Strike on September 29, 2016. The Parakram Parv celebrations were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 'Combined Commanders' Conference in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Exhibition to highlight the valour and accomplishments of the Indian Army was organized by Konark Corps at Jodhpur Military station

#LooReview Campaign: Government and Google launch campaign to review public toilets

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map. The joint campaign has been launched under aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U). It will run throughout October and November 2018 in an effort to increase awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India

NITI Aayog inks SoI for with Oracle collaboration against counterfeit drugs in India

NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with Oracle to pilot real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software to fight growing problem of counterfeit drugs in India. Strides Pharma Sciences and Apollo Hospitals will partner in this effort. The problem of fake and counterfeit drugs is a major issue, costing Indian pharma industry billions. At the same time, it is also putting patients at a higher

risk. This agreement with Oracle, will help ensure that Indian drug manufacturers & healthcare experts have access to standards-based, modern technology platform – blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) to help eliminate fake drug distribution

Government launches Rail heritage digitization project in collaboration with Google

Union Railway Ministry has launched Rail Heritage Digitization Project in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture Association. It is first-of-its-kind project that aims to showcase India's rail heritage to the national & international audience in an online story-telling platform. It is also the largest cultural heritage digitization project in India and possibly in entire Asia Pacific Region

NITI Aayog & the UN sign Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022

The agreement is reflection of commitment and efforts made by India towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals. UNSDF 2018-2022 outlines development cooperation strategy between Union Government and UN Country Team in India in support of achievement of India's key national development priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Government launches Financial Inclusion Index

Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley launched Financial Inclusion Index in New Delhi. The annual FII will be released by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. It will be measure of access and usage of basket of formal financial products and services that include savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products

WAYU: Air pollution control device inaugurated in New Delhi

Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation PurifYing Unit) for traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in New Delhi. The device aims at tackling toxicity in air by sucking in particulate matter and

release fresh air. It has been indigenously developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as part of Technology Development Project being funded by Department of Science and Technology

Andhra Pradesh tops Ease of Living Index 2018 rankings under AMRUT

Andhra Pradesh has topped Ease of Living Index rankings under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation). It was followed by Odisha & Madhya Pradesh. The three states were awarded best-performing states at National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018 held in New Delhi. AMRUT is an urban transformation scheme with the focus of the urban renewal projects to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewerage networks and water supply to improve the quality of life of people in urban areas

Pakyong airport: PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Sikkim's first airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Sikkim's first-ever airport at Pakyong. Prior to this airport, Sikkim was only state in India remaining without functional airport. Pakyong airport is India's 100th functional airport and one of the country's five highest airports

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana: PM launches world's largest healthcare scheme

Launched in Ranchi, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) belongs to Ayushman Bharat umbrella. It aims to provide annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to 10.74 crore beneficiary families i.e. over 50 crore beneficiaries across India. It is touted as world's largest healthcare scheme that will serve beneficiary population that equals 27-28 European countries and almost equal to population of Canada, Mexico and US put together

It intends to cover beneficiaries families identified on the basis of Socio Economic Caste Survey (SECC) 2011 in 444 districts of 30 states/UTs

Government launches e-Sahaj portal to facilitate security clearances of businesses

Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched e-Sahaj portal to facilitate individuals and private companies in seeking security clearance for setting up businesses in certain sensitive sectors. The portal aims to bring greater transparency in according security clearances to business proposals relating to sensitive sectors and geographical locations

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INDIA'S GLOBAL RANKINGS

India ranks 130 in UN's human development index 2017

India climbed one spot to 130 among 189 countries in the latest human development index (HDI) released Friday by the UN Development Programme. Within South Asia, India's HDI value is above the average of 0.638 for the region, with Bangladesh and Pakistan, countries with similar population size, being ranked 136 and 150 respectively. Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany lead the ranking, while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI's measurement of national achievements in health, education and income

Cyclone-30: India's biggest cyclotron facility becomes operational

India's biggest cyclotron facility named Cyclone-30 became operational at Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), that comes under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Cyclotron is used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care. Radiations from these isotopes are used to destroy cancer cells

IPPB ties up with Bajaj Allianz to offer life insurance products

State-owned India Post Payments Bank and private life insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co Ltd have entered into strategic partnership to provide life insurance solutions. It will allow IPPB customers across segments to access wide array of life insurance products and services especially at doorstep. Bajaj Allianz is the first life insurer to partner with IPPB. This partnership will allow Bajaj to leverage IPPB's last mile reach for building awareness about life insurance

Government announces merger of Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank

Union Finance Ministry announced proposal for amalgamation of three public sector banks- Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank. The combined entity after consolidation will create India's third largest bank. Post this merger, number of PSU banks will come down to 19 from 21, accounting for more than two-thirds of banking assets in the country

India's first 'smart fence' pilot project inaugurated along Indo-Pak border

India's first 'smart fence' pilot project was inaugurated along two 5-km each patches of India-Pakistan International Border Jammu and Kashmir. It was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh from Border Security Force (BSF) Headquarters in Ploura, J&K. The initiative has been taken up by BSF as part of comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS). The pilot project involves deploying of laser-activated fences and technology-enabled barriers to plug vulnerable gaps along the frontiers

INTERNATIONAL

Bengaluru airport set to become first in Asia to use face recognition as boarding pass

For this, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd. has signed agreement with Portuguese software firm Vision Box. The face recognition based passage system will allow passengers to board flights & move across different sections of the airport using automatic biometric boarding procedure instead of manual boarding passes verification. In this case, face will serve as boarding pass. The first implementation milestone of this system at Bengaluru Airport will be completed in the first quarter of 2019, with Jet Airways, Air Asia and SpiceJet passengers as first users

International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 held in Kathmandu

International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 was held in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal from 3-5 September 2018. The theme of 3-day summit was "Equality begins with Economic Empowerment". The main objective of the summit was to bring together achievers, women business leaders, professionals, international service providers, resource organizations, experts, government representatives and other stakeholders with a focus on innovative economic transformation through discussions and collaborations. It had seen participation of delegates from SAARC, ASEAN, EU, Africa, Arab countries and China

Dr Arif Alvi elected as 13th President of Pakistan

He is close ally of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of founding members of ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. He took oath of office of President on September 9, 2018

Mauritius remains top source of FDI into India in 2017-18: RBI

As per RBI data, Mauritius was top source of FDI into India in 2017-18, followed by Singapore. The total FDI in FY 18 stood at \$37.4 billion, which was marginal rise over \$36.3 billion recorded in FY 2016-17

G-4 Ministers from India, Brazil, Germany, Japan review UNSC reform

G-4 Nations viz. India, Brazil, Germany and Japan have voiced concern over lack of substantive progress in long-pending United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform. It was convened during meeting of Ministers from G4 Countries, hosted by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at Indian Mission to UN to review the reform progress

WWF Tx2 programme: Nepal becomes first country to double its tiger population

Nepal become first country in the world that has doubled its tiger population in a decade as part of World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme which aims to double number of tigers in the world all over the world by 2022. There are now estimated 235 wild tigers in Nepal in comparison to an estimated 121 back in 2009. This

trend is against global trend where number of tigers in many countries is witnessing a decline

First General Assembly of International Solar Alliance to be held on 2 October in Delhi

The inaugural General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) will be inaugurated on 2 October 2018 in New Delhi. ISA was jointly launched by India & France in November 2015 at Paris on side lines of COP21 UN Climate Change Conference. Its Framework Agreement came into force in December 2017

Germany rolls out world's first hydrogen-powered train

Germany has rolled out world's first hydrogen-powered passenger train. These locomotives named iLint trains emit zero emissions, making them eco-friendly. This train technology offers greener and quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines. These hydrogen trains are manufactured by French TGV-maker Alstom and are commercially running on 100km route between towns & cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany

Hundreds killed as powerful earthquake and tsunami hit Indonesia

A 7.5-magnitude earthquake recently hit Indonesia, which triggered a large tsunami. Around 800+ people died due to natural calamities

AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

MILEX-18: First military exercise of BIMSTEC countries held in Pune

The first field training military exercise MILEX-18, as part of the Bay of Bengal initiative for multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation (BIMSTEC) commenced at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra. All member BIMSTEC countries, except Thailand and Nepal will take active part in this exercise. These two will only be sending group of observers

Nomadic Elephant 2018: India, Mongolia joint exercise held in Ulaanbaatar

India, Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant 2018 commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar (capital of Mongolia). Nomadic Elephant is annual bilateral military exercise started in 2006. It is designed to strengthen partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces

First wet mid-air refuelling of LCA Tejas successfully carried out using IL-78 MKI tanker

Indian Air Force successfully carried out first ever mid-air refuelling of indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK-1 over Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. It was first wet mid-air refuelling of LCA Tejas (LSP8) carried out by transferring 1,900kg of fuel from IAF's Russian-origin Ilyushin-78 (IL-78) tanker at altitude of 20,000 feet. This operation had refueled all internal tanks & drop tanks of LCA Tejas. India joins the elite group of countries that have successfully developed air-to-air refueling system for military aircraft

Yudh Abhyas 2018: India, US annual combat exercise to be held Chaubattia in Uttarakhand

India & the US will conduct annual combat exercise "Yudh Abhyas" at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand from 16-29 September 2018. The exercise will be held soon after both countries hold inaugural top-level "2+2" dialogue in New Delhi

KAZIND 2018: Indo-Kazakhstan joint military exercise to be held in Otar region, Kazakhstan

India, Kazakhstan joint army exercise KAZIND will be conducted between Indian and Kazakhstan Army in Otar region, Kazakhstan from 10-23 September 2018. This will be third joint military exercise between two countries which have history of extensive cooperation in defence arena.

SLINEX-2018: India and Sri Lanka conducts joint naval exercise at Trincomalee

India, Sri Lanka joint naval exercise SLINEX-2018 was held at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from September 7 to 13, 2018. SLINEX exercise started in 2005 was previously held once in two years and now it has been converted to annual event this year onwards. The exercise was conducted in two phases, namely Harbour and Sea Phase. These exercises involved joint training, exchange of expertise, helicopter and

maritime patrol aircraft operations, search and rescue, and maneuvers at sea.

Yudh Abhyas 2018: India, US joint military exercise held in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand

India and United States joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 commenced at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand. It will be fourteenth edition of exercise in Yudh Abhyas series which was started in 2004 under US Army Pacific Partnership Program. This will be fourth time exercise will be conducted at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand. The aim of this exercise will be to enhance interoperability between armies. It will also focus on enhancing counter-terror cooperation. The scope and intensity of this year's exercise is much wider and is in reflection of upswing in defence ties between the two countries.

Prahar: Short-range, Quick Reaction tactical ballistic missile tested fired

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed surface-to-surface short-range tactical ballistic missile 'Prahaar'. It was launched from mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III, Integrated Test Range, Balasore off Odisha Coast.

Aviandra 18: India, Russia Air Force joint exercise commences

India and Russia joint air exercise Aviandra 18 was held in Lipetsk, Russia from September 17 to 28, 2018. The second session of Aviandra 18 will be conducted in Jodhpur, Rajasthan (India) from December 10 Dec to 22, 2018. Exercise Aviandra is Air Force level exercise between India and Russia. It was conducted for first time in 2014 and since then it is conducted bi-annually in both countries, with focus on anti-terrorist operations in bi-lateral scenario

India, France ink agreement to collaborate for Gaganyaan mission

India & France have signed agreement to collaborate for ISRO's first human space mission Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022. Both countries have also announced working group for Gaganyaan. The announcement was made at sixth edition of Bengaluru Space Expo (touted to be largest space

conference in Asia and held in Bengaluru). So far, French-Indian space cooperation was in the domain of climate monitoring, with fleet of joint satellites devoted to research and operational applications

ISRO launches two satellites NovaSAR and S1-4 using PSLV-C42

ISRO successfully launched two satellites—NovaSAR and S1-4 -belonging to the UK based Surrey Satellite Technology Limited. Both satellites were injected into Sun Synchronous Orbit (pole-to-pole orbit) at an altitude of 583 km after the launch.

ISRO inaugurates S-Band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar at Sriharikota spaceport

ISRO has inaugurated S-Band Polarimetry Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota spaceport, Andhra Pradesh. It will be used for observation of weather system up to range of 500 km and also for early warning of severe weather events

SPORTS

2018 US Open Winners:

Men's singles title: Winner: Novak Djokovic (Serbia) Runner up: Juan Martín del

Women's singles title: Winner: Naomi Osaka (Japan) Runner up: Serena Williams (US)

Men's Double title: Winner: Mike Bryan and Jack Sock. (US)

Runner up: Łukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

Women's Doubles title: Winner: Ashleigh Barty (Australia) and CoCo Vandeweghe (US)

Runner up: Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)

Mixed Doubles title: Winner: Jamie Murray (UK) and Bethanie Mattek-Sands (US)

Runner up: Alicja Rosolska (Poland) and Nikola Pietrangeli (Croatia)

India Blue wins 2017-18 Duleep Trophy

India Blue has won 2017-18 Duleep Trophy by defeating defending champion India Red by an innings and 187 runs in final match. India Blue's spinners Deepak Jagbir Hooda (5 for 56) & Saurabh Kumar (5 for 51) were just needed 10.5 overs on fourth day of final match to bundle out India Red for 172 in second innings. Himachal Pradesh

batsman Nikhil Gangta was named man of match for his superb knock of 130

Jhulan Goswami breaks new ceiling with 300 International Wickets

Jhulan Goswami became the first woman to pick up 300 international wickets when she had Nipuni Hansika caught behind during India's first One-Day International match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Cricket Stadium

National Sports Awards 2018

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2018:

S. Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting) and Virat Kohli (Cricket)

Dronacharya Awards 2018

Chenanda Achaiah Kuttappa (Boxing), Vijay Sharma (Weightlifting), A. Srinivasa Rao (Table Tennis), Sukhdev Singh Pannu (Athletics), Clarence Lobo (Hockey), Tarak Sinha (Cricket), Jiwan Kumar Sharma (Judo), V R Beedu (Athletics)

Arjuna Awards 2018

Neeraj Chora (Athletics), Jinson Johnson (Athletics), Hima Das (Athletics), Nelakurthi Sikki Reddy (Badminton), Satish Kumar (Boxing), Smriti Mandhan and so on

Dhyan Chand Awards 2018

Satyadev Prasad (Archery), Bharat Kumar Chetri (Hockey), Bobby Aloysius (Athletics), Chougale Dadu Dattatray (Wrestling)

Luka Modric was named Best FIFA Footballer of the Year 2018

Modric beat Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah and Ronaldo in the race for the title. The Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder starred for both club & country as Madrid won a third straight Champions League, and he inspired Croatia to reach the World Cup final for first time

BOOK RELEASES & AUTHORS

PM Narendra Modi releases Venkaiah Naidu's book 'Moving On Moving Forward: A Year in Office'

The book is based on Mr. Naidu's tenure as Vice-President & Chairman of Rajya Sabha. He talks about his vision in chapter 'Retired from politics'

Ruskin Bond authored a novel “The Beauty of All My Days: A Memoir

Ruskin Bond is known for his innumerable stories, essays, poems and novels. A wordsmith, his life, work and philosophy open a window to a myriad world where solitude sits by tranquility to ruminate time now and then

AWARDS & HONORS

Mumbai neurosurgeon named for Dr B.C. Roy award

Mumbai-based eminent neurosurgeon Dr B.K. Misra was named for prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award for year 2018 as Eminent Medical Person of the Year. It is highest medical honour of India and will be bestowed upon him by President Ram Nath Kovind in July 1, 2019 on the occasion of National Doctors Day

Narendra Modi, Emmanuel Macron jointly awarded UN’s Champions of Earth Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have been jointly awarded 2018 Champions of the Earth award, UN’s highest environmental honour. They were chosen in Policy Leadership category of the award for their pioneering work in championing International Solar Alliance (ISA) and promoting new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action. It also PM Modi’s unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022

Village Rockstars: Assamese movie is India’s official entry for Oscars 2019

Assamese movie ‘Village Rockstars’ was selected as India’s official entry to the Oscars 2019 (91st Academy Awards) under Foreign Language Film category. The film is written, edited, co-produced, and directed by Rima Das, who is a self-taught filmmaker. It had won Best Feature Film ‘Swarna Kamal’ award at 65th National Film Awards

PERSONALITIES

Hima Das appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam

India’s ace sprinter Hima Das was appointed as Sports Ambassador of Assam to inspire budding

players of northeastern state to aim big and young generation to take up sports seriously

Ranjan Gogoi appointed as 46th Chief Justice of India

Justice Ranjan Gogoi succeeds Dipak Misra. He becomes the first CJI from north-eastern region. He will have tenure of about 13 months, from October 3, 2018 till his retirement on November 17, 2019

Sunil Mehta elected as new Chairman of Indian Bank’s Association for 2018-19

PNB MD & chief executive, Sunil Mehta was elected as new chairman of Indian Banks Association (IBA) for year 2018-19. Bank of India’s managing director and chief executive Dina Bandhu Mohapatra was elected as the deputy chairman. SBI chairman, Rajnish Kumar & Federal Bank’s MD Shyam Srinivasan will continue as deputy chairmen

Mukul Deoras appointed as Colgate-Palmolive India Chairman

FMCG major Colgate-Palmolive India has appointed Mukul Deoras as Chairman of the company with effect from September 1, 2018. He replaces Vinod Nambiar

Facebook India appoints former Hotstar CEO Ajit Mohan as MD and Vice President

Ajit Mohan plans to join Facebook early next year and will be responsible for Facebook's India strategy and for driving the company's continued investment in India

Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma signed as ambassadors of Skill India Campaign

Bollywood stars Varun Dhawan & Anushka Sharma have been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The actors will next be seen in "Sui Dhaaga - Made in India", a Yash Raj Films project, that salutes India's entrepreneurs and skilled workforce, including homegrown artisans, craftspeople and weavers

Renowned filmmaker Kalpana Lajmi passed away

Filmmaker Kalpana Lajmi, who was known for her women oriented, powerhouse films like Rudaali, Chingaari, Ek Pal and Daman died in Mumbai

