In A First, Parliament Adjourns To Pay Tribute to Karunanidhi Who Was Never An MP

Both Houses of Parliament were adjourned for the day on Wednesday after paying obituary to DMK chief M Karunanidhi who passed away on Tuesday.

48th Kerala State Film Awards: Artists must fight hatred, communalism, says Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan
NRIs Can’t file RTI Applications: Government

Only citizens of India have the right to seek information under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005, said Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh.

Harivansh Narayan Singh Elected As Deputy Chairman Of Rajya Sabha

The BJP-led NDA’s candidate Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected new Rajya Sabha (RS) deputy chairman with 125 votes. The UPA’s candidate, Congress MP BK Hariprasad, got 105 votes.

The RS deputy chairman post fell vacant after the retirement of Congress’ PJ Kurien on July 1.

Harivansh, MP from the JD(U), beat Congress candidate, BK Hariprasad, MP from Karnataka.
Kolkata Man Tops IQ World List With The Score Of 148

Amit Sahai, a 43-year-old senior professional from Kolkata has topped the prestigious Intelligence Quotient (IQ) World list along with two other Americans with a score of 148.

He has a background in international sales of software, IT, ITes services and high end audio and engineering products. He is also a member of the International High IQ Society.

Sikkim’s Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve Added To UNESCO List

India’s Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, one of the highest ecosystems in the world, has been added to UNESCO's list of World Network of Biosphere Reserve (WNBR).

According to a statement issued by the Union Environment Ministry, the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, UNESCO, had designated Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserve in its 30th session, which was held from July 23-27, 2018 at Palembang, Indonesia.
In total, India has 18 biosphere Reserves, among which 11 have been internationally designated **WNBR**.

The remaining seven are domestic designated biosphere reserves and the Indian government is trying for their inclusion in the list as well.

**Indian National Trust For Art And Cultural Heritage (INTACH)**

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has called for transforming heritage buildings in Rajasthan into “economic assets” for the society.

Economic benefits could be derived from these properties as an alternative to paying for their upkeep on a regular basis.

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is a **non-profit charitable organisation** registered under the Societies’ Registration Act, 1860.
**Aim:** It was founded in 1984 with the vision to create a membership organisation to stimulate and spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.

**Contributions:** Since 1984, INTACH has pioneered the conservation and protection of India’s natural and cultural heritage and is today the largest membership organisation in the country dedicated to conservation.

In 2007, the United Nations awarded INTACH a **special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.**

◆ **Andhra Pradesh Topped The States’ Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index (SEEPI) Released By The Bureau Of Energy Efficiency (BEE) And NITI Aayog.**

**Top 5 in the Index:**

- Andhra Pradesh
- Kerala
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Maharashtra

◆ **Parliament Has Passed Constitution** (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 that seeks to provide **constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).**

★ The bill will be sent to President for his assent.


**Schemes**

◆ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**

**A National Mission To Provide Water To Every Field**

**Key Highlights**

- Total area brought under precision irrigation system is **2.36 lakh ha** and **18750** water harvesting structures have been created having **27835 ha** potential for protective irrigation.

- During 2016-17, funds allocated to PMKSY is **Rs. 2340 cr** and **8 lakh ha** has been targeted under micro irrigation.

- Farmers can contact District Agriculture/Horticulture officer for obtaining subsidy on drip/sprinkler irrigation technique.

- Priority is given to projects which are close to completion so that farmers can get immediate benefit.

For more information, please contact 1800-180-1551.
A revised Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed amongst Govt. of India (through MoWR, RD & GR), NABARD and National Water Development Agency (NWDA) for funding of central share of 99 prioritized irrigation projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) through Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF).

**The MoU will enable this Ministry to release Central Assistance** to prioritized projects under PMKSY as per the requirements from time to time.

**LTIF:**

To cater to the large fund requirement and ensure completion of the projects, the **Union Finance Minister**, during his Budget speech 2016-17, announced creation of dedicated **Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in NABARD** with an initial corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore for funding of Central and State share for the identified ongoing projects under PMKSY (AIBP and CAD).

**PMKSY:**

PMKSY has been conceived amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC).

The scheme will be **implemented by Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development.**

**The major objective of PMKSY** is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water and enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop).
NITI Aayog Identified 117 Districts As Aspirational Districts for RUSA Scheme

During the second phase of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), central assistance is provided for opening of new Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) in ‘Aspirational Districts’ identified by NITI Aayog and in unserved & underserved districts in North Eastern and Himalayan States.

Startup India Launched Startup Academia Alliance

Start Up India has launched the Startup Academia Alliance Programme providing a unique opportunity between academic scholars and startups working in similar domains.

The Startup Academia Alliance aims to reduce the gap between scientific research and its industrial applications in order to increase the efficacy to these technologies and to widen their impact.

The first phase of the Programme was kick started through partnering with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Regional Centre for Biotechnology, council on Energy, environment and TERI School of Advanced Studies.
INTERNATIONAL

❖ Palestinian-American To Become First Muslim Congresswoman In US

❖ Rashida Tlaib Wins Democratic Nomination for Michigan Seat

❖ Rashida Tlaib, the eldest of 14 siblings, was born in Detroit after her parents emigrated from Palestine. Tlaib began her political career only in 2004.

❖ China Stamp Hints At Relaxation Of Two-Child Policy

❖ The new stamp unveiled on Monday and due for release in 2019 features a family of two smiling pigs and their three cheerful piglets
**Xingkong-2: China Successfully Tests First Hypersonic Aircraft**

- China successfully tested its first cutting-edge hypersonic “waverider” flight vehicle (aircraft) Xingkong-2 (Starry Sky-2).
- Waverider is a flight vehicle that flies in the atmosphere and uses shockwaves generated by its own hypersonic flight with air to glide at high speed. Currently, the United States and Russia have been carrying out similar experiments.

**The 3rd India-Nepal Coordination Meeting Was Held At New Delhi Today.**

- A seven-member delegation from Nepal, headed by Inspector General of Nepal Armed Police Force Shailendra Khanal took part in the three-day meeting.
- During the meeting, several important matters like security scenario along the border, coordination meetings at field level, sharing of information about crimes and criminals, training of armed police personnel and mutual visits by officers of two countries were discussed.
**The United Kingdom (UK) Has Rejected India's Request To Ban A Pro-Khalistan Event In London To Be Held Later This Month.**

★ The UK said that people in the country have the right to gather and demonstrate their views, provided it is done within the law.

★ **Note:** The US-based Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) is holding a 'Referendum' seeking Punjab's 'independence' on August 12.

**SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE**

**International Conference On Sustainable Growth Through Material Recycling Inaugurated In New Delhi**

★ The conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Ganga Rejuvenation, **Nitin Gadkari** at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.


Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu unveils the world’s First – Ever thermal battery in his Andhra Pradesh State.

Manufactured by the Bharat Energy Storage Technology private Limited (BEST), the first of its kind cell is aimed at boosting up renewable sources of energy production, instead of non-renewable fossil fuel-based energy generation.

It will also be used to store energy for telecommunication, commercial establishments, electric vehicles and highway charging stations.

This is expected to be upgraded to a 10 GW Capacity by 2025.

The thermal battery is based on alternative sources of energy production, and its presence is expected to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
In Order To Curb Fake News, Whatsapp Today Started Rolling Out The Limit Of Forwarding Messages, Photos And Videos To Only 5 Chats At One Time In India.

- Globally, users can forward a message to **20 chats** at once.

**Scrub Typhus**

As per recent findings by a team of experts, **Scrub typhus is key encephalitis cause in eastern U.P.**

This finding is important, given that the mite-borne disease can be treated easily if doctors look for it early.
Scrub Typhus

✠ Scrub typhus is an infectious disease with symptoms similar to any viral fever.
✠ However, it is not caused by a virus, but by a parasite called Orientia tsutsugamushi, which is transmitted by the bite of infected mite larvae in soil containing scrub vegetation.
✠ The disease is also known as bush typhus because the mites (Leptotrombidium deliense, commonly known as trombiculid mite) that cause it reside in vegetation predominantly comprising small shrubs.
✠ The disease is more common during the wet season when the mites lay eggs. Incubation period (time between bite and beginning of symptoms) is 10 – 14 days.

Causes of Scrub Typhus

✠ The species which transmits Scrub typhus are found in areas which have heavy scrub vegetation.
✠ Orientia tsutsugamushi gets transmitted through the bite of trombiculid mites. These mites feed on rural and forest rodents, including voles, rats and field mice.
✠ A person develops infection after the bite of the mite larva. When a person gets bitten by this mite, it leaves a characteristic black colored eschar which helps with the diagnosis.

Symptoms

✠ The symptoms of scrub typhus are similar to chikungunya. At onset there is fever, headache, bodyache, cough and gastrointestinal symptoms.
✠ Patients with a mild infection may recover without any other symptoms. However, roughly every second patient develops a visible black scab at the point of the bite, with a swelling of the lymph nodes.
In about a third of cases, a delayed onset of rashes occurs 4-6 days into the disease. Severe cases typically include encephalitis and interstitial pneumonia due to vascular injury. The fatality rate is 7%.

Other symptoms include high fever, skin rashes, respiratory problems, red eyes and unconsciousness. Some of the patients also develop joint pains, which is characteristic of chikungunya.

It may progress on to respiratory distress, pneumonitis (inflammation of lung tissue), and multi-organ failure.

**Preventive Measures**

- Limit the spread of rodents.
- Pets should be cleaned regularly.
- Skin should be properly covered while visiting jungle or area with lot of shrubs.

An invasive agriculture pest Fall Armyworm is found in Karnataka

The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) discovered an invasive agricultural pest Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) in Karnataka.

A major maize pest in North America, the Fall Armyworm arrived in Africa in 2016. It has threatened the continent’s maize crop, a staple which feeds 300 million people.

The pest feeds on around 100 different crops, such as vegetables, rice, and sugarcane and it spreads in no time. The Karnataka finding is the first report of the pest in Asia.
**APPOINTMENTS**

**S Gopakumar Joins United India Insurance As Director & GM**

United India Insurance Company appointed S Gopakumar as its Director and General Manager with immediate effect.

**Indian Farm And Construction Equipment Maker Escorts Group Today Appointed Nikhil Nanda As The Chairman And Managing Director (CMD) Of The Company.**

He is going to replace his father Rajan Nanda who passed away earlier this week.
UN (United Nations) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has chosen former two time Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to be new UN high commissioner for human rights.

She would replace Jordan's Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein.

Bachelet who ranks among the world's most powerful women in politics, also served in 2010 as the first director of UN Women, the UN agency promoting gender equality worldwide.
AWARDS & HONORS

Gujarat Co-Operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), The marketers of the popular Amul brand of milk and dairy products, was honored with the ‘Marketer of the Year 2018’ award by the International Advertising Association of India (IAAI).

SPORTS

The Indian Women Chess Team Clinched The Gold Medal In The Blitz Event At The Asian Nations Cup 2018 Held In Iran.

★ The team also won silver and bronze in the Rapid and Classical categories, respectively.

Washington Open (Tennis) 2018

★ From 28th July to 5th August 2018, Washington Open (tennis) 2018 or Citi Open 2018 was held at Rock Creek Park Tennis Center in Washington DC, United States.

★ Washington Open (tennis) is an annual hard court tennis tournament. This is the 50th edition of the tournament.

Winners Of Washington Open (Tennis):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Alexander Zverev (Germany)</td>
<td>Alex de Minaur (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Singles</td>
<td>Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)</td>
<td>Donna Vekić (Croatia)</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Jamie Murray (United Kingdom), Bruno Soares (Brazil)</td>
<td>Mike Bryan (United States), Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Doubles</td>
<td>Han Xinyun (China), Darija Jurak (Croatia)</td>
<td>Alexa Guarachi (Chile), Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highlights**

- **Alexander Zverev** who is in world number 3 position won his 3rd ATP title as he won the Washington Open Men’s Singles title.

- **Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)** have won their 8th title since they joined hands in 2016, as they won the men’s doubles title of Washington Open.

- **Svetlana Kuznetsova**, a two time Grand Slam champion won her 18th career WTA title by winning the Women’s singles title of Washington Open.

**About Washington Open**

- Type – a combined tournament of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour of 500 points and Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) International Level Tournament

- Started – 1969

- **Tokyo 2020: First Olympics To Deploy Facial Recognition Technology To Increase Security.**

- On August 8, 2018, it was announced that the Tokyo 2020 will be the first Olympics to deploy facial recognition technology to increase security.
The Olympic organizers have partnered with NEC, a Japanese telecommunications and information technology firm, to develop the first system of this kind.

It will use IC chips within identification cards to automatically verify the identity of those entering over 40 venues.

It is the fastest system where the technology takes only 0.3 seconds to match up face with pre-registered photo.

This was 2.5 times faster than using barcodes and visual checks.

More than 300,000 athletes and Games staff will submit photographs to a database before the Olympics start in July 2020.

It was first reportedly tested during the Rio 2016 Olympics.

**Tokyo Olympics 2020:**

- No. Of Events: 33 sports.
- Venue: Tokyo, Japan.
- Date: 24th July 2020.
ECONOMICS

The Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) Has Announced That The Volume Of Transactions Through Mobile Banking Crossed The 300 Million Mark For The First Time.

- Transactions went up by around 14% to 306.42 million in June from 267.78 million in the previous month.
- The value of transactions increased to ₹1.9 trillion in June, an 11% rise from the previous month.

The Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) Has Cancelled Licenses Of 368 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in the six months ended June, more than double the number of such cancellations in the whole of 2017, for failing to meet regulatory norms.

Government Extends Deadline For Imposing Duty Hike On 29 US Products By 45 Days

- Union Finance Ministry has further extended deadline on imposing import duty hike on 29 products, imported from United States (US) by 45 days till September 18, 2018 from earlier August 4, 2018.
Core Industries Growth Quickens To 6.7% In June 2018

- As per data released by Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, index of eight core industries expanded to **7-month high of 6.7% in June 2018**. This was due to better performance by cement, refinery and coal sectors of the index. The previous high was witnessed in **November 2017 at 6.9%**. The growth rate in **May 2018 was 4.3%**.

India To Drive Global Growth For 30 Years: IMF

- IMF believes India has three decades before it hits the point where the working-age population starts to decline
- For three decades India can be almost what China was for the world economy for a while, it observes
World Cat Day

World cat day is observed in August 8th the motto of the day is cat in all places of the world due to human activities has been accustomed to be grown in the house.

International Day Of The World's Indigenous Peoples 2018

Observed Globally - Aim to strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as human rights, the environment, education, health and social development.
The theme of 2018 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was ‘Indigenous peoples’ migration and movement’.

The 2018 theme focuses on the current situation of indigenous territories, the root causes of their migration; and their trans-border movement and displacement.

It seeks to explore the challenges and ways-out to revitalise indigenous peoples’ identities and encourage the protection of their rights.

2019: International Year of Indigenous Languages

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through its Resolution on ‘Rights of Indigenous Peoples’ proclaimed the year 2019 as the ‘International Year of Indigenous Languages’.
The 76th anniversary of Quit India movement was observed across India on August 8, 2018. On this day in 1942, father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi gave the famous clarion call of ‘Do or Die’ to all Indians to drive the British away from the country.

The movement, also known as the August Kranti Diwas, was launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC), at the height of the Second World War.

As the World War II progressed, Mahatma Gandhi intensified his protests for India’s complete independence.

He drafted a resolution calling for the British to Quit India. On August 8, 1942, the Quit India resolution was passed at the Mumbai session of AICC.
The draft proposed that if the British did not agree to the demands, a massive civil disobedience movement would be launched.

- It was followed by Mahatma Gandhi’s ‘Do or Die’ Quit India speech at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay**.

- The All-India Congress Committee launched a mass protest demanding what Gandhi called "an orderly British withdrawal" from India. The movement was the most aggressive one launched by the Indian National Congress.

- Despite the ongoing world war and increasing Japanese aggression on the India-Burma border, within hours of Gandhi’s speech, the British responded by imprisoning almost the entire leadership of the Indian National Congress including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel without trial and kept most of them there till the war ended in 1945.

- The **INC** was declared an unlawful association and its offices all over the country were raided and their funds were **frozen**.

- The leaderless protest took a violent turn and saw widespread acts of sabotage such as raids and setting fire at post offices, government buildings and railway stations and severing of electricity, transport and communication lines.

- However, the disruptions were under control in a few weeks and had little impact on the war effort and by 1943; Quit India movement had worn out.

**Cripps Mission**

- In **March 1942**, faced with an increasingly dissatisfied sub-continent only reluctantly participating in the war, and deteriorations in the war situation in Europe and **South East Asia**, the British government sent a delegation to
India under Stafford Cripps, in what came to be known as the Cripps’ Mission.

- The purpose of the mission was to negotiate a deal with the Indian National Congress to obtain total co-operation during the war, in return of progressive transfer and distribution of power from the crown and the Viceroy to the elected Indian legislature.

- However, the talks failed, as they failed to address the key demands of INC, which included a definite timeframe towards self-government and definition of the powers to be transferred.

- The mission essentially portrayed an offer of limited dominion-status to India, which was wholly unacceptable to the Indian movement.

- Hence, in order to force the British Raj to meet its demands and to gain immediate independence, the INC took the decision to launch the Quit India Movement.

**Quit India Movement**

- The movement was a civil disobedience movement, which commenced in response to Gandhi’s call for immediate self-rule by Indians and against sending Indians to fight on behalf of Britain in World War II. The movement called for India’s immediate independence.

- The aim of the movement was to force the British Government to the negotiating table by holding the Allied war effort hostage.

- Mahatma Gandhi asked all teachers to leave their schools and other Indians to leave their respective jobs and take part in this movement.

- The Indian National Congress led the Quit India Movement to demand the British to leave India immediately and to transfer the political power to INC.
However, the British refused to grant immediate independence and stated that it could only be granted after the war ended.

**Quit India Movement Fail**

★ Despite such a strong call from Gandhi, the movement failed to pick up momentum as firstly most of the opposition leaders were behind bars and most of them remained there till the war ended in **1945**.

★ Besides, the British had the support of the Viceroy's Council (which had a majority of Indians), **All India Muslim League, and Princely states, Indian Imperial Police, British Indian Army and the Indian Civil Service**.

★ Many Indian businessmen profiting from heavy wartime spending also did not support the Quit India Movement.

★ On the other hand, many students were more focused on Subhas Chandra Bose, who was in exile and supporting the Axis Powers (**Germany, Japan and Italy**) with his **Azad Hind Fauj**.