

## **August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **Eleventh World Hindi Conference Underway In Mauritius**

The 11th World Hindi Conference has started in Port Louis the capital of Mauritius. Delegates from 20 countries including India will deliberate on eight sub-topics related to "Hindi World and Indian Culture. India will deliberate on eight sub-topics related to "**Hindi World and Indian Culture**".

### **National:**

#### **Narendra Modi announces Rs 500 crore assistance to Kerala**

As Kerala battles one of its worst floods, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after a review of the situation, announced financial assistance of Rs 500 crores to the state. Modi undertook an aerial survey of flood-hit parts after holding a meeting with Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, union minister K J Alphons and top officials of the state.

Relief measures announced by the Prime Minister include an ex gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh per person to the next kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to those seriously injured to be taken from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

The financial assistance announced by the Prime Minister is separate from the Rs 100 crore announcement made by Home Minister Rajnath Singh earlier

More than 1 million people, slightly less than 5% of Kerala's 33 million population, are feared displaced, raising concerns that the enormity of the tragedy may be more than what is known yet. The floods in August alone have claimed 164 lives but the toll since the arrival of monsoon rains in May stands at 324.

As an assistance to those from rural areas, Modi announced that villagers whose 'kuccha houses' have been destroyed in the floods will be provided houses on priority under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) irrespective of the permanent wait list of PMAY-G. Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme 5.5 crore person days have been sanctioned in the labour budget 2018-19. Any further request for incurring person days would be considered as per the requirement projected by the state

With Kerala's infrastructure being badly hit, Modi also directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to repair the main national highways. To effectively restore power lines, both the NTPC and PGCIL have been directed to ensure all possible assistance is given to the state government.

The release added that a total of 57 Teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) involving about 1,300 personnel and 435 boats have been deployed for search and rescue operations. According to the chief minister's office, as of Friday, a total of 324 lives have been lost in the state and more than 2.23 lakh people are in more than 1,500 relief camps.

## **Economy:**

### **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan will be launched on 25th September**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan (PMJAA) or Ayushman Bharat scheme will be launched on 25th September.

The scheme aims to provide a healthcare cover of Rs.5 lakh per family per annum. The scheme is expected to benefit more than 10 crore poor families.

### **Ayushman Bharat**

Ayushman Bharat is a government-sponsored healthcare scheme to provide healthcare cover of Rs 5 lakh to 10 crore poor families every year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization.

The scheme will be applicable only to the poor who are from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) database.

The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country

The scheme also allows the poor people to benefit from cashless healthcare services from a public/private hospital

Around 1 lakh 'Ayushman Mitras' will be set at the hospitals as part of the scheme to assist patients enrolled under the scheme.

## **Sports:**

### **India Wins SAFF U-15 Championship Defeating Bangladesh**

India defeated Bangladesh in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Women's Championship in Thimpu, Bhutan. A solitary second-half strike by Sunita Munda helped the Indian U-15 team clinch the title. This is the second edition of the Championship. Bangladesh had won the inaugural edition last year, beating India, 1-0 in the final played at Dhaka.

### **Teen Cyclist Esow Alben Claimed India's 1st 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. The 17-year-old from Andaman and Nicobar finished just 0.017 seconds behind gold medalist Stastry in the thrilling photo-finish of a race

### **Asian Games 2018 begin in Indonesia**

This year's Asian Games, also known as Jakarta Palembang 2018, has started from 18th August to 02nd September in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang. It is the second time when Jakarta is hosting the sports games after 1962. A total of 572 Indian athletes will be participating in the event in 36 different sports categories. The contingent will be led by Chef de Mission Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

- Asian Games 2018 also known as Jakarta Palembang 2018
- Motto-‘Energy of Asia’
- Period of games- 18<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- In total 45 countries are participating

### **Mascots**

1. Bhin Bhin –a greater bird-of-paradise
2. Atung-a Bawean deer
3. Kaka- A Javan Rhinoceros

### **Persons in news:**

**Imran Khan:** Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan took oath as Pakistan's new prime minister. Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), secured 176 votes while his only rival and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief Sharif got 96 votes

### **Obituary**

**Kofi Annan:** Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Annan was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, served at the UN from 1997 to 2006. Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with the UN in 2001 "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world".