

September 2nd and 3rd news:

International:

United States to cancel USD 300 million military aid to Pakistan

The US will cancel USD 300 million in military aid to Pakistan over its failure to take "decisive actions" to support President Donald Trump's new South Asia policy and act against terror groups like the Haqqani network and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pentagon has announced, a fresh blow to the deteriorating ties between the two nations.

The announcement comes just days before US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is due to visit Pakistan to meet the country's new prime minister Imran Khan. The US and others have long complained that Pakistan provides safe haven to militant networks, allowing them to carry out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon's move, which needs to be approved by the US Congress, is part of a broader suspension of aid announced in January

Leaders adopt Kathmandu Declaration

The 4th BIMSTEC Summit has been successfully concluded in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli presented draft Kathmandu declaration which was unanimously adopted by the all member states.

KP Oli said that collective wisdom, thought and vision on the goal of peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region is eloquently captured in the Kathmandu declaration.

A MoU was also signed on establishment of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection to enhance energy cooperation among the member states.

The Nepalese Prime Minister handed over the chairmanship of BIMSTEC to the President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena.

The leaders of all seven member states including Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the two day summit.

On the sidelines of the summit Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meeting with his Thailand counterpart Prayut Chan-o-Cha today morning.

Both the leaders exchanged views on further cementing bilateral relations. PM Modi also met President of Myanmar Win Myint and discussed on development cooperation, energy and other areas of bilateral cooperation.

National:

Law Commission places draft report on holding of simultaneous elections

Law commission has placed its draft report on the issue of holding of simultaneous elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies in public domain.

Touching many relevant points on the report, which has been uploaded on its website, the commission has called for further discussions and examination on the matter, involving all the stakeholders before it makes the final recommendations to the centre.

The law Commission in its draft report has said that any major decision that has a direct impact on the polity of the country has to be taken after taking the stakeholders into confidence. Any law that is not acceptable to the masses is not capable of being implemented.

Hence, Government should try and build a consensus of the public in general and the political parties, in particular to hold simultaneous elections in the country.

The draft report of the Commission described simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and the state Legislative Assemblies as a laudable idea.

The Commission said that simultaneous polls would help in saving public money, reduce the burden on administrative set up and security forces and the administrative machinery of the country will be continuously engaged in developmental activities 'rather than in electioneering'.

The 21st Law Commission also rejected the three major objections raised by political parties, that it will shake the basic of structure of democratic set-up; will also result in attacking the basic structure of the constitution and will shake the foundation of federal structure.

Since, the term of present Commission ends on 31st August, 2018, the final report will be prepared by the next Commission. The Commission had held consultations with national and state level political parties before releasing draft report.

Economy:

PM Modi launches India post payments bank

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched India Post Payments Bank in Delhi. 650 branches are now active with 3250 access points.

1.55 lakh access points will be active by Dec 2018. IPPB will provide simplicity in banking services. It will ensure the goal of banking the unbanked is achieved. There are close to 50,000 bank branches in rural India. Now there will be new 1.55 lakh branches or access points that will be a game changer in banking Industry.

Prime Minister Modi opened an IPPB Account in a symbolic gesture. He was given an IPPB QR Code on the spot.

PM also released a postal stamp on the occasion. He said that govt is committed to create opportunity through technology which itself had posed many challenges to postal system.

Sports:

4th Test: India lose by 60 runs, concede series

India suffered a 60-run defeat against England in the fourth Test at the Rose Bowl Cricket Stadium in Southampton on 2nd September to go down 1-3 in the five-match series.

Chasing 245 runs for victory, the visitors were bowled out for 184. The visitors resumed the evening session at 126/4 and lost six wickets in quick succession adding only 58 runs.

Persons in news:

Venkaia Naidu: Vice President of India. He has written a book titled " Moving On, Moving Forward : A Year in Office " on Vice President. It was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi