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## Economy

### **Midhani invested Rs20crore to set up 4MW solar plant**

- Defence public sector company Midhani has set up a 4 MW solar power plant at an investment of ₹20.36crore which spreaded over 20 acres.
- It is expected to generate 7,000 MWhr/year with a projected savings of ₹50 million per annum and a reduction of 5,600 tonnes of carbon-dioxide per year.

***The project will cover up to 15 per cent of the power requirement of Midhani from renewable sources.***

### **SEBI proposed using UPI to reduce public issue timeline**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed allowing investors to use the unified payments interface (UPI) while bidding for shares in an initial public offer (IPO) to reduce the public issue timeline from T+6 to T+3.

***T+3 refers to a system wherein the equity shares would be listed on the bourses on the third day from the day the IPO closes for subscription.***

### **About Security & Exchange Board of India**

- Founded on 12 April, 1992
- Headquarters – Mumbai
- Agency executive – Ajay Tyagi

### **India slipped 3 notches to 11<sup>th</sup> spot in AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index**

- India has slipped by three notches to 11th position in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 of global consultancy firm A T Kearney. India was ranked 8th in 2017. It was at 9th rank in 2016.
- India fell out of the top 10 for the first time since 2015.

***A foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment in the form of a controlling ownership in a business in one country by an entity based in another country.***

***FDI is the sum of equity capital, long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments.***

### **Softbank partnered with Paytm to launch mobile payments service “Paypay” in Japan**



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- SoftBank Group Corp will launch a digital payments service in Japan – PayPay which will be SoftBank's joint venture - PayPay Corporation, with Yahoo Japan.
- PayPay Corporation will team up with India's largest digital payments company Paytm, a SoftBank Vision Fund portfolio company to utilise Paytm's technology and expertise in mobile payments.

***Paytm offers seamless mobile payments to over 300 million customers and 8 million merchants in India.***

#### **About Softbank Group**

- Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan
- It owns operations in broadband; fixed-line telecommunications; e-commerce; internet; technology services; finance; media and marketing; semiconductor design; and other businesses.
- Ranked 38th largest company in the world by Forbes Global 2000 and 4th largest in the Japan.
- Founded in 3rd September, 1981.

#### **ITC became India's 4<sup>th</sup> most valued firm in m-cap**

- ITC past Hindustan Unilever to become the country's fourth most valued firm in terms of market valuation helped by a smart surge in its share price, its shares ended 5.24% higher at ₹302.20 on BSE.
- The company's market valuation rose to ₹369259.15 crore, which were ₹10,460.27 crore more than that of HUL's ₹358798.88 crore m-cap on BSE.

***ITC also became the most valued FMCG company.***

***TCS is the country's most valued firm with a market cap of ₹7,43,930.44 crore followed by RIL (₹7,15,772.03 crore), HDFC Bank (₹5,82,044.68 crore).***

#### **Gold import up 22.43% at 955.16 tonnes in 2017-18**

- As informed in Parliament, Gold import in value terms increased by 22.43% to 955.16 tonnes in 2017-18 whereas import stood at 780.14 tonnes.

***Data is shared by Minister of state for commerce and industry to Lok Sabha.***

#### **Reliance overtook TCS as India's most valued firm**

- Reliance Industries Ltd. surpassed India's biggest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. to become country's most valued firm in terms of market capitalization.



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- It has a market cap of Rs7.51 trillion after its share rose 3.1% on BSE.

#### **About Bombay Stock Exchange**

- Established in 1875.
- It is Asia's first stock exchange.
- World 10<sup>th</sup> largest stock exchange with market capitalization of \$2.3 trillion.
- Based in – Mumbai



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## International

- International Monetary Fund officially mentioned Venezuela's Inflation is likely to top 1,000,000 in 2018, as its economy has been steadily collapsing since the crash of oil prices in 2014 left it unable to maintain a socialist system of subsidies and price controls.
- Justice Tahira Safdar was named as the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar.

***She is first ever woman chief Justice of High Court in Pakistan.***

- Myanmar will host the next ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM) in October, seeking to boost its education sector by cooperating with India, China and the US among others.
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a bilateral table-top exercise on maritime pollution response with Bangladesh Coast Guard at the regional headquarters (North East) of the ICG.

*Incidentally, an Indian flag container vessel "SSL Kolkata" caught fire in the Bay of Bengal on June 13 and drifted close to the Indo-Bangladesh international maritime boundary and the Sundarbans, before it was anchored by Navy commandos and mariners of the vessel.*

- The 6th India-UK Science & Innovation Council (SIC) meeting held in New Delhi in which discussion held on a range of issues on S&T cooperation between the two countries.

***Last SIC meeting was held in London on June 15, 2016.***

- 10th BRICS Summit was convened from 25-27 July, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa where BRICS leaders adopted 'Johannesburg declaration'.
  - **Theme** – "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the 4th industrial revolution".
  - **Johannesburg declaration** - The declaration reaffirms principles of democracy, inclusiveness and agrees to fight unilateralism and protectionism.



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- The United States has eased export controls for high technology product sales to India. US has granted the same access as NATO allies, Australia, Japan and South Korea

***It will provide India greater supply chain efficiency, both for defense and other high-tech products.***

- India and Nepal with mutual consultation are going to set up a forum for promotion of Tourism. Ramayana and Buddhists circuits will be promoted through common branding.
  - It will have representation from both private and government sectors of nation.

#### **Ramayana Circuit**

- Includes places associated with Lord Rama like Ayodhya, Shringverpur and Chitrakoot.

#### **Buddhist Circuit**

- It includes Bodhgaya, Vaishali and Rajgir in Bihar, Sarnath in Varanasi, Shravasti and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh.



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## Polity

### **SC lifted ban on protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar**

- The Supreme Court lifted the ban on rallies and protests at Delhi's iconic Jantar Mantar and Boat Club areas saying the right to protest "is crucial in a vibrant democracy like India but more so in the Indian context to aid in the assertion of the rights of the marginalised and poorly represented minorities".
- It's a fundamental right specifically enshrined under articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b) of the Constitution of India

***On 5 October last year, NGT had banned all protests and dharnas around the Jantar Mantar, which had been a hotspot of many agitations over the past decades.***

### **WCD launched contest on childline to spread awareness on human trafficking**

- The woman and child development (WCD) ministry has been organised a contest to mark 'World Day against trafficking in Persons' on 30 July.
- WCD has invited people to share images of the logo of child-line 1098.
- The child-line has been operating at 450 locations including 76 key railway stations.

### **Justice Srikrishna committee submitted report on data protection**

- The government had set up the committee under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court judge BN Sri Krishna in August last year on the data protection law, the committee has submitted its report.
- Sri Krishna mentioned data privacy is a burning issue and there are three parts to the triangle - The citizen's rights have to be protected, the responsibilities of the states have to be defined but the data protection can't be at the cost of trade and industry.

### **Union HRD Minister released the AISHE report 2017-18**

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar chaired the National Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Directors in New Delhi where he released the All India Survey of Higher Education Report 2017-18, Higher Educational Profile 2017-18 and Swachh Campus Manual.
- **The theme of this conference is "Research and innovation in Higher Education."**

### **National Green Tribunal formed monitoring committee to clean Yamuna**



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- The National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee on the cleaning of the Yamuna and directed it to submit an action plan on the issue.
- B S Sajwan and former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra are appointed as members of the committee.
- Directions are to them to submit an action plan by September and a detailed report in the matter by December 31.
- The Phase-I of the clean Yamuna project aims to lower the pollution levels in the Najafgarh and Delhi Gate drains, while Phase-II deals with Shahdara, Barapullah, and other drains.

#### **Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov jointly launched 'Innovate India Platform'**

- The NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission and MyGov platform on July 26, 2018 jointly launched the '#InnovateIndia Platform', collaboration between both the platforms, it will serve as the common point for all the innovation happening across the nation.
- MyGov-AIM portal creates the much-needed innovations platform for registering both grassroots and deep-tech innovators at a national level.

***Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Union Government's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.***

#### **Govt. launched e-Aksharayan softwares to turn scanned documents into editable text**

- Indian government has launched e-Aksharayan which is a desktop software for converting any scanned or printed Indian language documents into fully editable text.
- It is a desktop software for converting any scanned or printed Indian language documents into fully editable text, it is available in seven languages.

***Its goal is to have real-time translation capability in each of the Indic languages.***

#### **Defence Ministry has sanctioned Composite Ecological Task Force**

- The Union Defence Ministry has sanctioned raising of Territorial Army (TA) battalion with fund allocation of Rs167crore, army is comprising ex-serviceman of Indian Army tasked to clean the Ganga by 2020 under National Mission for Clean Ganga
- It has been named as Composite Ecological Task Force (CETF) battalion.



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*It will be raised in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh as a pilot project.*

**Government has created National Testing Agency to conduct entrance examinations for higher education in a scientific manner**

- Government has created National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct entrance examinations for higher education, it is an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization.
- Earlier these were being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- UGC-NET, JEE(Main), NEET-UG, C-MAT and C-PAT examinations have been entrusted to NTA.

**Lok Sabha passed Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill**

- The Lok Sabha passed the Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2018 replacing the ordinance promulgated on 18th of May this year by the President of India.
- The Bill amended the Homeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 which sets up the Central Council of Homeopathy, CCH.
- The Central Council regulates homeopathic education and practice.



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## Events

- The Pulitzer Prize-winning Los Angeles Times restaurant critic - Jonathan Gold passes away at 57 because of pancreatic cancer. He wrote about restaurants for four decades.
- Ramachandra Guha has penned a new book on the father of the nation titled "Gandhi: The years that changed the world (1914-1948)" – most definitive new biography of Gandhi.

***Ramachandra Guha renowned historian and author of several bestselling books, including the highly acclaimed "India after Gandhi" and "Gandhi before India".***

- Fossils of Lingwulong shenqi unearthed on a hillside in north-western China are forcing scientists to rethink the history of a dinosaur called sauropods, these dinosaurs had long necks, long tails, small heads and pillar-like legs.
  - It lived 174 million years ago during the Jurassic Period.

***Lingwulong represents the earliest-known advanced member of the sauropod lineage.***

- Man Booker recently announcing its 2018 nominee list included the first graphic novel to make the long-list in the prize history - Sabrina by Nick Drnaso.
- Virat Kohli was presented with the International Cricket of the Year for 2017 and 2018 by England's Barmy Army, it happened after the conclusion of the first day of India's tour match against Essex.
- India's carbon-dioxide emission will rise to 3.8-3.9 Giga-tonnes by 2030 as compared to 3.8-4.9 Giga-tonnes which was projected earlier, according to study by the Centre for Policy Research.
- President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in paying homage to the martyrs of Kargil on 19th Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26th July.

***The day marks the victory of the Indian forces over Pakistan in the hills of Kargil and the success of India's Operation Vijay in 1999.***

***Operation Vijay - the Indian operation to push back infiltrators in the Kargil War***



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- Veteran Bengali actress Basabi Nandi has passed away after suffering from a massive cardiac arrest at age of 82. She almost single handedly made plays such as 'Karagaar', 'Same - side' and 'Srimati Bhyanakari'.
- Every year 28 July is celebrated as World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness about hepatitis and preventive measures for liver damage.
  - **Theme – “Eliminate Hepatitis”.**
- Former minister and four-time MLA of Manjeshwaram Cherkalam Abdullah has passed away at the age of 76. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly from Manjeshwaram in 1987.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been bestowed with INFRA Icon Award in the 'Global Energy' category at the mid-day 'INFRA Icons', it received the top corporate level award in recognition of its valuable contribution in upgrading the country as a whole.

***ONGC is the second largest exploration and production (E&P) company in the world.***

***The 'INFRA Icons', is an initiative by mid-day, designed to bring a change with trendsetters associated with the infrastructure of India.***

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over two types of indigenously built high power multi-fuel engines to the army, manufactured by the Engine Factory Avadi
  - The first engine of 1000 HP engine – V92S2 engine – powers T-90 Bhisma Tank.
  - The 2nd engine – V-46-6 engine – powers the T-72 Ajeya Tank.

***The engine factory has manufactured more than 12000 engines since its inception in 1987.***

- Mohun Bagan 'Ratna', the highest honour of the century-old club will be conferred on former India international Pradip Chowdhury. He will be the 18th recipient of the award.

***The first recipient of the award was Sailen Manna, awarded in 2001***

#### **Other awards**

- Goalkeeper Shilton Paul awarded the Best Footballer for the year 2017-18.



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- Best Cricketer – Sudip Chatterjee
- Best Youth Footballer – Sourav Das
- A special award to Rahim Ali for his performance in the U-17 World Cup.

- International Tiger Day is celebrated all over the world on 29th July to increase awareness on Tiger populations throughout the world as well as the challenges and successes tiger conservationists face today.

***In 2016, the WWF shared in its report that the wild tiger population was increasing and wild tiger count reached to 3900.***

***The report also said that the Tx2 initiative, a global collaboration of 13 tiger range country governments and international co-organisations, had committed to doubling the number of wild tigers by 2022.***

***India, which holds a vast tiger population, has launched what the government claims to be the world's largest wildlife survey effort.***

- Kathleen Baker sliced her personal best to win the women's 100m backstroke at the US swimming championships in a world record of 58.00sec gunning Kylie Masse's world record of 58.10.
- The 3rd BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa with the International Durban Film Festival (DIFF) from 22-27th July, 2018.

***The last day of the festival was celebrated as India Country Day.***

**Awards won by Indian films in the 3rd BRICS Film Festival, Durban, South Africa:**

- Best Actress – Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars.
- Best Film – Newton by Amit Masurkar
- Special Jury Award – Village Rockstars by Rima Das

**Festival screened 4 Indians Films in the following category:**

- Film in Competition Section – Newton by Amit Masurkar, Village Rock stars by Rima Das
- Film in Non – Competition Section – Sinjar by Sandeep Pampally, Bhanayakam by Jayaraj

United Nation recognised Forest Rovers Green Football club as the World's first certified carbon neutral football club for their traditional light-green clothing and the club represents the forest green area of Nailsworth, England

- Their stadium is called the "Green Lawn Stadium".



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- They are also the world's first vegan club, when in 2017, they received the Vegan Trademark from the Vegan Society.

***The UN launched campaign in 2015 which encourages companies, organisations, governments and citizens to reduce their climate footprints with an aim of achieving a climate neutral world by the middle of this century.***

- Veteran Film maker John Sankaramangalam passed away at the age of 84. He was former director of the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and won two National and four Kerala State Film awards.
- Under the program termed as “Mission Satyanishtha” all 13 lakh employees of Indian railway will turn to take swear an oath publicly to “bring about integrity” and “eradicate corruption”.
- It is beginning with the top level and will be carried to the lowest levels in the organisation throughout the year.

***As per CVC statistics released every year, maximum corruption complaints are always against railway employees.***

- Oldest Person living in Japan and the world named Miyako Chiyo died at the age of 117. She was born on 22nd May, 1901.
- She became the oldest living woman after Misao Okawa.
- Misao Okawa was the country's oldest person who born on 5th March, 1898 and died in April 2015.

***Chiyo passed away just after Guinness World Records recognized her as the oldest person alive and the oldest woman alive.***

- The United Nations has honoured the Cochin International Airport (CIAL) with 'Champion of Earth' award for being the first airport in the world to be completely powered by solar energy and also became the first airport in the world to receive the highest environmental award issued by the United Nations.
- The award will be presented at a gala ceremony on the side-lines of the General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2018.

***UN established 'Champion of Earth' award in 2005 to recognise outstanding environmental leaders from the public and private sectors, and from civil society.***

Two Indians Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk are among the winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award which is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.



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### Appointment

- Senior bureaucrat Madhusudan Padhi has been appointed as principal secretary to Governor Dr Ganeshi Lal. In E&IT Department replacing C J Venugopal.
- Tata AIA announced elevation of Rishi Srivastava as the new chief executive & managing director replacing Naveen Tahilyani.
- Max Financial Services named its sponsor and shareholder Analjit Singh as non-executive chairman of the company in consultation with current chairman Naina Lal Kidwai.

***Max Life Insurance Company is the largest non-bank private life insurer in India and contributes over two-thirds of Max Group's revenues.***

- Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has been appointed Chancellor of the Pondicherry Central University for five years.
- Anil Kumar Chawla appointed as FOC-in-chief of Southern Naval.



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## Science & Technology

### **SpaceX to launch second new Falcon 9 rocket**

- SpaceX is looking to launch another so-called "block 5" booster from California.
- Elon Musk's rocket company is scheduled to launch a batch of 10 satellites for sat-phone company Iridium from Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- This would be the seventh of eight planned SpaceX launches to upgrade Iridium's satellite constellation.

### **Scientists discovered new geometric shape – "scutoid"**

- Scientists have found new shape in epithelial cells covering the surface of many organs called as scutoid.
- It looks like a twisted prism.

***Till now, these blocks were represented as being prism-shaped or being like truncated pyramids.***



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## Sports

- Indian shot-putter Dhanvir Singh clinched a gold medal in 15th National Youth Athletics Championship, he threw 19.69 metre in the fifth attempt to break the earlier meet record of 19.34 metre set by Navtejdeep Singh in 2011.

## Other medals

- Adish Ghildiyal of Uttarakhand won the silver medal with a throw of 18.23 metre.
- Aniket Kala of Uttarakhand took the bronze medal with a effort of 17.98 metre.
- In women's 400m hurdle race, Vishnu Priya won the gold medal by finishing with a season-best time of 1:02.5 seconds.
- Priya broke the earlier meet record of 1:02.58 seconds set by PO Sanya in Bambolim in 2015.
- In women's 200 metre race, Kerala's Ancy Sojan won the gold with a finish of 24.91 seconds.
- In 200 metre race silver medal went to Kirti Bhoit and the bronze medal was won by Giridharani of Tamil Nadu.

***Dhanvir Singh and the winner of Women's 100-metre hurdle race, Aparna Roy were declared the 'Best Athletes' of the championship.***

- Benjamin Pavard's sensational volley against Argentina has been voted the World Cup's goal of the tournament.
- India jumped to the top rank of the compound archery women team category, team comprising of V. Jyothi Surekha, Trisha Deb, P. Lily Chanu, Muskan Kirar, Divya Dhayal, and Madhumita, reached the top spot with 342.6 points.

***The Indian team is leading to Chinese Taipei team by six points.***

- Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma lifted the Russian Open Badminton trophy at Vladivostok after defeating Japan's Koki Watanabe. He won his first title of the season.
- Bajrang Punia has won his second consecutive international gold in wrestling at the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Neeraj Chopra won gold in men's javelin throw at the Savo Games in Lapinlahti, Finland, he throw a 85.69 metres to finish on top after defeating Chao-Tsun Cheng of Chinese Taipei.



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## State

- Bihar made its presence in Swacch Bharat Abhiyan with its first district Sitamarhi became open defecation free (ODF) district in the state.

***Bihar was the worst performing state in terms of progress made in toilet construction.***

- Odisha CM launched 'Green Mahanadi Mission' a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along Mahanadi river and its tributaries, it will be carried out in 16500 hectare and 500 Km.

***The aim of the program is to protect the Mahanadi and keep it alive.***

- The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis released a report which revealed that Karnataka is the leading state for generating renewable energy having a total installed capacity of 12.3 GW as of March 2018, state has added 5 GW of renewable energy in 2017-18 alone.

***Karnataka left Tamil Nadu behind, which has long been a top producer of non-conventional source of energy.***

***Report highlighted that India is among the top nine countries which will struggle to keep itself cool as temperatures rise in the country.***

- Tamil Nadu CM released Vision Tamil Nadu document which is aimed at preserving forest and wildlife, conservation of ecosystems and climate change mitigation among other states in the state.
  - One of the main theme of the Policy – Preservation of ecology.
  - The policy seeks the involvement of local tribal communities in protection, conservation and wildlife management.

***Tamil Nadu has about 30.92 per cent of the forest declared as 'protected areas' and has 15 wildlife sanctuaries, five National parks, 15 bird sanctuaries, three biosphere reserves, four project tiger areas.***

- World's largest hackathon organizers conducted the Global Hackathon series in the Kerala Startup Mission at K-infra Hi-Tech Park in Kalamassery on July 28 and 29.



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***It is being organised with the aim of building technology that solves social or environmental problems and which can positively impact the local community.***

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that state government would implement its own food security act from 2nd October this year, it would cover nearly 34.44 lakh people who have been left out from the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Rajasthan state government signed memorandum of understanding with a private trust to form a cow sanctuary in the state which will shelter 10000 bovines spread over an area of more than 220 hectares in Bikaner district.
  - This will be the first cow sanctuary in the state situated in Bikaner's Napasar.
- Assam Govt. decided to implement Pranam Scheme to ensure that govt. staff take care of their parents & physically challenged siblings.
  - Scheme would part away 10-15% of state govt. employees' monthly salary if they are found guilty of not taking adequate care of their dependent elderly parents and physically challenged siblings.
- Actress Kangana Ranaut and Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched a smartphone distribution scheme called 'Mobile Tihar' under Sanchar Kranti Yojna.
  - It includes distribution of smartphones to 45 lakh women and 5 lakh children and setting up of 556 new mobile towers.

***The Chhattisgarh government is working towards improving network connectivity and empowering youth with smartphones.***