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National

India Joint 6th in List of Doping Violations in WADA Report

- i. **India is ranked joint-sixth in the list of doping violations** with 69 cases, same as that of Russia, according to **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** report for samples collected in 2016. India improved its position to sixth after being joint-third for three consecutive years from 2013 to 2015.
- ii. **Italy topped the rankings of drug cases in 2016**, followed by France (86), United States (76), Australia (75), Belgium (73).

ACI Projects India as 2nd Fastest Growing Country for Air Passenger Traffic

- i. **India has been projected to be the second fastest growing country in the world for air passenger traffic.** As per the **Airports Council International (ACI)**, by 2022 passenger traffic in emerging economies like India will surpass advanced economies.
- ii. The ACI, a global trade body representing airports across the globe, has put **Vietnam at the top position with an 8.5% growth rate**, followed by **India at 7.5%** and **Iran at 7.3%**.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be Held in Varanasi

- i. **The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** will be held in the **holy city of Varanasi** in January 2019 with the Indian diaspora having an option to participate in Kumbha Snan and attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.
- ii. This year's event would be inaugurated by **PM Narendra Modi** and his **Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth**. Organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Uttar Pradesh government, the theme of this Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is **"Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India"**.

Telecom Commission Approves Proposal for In-Flight Mobile Services

- i. **Telecom Commission** approved a proposal for **allowing people to make phone calls and use internet services in domestic and international flights in India**, with certain riders. Telecom Commission (the highest decision-making body of telecom department) also approved regulator TRAI's recommendations on internet telephony in its meeting in New Delhi.
- ii. Another proposal that received approval entails creation of an ombudsman to deal with telecom grievances.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Suresh Prabhu is the Cabinet Minister of Civil Aviation.

14 Indian Cities Figure in World's 20 Most Polluted Cities List: WHO

- i. As per the data released by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, **14 Indian cities figure in a list of world's 20 most polluted cities** in terms of **particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016**.
- ii. The WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database ranked **Kanpur as the most polluted city** among 4300 world cities which were monitored for their air pollution levels in the year 2016.
- iii. The other Indian cities that registered very high levels of PM2.5 pollutants were Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the present Director General of WHO.

- WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The particulate matter PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health.

Maharashtra Becomes 1st to Provide Digitally-Signed Documents

- Maharashtra** became the **first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts** (also known as 7/12 receipts), which **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** claimed would check irregularities and bring in transparency.
- The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land and is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- C Vidyasagar Rao is the present Governor of Maharashtra.

India Rises to 5th Spot in World's Top Five Defense Spenders

- India** has surpassed **France** to become one of the world's five largest military spenders, Swedish arms watchdog **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report**.
- India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017, an increase of 5.5% compared with 2016. The other countries in **top five include the US, China, Saudi Arabia, and Russia**.

Cognizant Acquires Belgium-Based Hedera Consulting

- IT firm Cognizant** has acquired privately-held **Belgium based Hedera Consulting**, a move that will strengthen the former's consulting and digital transformation capabilities for clients **in Belgium and the Netherlands**.
- Founded in 2009, Hedera specialises in business advisory and data analytics services across sectors, helping clients in areas like growth strategy, innovation, marketing, sales and customer service.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

'Vibrant North East 2018' Held in Guwahati

- The **'Vibrant North East 2018'**, an event in which people would be made aware of central government's schemes and programmes, was **held in Guwahati, Assam**.
- The event is organised by Delhi-based NGO, **Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD)**. The main purpose of the event is to disseminate information about the schemes, grants and projects of the Central Government to ensure that they are implemented as envisaged officially.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Assam CM-** Sarbanand Sonowal, **Governor-** Jagdish Mukhi.

Google Grants \$3 Million for e-Learning, Teachers in India

- Google's philanthropic arm Google.org** has announced **\$3 million** in grants for teacher training and educational content creation in India.
- The organisation committed \$1 million to **TheTeacherApp** to help them reach 5,00,000 teachers in two years, besides a \$2-million grant and technical assistance from YouTube to the Central Square Foundation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Founded by Vinod Karate in 2016, TheTeacherApp is a non-profit Delhi-based organisation.
- **Google CEO-** Sundar Pichai, **Parent organization-** Alphabet Inc., **Headquarters-** the USA.

India at 11th Spot in AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index 2018, USA Tops

- i. Global consultant AT Kearney released the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index 2018**, an annual survey which tracks the impact of political, economic and regulatory changes on the FDI preferences of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of the country.
- ii. The United States (US) topped the index**, followed by Canada at 2nd and Germany at the 3rd place. The **index ranked India at the 11th spot**, three places down from the previous year. In the year 2017, India was ranked 8th. **It is the first time since 2015 that India has been pushed out of the top 10.**

Cultural Festival in Egypt to Commemorate 157th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

- i. India is organising a five-day cultural festival in Egypt** to commemorate the **157th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore**. An exhibition on the paintings of Tagore titled *'Rabindranath Tagore: Rhythm in Colours'* will be held in Giza.
- ii. The festival is being organised by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture**, the cultural wing of the Indian Embassy in Cairo.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Cairo is the capital of Egypt.
- Egyptian pound is the currency of Egypt.

SCO Secretary-General in India to Hold Talks with Union Ministers

- i. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretary-General Rashid Kutbiddinovich Alimov** arrived in New Delhi to hold talks with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and other Union ministers. Alimov is scheduled to hold talks on a wide array of matters.
- ii. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will hold a bilateral meeting with Alimov in Delhi.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- India became a full member of SCO in June 2017, at an international summit held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

CBDT Approves Amendment of India-Kuwait Tax Agreement

- i. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.**
- ii. The protocol updates the provisions in the DTAA for the exchange of information as per international standards**, and also enables sharing of information received from Kuwait for tax purposes with other law enforcement agencies, subject to an authorisation of the competent authority of Kuwait and vice versa.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Kuwait Capital-** Kuwait City, **Currency-** Kuwaiti dinar.

India, Sri Lanka Agree on Information Exchange for Drug Control

- i. India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information** and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries.
- ii. A decision to this effect was taken at the third bilateral meeting between delegations from India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) on narcotics, drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters in New Delhi.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Srilanka Capital-** Colombo (commercial capital), Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Official Capital), **Currency-** Sri Lankan rupee, **President-** Maithripala Sirisena.

1st Apex Conference for CEOs of Smart Cities' in Bhopal Inaugurated

- Mr Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing & Urban Affairs** inaugurated the '*First Apex Conference for the CEOs of Smart Cities*' in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. Since its launch in June 2015, the **Smart Cities Mission (SCM)**, has been one of the most transformational urban missions.
- The two-day conference is being organised for providing a platform for cross-learning and knowledge sharing among the Smart City CEOs.

India to Host 15th Asia Media Summit

- India** would be hosting the **15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi**. The theme of this summit is "*Telling our Stories Asia and More*".
- The summit mainly aims to provide a unique opportunity to the broadcasters in Asia to share their thoughts on broadcasting and information. The annual summit will be organised by **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** in collaboration with its partners and international organisations.

Walmart Buys Flipkart in World's Largest e-Commerce Deal

- US-based retail giant Walmart** has confirmed that it will buy **77% stake in India's largest e-commerce startup Flipkart for \$16 billion**. Walmart bought the stake in Flipkart for **16 billion dollars**.
- The acquisition, which is the **largest e-commerce deal in the world**, will value the homegrown startup at a reported amount of **\$20.8 billion**.

15th Asia-Media Summit Begins in New Delhi

- The **15th Asia Media Summit (AMS)** has begun in **New Delhi**. Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the summit. The theme of the Summit is '*Telling our Stories - Asia and More*'. Representatives from 40 countries are participating in the Summit.
- The AMS 2018, an annual summit of the **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) Kuala Lumpur**, is a prestigious summit in the Asia Pacific Region and **India is hosting the event for the first time**.

Madhya Pradesh Launches India's 1st ICCC For Its Smart Cities

- In a major step towards realising the centre's **Smart City Mission (SCM)**, the **Madhya Pradesh government** launched the **country's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC)** for all seven smart cities of the state, in **Bhopal**.
- Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Satna, and Sagar** are the seven smart cities under SCM in Madhya Pradesh. It was launched in the first "*Apex Conference for the CEOs*" of smart cities.

President Ram Nath Kovind, 2nd President to Visits Army Base in Siachen

- President Ram Nath Kovind** visited the **Army base camp in Siachen**, becoming the **first President of India to visit the world's highest battlefield in 14 years**.
 - The previous visit was undertaken by former president **APJ Abdul Kalam in April 2004**.
- Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Siachen glacier's region is the **highest battleground on Earth**, where Pakistan and India have fought intermittently since April 1984.

Indian Tea Industry Records Highest Ever Production, Export in FY18

- Indian tea industry has recorded the highest ever production** as well as exports in FY18. The total tea production was **1325.05 million kgs, an increase of 74.56 million kgs** as compared to 2016-17. In percentage terms, the increase is around 6%.
- Similarly, the total quantity of tea exported during the financial year 2017-18 stood at 256.57 million kgs, while the foreign exchange realized from exports of Indian tea was \$ 785.92 million.
- The growth in exports was majorly driven by the following countries: Egypt (increased by 7.49 million kgs), Iran (increased by 6.95 million kgs), Pakistan (increased by 4.96 million kgs), China (increased by 2.91 million kgs) and Russia (increased by 2.89 million kgs).

Indore, India's Cleanest City In Swachh Survekshan-2018

- As per the **Swachh Survekshan-2018** results, **Indore has once again emerged as the cleanest city in India**. Bhopal has been ranked 2nd and Chandigarh 3rd in the survey at the national level. The announcement was made in New Delhi by **Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- Besides, **Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh** is India's cleanest big city with a population of over 10 lakh. Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh is 'Fastest Mover' big city. **New Delhi Municipal Council** is country's cleanest small city having a population between one lakh to three lakh. **Jharkhand has been declared the best-performing state**, followed by Maharashtra.

Book Release By Chief of Army Staff

- General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army the Staff** released the book '*Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System*' by **Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan**, former Army Commander and Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal, Lucknow Bench.
- The book deals with military judicial system vis-a-vis command and management issues within the military establishments.

Dharmendra Pradhan, UAE Minister Flag Off 1st Consignment of ADNOC Crude For India

- Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** and **UAE Minister of State & Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Group CEO Dr. Sultan Al Jaber** flagged off the first consignment of **2 million barrels of ADNOC crude** for Mangalore Cavern.
- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister also had an interactive session with over 250 Indian professionals, business leaders and community representatives working in the UAE. The event was organised by the **Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The UAE Capital-** Abu Dhabi, **Currency-** UAE dirham.

Bharti Airtel Completes Acquisition Of Telenor India

- The government has approved the merger of the local unit of Norway's Telenor with Bharti Airtel, clearing the last hurdle for the deal to go through. The Department of Telecom (DoT) had transferred all licences and liabilities of Telenor India to Bharti Airtel.
- Airtel will begin integrating Telenor India's operations across seven circles- Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam.

1st All-Woman Post Office Passport Seva Kendra Starts Operations

- i. In a first, a **Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** run by an all-woman team has **started operations in Phagwara, Punjab**. The seva kendra was inaugurated by **Union Minister Vijay Sampla** in the local head Post Office.
- ii. It was 192nd POPSK in the country, but the first one to be operated by an all-woman team. According to Jalandhar regional Passport Officer Harmanbir Singh Gill, the Phagwara Kendra will be headed by department's Verification Officer Madhuri Bhavi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Punjab CM-** Captain Amarinder Singh, **Governor-** VP Singh Badnore.

India 3rd Largest Solar Market in World: Mercom Report

- i. **India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017** behind **China and the US**, according to the report of **Mercom Communications India**. India has grown at a CAGR of approximately 170% since 2010.
- ii. As per the report, **India set a new record with 9.6 GW of solar installations in 2017**, which was more than double the 4.3 GW installed in 2016. The robust growth boosted the country's total solar installed capacity to 19.6 GW as of December 2017.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Mercom Communications India** is an arm of global clean energy consulting firm Mercom Capital Group.
- **Raj Prabhu** is the Group CEO of Mercom Capital.

India's 1st Solar Powered Railway Station in Guwahati

- i. **Guwahati** now has **India's first railway station run by solar power**. The project of installing solar panels was commissioned in April 2017. Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station.
- ii. Solar panels have been installed at the roof-top solar power plant. The solar-powered station is aimed at reducing carbon-footprint as well as cut down power costs drastically. The project cost is estimated to be **Rs 6.7 crore**, as per Indian Railways.

In a 1st, 3-day International Rail Coach Expo Starts in Chennai

- i. **For the first time, an international rail coach expo**, displaying rail coaches and train-sets, has been held in Chennai. Reputed railcar and equipment manufacturers showcased their technology and products at the expo, which was a unique platform to bring different suppliers under one roof and create synergy for "Make in India".
- ii. The expo is being hosted by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)**, under the Ministry of Railways, in coordination with the **CII (Confederation of Indian Industries)** and **RITES Ltd**, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr Piyush Goyal is the Present Railways Minister of India.

Tata Steel to Acquire Bhushan Steel Through its Step-Down Subsidiary Bannipal Steel

- i. **Tata Steel**, whose bid for debt-ridden **Bhushan Steel** was approved by NCLT, would implement the resolution plan through its step-down subsidiary **Bannipal Steel**

Ltd. Bamnival Steel would invest in the debt-ridden company and acquire control on the closing date.

ii. As per the terms of approved Resolution Plan, Bamnival Steel Limited (BNPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Steel, will initially subscribe to 72.65% equity share capital of BSL at face value i.e. at Rs 2 per share, for an aggregate amount of Rs 158.89 crore.

Suresh Prabhu Launched Intellectual Property Mascot 'IP Nani'

i. **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu** has launched the **Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani'**. The mascot was launched during a conference on the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.

ii. The first and foremost objective of the Policy is **"IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion"**, aimed at raising awareness on IPR for school children to nurture creativity and the ability to innovate from a very young age.

Cyclone SAGAR: IMD Issues Advisory to 5 States, 1 UT

i. **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued an advisory to **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and the Lakshadweep** archipelago over cyclonic storm 'SAGAR'.

ii. The cyclonic storm lay centred over the Gulf of Aden, about 390 km east-northeast of Yemen's Aden city. **Director General of IMD, Dr K. J. Ramesh** advised fisherman not to venture into Gulf of Aden and adjoining areas.

BSE Becomes 1st Indian Stock Exchange To Get US SEC's DOSM Recognition

i. **BSE Ltd** became **first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM)** by United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC).

ii. DOSM status will allow the sale of securities to US investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US SEC. This will ease trades by US investors in India and also enhance the attractiveness of **Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs)** amongst US investors.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- BSE is Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai.
- It was established in 1875, making it Asia's first stock exchange.
- It was first Indian stock exchange to be recognized by Government under the Securities Contracts Regulation Act in 1957.

PM Modi Laid Foundation Stone of India's Longest Road Tunnel in J&K

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is on a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir. During his visit, Prime Minister laid down the foundation stone of '**Zojila Tunnel**' on the **Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh**. The **14.2-kilometre long Zojila tunnel** will be **India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel**.

ii. Prime Minister Modi also dedicated to the nation a **330 MW Kishenganga hydroelectric project** from Srinagar. There are 7 functional NHPC power projects in J&K. The project has been built at a cost of **Rs 5200 cr**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Jammu and Kashmir CM- Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed, Governor- N. N. Vohra.**

Shivangi Pathak Becomes Youngest Indian Woman to Scale Mount Everest

i. India's Shivangi Pathak has become youngest women of the country to scale Mt Everest from Nepal side.

ii. According to the Managing Director of Seven Summit Treks, Mingma Sherpa, **16-year-old Haryana Born Shivangi** successfully stood atop world's highest mountain.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Arunima Sinha was the first Indian amputee to climb Mt Everest.
- In 2014, 13-year-old Malavath Purna from India had climbed Mt Everest from Tibet side and became the youngest girl in the world to the summit at Everest.

Netherlands PM Mark Rutte to be on 2-Day Official Visit to India

i. Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte, will be on a **two-day official visit to India** with an aim to boost the economic and political cooperation between the two countries.

ii. During the visit, the India-Dutch CEOs forum will take place in New Delhi. India and The Netherlands have a bilateral trade of **5.39 billion dollars**. The Netherlands is the 5th largest investor in India.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Netherlands Capital-** Amsterdam, **Currency-** Euro, USD.

Indian Economy Projected to Grow 7.6% in 2018-19: UN Report

i. India's economy is projected to grow 7.6% in fiscal year 2018-19, remaining the fastest growing economy in the world, **according to a United Nations report.**

ii. The UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) as of mid-2018 launched recently stated that GDP growth in India is expected to climb to 7.5 and 7.6% in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

iii. This is a substantial recovery from the 6.7% growth India registered in fiscal year 2017. Amid ongoing structural reforms, growth in the Chinese economy is projected to gradually moderate from 6.9% in 2017 to 6.5% in 2018 and 6.3% in 2019.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in **24th of October 1945.**
- It is currently made up of **193 Member States.**
- The Headquarters of UN: **New York, USA.**
- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of United Nations.

Tamil Nadu to Build India's Next Generation Defence Aircraft

i. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), which had conceived and designed the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas**, has set the ball rolling for building the next generation defence aircraft, the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, by extending an invitation to private players **in Coimbatore** to build a technology demonstrator.

ii. The project to be implemented in Suler in Coimbatore district which may house the permanent base of the Tejas squadron marks **Tamil Nadu's first major defence aircraft project.**

India 6th Wealthiest Country With Total Wealth of 8,230 billion USD

i. India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of 8,230 billion US dollars. According to the **AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review**, the **US is**

the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of **62,584 billion dollars**.

ii. China stood at the second place with 24,803 billion dollars, while Japan is at the third place with 19,522 billion dollars.

MCX Launches India's 1st Copper Options

i. **India's Multi Commodity Exchange** had launched the **country's first copper options contracts**. Three contracts with a lot size of 1 tonne were launched.

ii. The option contract will provide physical market participants an additional instrument to hedge their risk.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Managing Director of MCX is Mrugank Paranjape.

Finance Ministry Ties Up With 40 Companies Under Mudra Scheme

i. **The Union Finance Ministry** has tied up with **40 entities including Flipkart, Swiggy, Patanjali and Amul** for extending loans to small entrepreneurs under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**.

ii. In order to identify people who can be given funds under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the ministry has organised an event in Mumbai to extend loan under the scheme.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- PMMY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015, for providing loans of up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.

Minimum Compensation of Rs1 crore To Paramilitary Jawan Who Dies In Action

i. **Home Minister Rajnath Singh** has announced that the family of a **paramilitary jawan** who dies in action will be given a **minimum compensation of one crore rupees**.

ii. The Home Minister presented gallantry awards to BSF jawans and officers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Border Security Force came into existence on 01 Dec 1965, and Mr K F Rustamji was the 1st chief and founding father.
- BSF Headquarters in New Delhi.
- KK Sharma is the present Director General of BSF.

Bank of Baroda Locates Major Operations at GIFT City

i. **Bank of Baroda** has successfully located most of its operational activities at a **shared service centre (SSC)** at the **GIFT City near Ahmedabad**.

ii. The bank will thus become one of the largest employers in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar region. The bank had taken 20,000 sq, ft of office space in GIFT City, making it the **first Indian bank to move several key operations to the smart city**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- P. S. Jayakumar is the MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda.
- It headquarters in Vadodara, Gujarat.

Sushant Singh Rajput to Promote 2 Major Initiatives of NITI Aayog

i. **NITI Aayog and Sushant Singh Rajput** have decided to collaborate towards promoting two major initiatives of NITI Aayog, **promotion of BHIM and the Women**

Entrepreneurship Platform.

ii. Mr Rajput had entered into an agreement with NITI Aayog. The agreement would be signed by Shri Rajput with Ms Anna Roy, Adviser, NITI Aayog in the presence of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

India Stands 44th In Competitive Rankings, USA Tops: Report

i. **India rose one place to 44th** this year in the global competitive rankings **out of 63 countries that were ranked by the IMD World Competitiveness Center.**

ii. **China bagged the 13th rank** in 2018 as compared to the 18th rank in 2016.

iii. **The top 3 most competitive economies in the world are:**

1. The USA,
2. Hong Kong,
3. Singapore,

India 145th In Healthcare Access, Quality, Iceland Tops: Lancet Report

i. **India ranks 145th among 195 countries** in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, **according to a Lancet study.** In 2016, India's healthcare access and quality scored at 41.2 (up from 24.7 in 1990).

ii. **The top 3 countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016:**

1. Iceland (97.1 points),
2. Norway (96.6),
3. The Netherlands (96.1).

iii. **The countries with the lowest scores:**

1. The Central African Republic (18.6),
2. Somalia (19.0),
3. Guinea-Bissau (23.4).

Netherlands Becomes 64th Signatory Member of International Solar Alliance

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte**, who is in India at PM Modi's invitation held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and international issues at the Hyderabad House.

ii. **The Netherlands has become the 64th signatory member of the International Solar Alliance.** PM Modi noted that the **first Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence CoE** in Vegetables had started in **Baramati, Maharashtra.** India also welcomed the Netherlands as the **Partner Country for the TechSummit in 2019.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Netherlands Capital- Amsterdam, Currency- Euro, USD.**

India to be Host Country For Celebrations of World Environment Day 2018

i. **India will be the host country** for celebrations of World Environment Day 2018. The announcement in this regard was made by the Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan. **The theme for this year is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.**

ii. The government has launched green deeds campaign to raise awareness about protection of the environment. The World Environment Day will be celebrated on 5th of June.

PMs of India and Bangladesh Inaugurate Bangla Bhavan in Shantiniketan

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** jointly inaugurate Bangladesh Bhawan at **Shanti Niketan in West Bengal.**

ii. The two leaders then paid floral tributes to Rabindra Nath Tagore. This is the first time in Indian history, that two prime ministers attended a convocation ceremony.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bangladesh PM-** Sheikh Hasina, **Capital-** Dhaka, **Currency-** Bangladeshi Taka.

Indian Navy Commissions 4th Ship of Landing Craft Utility MK-IV

i. The **Indian Navy** commissioned the **IN LCU L54**, the **fourth ship of Landing Craft Utility MK-IV**, into its fleet at **Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar**.

ii. The ship was commissioned by Vice Admiral GS Pabby, AVSM, VSM and Chief of Materiel. The Commissioning of L-54 is in line with the Union Government's Make in India initiative.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Admiral Sunil Lanba** the 23rd Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy.

1st Smart & Green Highway Eastern Peripheral Expressway At Baghat In UP

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation its first smart and green highway, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Baghat in Uttar Pradesh. The 135-kilometer six-lane access-controlled expressway is eco-friendly and has world-class safety features. It envisages signal-free connectivity between Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Palwal. It has been built at a cost of 11,000 crore rupees. It is India's first highway to be lit by solar power besides provisions of rainwater harvesting.

ii. Earlier in the day, the PM inaugurated the first phase of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway. The first phase of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway cost Rs 842 crore on building the 9-km stretch of 14-lane highway.

Queen Maxima of Kingdom of Netherlands On 4-Day Visit To India

i. **Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** who is also the **United Nations Secretary General's Special Advocate** for Inclusive Finance for Development has arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India.

ii. During the visit, Queen Maxima will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Netherlands Capital-** Amsterdam, **Currency-** Euro, USD, **Prime Minister-** Mark Rutte.

Sangeeta Bahl Becomes Oldest Indian woman to Scale Mount Everest

i. **Sangeeta Bahl**, a **53-year-old former model**, has become the **oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest**.

ii. Bahl, who currently resides in Gurugram, scaled the peak with the help of two Sherpas and was felicitated at the Indian embassy in Kathmandu. She has already conquered six out of the seven highest peaks in the world.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Shivangi Pathak** (16 Years) from Haryana recently became India's youngest woman to climb the Everest from Nepali side.

Akshay Kumar Launches Twin Pit Toilet Technology Campaign

i. **Film actor Akshay Kumar** launched the *twin pit toilet technology campaign* in New Delhi. The actor appealed everybody to spread the awareness on the issue and make the

cleanliness drive more effective.

ii. The twin pit toilet technology is an Indian invention that collects defecation for a period of five years and then it turns into a valuable organic compost.

NIC Launches India's 4th Data Centre in Bhubaneswar

i. **Bhubaneswar (capital city of Odisha) becomes the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune.**

ii. The new cloud-enabled **National Data Centre** aims to offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for various e-governance applications of Central and State Governments and has the ability to support 35,000 virtual servers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** was established in **1976**.
- It Headquarters in **New Delhi**.
- **Ravi Shankar Prasad** is the Minister of Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology.

Main Event of 4th International Yoga Day Celebrations To Be Held At Dehradun

i. The main event of **4th International Yoga Day** celebrations will be held at **Dehradun in Uttarakhand** on **21st of June**.

ii. Secretary AYUSH Ministry Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha has announced that Dehradun has been selected as the venue for **Mass Yoga Demonstration of International Yoga Day**. Mr Kotecha is in Dehradun to initiate the preparations regarding this mega event.

Cochin International Airport, World's 1st Fully Solar Energy-Powered Airport: UNEP

i. The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has recognised **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)** in Kerala as the **world's first fully solar energy-powered airport**. CIAL is India's first airport to be constructed in public-private-partnership (PPP) model in 1999.

ii. It is the busiest and largest airport in the state of Kerala. The airport has 15 MWp solar power plant near the cargo complex of airport comprising 46,150 solar panels laid across 45 acres.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- UNEP was founded as result of United Nations Conference on Human Environment in June 1972.
- It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

New User Interface of Next Generation e-Ticketing System Launched

i. Railway's Online Travel Portal, **www.irctc.co.in** has now launched **beta version** of its new User Interface. The new link has more user friendly features for easier navigation.

ii. By creating **Next Generation e-Ticketing (NGeT)** system the new online ticket booking system of Railways provides an easy and fast way of booking rail tickets by automating the journey planning and purchase of tickets.

iii. **Salient features of the New User Interface are:**

1. A user can now enquire/search trains and check the **availability of seats without login** also.

Statehood Day of Goa: 30 May

i. **Goa celebrates its Statehood Day** as people's demand for full statehood was attained on **30th May 1987**, when Goa became **India's 25th state**. Daman and Diu were separated

from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.

ii. Earlier, Goa was a union territory, namely, Goa, Daman and Diu for all administrative and governance considerations. Attaining statehood opened several windows of development for the state.

Patanjali Launches New Messaging App 'Kimbho'

i. Yoga guru **Baba Ramdev's Patanjali** launched a **new swadeshi messaging application called 'Kimbho'** to compete with WhatsApp. Kimbho caters to private and group chats with free phone and video calling.

ii. The tagline of Kimbho is "**Ab Bharat Bolega**". Patanjali has recently tied up with **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)** to enter the telecom sector by launching **Swadeshi Samriddhi SIM cards**.

Indian Oil Most Profitable PSU For 2nd Straight Year

i. **Indian Oil Corporation** has emerged as **India's most profitable state-owned company** for the second consecutive year. Indian Oil posted a record profit of Rs21,346 crore in 2017-18, followed by ONGC, whose profit stood at Rs19,945 crore.

ii. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is the most profitable company for the third straight year, posting highest ever profit of Rs36,075 crore.

Microsoft Is Now Third Most Valuable Firm Globally

i. **Software giant Microsoft** has surpassed **Google's parent company Alphabet** in market capitalisation for the first time in three years. Microsoft has now become the **third most valuable firm globally after Apple and Amazon**.

ii. **Microsoft had a market cap of \$753 billion** at the close of trading, almost \$14 billion ahead of Alphabet. While Apple leads with a market cap of nearly \$924 billion, Amazon is at a distant second, with nearly \$783 billion.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company.
- CEO- Satya Nadella, **Headquarters-** Washington DC.

Infosys Acquires US-based WongDoody for \$75 million

i. **Infosys** has completed the acquisition of **WongDoody Holding Company**, a US-based digital creative and consumer insights agency, for a total consideration of **upto \$75 million**.

ii. Founded in 1993, WongDoody has clients across industries like telecommunications, consumer electronics, healthcare and consumer packaged goods.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Infosys CEO-** Salil Parekh, **Headquarters-** Bengaluru, Karnataka.

SBI Hikes Interest Rate On Fixed Deposits

i. India's biggest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **revised its interest higher on retail fixed deposits or FDs below Rs. 1 crore**. SBI has revision interest rates by up to **25 basis points** in select maturities. The interest rate on SBI FDs with a maturity of one year to less than two years has been **increased to 6.65% for the public, from 6.4% earlier**.

ii. **Senior citizens** will get an **interest rate of 7.15% as compared to 6.9% earlier**. SBI fixed deposits with a maturity of two years to less than three years will fetch an interest rate of 6.65%, higher than 6.6% earlier

International

International Buddhist Conference Concluded in Lumbini, Nepal

i. The **International Buddhist Conference 2018** concluded in **Lumbini, Nepal**, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha. The concluding speech was given by the **Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Oli**.

ii. Participants from **more than 20 countries including India** attended the 2-day conference. It was organised as part of **2562nd Buddha Jayanti celebrations**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Nepal Capital-** Kathmandu, **Currency-** Nepalese rupee, **President-** Bidhya Devi Bhandari, **Prime Minister-** Khadga Prasad Oli.

In a First, India-Pakistan to Participate in SCO Counter-Terror Exercise

i. **India and Pakistan** will be part of a **multi-nation counter-terror exercise in Russia** under the framework of **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** in September 2018.

ii. This is the **first time the two neighbouring countries will be coming together** for counter-terrorism exercise, even though soldiers of India and Pakistan work together under the umbrella of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.

iii. The **military drill will be held in the Ural mountains of Russia** and almost all SCO member countries China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the new members India and Pakistan will be part of it.

Dominican Republic Establishes Ties with China, Breaks with Taiwan

i. **In a new start, the Dominican Republic and China** had established diplomatic relations as the Caribbean country becomes the **latest nation to dump Taiwan** in the face of Beijing's growing influence.

ii. With this, Dominican Republic has broken a 77-year alliance with Taiwan.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Dominican Republic Capital-** Santo Domingo, **Currency-** Dominican peso, **President-** Danilo Medina.

Bilateral Trade Between India and China Resumes Through Nathu La Border

i. The **bilateral trade between India and China through Nathu La border** has resumed. The announcement in this regard was made by the **General Secretary of the Indo-China Border Traders' Welfare Association, Tenzing Tsepel**.

ii. Trade between India and China through Nathu La border, **located at a height of 14,200 feet**, resumed in 2006, 44 years after it was closed.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

Cambridge Analytica Shuts Down All Its Operations

i. The controversial **UK marketing analytics firm Cambridge Analytica**, which has been at the heart of the Facebook data scandal, has announced to **cease all its operations immediately and filing for insolvency in Britain and the United States**.

ii. Cambridge Analytica, also said, its **British parent firm SCL Elections Ltd** is to shutting down immediately. The firm is currently facing allegations of improper use of data on **87 million Facebook users** which was hired by President Donald Trump's 2016 US election campaign.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Cambridge Analytica is an analytics firm based in the United Kingdom.
- SCL Elections Ltd is the parent firm of Cambridge Analytica.

PM Modi Leaves for Sochi for Informal Summit with Russian President

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has left on a day-long visit to Russia. Mr Modi will hold an informal summit with **Russian President Vladimir Putin** in Sochi. The interaction will be part of regular consultation between the leadership of the two countries.

ii. The two leaders will meet in an informal atmosphere where they will discuss several regional factors of the bilateral relations.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble, **President-** Vladimir Putin.

Guatemala Becomes Second Country to Open Jerusalem Embassy

i. Guatemala has opened an embassy in Jerusalem two days after the U.S. moved its embassy to the contested capital city.

ii. Israeli troops opened fire on Palestinian protesters after President Trump's pledge to move the **U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem** was fulfilled, taking tensions between Israel and Palestine to boiling point.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Israel Capital-** Jerusalem, **Currency-** Israeli new shekel, **Israeli Prime Minister-** Benjamin Netanyahu.
- **Guatemala Capital:** Guatemala City, **Currency:** Guatemalan quetzal.

WHO Publishes Its 1st Essential Diagnostics List

i. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published its first '*essential diagnostics list*', a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose the most common conditions as well as a number of global priority diseases.

ii. An estimated 46% of adults with **Type 2 diabetes** worldwide were undiagnosed, risking serious health complications and higher health costs.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the present Director General of WHO.
- WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Forbes Most Powerful People In The World: PM Modi 9th, Xi Jinping Tops

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked ninth on Forbes' 2018 list of 'the world's most powerful people'. Chinese President **Xi Jinping ranked first**, followed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump at the second and third rank, respectively.

ii. The only other Indian to feature on the list is Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at 32. The PM Modi ranks ahead of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg (who is at 13th spot).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Forbes-** American Business Magazine, **Founded in-** 1917.
- **Headquarters-** New York City, USA.

NASA, Uber Team Up to Make Flying Cars a Reality

- i. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** signed a space act agreement with **Uber Technologies** to explore concepts and technologies related to Urban Air Mobility (UAM) for future air transportation such as flying cars in populated areas.
- ii.** Under the agreement, Uber will share its plans with NASA for implementing the urban aviation rideshare network.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Urban Air Mobility is a safe and efficient system for air vehicles, piloted or not, to move passengers and cargo within a city.
- **Jim Bridenstine** has become the **13th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**.
- NASA founded on **29th July 1958**, Headquarters in- **Washington, D.C., USA**.

September 2019 Climate Summit to be Held in New York: UN Chief

- i. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** announced to hold a **climate summit in September 2019 in New York** to review the commitments of the **2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change**.
- ii.** In March 2018, Guterres appointed **former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg** as his Special Envoy for Climate Action who was tasked to support the United Nations (UN) in its climate strategy and in organising the 2019 summit.

The USA Withdraws From Iran Nuclear Deal

- i. President Donald Trump announced US withdrawal** from the **2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran**. Mr Trump signed a fresh set of sanctions against Iran and warned countries against any cooperation with Tehran on its controversial nuclear weapons programme.
- ii.** The historic nuclear deal was reached in **Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the P5** (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) along with **Germany and the European Union**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The five permanent members of the UN Security Council are China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

China Launched Gaofen-5 to Monitor Air Pollution

- i. China has successfully launched** a hyperspectral imaging satellite '**Gaofen-5**' for comprehensive observation of the atmosphere, including air pollution which is one of the country's major problems. The Gaofen-5 satellite was launched off the back of a **Long March 4C rocket** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center**.
- ii.** It was the **274th flight mission** by a Long March carrier rocket. **Gaofen-5 is the first China-developed satellite** that can monitor air pollution.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **China National Space Administration** is the national space agency of China responsible for the national space program and for planning and development of space activities.
- **Founded in-** April 1993, **Headquarters:** Beijing, China.

Beijing To Hold World Robot Conference

- i. The 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC)** will be held in **Beijing, China** in August 2018. The event will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from more

than 10 countries and regions.

ii. A robot competition will be held during the conference where participants will compete in five categories.

Leaders of China, Japan and South Korea Met in Tokyo

i. **The leaders of China, Japan and South Korea met in Tokyo** against the backdrop of historic diplomatic moves by North Korea and a push for the isolated country to give up its nuclear weapons.

ii. **Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Moon Jae-in** held talks in the first three-way summit in two-and-a-half years. The leaders also discussed cooperation on economic issues.

Business Optimism Index: India Ranks 6th, Austria Tops

i. **India was ranked 6th on Global Optimism Index** released as part of **Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR)** in the first quarter of 2018. The report was prepared based on the results of a survey of 2,500 businesses in 37 economies.

ii. India had topped the chart for four years. The top five nations in the report are **Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the US.**

Google Officially Launches Things, Its IoT Platform

i. In an effort to better secure and control **Internet of Things (IoT) devices**, Google has officially launched **Android Things**.

ii. With Android Things, each connected device that uses the platform will receive three years of OS updates directly from Google and all of these updates will be free.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Google CEO-** Sundar Pichai, **Parent organization-** Alphabet Inc., **Headquarters-** the USA.

PM Modi Leaves for 2-Day Visit to Nepal

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has left on a **two day State visit to Nepal** to take forward the issues of mutual interest and partnership across diverse sectors. This is Mr Modi's third visit to Nepal as Prime Minister.

ii. **Activities Planned during the Visit-**

- Both the leaders will jointly lay the foundation stone for Arun 3 hydropower project.
- PM Modi will visit historic Janaki temple.
- Both the prime ministers will inaugurate Janakpur-Ayodhya bus service and the inclusion of Janakpur in Ramayana circuit.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Nepal Capital-** Kathmandu, **Currency-** Nepalese rupee, **President-** Bidhya Devi Bhandari, **Prime Minister-** Khadga Prasad Oli.

India, Largest Remittance-Receiving Country in World

i. **India has become the largest remittance-receiving country in the world**, with migrant workers from the country sending home **69 billion US dollars in 2017**. According to the report '**RemitSCOPE – Remittance markets and opportunities – Asia and the Pacific**', remittances to the Asia-Pacific region amounted to 256 billion dollars in 2017.

ii. India with 69 billion Dollars, China with 64 billion Dollars and the Philippines with 33 billion Dollars are the three largest remittance-receiving countries in the world in 2017. Worldwide, an estimated 40% of the total value of remittances goes to rural areas.

India Pavilion Inaugurated at Cannes Film Festival 2018

i. The inaugural session of the **Indian Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival 2018** was held at **Cannes, France**. It was hosted by noted actor Sharad Kelkar.

ii. A meeting between the Indian delegation and Ms. Isabelle Giordano, Director General, Unifrance, M. Loic Wong, Director of International Department, CNC, France was held to explore co-production opportunities between India and France.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **France Capital-** Paris, **Currency-** Euro, CFP Franc, **President-** Emmanuel Macron.

China's Alibaba Buys Pakistan e-Commerce Firm Daraz

i. **Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba** had purchased leading Pakistani online retailer '**Daraz**', continuing its overseas expansion by gaining a foothold in the growing South Asian consumer market.

ii. China is seeking closer economic ties with Asian neighbours including Pakistan through its Belt and Road initiative, a strategy to increase trade links that are led primarily by infrastructure projects.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Jack Ma is the CEO of Alibaba Group.
- Jack Ma is the Richest person in Asia (13th overall), according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Top 100 Index 2018.
- **Daraz was founded in 2012.**

ICBC Launches China's 1st India-Dedicated Investment Fund

i. A state-run Chinese bank, **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** has launched the **country's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund**, saying the Indian market offers the best opportunity for Chinese investors due to the prospects of double-digit growth.

ii. The fund, named the **ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund**, will invest in exchange-traded funds listed on more than 20 exchanges in Europe and the US that are based on the Indian market. It is China's first publicly offered fund for investing in India.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) was established on 1 January 1984.
- Gu Shu is the President of ICBC.
- It Headquarters in Beijing, China.

Fastest Growing Blackhole of Universe Discovered

i. Scientists have discovered the **fastest-growing black hole known in the universe**, describing it as a monster that **devours (eats) a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days**.

ii. This black hole is growing so rapidly that it's shining thousands of times more brightly than an entire galaxy, due to all of the gases it sucks in daily that cause lots of friction and heat. The energy emitted from this newly discovered supermassive black hole, also **known as**

a quasar, was mostly ultraviolet light but also radiated x-rays.

iii. The discovery of the new supermassive black hole was confirmed using the spectrograph on the **Australian National University (ANU) 2.3-metre telescope** to split colours into spectral lines.

PM Leaves On 3-Nation Tour To Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a three-nation visit to **Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore**. During his five-day visit, the PM will hold delegation level talks with the leadership of the three countries, on matters of mutual interest.

ii. This will be Prime Minister's first official visit to Indonesia and second official visit to Singapore. The visit assumes significance in the light of India's thrust on "**Act East**" policy". In the first leg of his visit, Mr Modi will arrive in Indonesia.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Indonesia Capital-** Jakarta, **Currency-** Indonesian rupiah, **President-** Joko Widodo.
- **Malaysia Capital-** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency-** Malaysian ringgit, **Prime Minister-** Mahathir Mohamad.
- **Singapore Currency-** Singapore Dollar, **President-** Halimah Yacob.

India Launches Its 2nd IT Corridor In China

i. India launched its second IT corridor in China to cash in on the burgeoning Chinese software market. **The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** has established one more **Sino-Indian Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP)** platform in China.

ii. In December 2017, the **NASSCOM established its first SIDCOP platform** in the Chinese port city of Dalian, which is India's first IT hub in China.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Rishad Premji** is the chairman of NASSCOM.
- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

Colombia to be NATO's 1st Latin American 'Global Partner'

i. Colombia would be formally joining the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**. The announcement was made by the **Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos**.

ii. With the move, Colombia will become the **first Latin American nation** to be a part of the alliance. It would be joining the bloc as a 'global partner', which means it will not necessarily have to take part in any joint military action and will be fully accredited in Brussels.

Hamburg To Host 2018 Global Wind Summit

i. The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in **Hamburg, Germany** in September 2018. The four-day event will see speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark.

ii. The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide. The event combines two conferences, **WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- India is fourth largest country, after China, the US and Germany, in terms of wind energy installation capacity.

Pakistan Names Former Chief Justice As Caretaker PM

i. Former Pakistan Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk was appointed as the **interim Prime Minister of the country** until the general elections are held on July 25.

ii. The decision comes ahead of the dissolution of the current government and parliament.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Pakistan Capital-** Islamabad, **Currency-** Pakistani rupee.

Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting Held in Sweden

i. **The 3rd Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting** was held at **Malmö, Sweden**. The Indian delegation was led by **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences**.

ii. Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated **Smart Grid Workshop** at Copenhagen and Chaired public-private roundtable on Strategies on Decarbonisation through innovations in Smart Grids. India announced setting up of **First International Incubator for clean energy** in a public-private partnership at a total investment of around **US \$ 5 million in Delhi**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- On November 30th, 2015, leader of 20 countries came together to launch Mission Innovation (MI), a landmark 5-year commitment to accelerate the pace of innovation and make clean energy widely affordable and accessible worldwide.

Nepal, 1st Country in South-East Asia to Eliminate Trachoma: WHO

i. **The World Health Organization (WHO)** declared **Nepal as free from Trachoma**, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

ii. With this, Nepal becomes the **first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region** to eliminate Trachoma. Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in the 1980s.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Nepal Capital-** Kathmandu, **Currency-** Nepalese rupee, **President-** Bidhya Devi Bhandari, **Prime Minister-** Khadga Prasad Oli.

71st World Health Assembly Held in Geneva, Switzerland

i. **The 71st World Health Assembly** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland**. The Indian Delegation was led by Union Health Minister of India, Mr J P Nadda at World Health Assembly.

ii. The Event was held under the theme "**Health for All: Commit To Universal Health Coverage**". Mr Nadda also inaugurated **'Walk the Talk'** event and gave a call **'Health for all, Yoga for all'**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Switzerland Capital-** Bern, **Currency-** Swiss franc.

NYSE Names 1st Woman Chief in Exchange's 226-year History

i. **The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)** has promoted **Stacey Cunningham to President**, making her the **first sole woman head of the 226-year-old exchange**.

ii. The 43-year-old became NYSE's Chief Operating Officer (COO) in June 2015. With Cunningham's promotion, America's leading two stock exchanges will be led by women after Adena Friedman took over as CEO of Nasdaq in January 2017.

Defence

Vijay Prahar Exercise of Indian Army Concluded in Rajasthan

- i. Indian Army's month-long *Vijay Prahar exercise* concluded in **Suratgarh, Rajasthan**. It was conducted by **South Western Command of Indian Army**.
- ii. The exercise was aimed to orchestrate wide spectrum of threats including **Nuclear, Chemical or Biological (NCB) attack** which are planned to be tackled through high tempo joint air and land operation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- General Bipin Rawat is the present Chief of Army Staff.

Russia Unveils World's 1st Floating Nuclear Power Station

- i. **Russia unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station** at a ceremony in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk, where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia. Built in Saint Petersburg, *the Akademik Lomonosov* arrived in Murmansk where it was moored in the port and presented to the media.
- ii. Constructed by the state nuclear power firm **Rosatom**, the 144 by 30 metre (472 by 98 foot) ship holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble, **President-** Vladimir Putin.

SpaceX Launches Most Powerful Falcon 9 Rocket

- i. The **California-based aerospace company, SpaceX** has blasted off its **most powerful Falcon 9 rocket**, which is certified to carry humans to space later this year.
- ii. The **Block 5 Falcon 9 rocket's** main goal for its maiden mission is to propel the first high-orbit communications satellite for Bangladesh, called Bangabandhu Satellite-1.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- SpaceX is the US-based **aerospace** agency.
- Its CEO is Elon Musk.

India Successfully Test-Fires BrahMos Missile Along Odisha Coast

- i. India successfully test-fired the **Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a test range along the **Odisha coast** to validate some new features. The missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher stationed at Launch pad 3 of the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at Chandipur, according to DRDO.
- ii. The trial was conducted to validate its **"life extension"** technologies developed for the first time in India by DRDO and team Brahmos.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **DRDO Chairman-** S Christopher, **Headquarters-** New Delhi.

Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN-13 Begins in Uttarakhand

- i. The joint military exercise **SURYA KIRAN-13** between **India and Nepal** began at **Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand**. The military exercise is a biannual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India every six months.
- ii. Over 300 soldiers from both the countries are taking part in the exercise. The aim of this exercise is to conduct battalion level joint training with emphasis on counterterrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

World's Largest International Maritime Exercise RIMPAC

i. As many as 26 countries, including India, will participate in the biennial **Rim of the Pacific, RIMPAC military exercise**, in and around the **Hawaiian Islands and Southern California**. The announcement was made by the Pentagon.

ii. **It is the world's largest international maritime exercise.** The countries participating in the exercise include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom among others.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Hockey India Appoints Harendra Singh as Chief Coach of Men's Team

- i. Hockey India** has appointed **Harendra Singh** as coach of **India's men's team**, while **Sjoerd Marijne** will take over as chief coach of women's side.
- ii.** The decision to change coaches comes on the backdrop of men's hockey team having a disappointing run at the recently-concluded **Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia**.

WhatsApp CEO Jan Koum Quits Facebook

- i. WhatsApp Co-founder and CEO Jan Koum** has announced his resignation from the **parent company Facebook**. This comes shortly after a report claimed Koum would leave due to disagreements over data privacy and weakening encryption.
- ii.** Koum will also step down from Facebook's Board of Directors, a position he took up when **WhatsApp** was bought for **\$19 billion** by **Facebook** in **2014**.

Sitanshu Kar Takes Over as DG of Press Information Bureau

- i. Mr Sitanshu Ranjan Kar** (1983 batch officer of Indian Information Service) took over as the **27th Principal Spokesperson of the Government of India and Director General of Press Information Bureau in New Delhi**.
- ii. He succeeds Mr Frank Noronha.**

Justin Langer Appointed Head Coach of Australian Cricket Team

- i. Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer** has been appointed as **Australian cricket team's head coach for all three formats**. Langer replaces **Darren Lehmann**, who had stepped down after Australia's tour of South Africa amid the ball-tampering controversy.
- ii.** The 47-year-old, who represented Australia in 105 Tests, will begin his four-year term ahead of limited-overs series against England in June.

ICICI Bank Names Radhakrishnan Nair as Independent Director

- i. ICICI Bank's** board has appointed **Radhakrishnan Nair as an additional (independent) director** of the bank for five years.
- ii.** The appointment is subject to the approval of shareholders. Mr Nair is also an independent director of three subsidiaries of the bank - ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company, ICICI Prudential Trust and ICICI Securities Primary Dealership.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ICICI Bank stands for **Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India**.
- Chanda Kochhar is the **MD and CEO of ICICI Bank**.

Subhash Chandra Khuntia Appointed New IRDAI Chairman

- i. Subhash Chandra Khuntia**, a 1981-batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer who was a former Karnataka Chief Secretary, has been appointed as **Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.
- ii. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved Khuntia's appointment for a period of three years. The post was vacant for more than two months after **TS Vijayan's tenure came to an end**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The head office of IRDAI is in **Hyderabad**.
- In 1999, IRDA was constituted as an autonomous body to regulate and develop the insurance industry.

Vladimir Putin Sworn-In as Russian President for 4th term

i. Vladimir Putin was sworn-in as the **President of Russia for the fourth time**, renewing another six-year term in office.

ii. Putin, who has ruled the country as either President or Prime Minister since 1999, won the presidential elections in March with over 76% of the votes.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman Resigns

i. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced that he would be resigning from office hours after four women accused him of physical violence.

ii. He had taken on high-profile roles as an advocate for women's issues and an antagonist to the policies of President Donald Trump.

Israel Withdraws From Race for UN Security Council Seat

i. Israel withdrew from a race against Germany and Belgium for two seats on the United Nations Security Council in 2019-20. Israel, Germany and Belgium were competing for two seats allocated to the Western European and Others Group.

ii. Germany and Belgium are now running uncontested, but they still need to win more than two-thirds of the overall General Assembly vote to be elected.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Presently, there are 193-member countries in the UN General Assembly.
- **Israel Capital-** Jerusalem, **Currency-** Israeli new shekel, **Prime Minister-** Benjamin Netanyahu.

FB Appoints Product Exec Chris Daniels to Take Over WhatsApp

i. Facebook has announced that the company's Vice President of Product Chris Daniels will be taking over WhatsApp after Co-founder Jan Koum announced his departure, recently.

ii. In his new role, former Internet.org VP Daniels will report to Facebook's Chief Product Officer. Daniels has been working with Facebook for more than seven years and previously worked for Microsoft in product management.

Google Names Nitin Bawankule Head of India Cloud Business

i. Google had appointed Nitin Bawankule as the country head for its cloud business in India, as the search giant looks at taking a larger share of the booming demand for those services in the country.

ii. Bawankule has been with Google for six years and was previously head of sales for its e-commerce, retail and classifieds and education business.

Carlos Alvarado Sworn in as Costa Rican President

i. Carlos Alvarado was sworn in as the new President of Costa Rica. Alvarado swept to victory against conservative Protestant singer Fabricio Alvarado Munoz.

ii. At 39, Alvarado is the country's youngest president in modern history.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Costa Rica Capital-** San Jose, **Currency-** Costa Rican colon.

Malaysia Gets Oldest Prime Minister in the World

- i. Mahathir Mohamad** was sworn in as **Prime Minister of Malaysia**. He took the oath at the **Istana Negara Palace in Kuala Lumpur**. He has replaced Najib Razak.
- ii.** His coalition defeated the **governing Barisan Nasional coalition**, led by Prime Minister Najib Razak, which has been in power for more than 60 years. **Ninety-two-year-old, Mahathir becomes the oldest Prime Minister in the world.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Malaysian Capital-** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency-** Malaysian ringgit.

Shashank Manohar to serve 2nd term as ICC chairman

- i. Former BCCI President Shashank Manohar** will serve a **second two-year term** as the independent chairman of the **International Cricket Council** after he was elected unopposed by the governing body's Board.
- ii.** Mr Manohar became the first independent **ICC Chairman in 2016**. According to the election process, ICC Directors were each allowed to nominate one candidate, who had to be either a present or a past **ICC Director**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **The ICC** is the international governing body of cricket.
- Headquarters of ICC is in **Dubai, UAE**.
- **Dave Richardson** is CEO of the ICC.

Susheela Jayapal Becomes 1st South Asian To Be Elected in Oregon

- i.** Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's sister **Susheela Jayapal became the first South Asian to be elected in Oregon** in the western US State.
- ii.** She will represent North and Northeast Portland commissioner's seat. Susheela, a former corporate lawyer and longtime community volunteer, **defeated construction contractor Sharon Maxwell** and two others.

Uttam Pacharne Appointed Regular Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

- i. The President of India has appointed Uttam Pacharne**, as regular **Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi**. Mr Pacharne is an eminent artist and sculptor.
- ii.** He is the recipient of **National Lalit Kala Award 1985**, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraska 1985 from Government of Maharashtra, Junior National Award 1986 and Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar 2017 from Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation.
- iii.** Previously, Mr M.L. Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies), Ministry of Culture was appointed Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi.

Ambika Sharma To Head USIBC India Office

- i. The U.S India Business Council named Ambika Sharma as its head for India.** Ms. Sharma was Director General for International at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ii.** Ms. Sharma will be responsible for overseeing and guiding USIBC's growth strategy in India through its offices in New Delhi and Mumbai, as well as leading the charge on policy advocacy issues for USIBC's diverse membership with a variety of stakeholders.

Gina Haspel Confirmed As 1st Female Director of CIA

- i.** The US Senate confirmed **Gina Haspel as the first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**. Gina Haspel's confirmation in a 54-45 vote follows a partisan

fight among senators about the CIA's Bush-era use of techniques such as waterboarding.

ii. The former CIA chief, Mike Pompeo, left to become US Secretary of State.

Venezuela's President Maduro Wins Re-election

i. Venezuela's President **Nicolas Maduro** was reelected for a **second six-year term in presidential elections**, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE).

ii. Mr Nicolas had replaced **Hugo Chavez** after his death from cancer in 2013.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Venezuela Capital-** Caracas, **Currency-** Venezuelan bolívar.

Anil Kumar Jha Appointed CMD of Coal India

i. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the **appointment of Mahanadi Coalfields chief Anil Kumar Jha as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Coal India**.

ii. Jha had replaced Coal Ministry's Additional Secretary Suresh Kumar. Jha has been appointed till his superannuation on January 31, 2020.

Pravin Agrawal Appointed BHEL Director

i. State-run power equipment maker **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has appointed **Pravin L. Agrawal** as a part-time official director on its board.

ii. An Indian Forest Service officer, Agrawal is presently joint secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI), Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

HD Kumaraswamy Took Oath as New Karnataka CM

i. The JD(S)-Congress coalition government head **HD Kumaraswamy** was sworn-in as the **New Chief Minister of Karnataka**. **Governor Vajubhai Vala** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Kumaraswamy.

ii. Congress Leader **G. Parameshwara** was sworn in as **Deputy Chief Minister**. There are 221 elected members in the Legislative Assembly, and the coalition partners have 117 members.

Paraguay Gets Its 1st Woman Interim President

i. Paraguay gets **first interim woman President Alicia Pucheta for the first time in its history** after outgoing leader **Horacio Cartes** stepped down ahead of schedule.

ii. Paraguay has just eight women among its 45 senators, and 11 among the 80 members of the lower house.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Paraguay Capital-** Asuncion, **Currency-** Paraguayan guarani.

Sudha Balakrishnan Appointed 1st CFO of RBI

i. NSDL executive **Sudha Balakrishnan** has been appointed **the first-ever chief financial officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

ii. Balakrishnan, a chartered accountant, was till recently vice president with the **National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL, India's first and largest depository)** before joining RBI. She will be the 12th executive director of the RBI and will have a three-year term.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Urjit Patel-** 24th Governor of RBI, **Headquarters-** Mumbai, **Established on-** 1st April 1935, in Kolkata.

Justice R.K. Agrawal Appointed NCDRC Chairman

- i. Justice R.K. Agrawal has been appointed as the President of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC).
- ii. He has replaced Justice D.K. Jain, who retired recently.

President Appoints New Governors In Odisha and Mizoram

- i. BJP leaders **Ganeshi Lal** and **Kummanam Rajasekharan** were appointed as **Governors of Odisha and Mizoram**, respectively. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique, **Prof. Ganeshi Lal** will take over as the new governor of Odisha. **He has replaced S C Jamir.**
- ii. Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik had been given additional charge of Odisha. The President appointed **Kerala BJP chief Kummanam Rajasekharan** as the Governor of Mizoram. He will be replacing Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Odisha CM-** Naveen Patnaik, **Mizoram CM-** Lal Thanhawla.

Barbados Elects Mia Mottley as 1st Female Prime Minister

- i. The Caribbean island of Barbados has elected **Mia Mottley** as its **first female Prime Minister** since gaining independence from the UK in 1966.
- ii. Mottley's Barbados Labour Party won all 30 seats in the country's Parliament, coming to power for the first time in a decade.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Barbados Capital-** Bridgetown, **Currency-** Barbadian dollar.



CLATAPULT

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

Honours/ Awards

Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle Honored with PC Chandra Puraskaar

- i. **Legendary singer Asha Bhosle** was honoured with **26th PC Chandra Puraskaar** for her contribution in the field of Indian music. Sharmila Tagore was the Chief Guest at the event who also presented the prestigious award to Asha Bhosle.
- ii. Asha Bhosle made her singing debut in 1943 and she has sung in a great variety of musical genres. Her career spans over almost seven decades.

India's Neeraj Goyat is WBC Asia Boxer of the Year

- i. **Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat** has been conferred with the '**WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award**'. Neeraj is the current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category. Since turning pro in 2011, Neeraj has won nine fights including two knockouts.
- ii. Neerav Tomar was bestowed with '**WBC Asia honorary Promoter of the year 2017 Award**' by the Asian Boxing Council at WBC Asia and WBC Muaythai annual awards presentation ceremony **in Bangkok, Thailand**.

India's Jagriti Yatra Wins Charity Award in UK

- i. **The Yatra, an Indian charity that organises 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London.**
- ii. Jagriti Yatra organises 15-day train journeys, covering 800 km for 400 young change-makers across India every year. It has created some of India's foremost social entrepreneurs and pioneers of enterprise-led development that cuts across socio-economic boundaries in India.

NMDC Bags S&P PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018

- i. **NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) Limited has bagged the prestigious S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category** held at London.
- ii. This is the first time since inception of this award that an Indian Company bagged an award in this category.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NMDC is the largest iron ore mining company in India.
- With iron ore production of around 35 million tonnes per annum, it has a domestic market share of about 25% (non-captive category).
- It Headquarters in Hyderabad.

Prof Muhammad Yunus Conferred KISS Humanitarian Award 2018

- i. **Nobel laureate and noted economist Muhammad Yunus** was honoured with the **11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018** at a function held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ii. Yunus is the founder of Grameen Bank and is known as the Father of Microfinance.

Lata Mangeshkar Conferred With Swara Mauli Award

- i. **Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar** was honoured with the **Swara Mauli title** by spiritual guru Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami. Mangeshkar, 88, was conferred with the award at her residence in Mumbai.
- ii. Her sisters Asha Bhosle and Usha Mangeshkar and brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar were also present.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mangeshkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the country, in 2001 - the second vocalist, after MS Subbulakshmi to receive the honour.

Neymar Named France's Player of The Year

i. Neymar was named as **France's player of the year at an awards ceremony in Paris, France** despite the Paris Saint-Germain superstar missing the last three months of the season due to injury.

ii. The Brazilian, the world's most expensive player, scored 19 goals in just 20 league games for PSG before suffering a foot injury in February that required surgery.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Neymar plays as a forward for French club Paris Saint-Germain and the Brazil national team.

Mark Tully To Get Red Ink Award

i. Senior journalist Mark Tully will be honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai. Tully worked with the BBC for three decades and was the broadcaster's Chief of Bureau for Delhi for 20 years.

ii. Tully was a front-running reporter for all major news breaks in South Asia like the Indo-Pakistan wars, the Bhopal gas tragedy, Operation Blue Star, assassination of Indira Gandhi and anti-Sikh riots. **Faye D'Souza, the Executive Editor of Mirror Now**, will also be given the **Journalist of the Year Award at the function.**

DRDO Awards 2016 & 2017 Presented by Defence Minister

i. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave away the **DRDO Awards- 2016 & 2017** to various DRDO scientists for their outstanding contributions while commemorating the **National Technology Day (11 May).**

ii. Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General, DRDO **Dr VK Saraswat** was given **DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2017.**

iii. Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General, DRDO **Dr Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre** was awarded for **DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2016.**

iv. The Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, Distinguished Scientist & Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) **Dr G Satheesh Reddy** was awarded for **Technology Leadership Award – 2016.** The **Chairman DRDO and Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Dr S Christopher** also addressed the function and e-launched the '**Navrachna**' implementation programme during the event.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **DRDO Chairman- S Christopher, Headquarters- New Delhi.**

Sridevi Honoured At Cannes Film Festival

i. Veteran Bollywood actor Sridevi was honoured with the **TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award** at the ongoing **Cannes Film Festival.**

ii. The award traditionally celebrates women of the film industry all over the world and also salute the multi-cultural impact on the world of cinema.

Lionel Messi Wins European Golden Shoe For The 5th Time

i. Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won the **European Golden Shoe for the fifth time**. The Argentina international claimed the prize after scoring 34 goals in La Liga this season, helping his club to a 25th league triumph.

ii. Messi also won the award last year, as well as in 2010, 2012 and 2013. Four-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo finished ninth in the rankings after scoring 26 goals for Real Madrid in La Liga.

Japanese Director Wins Cannes' Top Award

i. Asian, Arab, and women filmmakers scored big at the closing ceremony of the **71st Cannes Film Festival**, while Japanese director **Hirokazu Kore-eda** took home the top prize -- the **Palme d'Or**. **Kore-eda**, in the festival's main competition for the fifth time, won the Palme d'Or for '**Manbiki Kazoku**' (**Shoplifters**).

ii. Kore-eda is only the **second Asian Palme d'Or winner** this millennium (after Thailand's Apichatpong Weerasethakul for 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives', 2010). This is the seventh time that a director from Asia has bagged the coveted trophy.

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 Presented to INSV Tarini Team

i. Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi presented the prestigious **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017** to the members of the **INSV Tarini team in New Delhi**. The Six-member all-women team led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi have received the Puraskar from the Minister.

ii. The crew of the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel '**Tarini**' is a part of the Indian Navy's unique project '**Navika SagarParikrama**'.

English Translation of Polish Novel 'Flights' Wins Man Booker Prize

i. Polish author Olga Tokarczuk has won the **Man Booker International Prize** for her novel '**Flights**'. The novel, **translated by Jennifer Croft**, interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body.

ii. It bagged the 67,000 US dollar prize after topping a shortlist of six titles, with **Tokarczuk becoming the first Polish writer** to win the award. The head judge of the awards was Lisa Appignanesi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Man Booker International Prize celebrates the English translations of works of international literature.
- In 1971, V.S. Naipaul's novel *In a Free State* was the first book by an Indian novelist to win the Booker.

CSIR Bags Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018

i. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been awarded the **Clarivate Analytics India Innovation Award 2018** in the Government Research Organizations Category.

ii. Every year, Clarivate Analytics (formerly the IP & Science division of Thomson Reuters) recognizes the most innovative companies in India according to patent-related metrics that get to the essence of what it means to be truly innovative.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- According to the SCImago Institutions Ranking World Report 2017, CSIR has been ranked 9th in the world amongst the 1207 government institutions, with an overall global ranking of 75 in the world.

Kamaljit Bawa 1st Indian to Receive Linnean Medal

i. Indian botanist Kamaljit S. Bawa (president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment) received the prestigious **Linnean Medal in Botany** from the Linnean Society of London.

ii. Dr. Bawa is the first Indian to win the award ever since it was first constituted in 1888.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Linnean Medal is awarded to a biologist every year by the Linnean Society of London.
- The world's oldest active biological society founded in 1788 and named after famous Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus.

Yuvraj Singh Awarded 'Most Inspiring Icon Of The Year For Social Welfare'

i. Indian star cricketer Yuvraj Singh has been awarded the 'most inspiring icon of the year for Social Welfare' award by the **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF)** for his exemplary contribution in the field of social welfare.

ii. Yuvraj was diagnosed with cancer (mediastinal seminoma) shortly after the World Cup. After successfully completing his chemotherapy cycle in the United States, Yuvraj returned to India in 2012.



Sports

Shooter Shahzar Rizvi Becomes World No.1 in 10m Air Pistol

i. Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi became the world number one shooter in the 10-metre air pistol category after having won a silver medal at the recently concluded **shooting World Cup in South Korea. Russia's Artem Chernousov is on top spot and Japan's Tomoyuki Matsuda on second.**

ii. The other Indian shooter in the world top-10 rankings is Jitu Rai, who is placed sixth. Among the women, **Manu Bhaker was the only Indian in the top-10** of the women's 10m air pistol rankings at the fourth spot.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Olegario Vazquez Rana of Mexico is the President of International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).
- ISSF was first established in 1907.

India's CA Bhavani Devi Wins Silver at Satellite Fencing Championship

i. India's CA Bhavani Devi won a silver medal in the sabre event of the **Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.**

ii. The Tamil Nadu fencer went down to **USA's Alexis Browne in the final.** Bhavani Devi had won a gold medal at the Reykjavik tournament in 2017 to become the first Indian to do so in an international fencing event.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Iceland Capital-** Reykjavik, **Currency-** Icelandic króna.

Lewis Hamilton Wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018

i. Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes has won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018 in Baku during which both Red Bulls sensationally collided with each other.

ii. Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari finished second and Sergio Perez of Force India ended third in the Race.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **President of Azerbaijan-** Ilham Aliyev, **Capital-** Baku, **Currency-** Azerbaijani manat.

Mohamed Salah Named Writers' Footballer of The Year

i. Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has been named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year. Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne came second with Tottenham striker Harry Kane third.

ii. The Egypt star - the first African winner of the award - also won the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year award.

Wimbledon Champions' Prize Money Hiked by £50,000

i. According to the Wimbledon officials, **the 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million, an increase of £50,000** on last year. Lower-ranked players at Wimbledon will enjoy a greater uplift, with an **increase of 10% across qualifying** and the first to fourth rounds of the singles, boosting the overhaul prize money total to £34 million this year.

ii. Wimbledon officials **warned players** they face losing prize money **if they withdraw after competing** with an existing injury and are not perceived to have given maximum effort.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Championships, Wimbledon is an annual British tennis tournament created in 1877 and is played in London, UK.
- Roger Federer and Garbine Muguruza won the men's and women's titles in 2017.

3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships: India Tops With 50 Medals

i. **India finished on top** in the 7-nation **3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka** on the final day. India ended with **20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze** medals (Total 50 Medals).

ii. Host Sri Lanka bagged rest of the 12 gold medals in the competition along with 10 silver and 19 bronze. Pakistan won one silver and a bronze to settle for the third place.

South Korea Wins Asian Champions Trophy 2018

i. The Indian women's Hockey team failed to defend its crown at the **fifth Asian Champions Trophy**, as it lost to hosts **South Korea, 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City, South Korea**. A goal by Youngsil Lee clinched the Korean team as the winner of Champions Trophy.

ii. The final was India's first defeat of the tournament. **South Korea has lifted the title for the third time** after having won it in 2010 and 2011.

iii. **Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared player of the tournament** while youngster **Lalremsiami** was named as the upcoming player of the tournament.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **South Korea Capital-** Seoul, **President-** Moon Jae-in.

India Wins U-16 Four-Nation Football Tournament in Serbia

i. **Indian Under-16 National Team** was crowned champions of the **Four-Nation Tournament** held in **Serbia** after the Indian Colts **defeated Tajikistan**.

ii. In what was a stellar start for the Indian U-16s against Tajikistan, the young colts took the lead as early as the 5th minute when Gibson lobbed the ball over the opposing custodian.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Capital-** Belgrade, **Currency-** Serbian dinar.

Lewis Hamilton Wins Spanish Grand Prix

i. **Lewis Hamilton (of Mercedes)** won for the second race in succession by dominating an eventful Spanish Grand Prix 2018.

ii. **Valtteri Bottas** of Mercedes stood second in the race. Sebastian Vettel finished fourth in the event.

1st Para-National Games to be Held Under Khelo India Scheme

i. **The inaugural National Para Games**, on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the **Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru**.

ii. The Games will be held for the age group of **16 to 40 (men and women) in 10 disciplines viz.** para athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para powerlifting, shooting para-

sport, para-swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is the Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

CSK defeat SRH to clinch record-equalling third IPL title

- i. Playing in their seventh Indian Premier League final, **Chennai Super Kings** has defeated **SunRisers Hyderabad** to clinch their **third Indian Premier League title**.
- ii. Player of the Match award goes to Chennai Super Kings' **Shane Watson** in IPL Final 2018.

Daniel Ricciardo Wins Monaco Grand Prix 2018

- i. Australian Formula One racer **Daniel Ricciardo** handed **Red Bull** a victory in their **250th race in the Formula One** at Monaco GP.
- ii. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, last year's winner at the Monaco GP, finished second while Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton was third.

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2018: Complete Highlights

It has been the season full of ups and downs for the **11th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2018**. **Chennai Super Kings beat Sunrisers Hyderabad** by 8 wickets in the final of the 2018 Indian Premier League **at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai**. It was the sensational knock of **117 runs off 57 balls** by the experienced **Shane Watson** that led CSK to lift their third IPL trophy. Reinstated into the IPL after a two-year ban for their team management's role in the 2013 spot-fixing scandal, CSK won their third IPL trophy after a gap of seven years.

With this, Chennai Super Kings equalled Mumbai Indians' record for winning the most number of **Indian Premier League titles**. Notably, Chennai Super Kings defeated SunRisers Hyderabad in each of their **four encounters** this season.

Here is the complete list of Awards that were announced at the closing ceremony of IPL 2018:

| S. No | Award | Winner (Team) |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Man of the Match (Final) | Shane Watson (CSK) |
| 2. | Orange Cap (Most Runs) | Kane Williamson (SRH) |
| 3. | Purple Cap (Most Wickets) | Andrew Tye (KXIP) |
| 4. | Emerging Player | Rishabh Pant (DD) |
| 5. | Stylish Player | Rishabh Pant (DD) |
| 6. | Perfect Catch | Trent Boult (DD) |
| 7. | Super Striker | Sunil Narine (KKR) |
| 8. | Valuable Player | Sunil Narine (KKR) |
| 9. | Fairplay Award | Mumbai Indians |

AB de Villiers Retires From International Cricket

i. Star South African batsman AB de Villiers has announced his decision to **retire from international cricket with immediate effect**. In his 14-year career, he played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.

ii. Some of the Phenomenal Records of ABD are:

The World Record for the fastest ODI 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64 balls), the second highest individual Test score for South Africa (278*), the highest points (935) by a South African on the ICC Test rankings.

Virat Kohli Emerged As International Cricketer of Year: CEAT Ratings

i. Indian skipper Virat Kohli has emerged as the **International Cricketer of the Year at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards**, which were presented in Mumbai.

ii. Other CEAT Cricket Ratings awards Presented are:

1. International Batsman of the Year Award: Shikhar Dhawan (India).

2. International Bowler of the Year Award: Trent Boult (New Zealand).

3. T20 Bowler of the Year Award: Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).

4. Outstanding Innings of the Year Award: Harmanpreet Kaur (India).

5. Lifetime Achievement Award: Farokh Engineer (India).

6. T20 Batsman of the Year Award: Colin Munro (New Zealand).

7. Domestic Player of the Year Award: Mayank Agarwal (India).

8. U19 Player of the Year award: Shubman Gill (India).

9. Popular Choice Award: Chris Gayle (West Indies).

Vikas Gowda, India's Only Discus Throw Gold Medallist at Commonwealth, Retires

i. Top Indian discus thrower Vikas Gowda retired after competing at the highest level for more than 15 years, during which he became the **first and only Indian male to win Commonwealth Games medal in the discipline**.

ii. His retirement was announced by the **Athletics Federation of India**. Gowda holds the national record of 66.28m (achieved in 2012).

iii. Important Medals of his Life Includes:

- Gold in the 2013 and 2015 Asian Championships,
- Silver in the 2010 Commonwealth Games,
- Gold in the 2014 Glasgow CWG,
- Bronze in 2010 Asian Games, and
- Silver in 2014 Asian Games.

Bala Prasath Wins Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship

i. Coimbatore racer Bala Prasath has won the Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**.

ii. Bala, who was trailing in second place after Round 1 with 91 points, was in his element in Round 2 at the Kari Motor Speedway.

Rafael Nadal Beats Zverev to Win Italian Open

i. In Tennis, Rafael Nadal of Spain has beaten Germany's **Alexander Zverev** to win **Italian Open title for a record eighth time**. With this win, Nadal regained the world number one ranking before the French Open beginning.

ii. He has now won three clay-court titles from four tournaments in the lead-up to his bid for an 11th Roland Garros title in Paris.

Tejaswini Strikes Gold at Munich Grand Prix

i. Former World Shooting Champion Tejaswini Sawant had bagged the gold in the **Grand Prix in Munich, Germany**. Tejaswini had won the World Championship gold in prone in 2010 in Munich.

ii. Results of the Munich Grand Prix:

Men: 50m rifle prone:

- 1. Gold-** Matthew Emmons (USA),
- 2. Silver-** Chain Singh (India),
- 3. Bronze-** Oleh Tsarkov (Ukraine).

Women: 50m rifle prone:

- 1. Gold-** Tejaswini Sawant (India),
- 2. Silver-** Anjum Moudgil (India),
- 3. Bronze-** Olivia Hofmann (Austria).

WHO, Russia Launch New Campaign For Football World Cup 2018

i. A new video campaign has been launched targeting football fans on the occasion of the **World Cup 2018** to promote healthier and more active lives.

ii. The series of videos have been produced jointly by **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **Russia's Ministry of Health** and the **2018 World Cup Russia Local Organising Committee**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** is the present Director General of WHO.
- WHO Headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Japan Win Uber Cup To End 37-Year Drought

i. Japan's women clinched the Uber Cup, breezing by surprise finalists Thailand 3-0 in Bangkok to end a 37-year wait to regain the title. With a team stacked with top-ranked players in both the singles and doubles, Japan made light work of the hosts, who entered the finals for the first time after stunning China in the semis.

ii. It ends an Uber Cup drought for Japan that stretches back to 1981 and is a major confidence boost ahead of the Olympics which they will host in two years' time.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Uber Cup, sometimes called the World Team Championships for Women, is a major international badminton competition contested by women's national badminton teams.
- The Uber Cup is second in prestige only to the Olympics as a national team event.

Real Madrid Lifts Champions Trophy Defeating Liverpool

i. Real Madrid has lifted Champions Trophy defeating Liverpool 3-1 in Kiev, Ukraine.

ii. A sensational overhead strike from Real Madrid substitute Gareth Bale and two calamitous errors by Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius gave the Spanish side a third straight Champions League title in an incident-packed final.

Obituaries

Eminent Economist Ashok Mitra Passes Away

i. The first Finance Minister in the Left Front government in West Bengal Ashok Mitra passed away in Kolkata. He was 90.

ii. Besides serving the State Government, he also worked with the Central Government as the Chief Economic Adviser and was a member of Rajya Sabha.

Renowned Artist-Philosopher Ravinder Sharma Passes Away

i. Ravinder Sharma, fondly called Guruji, the founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram died at the age of 65 years.

ii. A trained artist, Guruji had been awarded **Kala Ratna by the Andhra Pradesh State government** in 2014. After bifurcation of the State, the Telangana government awarded him the **Ugadi Puraskaram in 2015**.

Renowned Marathi Singer Arun Date Passes Away

i. Veteran Marathi singer Arun Date, known for his popular song "*Shukratara*" had passed away in Mumbai. He was 84.

ii. He was the **first recipient** of the state government's '**Gajananrav Vatave Puraskar**'. Mr Date was very famous for non-film '*bhavageet*' (lyrical poetry) songs.

Oscar-Winning Film Editor Anne V. Coates Passes Away

i. British film editor Anne V. Coates, who won an Oscar for David Lean's epic film *Lawrence of Arabia*, has passed away. She was 92.

ii. She also received an Academy Honorary Award, known as a Lifetime Achievement Oscar, in November 2016 by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Noted Lyricist, Poet, Politician Balkavi Bairagi Passes Away

i. Noted Hindi film lyricist, **Nandram Das Bairagi**, popularly known as *Balkavi Bairagi*, passed away.

ii. Bairagi, a Lok Sabha member between **1984 and 1989** and also a former Rajya Sabha MP. He was 87. He wrote several Hindi poems, among which, "*Jhar gaye paat, bisar gayi tehni*" is considered a gem by many Hindi poets.

Actor Who Played Lois Lane In Superman Dead At 69

i. The actor Margot Kidder, best known for playing Lois Lane in the Superman films in the 1970s and 1980s, has died at the age of 69, a funeral home in Montana, US.

ii. Canadian-born Kidder also appeared in the movie *The Great Waldo Pepper* and the 2014 children's TV series *R.L. Stine's The Haunting Hour*, for which she won an Emmy award.

Telugu Writer Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani Passes Away

i. Veteran writer, novelist Yaddanapudi Sulochana Rani, who along with her women counterparts **Arikepudi Kousalya Devi and Ranganayakamma**, heralded a new era in **Telugu fictional literature**, passed away at California.

ii. Some of Sulochana's famous novels include *Murali Krishna*, *Radha Krishna*, *Jeevana Tarangalu*, *Premalekhalu*, *Secretary*, *Aathmeeyulu* to name a few.

Former Himachal Pradesh Governor Urmila Singh Passes Away

i. Former Himachal Pradesh governor and Congress leader Urmila Singh died due to prolonged illness at a private hospital in Indore. She was 71.

ii. Belonging to a family of freedom fighters, Singh was appointed as the **governor of Himachal Pradesh in 2010**. Prior to that, she had served as the chairman of the **National Scheduled Tribes Commission (NCTC)**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Himachal Pradesh CM- Jai Ram Thakur, Governor- Acharya Dev Vrat.**

Alan Bean, 4th Man To Walk On The Moon Died

i. Former US astronaut Alan Bean, who was the fourth man to walk on the Moon, has died in Texas, United States. He was 86. Bean went into space twice, the first time in November 1969 as the lunar module pilot on the Apollo 12 moon-landing mission. In 1973 he was commander of the second crewed flight to Skylab- America's first space station.

ii. Bean retired from NASA in 1981 and carved a successful career as an artist. His paintings, inspired by space travel, featured lunar boot prints as well as small pieces of his mission patches which were stained by Moondust.



Important Days with theme

International Labour Day: 01 May

i. International Labour Day is also known as **International Worker's Day, Labour Day and May Day**. It is celebrated across the world on **1st May** to promote and encourage the international labour associations.

ii. The theme of International Labour Day 2018 is “**Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement**”.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 1 May was chosen to be International Workers' Day to commemorate the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago.
- On this day in 1886, labour unions went on a strike in the USA and demanded that workers should not be forced to work more than eight hours a day.

World Press Freedom Day: 3rd May

i. Every year, **3 May** is a date which celebrated as the World Press Freedom Day to evaluate press freedom around the world. This year's global theme for WPFDD is '**Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law**'.

ii. In 2018, UNESCO will lead the 25th celebration of World Press Freedom Day. The main event, jointly **organized by UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Ghana**, will take place in Accra, Ghana.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **France's Audrey Azoulay**- 11th DG of UNESCO, **Headquarters-** Paris, France.

World Red Cross Day: 8th May

i. May 8 is celebrated globally as the **World Red Cross Day**. The day is celebrated on this day because it marks the **birth anniversary of Henry Dunant**, founder of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). World Red Cross Day theme of 2018 is “**Memorable smiles from around the world**”.

ii. The day is celebrated annually in order to commemorate principles of **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**. The day was first celebrated in 1948 when it was officially named as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

National Technology Day: 11 May

i. Every year, '**National Technology Day**' is celebrated across India on **May 11** to memorize the anniversary of **Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test** held on 11 May 1998.

ii. The National Technology Day 2018 theme is “**Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future**”. The first nuclear test Pokhran with a code named as '**Smiling Buddha**' was carried out in May, 1974.

International Day Of Families: 15 May

i. The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. In 1993, the General Assembly of United Nations decided that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.

ii. This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. This year (2018), the theme for the event is 'Families and inclusive societies'.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17 May

i. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed across the world on May 17. The theme for WTISD was *"Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All"*.

ii. The day aims to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other **information and communication technologies (ICT)** can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The World Telecommunication Day is celebrated annually on May 17 since 1969.

Anti Terrorism Day: 21 May

i. The Anti Terrorism Day is observed on 21 May every year in our country to make the people aware of the anti-social act of terrorism and its impact on human suffering and lives. The official announcement of National Anti Terrorism Day was made **after the assassination of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May 1991.**

ii. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the terrorist. Then, under V.P. Singh government the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May

i. The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed across the world on **May 22**, with an aim to raise awareness about the conservation of biodiversity.

ii. The theme of International Day for Biological Diversity 2018 is *'Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity'* as the year 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 May

i. The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed across the world on **May 29**, with an aim to honour more than 3700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving the United Nations since 1948.

ii. The theme of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2018 is *'UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice'*. The **first UN peacekeeping mission** was established on **29 May 1948. The day was first celebrated in 2003.**