

CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	12
Defence.....	15
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	18
Honours/ Awards.....	21
Sports.....	27
Obituaries.....	30
Important Days with theme.....	32



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## National

### Assam, 1st State To Launch Wage Compensation Scheme For Pregnant Women In Tea Gardens

i. Assam Government has become the first Indian state to offer a Wage Compensation Scheme for pregnant women working in the tea gardens of the state. The scheme will be launched by Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal in Guwahati. The announcement was made by the state's Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

ii. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 12,000 will be given to the pregnant women so that they can take care of themselves and the unborn baby. The compensation of wages to pregnant women will be given in 4 instalments - Rs 2,000 in the first trimester, Rs 4,000 in the second trimester, Rs 3,000 for institutional delivery and Rs 3,000 for registration of the child's birth.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- Jagdish Mukhi is the Present Governor of Assam.
- Dispur is the Capital city of Assam.

### GI Tag for Alphonso Mango From Konkan

i. Alphonso Mango from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and other adjoining areas in Maharashtra, finally gets a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. A Geographical Indication or a GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.

ii. The king of mangoes, Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra, is in demand in domestic and international markets not only for its taste but also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- The first product to get a GI tag in India was the Darjeeling tea in 2004. There are a total of 325 products from India that carry this indication.

### Sushil Modi-Led GoM To Examine Modalities For 'Calamity Tax' Under GST

i. The Government constituted a seven-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters.

ii. The panel would look into five issues flagged by the Council, including whether the new tax should be levied only in the state concerned or should it be an all-India levy, and that should it be on specified luxury or sin goods only.

### Kolkata Gets India's 1st Comprehensive City-Level Flood Forecasting and Warning System

i. Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) launched a Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) for Kolkata City. It is also India's first comprehensive city-level FFEWS. It will reduce economic loss and impacts on livelihood and improve flood awareness and safety at the community level.

ii. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded the design and implementation of the FFEWS through a \$1 million technical assistance to KMC from its Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- The Asian Development Bank is a regional development Bank established in 1966.
- Headquarters of ADB is in Manila, Philippines.
- Takehiko Nakao is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.

### Maharashtra Tops List Of States With Maximum Average AUM: AMFI

i. According to Association of Mutual Funds of India's (AMFI) statistics, Maharashtra tops the chart for state with the maximum penetration and Assets Under Management (AUM). Also, as per August, average assets under management (AUM) of mutual funds rose to an all-time high of Rs 25.2 lakh crore across the country.

ii. For Maharashtra, it touched Rs 10.35 lakh crore, about 41.1% of the all-India total. It is followed by Delhi having Rs 2.35 lakh crore and Karnataka having Rs 1.76 lakh crore.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- Association of Mutual Funds of Indian (AMFI) **Headquarters in Mumbai.**
- **A. Balasubramanian** is the present Chairman of AMFI.

**Mukesh Ambani Richest Indian For 11th Consecutive Year: Forbes**

i. **Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani** has emerged as the **richest Indian for the 11th consecutive year** with a net worth of USD 47.3 billion, **according to Forbes magazine.** Ambani is also the year's biggest gainer, adding USD 9.3 billion to his wealth amid the continuing success of his Reliance Jio broadband telco service.

ii. As per the '**Forbes India Rich List 2018**', Wipro Chairman Azim Premji has retained the second spot; while ArcelorMittal Chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal moved a place ahead to the third slot with a net worth of USD 18.3 billion.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

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

**United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres Arrives India On 4-Day Visit**

i. **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India. He will participate in the **Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention** at the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre, **in New Delhi.**

ii. The event marked the **launch of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations** as well as the 4th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

iii. The UN Chief will also attend the joint inaugural ceremony of the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance, 2nd RE-INVEST Conference and Energy Ministers Meet of Indian Ocean Rim Association of States member countries.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.

**BCCI Brought Under RTI Act by Central Information Commission**

i. The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** brought the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI (Right to Information) Act.**

ii. The commission, which is the top appellate body in RTI matters, went through the laws and orders of the Supreme Court, the Law Commission of India report, submissions of the Central Public Information Officer in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to come to a conclusion that the characteristics of the BCCI fulfil the required conditions of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **BCCI President:** Vinod Rai, **Headquarters in:** Mumbai.

**PM Inaugurates 1st Assembly of International Solar Alliance**

i. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, **inaugurated the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance** in New Delhi.

ii. The same event also marked the inauguration of the **second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting**, and the **2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo).** The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, was present on the occasion.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.

**Haryana's MDU Declared Cleanest Government University By HRD Ministry**

**i. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar** announced the “**Swachh Campus rankings**” under various categories. The rankings were decided on the basis of a survey under the ‘Swachhta Hi Sewa’ campaign. “**Swachh Campus rankings**” under various categories are listed below:

**ii. Cleanest 'Government Universities':**

1. Maharashtra Dayanand University, Haryana.
2. Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, Punjab.
3. Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi.

**iii. Cleanest Residential Campuses of 'Private Universities':**

1. Symbiosis International University, Pune.
2. OP Jindal Global University in Sonapat.
3. KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research in Belagavi.

**iv. Cleanest Technical Institutions':**

1. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Coimbatore.
2. IIT Guwahati.
3. Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan University in Bhubhaneshwar.

**SBI Reduces ATM Withdrawal Limit**

**i. State Bank of India** has slashed the daily withdrawal limit on its **classic debit card** from **Rs 40,000 to Rs 20,000**. There is no change in the daily withdrawal limits on other cards. The new limit will be effective from **October 31st 2018**.

**ii.** The bank has been receiving many complaints regarding cloning and the decision is taken to reduce the withdrawal limit on these cards to check fraudulent transactions.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **SBI Chairman-** Rajnish Kumar, **Headquarters-** Mumbai.

**Paytm Tops UPI Payments With Over 33% Market Share**

**i. Alibaba and SoftBank-backed Paytm** registered over **137 million** UPI transactions in September, becoming the leading contributor to **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** payments with over **33%** of the overall market share.

**ii. One97 Communications Limited**, that owns the brand Paytm, is enabling BHIM UPI for offline payments and over five million offline merchants, out of its 9.5 million merchant-base, now accept Paytm UPI.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Paytm founder-** Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

**First Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' in Shimla**

**i. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)**, Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the First ever Regional Conference at Shimla on '**Women in Detention and Access to Justice**' in collaboration with the Prison Department, **Himachal Pradesh**.

**ii.** The Conference was inaugurated by **Shri Acharya Devvrat**, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Expected Outcome of the Conference will be to help in ensuring better implementation of **Prison Reform and Rehabilitation Program** in order to improve the conditions of Women Inmates and their Access to Justice.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The Supreme Court has constituted a **three-member** committee headed by its former judge **Justice Amitava Roy** to look into the aspect of jail reforms.

**India and ADB sign \$ 150 Million Loan Agreement to support India's First Global Skills Park**

**i. Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Government of India signed a **\$150 million** Loan Agreement in New Delhi to establish a **Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh**, the First Multi-Skills Park in India, to enhance the quality of **Technical and Vocational Education And Training (TVET)** System in the State and create a more skilled workforce.

**ii.** This Project will help improve the quality and relevance of the State's TVET programs and will help impart advanced job-ready skills training of international standards that can meet the employment needs of the State's emerging sectors.

**Russian President Vladimir Putin In India On 2-Day Visit**

i. **Russian President Vladimir Putin** reached New Delhi on a two-day visit to India. He will attend the **19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit** in New Delhi. During the visit, President Putin will hold delegation level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ii. The Russian President will also address the **India-Russia Business Summit** and will interact with a group of talented children.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Russian Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Ruble, **President:** Vladimir Putin.

**India Moves Up To 28th Rank In Government e-Payment Adoption, Norway Tops**

i. According to an international survey, **India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28th in 2018**, from 36th in 2011.

ii. **Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark.** The survey has lauded India for taking "rapid strides" in advancing government e-payments capabilities and called it one of the top-performing countries in terms of citizen-to-government business-to-government and government-to-business transactions.

**India's 1st 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' Launched in Assam**

i. In a historic day for India, **Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals**, a state-owned company for launched **Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program"**.

ii. The program was inaugurated by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog and Chairman at Namrup. 500 households inside the Assam Petro Complex will be the first pilot project, scaling it to 40,000 households in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa and Karnataka.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

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

**Apple Displaced Google To Become The Top Brand In The World**

i. **Apple displaced Google** to become the top brand in the world in 2018 while Facebook, mired in data breach controversies, fell to ninth place in the top 100 brands globally. According to global brand consultancy Interbrand's "**Best 100 Global Brands 2018**" report, Amazon achieved a **56%** growth to become the third top brand globally.

ii. According to the ranking, Apple's brand value grew 16 per cent (year-on-year) to **\$214.5 billion**. It went on to become the first company in the US to hit the **\$1 trillion** market cap. Google stood at second place while **Amazon** is third.

**Karnataka Unveils 'Unnati Scheme' to Help Entrepreneurs From SC/ST Communities**

i. **The Karnataka Government** has unveiled '**Unnati Scheme**' to help entrepreneurs from **SC/ST Communities**.

ii. **Karnataka Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge** announced that the state government, under the Unnati scheme, will invest up to Rs 20 crore to create end-to-end support infrastructure for startups and entrepreneurs from a marginalised background.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Karnataka CM:** H. D. Kumaraswamy, **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala.

**Election Commission announces assembly election dates for 5 states**

i. The **Election Commission** has announced the poll schedule for Assembly elections in **Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana**. While Chhattisgarh will have two-phase elections, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana will have single phase election.

ii. Chief Election Commissioner, **OP Rawat** stated the counting of votes in all states will take place on 11th of December. The Model Code of Conduct has come into force with immediate effect.

- **Sunil Arora** is Election Commissioner of India.
- **Ashok Lavasa**(Georgian)is Election Commissioner of India.
- **Om Prakash Rawat** is Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950**.

**India International Science Festival 2018 Concludes: Important Highlights**

- i. The four-day long mega science expo, **India International Science Festival (IISF-2018)** concluded in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**. IISF-2018 witnessed a footfall of more than 10 lakh people and more than 22 thousand registrations, **the highest in its four-year history** making it the largest festival of its kind in Asia.
- ii. IISF was inaugurated by the President Ram Nath Kovind. IISF 2018 also saw two major Guinness World Records being made one of which was a World Record successful attempt to **“isolate DNA”** by 550 students from class 8th to 10th standard. IISF-2018 with its focal theme **“Science for Transformation”** had more than 23 special events in its 4th edition.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **IISF 2017** was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

#### **Government Reconstitutes Top Court-Powered Pollution Control Panel**

- i. The Centre has reconstituted Supreme **Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority or the EPCA**, which is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. **Former secretary Bhure Lal continues to be the chairman**, while the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) DG Sunita Narain is one of the members.
- ii. The other members of the 20-member re-constituted authority include **Ajay Mathur**, who is the Director General of The Energy Research Institute (TERI), **Arunabha Ghosh**, the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Energy Environment and Water, **Navroz K. Dubash**, the Senior Fellow for the Centre for Policy Research.

#### **BPCL To Set Up Country's 1st Biofuel Plant In Odisha**

- i. **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** will complete commissioning of its **second generation (2G) ethanol bio-refinery at Baulsingha village in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020**.
- ii. The proposed plant will see an investment of Rs 1000 crore, the foundation stone of which was laid. This is the first biofuel plant in the country where **ethanol will be produced from rice straw**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Naveen Patnaik** is the current Chief Minister of Odisha.
- **Ganeshi Lal** is the present Governor of Odisha.
- **Dharmendra Pradhan** is the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

#### **Jharkhand To Become Partner State At Goa International Film Festival**

- i. **The Goa International Film Festival** that will be held in **November 2018 will have Jharkhand as a partner state**. The decision was taken in meeting between Secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Amit Khare and Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, Sudhir Tripathy at Ranchi.
- ii. This will allow Jharkhand to showcase its culture and favourable filmmaking incentives announced by the state government.

#### **Oxfam World Inequality Index 2018: India Ranks 147th, Denmark Tops**

- i. UK-based charity **‘Oxfam International’s report** named **‘Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index** was released in which India ranked 147th among 157 countries analysed and was labeled as **“a very worrying situation”** with respect to the rising inequality in the country.
- ii. Out of 157 countries measured, **Denmark topped the list** based on its high and progressive taxation, high social spending and good protection of workers. Ranking at 11th, **Japan became the topper among the Asian countries**. Among the BRICS nations, China was ranked 81st on the list, Brazil 39th and Russia 50th.

#### **Cabinet Approves Merger of NCVT And NSDA To Establish NCVET**

- i. The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of the existing regulatory institutions in the skills space - **National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT)** and the **National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)** into the **National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)**.
- ii. NCVET will regulate the functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term and establish minimum standards for the functioning of such entities.
- iii. **The primary functions of NCVET will include -**
- recognition and regulation of awarding bodies, assessment bodies and skill related information providers;
  - approval of qualifications developed by awarding bodies and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs);
  - indirect regulation of vocational training institutes through awarding bodies and assessment agencies;

- research and information dissemination;
- grievance redressal.

### **First India-Israel Innovation Centre Opens in Bengaluru**

- i. The country's first **India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC)**, an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in **Bengaluru**.
- ii. The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Israel Capital:** Jerusalem, **Currency:** Israeli new shekel.

### **'Building a Legacy': Vice Prez Releases Biography of Anumolu Ramakrishna**

- i. **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** released a **biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna**, a pioneer in the application of innovative systems and construction techniques in the Indian construction sector.
- ii. The biography titled '*Building a Legacy*' is authored by **Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram**. Ramakrishna was posthumously awarded **Padma Bhushan in 2014**.

### **Ajay Tamta Inaugurates 46th Edition of IHGF-Delhi Fair Autumn-2018**

- i. **Union Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta**, inaugurated the **46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair** at India Expo Centre & Mart at **Greater Noida**.
- ii. This Fair has played a vital role in increasing exports of handicrafts from the country and has acquired a special importance for the handicrafts sector. The fair is participated by 3200 exhibitors from over 110 countries.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Smriti Irani is the present Union Minister of Textiles.
- **IHGF** is amongst Asia's largest gifts & handicrafts fair, held biannually (Spring & Autumn edition) and is organised by **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**.

### **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Approves Renaming of Allahabad to Prayagraj**

- i. **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet led by CM Yogi Adityanath** has **approved the proposal to rename Allahabad**, which will be called **Prayagraj** with immediate effect.
- ii. **Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh** informed the media regarding the decision. The new name derives from a place in the city called Prayag, where three rivers flowing across the state meet.

### **Government Laid Foundation Stone for Prime Ministers' Museum In New Delhi**

- i. **Minister of state for culture, Mahesh Sharma** and **Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** jointly laid the foundation stone for proposed **Museum on Prime Ministers of India** at Teen Murti Estate, New Delhi.
- ii. The new museum will incorporate the **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)** at the Teen Murti Estate, the official residence of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. **The Museum will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 271 crore.**

### **India's 1st Cryptocurrency ATM Installed In Bengaluru**

- i. An **ATM for deposit and withdrawal of money for cryptocurrencies** has been installed in **Bengaluru's Kemp Fort Mall** by virtual currency exchange **Unocoin**.
- ii. Users can deposit money to buy currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum using an OTP received on their registered numbers. In order to withdraw money, a request has to be first made on the Unocoin website.

### **Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi Gets GI Tag**

- i. After huge efforts for a year, now **Shahi Litchi of Muzaffarpur, Bihar** has got official recognition as it receives the **geographical indication (GI) tag**.
- ii. The sweet, pulpy and juicy Litchi of Bihar is mostly grown in Muzaffarpur, and adjoining areas including East Champaran, Vaishali, Samastipur, and Begusarai districts. The GI registration was done in the name of Litchi Growers Association of Bihar, who had applied for the tag.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The first product to get a GI tag in India was the Darjeeling tea in 2004. There are a total of 325 products from India that carry this indication.
- Alphonso Mango of Maharashtra has recently got the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

### **TCS Displaces Accenture As Largest IT Firm Servicing Banks**

i. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Ltd's** quarterly earnings from the financial sector have edged past that of Accenture Plc, which is nearly double its size, making company the **world's largest pure-play information technology (IT)** and consulting firm servicing megabanks and insurers.

ii. During the July-September period, TCS got \$2.07 billion in business from banking, financial services and insurance, or the BFSI sector.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- N. Chandrasekaran is the present Chairman of TCS.

### **'Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior': A Book Authored By Rima Hooja Released**

i. A new book on **Maharana Pratap** named "*Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior*" authored by historian Rima Hooja has been released.

ii. The book narrates the life of Maharana Pratap, the great Rajput warrior and also talks about the famous battle of Haldighati.

### **Global Competitiveness Report 2018: India Ranks 58th, US Tops**

i. **The World Economic Forum** released the **Global Competitiveness Report 2018**. According to the report, **India has jumped five spots to become the 58th most competitive economy** on the Global Competitiveness Index 2018 (GCI 4.0).

ii. **The United States ranked number one** again with a score of 85.6. India ranked highest among South Asian countries with a score of 62.0. Sri Lanka was ranked 86, Bangladesh 103, Pakistan 107 and Nepal 109. As for the BRICS nations, **China topped the list at 28th position** with a score of 72.6 followed by Russian Federation, India, South Africa and Brazil respectively.

iii. **The Top 3 countries on the Index are:**

1. US,
2. Singapore,
3. Germany,

### **IDFC Bank To Be Renamed As IDFC First Bank**

i. **IDFC Bank** proposed to change its name to '**IDFC First Bank Ltd**' in the wake of its **amalgamation with the non-banking financial company Capital First**. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDFC Bank.

ii. The proposal now needs the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It would further require the approvals of statutory or regulatory authorities including the Registrar of Companies, Shareholders and other Stakeholders.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **IDFC Bank** Headquarters in Mumbai.

### **TCS Only Indian Firm Among Top 10 To Get Foreign Labour Certification**

i. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** is the **only Indian company among top 10 firms** to get foreign labour certification for the **H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018**, according to data from the US Department of Labour. The H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

ii. **London-headquartered Earnest and Young**, a multinational professional services firm, has emerged as the **top employer to have received the certification**.

### **India's Highest Tricolour Unfurled At Haj House in Mumbai**



**i. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unfurled India's highest tricolour on the terrace of the majestic Haj House in Mumbai.** The national flag measured **20x30 feet and stood 350 feet above the ground level.**

**ii.** The flag atop a 20-metre high mast on top of the iconic building is near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai. The tricolour is made of non-fading polyester and manufactured by The Flag Company.

#### **PM Narendra Modi Dedicated National Police Memorial To The Nation in New Delhi**

**i.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) to the nation in **New Delhi.** It has been built in recognition of the supreme sacrifice made by police personnel since independence.

**ii.** The memorial has been erected on 6.12 acres of land in **Chanakyapuri**, at the northern end of Shanti Path. The central sculpture of the NPM is a 30 feet monolith made of a single piece of granite, weighing 238 tonnes.

#### **4 Himalayan Peaks Named After Late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

**i. Four Himalayan peaks near Gangotri glacier of Uttarkashi district** have been named after former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee.** Located near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley, the peaks have been named **Atal-1, 2, 3 and 4.**

**ii.** The peaks are located at 6,557m, 6,566m, 6,160m and 6,100m on the right flank of Gangotri glacier. The team, which returned after the climb, had hoisted the national tricolor on each of the peaks.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Sabarmati Ghat, Gujrat has been renamed as '**Atal Ghat**'.
- The new capital of Chhattisgarh, Naya Raipur, has been renamed as '**Atal Nagar**'.

#### **India Ranked 9th Most Valuable Nation Brand**

**i.** India has secured **ninth rank** out of top 50 valuable national brands, according to a report titled '**Nation Brands 2018**' released by **Brand Finance**, a leading brand valuation and strategy consultancy.

**ii.** India's brand value was **\$2,046 billion** in 2017 and has increased to **\$2,159 billion** in 2018. **The US** topped the list with a brand value of **\$25,899 billion** which rose by 23% from last year. China is at the **second** spot with a brand value of **\$12,779 billion.**

#### **L&T Ranks 22 In Forbes' Best Global Employer List, Alphabet Tops**

**i. Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro** is the **only domestic firm to be featured among the top 25 companies** in the *Forbes' global 2000 best employers list* that is led by **Google parent Alphabet.**

**ii. While L&T is ranked 22,** there are only four domestic firms in the top 100 list which include Mahindra & Mahindra at 55, Grasim Industries at 59 and HDFC at 91, and only 24 domestic companies in the overall list, as per the US magazine.

**iii.** The Top 3 companies in the List are:

1. Alphabet
2. Microsoft
3. Apple.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Larsen & Toubro was founded by Henning Holck-Larsen and Soren Kristian Toubro in 1938 and is headquartered in Mumbai, India.

#### **27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference Starts In Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

**i. The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018)** has started in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.** The FEC 2018 aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.

**ii. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** fosters the exchange of scientific and technical results in nuclear fusion research and development through its series of Fusion Energy Conferences.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The IAEA was created in 1957.
- The Chair of the Board of IAEA for 2018-2019 is Ambassador Leena Al-Hadid of Jordan. She succeeds Ambassador Darmansjah Djumala, the Governor from Indonesia.

#### **Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018 Held in New Delhi**

i. **The Global Agriculture Leadership Summit 2018** opened in New Delhi. The theme of the 2-day summit is, *'Connecting Farmers to Market'*.

ii. The summit was inaugurated by the Secretary Agriculture and Co-operation, Sanjay Agrawal. In the meeting, several issues to double farmers' income by 2022 were discussed.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Radha Mohan Singh** is the present Agriculture Minister of India.

**Government Constitutes GoM To Look Into Sexual Harassment At Workplace**

i. **The Union Government constituted a four-member Group of Ministers (GoM)** to examine and strengthen the existing legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace. The Group of Ministers will be **headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh**.

ii. The other members of the group will include Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi.

**No Sale of BS-IV Vehicles Across Country From April 1, 2020: SC**

i. **The Supreme Court ruled that no Bharat Stage-IV vehicle shall be sold across the country** with effect from April 1, 2020. The **Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI)** emission norm would come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country.

ii. The ruling was made by a three-judge bench headed by **Justice Madan B Lokur**. The bench clarified that only BS-VI compliant vehicle will be sold in India from April 1, 2020.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- Bharat Stage emission standards were introduced in 2000 in line with recommendations made by RA Mashelkar Committee.
- The Bharat stage emission standards were instituted by the Government to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles. The BS-IV norms were in force across the country since April 2017.

**Gujarat's First Mega Food Park Inaugurated In Surat**

i. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries **Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated the **first Mega Food Park in Gujarat**. It is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District **Surat**.

ii. This Mega Food Park has been set up in 70.15 acres of land at a cost of **Rs. 117.87 crore**. The Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crores in 25-30 food processing units in the park.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Gujarat Capital:** Gandhinagar, **Governor:** Om Prakash Kohli.

**Foundation Of India's Largest Dry Dock Laid at Cochin Shipyard**

i. The Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation for **India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard in Kerala**.

ii. The Dry Dock will give an impetus to "Make in India" initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to 2%. India currently occupies 0.66 % share in global shipbuilding market.

**Italian PM Giuseppe Conte In India On A Day Long Visit**

i. **Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte** arrived in **New Delhi on a day-long official visit to India**. During the visit, the Italian Prime Minister will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ii. Both leaders will also attend the **India-Italy Technology Summit** which is being organised by the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

**India Has Most Outward Migrants In 2017: ADB Report**

i. Most of the international migrants in 2017 were from India, followed by China and Bangladesh, according to an **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** report titled *'Asian Economic Integration Report 2018'*.

ii. As per the report, as many as one-third of international migrants were from Asia in 2017. India had the most outward migrants in 2017 (17 million), followed by China (10 million) and Bangladesh (7.5 million).

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The Asian Development Bank is a regional development Bank established in **1966**.
- **Headquarters of ADB** is in Manila, Philippines.

- **Takehiko Nakao** is Present President of the Asian Development Bank.

### **India Becomes Second Largest Solar Market: Mercom**

- India installed 4.9 GW of solar power**, consolidating its position as the **second largest solar market in the world**, during the first half of the calendar year 2018, according to a report by Mercom Communications India.
- According to the report, China topped the list. Adani remained the largest project developer in terms of total cumulative installations and top installer in terms of capacity installed through the end of the first half.

### **India Doubles Its Presence In QS Asia Ranking 2019**

- According to a report named **QS Asia University Rankings 2019** by Quacquarelli Symonds, **India doubled their presence in the ranking**. India has the third largest number of universities and institutes (75), after mainland China (112) and Japan (89).
- The National University of Singapore** has been assessed as Asia's best university. IIT-Bombay remains the highest ranked institution. It moved one place to the 33rd position.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **QS Quacquarelli Symonds:** Headquarters: London, UK.

### **IFFCO Biggest Cooperative In the World: Report**

- Fertiliser major IFFCO** announced that it has been ranked as the **biggest cooperative in the world** by 'Word Cooperative Monitor' report 2018.
- The report was based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. IFFCO has nearly 36,000 member co-operatives and a turnover of nearly USD 3 billion (FY 2017-18). It has retained this position from 2016.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- IFFCO Stands for **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative**.
- **IFFCO Headquarters:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** Mr. B. S. Nakai.
- The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** and the **European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse)** publish the world cooperative monitor report.

## **International**

### **US And Canada Sign Trade Deal Replacing NAFTA**

- Canada agreed to sign a trade deal with the United States and Mexico**, revamping the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** after almost a year of negotiations. The new deal has been named the **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**.
- Under the agreement, Canada has agreed to export a quota of 2.6 million vehicles to the United States in the wake of 25% global autos tariffs imposed by the US on national security grounds.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Canada Capital:** Ottawa, **Currency:** Canadian dollar, **PM:** Justin Trudeau.

### **Aung San Suu Kyi, 1st Person To Lose Honorary Canadian Citizenship**

- Myanmar leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** became the **first person to be stripped of the honorary Canadian citizenship** for her role in gross human rights violations against the Rohingya people.
- The Canadian Senate formally revoked the symbolic honour that was bestowed on Suu Kyi in 2007.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Despite the international criticism and revoking of honorary Canadian citizenship, Suu Kyi will retain her Nobel Peace Prize. Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for campaigning for democracy.

### **Google To Shut Down Google+ For Consumers Over The Security Lapse**

- Google will shut down Google+** for consumer use over the next **10 months** after a bug exposed the personal data of **up to 5 lakh** users. Google stated that it discovered and immediately patched the bug in March 2018 but found "no evidence" that any data was actually misused.

ii. According to Google, Google+ currently has “**low usage and engagement**” and that 90% of Google+ user sessions last less than 5 seconds. Still, the company plans to keep the service alive for **enterprise customers** who use it to facilitate conversation among co-workers.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Google CEO-Sundar Pichai**, Parent company- **Alphabet Inc.**
- Google was recently displaced by **Apple** to become the world's top brand.

**Clear Sky 2018: Ukraine Launches Air Exercises With NATO Countries**

i. **Ukraine began a series of large-scale air force exercises** with the United States and other NATO countries. The “**Clear Sky 2018**” war games are being held in western Ukraine.

ii. Some 700 troops are taking part, half of them from NATO member countries including the United States, Britain, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania. The aim is to enhance regional capabilities to secure air sovereignty and promote peace and security through cooperation.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Ukraine Capital:** Kiev, **Currency:** Ukrainian hryvnia

**Japanese Passport Named World's Most Powerful, India 81st**

i. **Japan's passport has been named the most powerful in the world**, overtaking Singapore, according to the Henley Passport Index 2018.

ii. **The Indian passport has secured the 81st rank** with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations.

iii. **Top 3 on Henley Passport Index Power Ranking 2018:**

1. Japan
2. Singapore
3. Germany, France, South Korea.

**Malaysian Government Abolishes Capital Punishment**

i. **In Malaysia**, the cabinet decided to **abolish the death penalty**. Communications and multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo stated that the government decided to scrap capital punishment following strong domestic opposition to the practice.

ii. Capital punishment in Malaysia is currently mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms and drug trafficking, among other crimes.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

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

**World Bank's Human Capital Index: Singapore Tops, India Ranks 115th**

i. **The World Bank released the Human Capital Index (HCI)** as part of the **World Development Report 2019**. Broader theme of the World Development Report (WDR) this year is “*The Changing Nature of Work*”. The HCI has been constructed for 157 countries.

ii. **Singapore topped the poll** after it was highly rated for its universal health care system, education exams results and life expectancy figures. It is followed by **South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland**. India was ranked at the 115th position lower than Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

**India Elected To UNHRC Securing Maximum Votes**

i. India has been elected to the **United Nations' Human Rights Council** with the highest vote among all candidates. It secured **188 votes** in the Asia-Pacific category for a period of three years beginning **January 1, 2019**. India's win with the highest number of votes reflects the country's standing in the international comity.

ii. The 18 new members were elected by the absolute majority through a secret ballot. India got the highest number of votes among all 18 countries in the five regional categories. In the Asia Pacific category, India got 188 votes followed by Fiji with 187 and Bangladesh 178 votes.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- India had previously been elected to the **Geneva-based Human Rights Council** for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN **Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin**.

**Global Hunger Index 2018: Belarus Tops, India Ranks 103rd**

**i. The 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicates that the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide falls into the serious category, at a value of 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000. As per the index, India was ranked 103rd out of 119 qualifying countries.**

**ii.** The Global Hunger Index 2018 report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany). In the countries included in the GHI, the share of the undernourished population stood at 12.3 percent in 2015–2017, down from 17.6 percent in 1999–2001.

### **India, China Launched 1st Joint Programme For Afghanistan To Train Diplomats**

**i. India and China** have launched their **first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats.**

**ii.** According to the Indian Embassy in Beijing, **Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Vinay Kumar** hosted 10 Afghan Diplomats who will be travelling to India for the 1st India-China joint training programme for Afghan diplomats under the aegis of the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan.

### **China successfully Tests 'World's Largest' Cargo Drone**

**i.** A Chinese company has tested the 'world's largest' cargo drone Feihong-98 (FH-98) which can carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1,500kg).

**ii.** The FH-98 has a maximum takeoff weight of 5.25 tonnes (5,250 kg) and maximum range of 1,200 km. Further, it is capable of reaching a flying altitude of 4.5 km and a cruising speed of 180 kmph.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Afghanistan Capital:** Kabul, **Currency:** Afghan afghani.
- **Iran Capital:** Tehran, **Currency:** Iranian rial.

### **World's Longest Sea-Crossing Bridge Opened in China**

**i. China** has opened the **longest sea-crossing bridge** ever built, nine years after construction began. The **Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau** Bridge connects Hong Kong and Macau to the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. The \$20-billion bridge spans **55 kilometers.**

**ii.** The bridge, designed to withstand earthquakes and typhoons, has been built using 400,000 tonnes of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.

### **Canada Becomes 2nd Country To Legalize Recreational Cannabis**

**i. Canada** has become the **second country after Uruguay** to legalize possession and use of recreational cannabis.

**ii.** Canadians can now grow up to four plants in their own home and carry up to 30 grams of dried cannabis for personal use. Cannabis possession first became a crime in Canada in 1923 but medical use has been legal since 2001.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Canada Capital:** Ottawa, **Currency:** Canadian dollar.

### **12th Asia Europe Meeting Summit Begins in Brussels**

**i. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** is in **Brussels, Belgium** to attend the **12th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit.** Mr Naidu will lead the Indian delegation at the two-day Summit. The theme of this year's ASEM Summit is **"Global Partners for Global Challenges"**.

**ii.** ASEM Agenda for 2018 will prioritize issues related to connectivity, trade and investment, sustainable development, climate change, terrorism, migration, maritime security and cyberspace.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Belgium Capital:** City of Brussels, **Currency:** Euro.

### **13th India-Japan Summit Held in Tokyo**

**i. Japan** announced **joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** submitting the instrument of ratification.

**ii.** As of now, there are **70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA)** and 47 countries that have ratified it. Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.

### **Angela Merkel To Step Down As German Chancellor in 2021**

**i. Germany's Angela Merkel** has announced that she will step down as Chancellor in 2021, following recent election setbacks. She would not seek re-election as leader of the **centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU).**

**ii.** She has held the post since 2000. The CDU was severely weakened in yesterday's poll in the state of Hesse, the latest in a series of setbacks.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Germany Capital:** Berlin, **Currency:** Euro, **Present Chancellor:** Angela Merkel.

### World's Largest Airport 'Under One Roof' Opened In Istanbul

- i. The world's largest airport terminal "**under one roof**" with a capacity to serve **90 million** passengers has been officially opened on October 29 in **Istanbul**, which marks the **Republic Day of Turkey**.
- ii. Overall the first phase has cost **7.5 billion Euro**. The airport has been envisioned to have a total capacity of up to **200 million** passengers, once all four phases are completed in the next **10 years**.

### Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa To Form New Government in Bhutan

- i. The **Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT)** will form **new government in Bhutan**. The party has won 30 seats in 47 member National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament. The **Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT)** has got remaining 17 seats.
- ii. According to the commission, **71.46% polling was recorded** in the third general election. This is the first time in Bhutan's decade old parliamentary democracy that a new party has been chosen to form the government.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- Thimphu is the capital city of Bhutan.

### Europe, Japan Send Spacecraft On 7-year Journey To Mercury

- i. European and Japanese space agencies stated that an **Ariane 5** rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit for a joint mission to **Mercury**, the closest planet to the sun.
- ii. The unmanned **BepiColombo spacecraft** successfully separated and was sent into orbit from **French Guiana** as planned to begin a **seven-year** journey to Mercury.



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## Defence

### Joint Military Exercise 'Druzhba-III' Starts Between Pakistan and Russia

- i. A contingent of the Russian Army arrived in Pakistan to participate in **joint training exercise 'Druzhba-III'**.
- ii. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), this will be the third joint military drill between Islamabad and Moscow under the bilateral training cooperation agreement. Russia and Pakistan have been holding the "Friendship" drills since 2016.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Russia Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Russian ruble.
- **Pakistan Capital:** Islamabad, **Currency:** Pakistani rupee.

### Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India 'JIMEX 18' Begins In Visakhapatnam

- i. **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Kaga**, an Izumo Class Helicopter Destroyer and Inazuma – a Guided Missile Destroyer arrived at Visakhapatnam to participate in Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India '**JIMEX 18**'.

ii. The JMSDF Ships would be participating in the third edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) with the ships of Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy. JIMEX-18 is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai.
- JMSDF Ships also participated in the recently concluded MALABAR 18 off Guam (along with Indian and US Navy units) in the Pacific Ocean in Jun and biennial multilateral exercise RIMPAC-18 off Hawaii, USA.

**Multi-National Maritime Exercise 'IBSAMAR-VI' Starts In South Africa**

i. The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint Multi-National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, is being held at Simons Town, South Africa.

ii. The last edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR V) was conducted off Goa, from 19 – 26 Feb 16. The aim of the exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies, building interoperability and mutual understanding as well as sharing of best practices.

**India, Russia Seal \$5 Billion S-400 Missile Air Defence Deal**

i. India and Russia signed the \$5 billion S-400 air defence system deal during the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House.

ii. India wants to procure the long-range missile systems to tighten its air defence mechanism, particularly along the nearly 4,000-km-long Sino-India border. The S-400 is an upgraded version of the S-300 systems. The missile system, manufactured by Almaz-Antey, has been in service in Russia since 2007.

- India and Kazakhstan successfully conducted a company level joint military exercise 'KAZIND-2018' in South Kazakhstan.

**Coast Guards of India, Vietnam Hold Joint Exercise 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018'**

i. A Vietnam Coast Guard ship, on its maiden visit to Chennai, undertook joint exercises with the Indian Coast Guard 'Sahyog HOP TAC-2018', off the city coast aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between them.

ii. Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and inreceptor boat C-431 along with a Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi, Currency: Vietnamese dong.

**Pakistan Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Ghauri Ballistic Missile**

i. Pakistan has successfully test-fired Ghauri ballistic missile capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometres.

ii. The launch was conducted by Army Strategic Forces Command and was aimed at testing the operational and technical readiness.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- Pakistan PM- Imran Khan, Currency- Pakistani Rupee

**NATO's Biggest Military Maneuvers Begins in Norway**

i. North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) biggest military manoeuvres since the Cold War began in Norway. Russia, which shares a border with Norway, was briefed by NATO on the Trident Juncture 2018 drill and invited to monitor it, but Moscow is still angered by the exercise.

ii. The wargames bring together around 50,000 personnel from all 29 NATO allies, plus partners Finland and Sweden.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.
- Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach is the present Chairman of the NATO Military Committee.

**Russia Successfully Launched 1st Soyuz Rocket Since Failed Space Launch**

i. Russia has successfully launched a Soyuz-2.1B rocket for the first time since the failure of a similar rocket aborted a manned take-off to the International Space Station (ISS).

ii. According to **Russia's space agency chief Dmitry Rogozin**, this was the first launch of a rocket from the Soyuz family since the October 11 accident.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **The Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos)** is a state corporation responsible for the space flight and cosmonautics program for the Russian Federation.
- **Russia Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Russian ruble.

**Indo-Japan Joint Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' To Be Held in Mizoram**

i. To promote Military cooperation, India and Japan are all set to hold the **first-ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018'** involving the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self Defence Force in Mizoram, India.

ii. The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while the Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Japan Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese yen, **Prime Minister:** Shinzo Abe.

**Stephen Hawking's Final Book "Brief Answers to the Big Questions" Launched**

i. **Stephen Hawking's** final work **"Brief Answers to the Big Questions"** was launched.

ii. It tackles various issues including the existence of God, potential time travel and human intelligence during the next 100 years.

**India To Become World's 3rd Largest Aviation Market Around 2024: IATA**

i. **India** will become the **world's third largest aviation market around 2024** surpassing the UK, according to global airlines' body **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. It projected total air passenger numbers to touch 8.2 billion in 2037.

ii. Releasing the latest update to IATA's 20-year Air Passenger Forecast, the grouping also cautioned that growth prospects for air transport and the economic benefits driven by aviation could be curtailed if protectionist measures are implemented by governments.

iii. According to the IATA, China would displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market in the mid-2020s.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **IATA Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada, **Founded:** 19 April 1945.

**Reliance-Built Coast Guard Training Ship ICGS Varuna Launched**

i. **ICGS Varuna**, an indigenously-designed training vessel built by **Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited** for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched in Pipavav.

ii. The vessel was formally launched at a function held in the presence of Coast Guard Director **General Rajendra Singh** at the Pipavav Shipyard. Currently, the ICGS has a fleet of 138 vessels.

**1st Indigenously Overhauled Su-30MKI Handed Over to IAF**

i. **The 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD)** of the **Indian Air Force** in Maharashtra's Nashik district handed over its **first indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet** to the IAF at a ceremony held at the Air Force Station Ojhar.

ii. The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a **twin-jet multi-role air superiority aircraft** developed by **Russia's Sukhoi** and built under licence by **India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Air Marshal BS Dhanoa** is the present Chief of Air Staff of Indian Air Force.

**India's First Domestic Cruise 'Angriya' Flagged Off From Mumbai**

i. **Angriya**, **India's first luxury cruise ship**, has been inaugurated at **Mumbai**. Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis flagged-off the cruise which will operate between **Mumbai and Goa**.

ii. Named after the first Maratha Navy **Admiral Kanhoji Angre** and the Angria bank coral reef near Vijaydurg, the luxury ship has 104 rooms, divided into eight different categories.

**Cope India 2018: India, Japan, US Plan Joint Air Exercise**



- i. **India, Japan and the U.S.** are set to elevate the bilateral '**Cope India**' air exercise to a trilateral format. The three countries already conduct naval war games under the expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- ii. The U.S. had proposed a trilateral air exercise between India, Japan and the U.S. The next edition is scheduled to be held in December 2018 for which the Final Planning Conference to finalise the modalities of the exercise is scheduled in **Kalaikunda, West Bengal**.



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## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### **Brett Kavanaugh Sworn In As US Supreme Court Justice**

i. In USA, President Donald Trump's controversial nominee **Brett Kavanaugh** was sworn in as the **114th Justice of the Supreme Court**.

ii. Kavanaugh was officially sworn by **outgoing Chief Justice John Roberts** who administered the Constitutional Oath, hours after the 53-year-old judge was confirmed by a bitterly divided Senate by **50-48 votes**.

### **Chanda Kochhar Quits As CEO of ICICI Bank**

i. **Chanda Kochhar has quit as CEO of ICICI Bank** with immediate effect. The private lender has appointed **Sandeep Bakhshi as managing director and chief executive officer** for five years, subject to regulatory approval.

ii. In June, a panel was set up under retired Supreme Court judge Justice Srikrishna to probe allegations against Chanda Kochhar.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **ICICI Bank** stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India.
- Headquarters of ICICI Bank: **Mumbai**.

**India-born Professor Gita Gopinath Named IMF Chief Economist**

i. India-born Harvard University professor **Gita Gopinath** has been appointed as the **Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** by IMF's Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

ii. Ms Gopinath will succeed Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld. Ms Gopinath currently serves as the John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University. The 46-year-old is also Economic Adviser to Kerala CM.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Managing Director of IMF-** Christine Lagarde, **Headquarters in-** Washington DC, USA.

**Justice Ranjan Gogoi Sworn-in As 46th Chief Justice of India**

i. **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** has sworn-in as new **Chief Justice of India**. President Ram Nath Kovind administered him the oath of office at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan.

ii. He is succeeding Justice **Dipak Misra** who retired as Chief Justice of India recently. Justice Gogoi is the 46th Chief Justice of India. He will have a tenure of a little over **13 months** and will retire on **November 17, 2019**.

**Barham Salih Elected As The New President of Iraq**

i. **Iraq's Parliament** has elected a veteran Kurdish Politician **Barham Salih** as the country's new President. He has named **Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi** as **Prime Minister** of the country. The move will pave the way to form a new government, nearly five months after national elections.

ii. Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Salih won 220 votes out of the 273 lawmakers. He was among 20 candidates for the post, including one from the rival **Kurdistan Democratic Party**.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Iraq Capital-** Baghdad, **Currency-** Iraqi dinar

**WFE Appoints Vikram Limaye As Chairman of Working Committee**

i. **The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) MD and CEO Vikram Limaye** has been appointed the chairman of the working committee and director on the board by the international industry body—**World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)**.

ii. The decision was taken at the global body's 58th general assembly and annual meeting that is currently underway in Athens, Greece.

**Sanjay Verma Appointed India's Ambassador to Spain**

i. **Sanjay Verma**, a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as **India's Ambassador to Spain**.

ii. He is currently the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. He has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Spain.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Spain: Capital:** Madrid, **Currency:** Euro.

**Pankaj Sharma Appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament**

i. **Pankaj Sharma** has been appointed as the ambassador and **India's permanent representative to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (UNCD)** in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

ii. **Mr Sharma will replace Amandeep Gill**. He is currently the joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- Michael Møller is the 12th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UN Geneva).

### **Nikki Haley Resigns as US Ambassador to United Nations**

- Indian-American Nikki Haley** has resigned as the **US Ambassador to the United Nations**. US President Donald Trump has accepted her resignation. She would be leaving his administration at the end of the year.
- Haley was appointed to the UN post in **November 2016**. Before she was named by Trump to her UN post, Haley was governor of **South Carolina**, the first woman to hold the post. She was re-elected in 2014.

### **Mahesh Reddy Takes Over As PHDCCI Secretary-General**

- PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)** has announced that **Mahesh Y Reddy has taken over as its Secretary General** with immediate effect.
- He holds 28 years of experience in national level trade, infrastructure and industry bodies in various capacities, the chamber said in a statement.

### **Pravin Srivastava Appointed India's 3rd Chief Statistician**

- The government has appointed **58-year-old Pravin Srivastava**, a senior officer with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), as **the Chief Statistician of India (CSI)**.
- Srivastava's tenure will be till August 31, 2020.

### **Tushar Mehta Appointed Solicitor General of India**

- Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** has been appointed as the **new Solicitor General of India**. The senior lawyer will assume the office of the Solicitor General till June 30, 2020.
- The post had been lying vacant since October 2017 when the then **Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar** had resigned. **Solicitor General is the second highest ranking law officer** of the government after the Attorney General.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **KK Venugopal** is the present Attorney General of India.

### **Priyank Kanoongo Appointed Chairperson of NCPCR**

- Priyank Kanoongo** appointed to the post of **Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India for a period of 03 years.
- Kanoongo has been member of the commission from November 2015.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- NCPCR has been constituted by the Government of India, under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.

### **Ethiopia Appoints Sahle-Work Zewde As 1st Female President**

- Ethiopia appointed diplomat Sahle-Work Zewde** as its **first-ever female President**. The position of the President is largely ceremonial in the nation.
- Zewde was appointed by the Ethiopian lawmakers through a unanimous vote. **She would be replacing Mulatu Teshome Wirtu**. Prior to her appointment, she was serving as the UN's top official at the African Union.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Ethiopia Capital:** Addis Ababa, **Currency:** Ethiopian birr.

### **BankBazaar Appoints Former RBI Deputy Governor S S Mundra As Advisor**

- Online financial services marketplace **BankBazaar** has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor (DG) **S S Mundra** as an advisor to the company. Mundra was a deputy governor at the RBI for three years till **July 2017**.
- BankBazaar Co-Founder & CEO **Adhil Shetty stated** that as the digital mode is increasingly becoming the preferred way to transact, there is a greater need for collaboration between fin-tech, regulators, and financial institutions.

### **Union Minister MJ Akbar Resigns**

- Former editor MJ Akbar** has resigned from his post of **Minister of State for External Affairs** amid sexual harassment allegations against him by over sixteen female journalists.

### **Sajjan Jindal Elected As Treasurer Of World Steel Association**

- i. **JSW Steel CMD Sajjan Jindal** was elected as the **Treasurer of the World Steel Association (worldsteel)**. The association has also appointed **Tata Steel MD TV Narendran** and **ArcelorMittal Chief LN Mittal** as its members.
- ii. The appointments were made during the worldsteel General Assembly in Toyko, Japan during which the Board of Directors elected new officers for 2018-19 at the.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The World Steel Association (worldsteel) is a non-profit organization with **headquarters in Brussels, Belgium**.
- It was founded as the International Iron and Steel Institute in **July 1967**.
- It changed its name to the World Steel Association in October 2008.

### **Centre Sends CBI Director Alok Verma On Leave, Appoints M Nageshwar Rao As Interim Director**

- i. The Union Government has sent **CBI Director Alok Verma on leave**. Verma was appointed as CBI Director in 2016 for two years and his tenure ends in December 2018. The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- ii. The committee also issued an **order appointing M Nageshwar Rao as Director** of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Rao is presently working as Joint Director at the CBI. Rao will take over the duties and functions of CBI Director with immediate effect.

### **Mahinda Rajapaksa Sworn In As Sri Lanka's New PM**

- i. **Former President Mahinda Rajapakse** was sworn in as the **new Prime minister of Sri Lanka**. He has **replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe**. Mr. Rajapaksa was administered oath by the President Maithripala Sirisena at his office in Colombo.
- ii. However, the United National Party (UNP) led by Mr. Wickremesinghe has opposed the development terming it as unconstitutional and illegal.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Sri Lanka Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee, **President:** Maithripala Sirisena.

### **Michael D Higgins Re-elected As The President of Ireland**

- i. **Michael D Higgins** has been re-elected as the **President of Ireland** after receiving 56 percent of the country's votes in the elections. Businessman Peter Casey came second with 23.1 per cent votes.
- ii. Mr. Higgins, who has served as the country's head of state since **2011**, will now keep the top job for another **seven years**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Ireland Prime Minister:** Leo Varadkar, **Currency:** Euro, **Capital:** Dublin.

### **Jair Bolsonaro Wins Presidential Election In Brazil**

- i. Far-right candidate **Jair Bolsonaro** has won a sweeping victory in **Brazil's presidential** election. Mr. Bolsonaro won 55.2% of the votes cast against 44.8% for **Fernando Haddad** from the left-wing Workers' Party.
- ii. Mr. Bolsonaro campaigned on a promise to eradicate corruption and to drive down Brazil's high crime levels.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Brazil Capital:** Brasília, **Currency:** Brazilian real.

## **Honours/ Awards**

### Prema Gopalan Honoured As India Social Entrepreneur Of The Year 2018

i. **Prema Gopalan, founder of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)**, was awarded the **8th Social Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2018**, for her work in promoting women's entrepreneurship at the grassroots and ensuring rural livelihood.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- Jointly founded by **Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and Schwab Foundation** for Social Entrepreneurship in 2010, the award recognizes promising and high-impact social entrepreneurs who implement practical and sustainable solutions.
- Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship is a **sister organization of the World Economic Forum**.

### Nobel Prize 2018: Nobel Medicine Prize Goes To James P Allison and Tasaku Honjo

i. The Nobel Medicine or Physiology Prize has been awarded to **James P Allison and Tasaku Honjo** "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.". This is for the first time that **no Literature Prize will be given in 70 years** because of a #MeToo scandal.

ii. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- Michael W. Young, Michael Rosbash, Jeffrey C. Hall were the winners of Nobel Medicine Prize 2017.

### Nobel Prize 2018: Nobel Prize in Physics Goes To Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou And Donna Strickland

i. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to Award the **2018 Nobel Prize in Physics to Arthur Ashkin, Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland** "for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics".

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- Kip Thorne, Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish have won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics.

### Nobel Prize 2018: Nobel Prize in Chemistry Goes To Frances H. Arnold, George P. Smith and Gregory P. Winter

i. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018 with one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) "for the directed evolution of enzymes"** and the **other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) and Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK) "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies"**.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Joachim Frank, Richard Henderson, and Jacques Dubochet** were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2017 "for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution".

### PM Modi And French President Received UNEP Champions Of The Earth Award

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was honoured with **United Nations' highest environmental award- UNEP Champions of the Earth**, along with French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi.

ii. The award was presented by UN Secy Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The award was announced on the sidelines of 73rd UN General Assembly in New York.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- The **UNEP Champions of the Earth award** is awarded to outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.

### Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 Announced

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gave awards to top Ranked State, District and State with maximum citizen participation based on the **National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018** commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

ii. **Haryana was ranked as the best State** while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018.

**(A) Top 3 States-**

1. Haryana,
2. Gujarat,
3. Maharashtra.

**(B) Top 3 Districts-**

1. Satara, Maharashtra,
2. Rewari, Haryana,
3. Pedapalli, Telangana.

**Nobel Prize 2018: Nobel Prize in Peace Goes To Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad**

i. **The Norwegian Nobel Committee** has decided to award the **2018 Nobel Peace Prize to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad** “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict”.

ii. **Denis Mukwege** is the helper who has devoted his life to defending the victims. **Nadia Murad** is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The **Nobel Peace Prize 2017** was awarded to **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."
- **Malala Yousafza** (age 17) is the Youngest Nobel Laureate ever.

**Nobel Prize 2018: Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences Goes To William D. Nordhaus and Paul M. Romer**

i. **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** has decided to award the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2018 to William D. Nordhaus** “for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis” and **Paul M. Romer** “for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis.”

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 to **Richard H. Thaler** “for his contributions to behavioural economics”.

**ESIC Wins ‘ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & The Pacific 2018’**

i. **The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** has won the ‘*ISSA Good Practice Award*’ for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the “Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific” held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ii. The award recognizes the measures taken by ESIC for extension of coverage-SPREE (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees), reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas and raising the wage limit for coverage under the ESI Act, etc.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The **ISSA (International Social Security Association)** is the principal international organization for Social Security Organizations, Govts. and Departments of Social Security.
- The **ISSA was founded in 1927** under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva.

**Richie Benaud Named Sport Australia Hall of Fame Legend**

i. **Sport Australia Hall of Fame** has announced **cricketing great Richie Benaud**, who died in April, 2015, will become the **40th Legend of Australian Sport**.

ii. He is only the third cricketer behind Sir Donald Bradman and Keith Miller to be given Legend status. Benaud is generally rated second to Bradman in terms of influential figures in the Australian game.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **ICC Headquarters** in Dubai, the UAE.
- **ICC CEO: Dave Richardson**.

**Veena Sendre Crowned India's 1st Miss Trans Queen**

- i. **Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh** has been chosen as **India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'**.
- ii. Veena defeated Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organised in Mumbai. Sendre, a former Miss Chhattisgarh, belongs to Mandir Hasaud village in Raipur.

### **Indus Towers Wins Deming Prize For 2018**

- i. **Indus Towers**, world's largest telecom tower company (outside China), **won the Deming Prize for 2018**, being the **first Indian company in the service sector** and the fifth in the world to achieve this.
- ii. The Deming Prize was bestowed on Indus Towers for distinctive performance improvements through the application of **Total Quality Management (TQM) practices**. Indus Towers is only the 29th Indian company to win this coveted award.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The Deming Prize for 2018 was announced by JUSE - Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers.
- It was established in 1951 and was originally designed to reward Japanese companies for their major advancements in quality improvement.

### **Sikkim Wins FAO's Future Policy Award 2018**

- i. The North-eastern state **Sikkim** won the **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Award 2018** for being the world's first 100% organic state. The Gold Prize of the Future Policy Award 2018 are also known as "**Oscar for Best Policies**".
- ii. Moreover, Future Policy Award's Silver Prize 2018 was awarded to the policies from Brazil, Denmark and Quito (Ecuador). All the winners received the awards in a ceremony at FAO headquarters during the celebrations of the **World Food Week in Rome**.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Headquarters in **Italy, Rome**.

### **Anna Burns Wins 2018 Man Booker Prize For Her Novel 'Milkman'**

- i. **Northern Irish author Anna Burns** has won the **2018 Man Booker Prize** for her novel '**Milkman**', which is her third full-length novel.
- ii. The book is about an 18-year-old girl, known as "middle sister", who is sexually harassed by an older paramilitary figure, called the "milkman". Anna Burns has become the first Northern Irish author to win the Man Booker prize.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK.

### **H M Pernal Gets Vishwa Konkani Book Award**

- i. '**Beeg Ani Beegath**', a collection of short stories in Konkani by the well-known writer, journalist, and critic H M Pernal bagged the prestigious '**Vimala V Pai Vishwa**' Konkani best book award for the year 2018. H M Pernal is the pen name of **Henry M Mendonca**.
- ii. Konkani poet **Sharathchandra Shenoy** from Kochi won the Vishwa Konkani best poetry award for his book '**Idam Na Mama**,' while Vishwanath M Shet from Uttara Kannada bagged the **Vishwa Konkani lifetime achievement** award. Each award carries a purse of Rs one lakh each, a certificate, memento and shawl.

### **Suheil Tandon Wins International Olympic Committee Award**

- i. Social Entrepreneur **Suheil F. Tandon** has won the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Active Society Commission's Grant Award for his contribution to sports for development. Suheil is the Founder of Pro Sports Development (PSD) and Executive Director of Martha Farrell Foundation.
- ii. Worth USD 25,000 each, these grants are awarded to grassroots organisations running effective sport for all programmes in different regions across the world.

### **Khayyam Named for Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement**

- i. National Award winning music director **Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi**, famous as '**Khayyam**', has been named for this year's **Hridaynath Award for Lifetime Achievement**.

ii. Instituted by the Hridayesh Arts, the award carries a cash prize of **Rs 100,000** and a memento and shall be conferred by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

### **Wildlife Photographer Of The Year 2018 Bagged By Marsel van Oosten**

i. The powerful image of a pair of **golden snub-nosed monkeys** seated in contemplation amid iridescent foliage has been awarded one of the most prestigious prizes in photography, **the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018**.

ii. The image, called "**The Golden Couple**," was captured by **Dutch photographer Marsel van Oosten** in the Qinling Mountains of southwestern China – the endangered monkeys' only habitat.

### **Arshdeep Singh Wins Top Wildlife Photo Award in Junior Category**

i. **Arshdeep Singh, a 10-year-old boy from Punjab**, has won the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year award** in 10 Years and Under category given by UK's Natural History Museum.

ii. He won the award for the picture titled '**Pipe Owls**', which showed two spotted owlets sitting inside an old waste-pipe in Punjab's Kapurthala. Arshdeep has been taking photographs since he was six.

### **Piyush Goyal To Receive Carnot Prize For Rural Electrification Effort**

i. **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** will receive the prestigious **Carnot Prize** from the **Ivy League University of Pennsylvania** in recognition of his work for rural electrification while he held the power and renewable energy portfolios.

ii. The Carnot Prize is given "for distinguished contributions to energy policy".

### **Indian-Origin Woman Wins Top US Honour For Combatting Sex Slavery**

i. **Minal Patel Davis** won the **US' Presidential Medal for her work against sex slavery and labor exploitation** at a White House ceremony attended by President Donald Trump. Davis is **Special Adviser on Human Trafficking to Houston Mayor**.

ii. A past speaker at the UN World Humanitarian Summit, Davis recently traveled to India and Canada to discuss municipal leadership in human trafficking.

### **Invest India wins UN Investment Promotion Award**

i. The '**Invest India**' initiative of the Union Government won the **top United Nations Investment Promotion Award** in recognition of its efforts to boost investments in the renewable energy sector in India.

ii. The award was presented by Armenian President Armen Sarkissian to Deepak Bagla, the CEO of Invest India, **in Geneva, Switzerland** at the inauguration of the World Investment Forum organised by the UN Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The Investment Promotion Awards, organised by UNCTAD, honours Investment Promotion Agencies and their governments for their achievements.
- The Awards have been given annually since 2002 as part of UNCTAD's investment promotion and facilitation programme.

### **Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 Announced**

i. The **Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016** is being conferred on **the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (For 2014); Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh, for 2015)** and on one of India's greatest sculptors, **Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar (for 2016)**.

ii. The chairman of the Jury was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the jury comprised of the Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Chhayanaut was established in 1961.
- The annual award was instituted by the Government of India during the commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
- The first Tagore Award was conferred on Pt. Ravi Shankar, the Indian Sitar Maestro in 2012.

### **Sachin Tendulkar Gave Away Prizes To The Winners of South Asia Regional WASH Innovation**



**i. India's legend cricketer and UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia, Sachin Tendulkar** gave away prizes to the winners of South Asia Regional WASH innovation in **Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.**

**ii.** The event was organised by UNICEF in association with BRAC, a Bangladesh based international organisation. The basic aim of the challenge was to identify innovative solutions to promote the practice of hand washing with soap.

#### **Narendra Modi Conferred With Seoul Peace Prize**

**i.** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been conferred with the **Seoul Peace Prize for 2018** for his contribution to **international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.** The Seoul Peace Prize was established in **1990** to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul.

**ii.** The award committee recognized his contribution to the growth of Indian and global economies, crediting '**Modinomics**' for reducing the social and economic disparity between the rich and the poor.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **South Korea Capital:** Seoul, **Currency:** South Korean won.

#### **India Wins CAPAM Award 2018**

**i. India** has won the **Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Award, 2018.** The awards were announced at the Annual General Members Meet held at **Georgetown, Guyana.**

**ii.** The initiative entitled "**Unnayan Banka**"- Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District, State of Bihar has been awarded under the Category "**Innovation Incubation**".

**iii.** Another initiative entitled "**Unified Agriculture Markets**" of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has been awarded the overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards, 2018.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- CAPAM has been announcing its International Innovations Awards (IIA) Programme bi-annually, since 1998.
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is an institutional member of CAPAM.

#### **Prof Ashis Mukherjee Receives INSA Teachers Award-2018**

**i. Prof Ashis Mukherjee,** a senior faculty member of the prestigious Tezpur University was awarded the prestigious **Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Teachers Award (2018).**

**ii.** He won the prestigious award for his consistent and high level of teaching and inspiring and mentoring students to take up careers in Science and Technology.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Founded by INSA, New Delhi, the award is one of the highest recognition for science and technology teachers in the country.

#### **Clara Sosa Won Miss Grand International 2018 in Myanmar**

**i. Miss Paraguay Clara Sosa** won the **Miss Grand International 2018** title at the **6th edition** of the beauty pageant in Yangon, Myanmar.

**ii.** Clara Sosa succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 Maria Jose Lora of Peru. India's, FBB Colors Femina Miss Grand India 2018 **Meenakshi Chaudhary** was named **1st runner-up.**

#### **Simona Halep Becomes 1st Recipient Of Chris Evert WTA World No.1 Trophy**

**i. World number one Simona Halep** has become the **first recipient of the Chris Evert Women's Tennis Association (WTA) World No.1 Trophy,** named after WTA's first-ever world number one, Chris Evert.

**ii.** The 27-year-old had lifted her maiden Grand Slam title at the Roland Garros and claimed the WTA Year-End world number one singles award for the second consecutive year.

#### **Pak Lawyer Asma Jahangir Wins UN Human Rights Prize Posthumously**

**i. Pakistan's human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir** has been posthumously awarded the **UN Prize along with three other winners.** Rebeca Gyumi of Tanzania, Brazil's first indigenous lawyer Joenia Wapichana and Ireland's human rights organisation Front Line Defenders are the other winners of the prize.

**ii.** The award ceremony will take place on December 10 on **World Human Rights Day in New York, USA.**

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Before Jahangir three Pakistani women, Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, Benazir Bhutto and Malala Yousufzai have been accorded the honour.
- The United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given for outstanding achievement in human rights.

#### **BEML Received Top Challengers' and Best Mining Equipment Seller Award**

- Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)**, a Mini Ratna Public Sector Undertaking, under the **Ministry of Defence**, received the prestigious '**Top Challengers Award 2018**' for the excellent performance during the financial year **2017-18** and **Best Seller in Crawler Equipment-** Dozers and Rigid Dump Truck segment for mining sectors.
- At a function held at Delhi, CMD BEML **Shri Deepak Kumar Hota** has received the award from Construction Economist **Mr. Graham D Robinson**.

#### **Roopam Sharma Wins World Health Summit Startup Award in Berlin**

- Roopam Sharma**, a 23-year old Indian scientist, won the **World Health Summit Startup award, 2018** for his invention, Manovue – the world's first intelligent personal assisting system for the visually impaired.
- Sharma was awarded at an annual event of the health summit in Berlin recently. He is the youngest person to be recognized as one of the top innovators under 35 by the MIT Tech Review in 2016.

#### **Prof. M S Swaminathan Received 1st World Agriculture Prize**

- Prof. MS Swaminathan**, chief architect of India's Green Revolution was awarded the **World Agriculture Prize for 2018**. The global Jury of the 1st World Agriculture Prize had made the announcement.
- The Award was presented by Vice President Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi at a special session, named "**Swaminathan Global Dialogue on Climate Change and Food Security**" organised by **Indian Council of food and Agriculture (ICFA)**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Professor Swaminathan has been acclaimed by the TIME magazine as one of the twenty most influential Asians of the 20th century and one of the only three from India, the other two being Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

## Sports

### Manu Bhaker Named India's Flag-Bearer At Youth Olympic Games

i. Teenage shooting star **Manu Bhaker** was named as the **flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games** to be held in **Buenos Aires, Argentina** from October 6-18.

ii. **Goa Olympic Association Secretary Gurudutta D Bhakta** will be the Chef-de-Mission of the contingent. announced that the 16-year-old Bhaker will lead the Indian team in the opening ceremony.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

**Capital:** Buenos Aires, **Currency:** Argentine peso.

- **Narinder Batra** is the President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

### Australia's Mile Jedinak and Russia's Igor Akinfeev Retires From International Football

i. **Australian midfielder Mile Jedinak** announced his retirement from international football, bringing the curtain down on a **79-cap career** which included leading the Socceroos at two World Cups.

ii. **Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev** has also retired from international soccer after leading the national side as captain to this year's World Cup quarter-finals on home soil. The 32-year-old earned 112 caps for his country since his debut in 2004 as an 18-year-old, according to the Russian Football Union.

### 18-Year-Old Prithvi Shaw Youngest Indian To Score Century On Test Debut

i. **Prithvi Shaw** has become the **youngest Indian to score a century on Test debut**, achieving the feat **aged 18 years and 329 days** against Windies in **Rajkot, Gujarat**. Shaw broke the 59-year-old record set by AA Baig (20 years and 126 days).

ii. **Shaw is only the second Indian after Sachin Tendulkar** to score a Test ton before turning 19. Prithvi Shaw captained India Under-19 to World Cup victory in February 2018.

### 36th National Games To Be Held Next Year In Goa

i. **The 36th National Games in Goa** will be held from **March 30 to April 14** next year. Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) Executive Director V M Prabhudesai made the announcement in Panaji after a meeting with visiting officials of the Indian Olympic Association.

ii. Shooting and cycling events will be held in **New Delhi** as Goa does not have facilities for these two sports. Rugby, Wushu, Modern Pentathlon, Lawn Bowl, and Billiards and Snooker will be added to the Games programme.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- The 35th National Games of India, 2015, was held in **Kerala**.

### Youth Olympic Games 2018 Begins in Argentina

i. The **3rd Youth Olympic Games** has officially begun at **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. 16-year-old **Manu Bhaker** is leading the Indian team in the opening ceremony as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the games.

ii. With over **200 countries** taking part, the event marks the start of young athletes' career before they go on to bigger and better things.

#### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Capital:** Buenos Aires, **Currency:** Argentine peso.
- **Official Mascot of 3rd Youth Olympic Games-** Pandi.

### **Asian Para Games 2018: India Bags 11 Medals, 3 Golds**

- i. Javelin thrower **Sandeep Chaudhary** produced a stunning world record effort as **India bagged 11 medals, including three gold**, at the **Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- ii. **Chaudhary clinched India's first gold** of the Games in the men's category before middle distance runner **Raju Rakshitha** in women's **1500 meters** and swimmer **Jadhav Suyash Narayan** in men's **50-meter butterfly** added the yellow metals later on the second day of competitions.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)** confirmed that **Hangzhou in China** will host the fourth edition of **Asian Para Games in 2022**.

### **Youth Olympic Games 2018: Jeremy, 1st Ever Indian Gold Medallist in YOG**

- i. **Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga** has become India's first-ever gold medallist in the history of **Youth Olympic Games (YOG)**. The 15-year-old achieved the feat by lifting a total weight of **274 kg** in the men's 62 kg category at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**.
- ii. Jeremy's personal best until the Buenos Aires lift was of **273 kg (snatch+clean and jerk)**, which he achieved during an event at NIS Patiala.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Argentina Capital:** Buenos Aires, **Currency:** Argentine peso.
- Official Mascot of Youth Olympic Games 2018 is **Pandi**.

### **Youth Olympic Games 2018: Thangjam Tababi Devi Clinches India's 1st Judo Medal**

- i. **16-Year-old Thangjam Tababi Devi** became **India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level**, claiming a silver at the ongoing Youth Games.
- ii. She was defeated by **Venezuela's Maria Giminez** in the finals of the women's 44kg category in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. **Tababi Devi hails from Manipur**. India has never won an Olympic medal in judo either at the senior or the youth level.

### **India Beat Sri Lanka To Win U-19 Asia Cup Title**

- i. **Indian under-19 cricket team** has defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs in the summit clash of the **2018 ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in Dhaka, Bangladesh**. The victory gave India their sixth title in the continental tournament.
- ii. **Indian batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal** was named the **Player of the Series**. The 2018 Under-19 Asia Cup was the 7th edition of ACC Under-19 Cup. The cricket tournament was held in Bangladesh. Afghanistan were the defending champions.

### **Youth Olympic Games 2018: Manu Bhaker, 1st Indian woman To Win Gold at YOG**

- i. **Sixteen-year-old shooter Manu Bhaker** has become the **first-ever Indian woman to win gold** at Youth Olympics.
- ii. Bhaker achieved the feat after winning the women's 10m Air Pistol event with a score of 236.5 at 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Argentina's Buenos Aires.

### **Youth Olympic Games 2018: Saurabh Chaudhary bags Gold in 10-m air pistol**

- i. **Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary** has bagged the Gold Medal in the 10-meter air pistol event in the ongoing **Youth Olympic Games in Argentina**.
- ii. In **Buenos Aires**, the 16-year old blew the field away in the final as he finished a massive Seven and a half points ahead of his closest rival. It is India's third gold medal in the history of Youth Olympic Games.

### **Asian Para-Games 2018 : Archer Harvinder Singh Clinches Seventh Gold For India**

- i. **Archer Harvinder Singh** notched up the men's individual recurve gold, while track-and-field athletes added a silver and a bronze to India's tally in the **Asian Para-Games in Jakarta**.
- ii. Harvinder defeated China's Zhao Lixuebn in the W2/ST category final to claim the top honors and take India's gold tally to **seven**.

### **IOC Picks Senegal As 1st African Host For Youth Olympics**

- i. **The International Olympics Committee (IOC)** has picked its **first African host of any Olympics**, formally awarding the **2022 Youth Games to Senegal**.

ii. **Senegal President Macky Sall** was present to see IOC members confirm the executive board's preference for four candidates. Senegal will host the youth games in three places: Dakar; a new city of Diamniadio, close to the capital; and the coastal resort of Saly.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Senegal Capital:** Dakar, **Currency:** West African CFA franc.

**Great Britain Beats India To Win Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey**

i. **In Hockey, Great Britain lifted the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup.** In Johor Bahru, Malaysia, Great Britain defeated India in the final.

ii. The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand. Great Britain, who finished runners-up last year, secured their second Sultan of Johor Cup title by virtue of this win.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

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

**Leander Paes Lifts Santo Domingo Open Trophy**

i. Indian tennis legend **Leander Paes** has won his second Challenger-level title of the season, lifting the **Santo Domingo Open trophy** with partner **Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela**.

ii. The second-seeded **Indo- Mexican pair**, playing its second consecutive final, came from behind to beat Ariel Behar and Roberto Quiroz 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 in the summit clash, which lasted one hour and 26 minutes in **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- **The capital of Dominican Republic:** Santo Domingo, **Currency:** Dominican Peso.

**Asian Para Games 2018 Concludes: Complete Highlights**

i. **The third Asian Para Games** took place in **Jakarta, Indonesia**. Around 3000 athletes from 43 countries took part in **15 Paralympic and three non-Paralympic sports**.

ii. The **official mascot of the 2018 Asian Para Games** is a Bondol eagle named **MOMO**, which was chosen to represent motivation and mobility.

iii. **India recorded its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Para Games by ending the 2018 edition with 72 medals** (15 gold, 24 silver, and 33 bronze medals). Continental giants, **China were at the top of the pecking order with 172 gold**.

**Youth Olympic Games 2018: Suraj Panwar Wins India's 1st Athletics Medal**

i. **Suraj Panwar won India's first medal in athletics at the Youth Olympic Games 2018** after claiming the **silver medal in the men's 5000m race walk** event Buenos Aires, Argentina.

ii. The 17-year-old's silver was India's third overall medal in athletics in the history of the Youth Olympic Games. Panwar had finished second, behind Patin Oscar of Ecuador.

**Canelo Alvarez Signs Richest Contract in Sports History, Worth \$365 million**

i. **Professional Boxer Canelo Alvarez** has signed the **largest contract in the history of sports**, agreeing a five-year, **11-fight deal worth at least \$365 million** with streaming service DAZN.

ii. Under the deal, Alvarez will participate in 11 fights, starting December 15, 2018. The previous richest contract was the 13-year, \$325-million deal signed by New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton in 2014.

**Sourav Kothari Clinches World Billiards Championship**

i. India's **Sourav Kothari** defeated **Peter Gilchrist** of **Singapore** 1134-944 to clinch the **2018 WBL World Billiards Championship** title.

ii. The former national and Asian Billiards champion had missed out on winning the coveted World Billiards crown on two occasions in the last two years, including a loss to **Gilchrist** in 2016 final in **Bengaluru**.

**Roger Federer Won 99th Career Title In His Hometown**

i. Swiss tennis star **Roger Federer** won his **99th career title** after winning the **Basel Open** for the **ninth time** in his career.

ii. Federer, who was born in the Swiss city of Basel, won his fourth title of the year in the form of the Basel Open. Federer is now just 10 titles short of the all-time record holder **Jimmy Connors**, who leads with **109**.

### **Indian Golfer Khalin Joshi Clinches Panasonic Open India Title**

- i. Indian golfer Khalin Joshi** clinched the **Panasonic Open India title** at the Delhi Golf Club. With this win, Joshi became the **seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India title** in the last eight editions of the tournament.
- ii.** It was also his maiden Asian Tour title. Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman finished second best after finishing with a par on the 18th.

### **India & Pakistan Declared Joint Winners of Asian Champions Trophy in Oman**

- i.** In Men's Hockey, **India and Pakistan were declared joint winners of the Asian Champions Trophy** at Muscat in Oman. The tournament director declared both teams as winners after the summit clash was called off due to heavy rain.
- ii.** As the turf was completely waterlogged, discussions were held with the coaches of both sides, and it was decided that the honours will be shared.

### **Mumbai Beat Delhi to Lift Vijay Hazare Trophy Title For 3rd Time**

- i. Mumbai** has defeated **Delhi** by four wickets to win their third **Vijay Hazare Trophy** title at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.
- ii.** Mumbai last won the trophy way back in 2006-07 when they defeated Rajasthan. **Aditya Tare** struck a fluent half-century. He was rewarded with Player of the match award.

### **DANISA Denmark Open 2018: Complete List Of Winners**

- i. The Denmark Open** is an HSBC World Tour Super 750 tournament. Held since 1935 as an annual badminton tournament by Danmarks Badminton Forbund the tournament has been hosted in eleven different locations.
- ii. Kento Momota of Japan** won in the **Men's Singles** category and **Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei** won in the **women's singles** category.

### **Bajrang Punia Bagged Silver at Wrestling World Championships**

- i. Wrestler Bajrang Punia** won the **silver medal** after he went down against Japan's **Takuto Otoguro** in the 65kg final of the **Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary**. It is his second medal at the Worlds.
- ii.** In the process, Otoguro became Japan's youngest World Champion at the age of 19. Bajrang had won a bronze in 2013 edition.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Sushil Kumar**, country's greatest ever wrestler, is the lone Indian to win a gold medal at the Worlds, achieving the feat in **2010 in Moscow** in the 66kg category.

### **Praveen Kumar Retires From All Forms Of Cricket**

- i. Former India fast bowler Praveen Kumar** has retired from all forms of international cricket. Praveen last played for India in 2012 and represented India in 84 international matches.
- ii.** He made his ODI debut for India in 2007 against Pakistan, while his Test debut came four years later against West Indies in Jamaica.

### **Dwayne Bravo Retires From International Cricket**

- i. All-rounder Dwayne Bravo** announced his **retirement from international cricket**.
- ii.** The 35-year-old, who last represented the Windies in September 2016, played a grand total of 270 internationals and played a starring role in each of their two World T20 triumphs in 2012 and 2016.

### **Kohli Becomes Fastest to Reach 10,000 Runs in History of ODI Cricket**

- i. India captain Virat Kohli** has become the **fastest batsman to score 10,000 runs in the history of ODI cricket**, achieving the feat in his 205th innings, against Windies.
- ii.** The 29-year-old overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached 10,000 ODI runs in his 259th innings, against Australia in 2001. Kohli also slammed his 37th ODI hundred, reaching the landmark in 116 fewer innings than Sachin Tendulkar.

## Obituaries

### **Veteran Harmonium Player Pandit Tulsidas Borkar Passed Away**

- i. **Renowned harmonium player Pandit Tulsidas Borkar** passed away in Mumbai. He was 84. He was being treated for chest infection.
- ii. Born in Goa, Borkar made a name for himself as an accomplished harmonium player and was **conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2016**. He was also a recipient of the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**.

### **Legendary Chicago blues guitarist Otis Rush dies at 84**

- i. Legendary Chicago blues **guitarist Otis Rush**, whose passionate, a jazz-influenced sound influenced generations of musicians, has died. **He was 84**.
- ii. Otis Rush won a **Grammy** for Best Traditional Blues Recording in 1999 for "**Any Place I'm Going**." Rush was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984.

### **'Nagaland's Gandhi' Natwar Thakkar dies in Assam**

- i. **Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar**, popularly known as **Nagaland's Gandhi**, died in a private hospital after a brief illness. He was 86.
- ii. Mr. Thakkar, a **Padma Shri awardee**, had founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang.

### **Environmentalist G D Agarwal Passes Away**

- i. **Environmentalist G.D. Agarwal**, who was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga, died after a heart attack in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
- ii. The 86-year old former IIT-Kanpur professor, Agarwal had been on hunger strike for a pollution-free and uninterrupted flow in the Ganga.

### **Microsoft Co-Founder Paul Allen Passes Away**

- i. **Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft in 1975** passed away aged 65 after battling cancer. Allen was the childhood friend of Microsoft Co-Founder Bill Gates.
- ii. As on date of his death, he ranked 44th on Forbes' 2018 list of billionaires with an estimated net worth of more than \$20 billion.

### **Legendary Musician Annapurna Devi Passes Away**

- i. Legendary **musician Annapurna Devi** has passed away in Mumbai. She was 91. She was suffering from age-related issues.

ii. Annapurna Devi was an Indian surbahar player of Hindustani classical music and she was the daughter and disciple of Allauddin Khan. She was married to sitar maestro **Ravi Shankar**.

#### **Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister N.D. Tiwari Passes Away**

i. **Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, N D Tiwari**, passed away after a prolonged stint of hospitalization in New Delhi.

ii. Apart from serving as the Ministry of External Affairs in the Rajiv Gandhi Cabinet between 1986-87, Mr Tiwari was thrice elected Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in varied stints between 1976-77, 1984-85, 1988-89 and was for one term the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, between 2002-2007.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **UP Present CM:** Yogi Adityanath, **Governor:** Ram Naik.

#### **Japanese Nobel Chemistry Laureate Shimomura Passes Away**

i. **Japanese-born Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura**, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry, has died. He was 90. Shimomura and two American scientists shared the **2008 Nobel prize** for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that contributed to cancer studies.

ii. Shimomura was born in Kyoto in 1928 and studied in Nagasaki, where he survived Aug. 9, 1945, U.S. atomic bombing.

#### **Urdu Writer Qazi Abdussattar Passes Away**

i. **Padma Shri Professor Qazi Abdussattar**, a noted Urdu writer and former head of Aligarh Muslim University's Urdu department, passed away in Delhi following a protracted illness. He was 85.

ii. Winner of several national and international awards, Abdussattar was awarded Padma Shri in 1974. He was also the first recipient of Ghalib Academy Award in 1978.

#### **Former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana Passes Away**

i. **Former Delhi chief minister Madan Lal Khurana** passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 82.

ii. **Mr Khurana was the chief minister of Delhi** from 1993 to 1996 and was appointed the governor of Rajasthan in 2004.

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## Important Days with theme

### International Translation Day: 30 September

i. **30 September** celebrates the feast of **St. Jerome**, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators. The theme for International Translation Day 2018 is *“Translation: promoting cultural heritage in changing times”*.

ii. St. Jerome was a priest from North-eastern Italy, who is known mostly for his endeavour of translating most of the Bible into Latin from the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. He also translated parts of the Hebrew Gospel into Greek.

### World Habitat Day 2018: 1 October

i. The United Nations has designated the **first Monday of October** of every year as **World Habitat Day**. The theme for World Habitat Day 1 October 2018 is **Municipal Solid Waste Management**.

ii. World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the **United Nations General Assembly** through Resolution 40/202 and was first celebrated in **1986**.

### International Day of Older Persons: 1 October

i. **The International Day of Older Persons** is observed on **October 1** each year to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives.

ii. The theme for the 2018 celebration is **“Celebrating Older Human Rights champions”**.

### World Animal Day: 4 October

i. **World Animal Day** is celebrated at various parts of the world on **4th October** to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.

ii. World Animal Day was originated by Heinrich Zimmermann. He organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at the Sports Palace in Berlin, Germany.

### World Teachers' Day: 5 October

i. **World Teachers' Day** is celebrated globally on **5th October**. The WTD 2018 will mark the **70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** that recognizes education as a key fundamental right and establishes an entitlement to free compulsory education, ensuring inclusive and equitable access for all children.

ii. The theme for this year's WTD is *"The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher"*.

#### **Air Force Day: 8 October**

i. **The Indian Air Force** is celebrating its **86th Anniversary on 08 Oct 2018**. To mark the occasion and in keeping up with the tradition, IAF has planned a grand Parade cum Investiture Ceremony at **Air Force Station Hindan (Ghaziabad)**.

ii. **Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa**, Chief of the Air Staff reviewed the parade. The air display commenced with flag bearing skydivers of famous Akash Ganga Team, who jumped from an An-32 aircraft.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire.

#### **World Post Day: 9th October**

i. **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on **9 October**, the anniversary of the **establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874** in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

ii. The theme selected for the 2018 competition is: *"Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?"*

#### **World Mental Health Day: 10 October**

i. **World Mental Health Day** is celebrated on **10 October** every year.

ii. The theme for 2018 WMH day is **'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'**. World Mental Health Day was observed for the first time on **10 October 1992**.

#### **International Day Of The Girl Child: 11 October**

i. Since 2012, **11 October has been marked as the International Day of the Girl**. The theme for International Day of the Girl Child 2018 is **'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'**.

ii. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

#### **World Food Day: 16 October**

i. **World Food Day** is celebrated every year around the world on **16 October** in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.

ii. The theme for WFD 2018 is **"Our Actions Are Our Future"**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations) headquarters in Rome, Italy.

#### **International Day of Rural Women: 15 October**

i. **The International Day of Rural Women** is observed on 15th October. The day recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing.

ii. This year's theme is **"Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls"**.

#### **International Day For The Eradication of Poverty: 17 October**

i. The United Nations' (UN) **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed on **October 17** each year since 1993.

ii. The theme for **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018** is **"Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity"**.

#### **United Nations Day: 24 October**

i. **The United Nations Day** is celebrated on **24th of October** every year. The Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in **1945 of the UN Charter**.

ii. 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day is observed by Member States as a public holiday.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- The UN Headquarters in New York, United States.
- The UN was established on 24th October 1945.

**World Development Information Day: 24 October**

- The General Assembly** in 1972 established **World Development Information Day** to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- The Assembly decided that the date for the Day should coincide with United Nations Day, 24 October, which was also the date of the adoption, in 1970, of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

**World Day For Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October**

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage** is celebrated all over the world on 27th of October.
- The theme for World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2018 is *“Your Story is Moving”*.

**Vigilance Awareness Week Observed To Achieve Corruption Free Society**

- The Vigilance Awareness Week** will be observed across the country from 29th October to 3 November to promote probity in public life and achieve a corruption-free society. The theme of the week this year is, *‘Eradicate Corruption – Build A New India’*.
- The observance of the week will commence with pledge taking by public servants in the Ministries, Departments, PSUs, Banks and all other Organisations.

**Important Takeways from above news-**

- The week, in which 31st October, the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls, is observed as Vigilance Awareness Week every year.



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