

- **The Kerala government** has decided to **raise the legal drinking age from 21 to 23 years.**
- **The Taj Mahal**, India's iconic ivory-white marble mausoleum in Agra, is **the second best UNESCO world heritage site in the world**, according to a **new survey by online travel portal TripAdvisor.**
- Taj Mahal was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.
- **President of USA Donald Trump** has announced that the **US now recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital**, overturning decades of official US policy.
- **Star Screen Awards**, the annual film awards recognises the best of talent in Hindi films. **Vidya Balan bagged the award for Best Actress (Critics)** for Tumhari Sulu, **Irrfan won the Best Actor Award** for his performance in Hindi Medium.
- **Rajkumar Rao won the Best Actor Award (Critics)** for Newton & Best Actor in a Supporting Role Award for Bareilly Ki Barfi as well.
- **The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan** has named noted **Indian businessman, Deepak Parekh**, as **'International Ambassador'** who will be tasked with championing the UK capital across the globe.
- **Nagpur's Kanchanmala Pande** created history as **she became the first Indian to secure pole position at the World Para-Swimming Championship in Mexico.**
- **India has been declared free from infectious Trachoma** which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye. It causes inflamed granulation on the inner surface of the lids.
- **Amrit Kaur** was the first health minister of **independent India.**
- **Human Rights Day- 10 December**
- **Mount Hope Becomes UK's New Highest Mountain**
- **The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has conferred **'Yeraringan' Award to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, in Chennai.**
- **India is all set to host the 2023 World Cup.**
- The ICC World Cup 2019 will be held in England and Wales.
- This will be the first time that the event will be held entirely in India: the nation has, on three occasions previously, hosted the World Cup partially (1987, 1996 and 2011).
- **India will also host the upcoming Champions Trophy in 2021.**
- **India has won two ICC World Cups-** one in 1983, second in 2011.
- **India's Saurabh Chaudhary** qualified for the **Youth Olympics Games with a gold medal** and a junior world record in 10m air pistol at the ongoing Asia Youth Olympics Games qualification tournament in **Wako City, Japan.**
- **Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to launch free email addresses in Hindi (in Devanagari script).**
- The first e-mail ID in Hindi was created for **Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje.**
- **27th National Energy Conservation Day- 14 December**
- **Norway became the world's first country** to shut down national broadcasts of its FM network by completing its transition to digital radio.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned **India's first modern conventional submarine, INS Kalvari, into Navy's fleet** in Mumbai, a first in almost two decades.
- **Dreaded Tiger shark-Kalvari** is named after the dreaded tiger shark, a deadly deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
- **The first Kalvari**, commissioned on December 8, 1967, was also the first submarine of the Indian Navy.
- **The Union Cabinet** cleared the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017, or the Triple Talaq bill**, which makes the practice a non-bailable offense. The bill proposes a three-year jail term for men who practice instant Triple Talaq.
- Under the draft law, triple talaq in any form - spoken, in writing or by electronic means such as email, SMS, and WhatsApp - would be banned or illegal.

- **Jitesh Singh Deo** from Lucknow was declared the **winner of the 2017 Mr. India pageant** which was held in Mumbai.
- **World youth champion Sachin Siwach** was named the **Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017** after winning an online poll conducted by the continental body.
- **The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, laid the foundation stone of the **'Nyaya Gram project' of the High Court of Allahabad** in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Vijay Diwas- 16 December**
 - The anniversary of Vijay Divas is observed across India by paying tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** launched a special financial scheme for journalists of the state. The scheme **"J&K Bank Sahafat Finance Scheme"** was launched by the **bank's chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmad**.
- **Oxford Dictionaries** has crowned **"youthquake"** as its **word of 2017** in a nod to the unexpected level of youth engagement in this summer's election in the United Kingdom.
 - An amalgamation of "youth" and "earthquake", the noun is defined as "a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people."
 - The emblems of the **Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games** have been named **"Winter Dream"** and **"Flight,"** respectively.
- **The XXIII Olympic Winter Games** will be held in February 2018 in **PyeongChang, the Republic of Korea**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has launched a **free household power connection scheme** for the poor in the state to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary. The scheme is driven by government's motto **'Prakash hai to Vikas hai'** (the barometer of development is light).
- **The government has also introduced Kisan Uday Yojana**, a novel scheme for farmers.
- **Saudi Arabia** is hosting a **world chess tournament for the first time**, nearly two years after the country's top cleric issued a religious edict against playing the board game.
 - The tournament has been named as **the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships**.
 - Agriculture Minister Launches **Livestock Disease Forewarning (LDF) Mobile App**

- **India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile**, capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile at low altitude, from a test range **in Odisha**.
 - Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha was previously known as Wheeler Island.
 - **Veteran singer K S Chitra** has been selected for prestigious **'Harivarasanam' award 2017**, instituted by the Kerala government.
 - Haryana shooter Anisa Sayyed won the women's 25m pistol gold with a new record at the ongoing 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC), in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 - 60th National Shooting Championship Competitions (Rifle/Pistol) was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was founded in 1951.
 - **The Lok Sabha** passed the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017** making instant **triple talaq illegal** with up to three years in jail for the husband. The bill was passed by the **Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad**.
 - The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017 bill seeks to make instant triple talaq in any form spoken, in writing or by electronic means such as email, SMS and WhatsApp as bad or illegal and void.
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- **The two-week long eighth edition** of the **Indo-Maldives joint military exercise, 'Ekuverin'**, held at **Belagavi, Karnataka**. 'Ekuverin' means 'friends' in the Maldivian language.

➤ The bilateral annual exercise was joint military training between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The exercise has been held alternatively in India and Maldives since 2009.

➤ **India's ace chess player Viswanathan Anand** won the **World Rapid Chess tournament title in Saudi Arabia** by beating **Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev** 2-0 in a two-game tie-break.

➤ **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched a start-up incubation centre called the **Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning (CEOL)** in Mangaluru, Karnataka.

➤ Nirmala Sitharaman is the present Defence Minister of India.

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that Republic Day celebration in 2018 would be "remembered through the ages" because the government for the first time in India's history would host leaders of 10 Asean countries as chief guests on 26th January 2018.

➤ **Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest**, in a bid to reduce accidents.

➤ The new safety regulations also prohibit double amputee and blind climbers from attempting to reach the summit of the world's highest peak without a valid medical certificate.

➤ **Avtar Singh Cheema** was the first Indian to climb Mount Everest successfully.

➤ **Mount Everest** is the tallest Mountain (by Elevation) in the world.

➤ **Israel** has filed notice to withdraw from the UNESCO alongside the United States. Israel has blasted UNESCO in recent years over the organisation's criticism of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and its decision to grant full membership to Palestine in 2011.

➤ **UNESCO**- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

➤ **UNESCO Headquarters**- Paris, France.

➤ **Arunachal Pradesh** has been **declared open defecation free** ahead of the national deadline of October 2, 2019.

➤ **Vidarbha** have created history by winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history with a thumping nine-wicket win over Delhi at the Holkar stadium in Indore.

➤ **Israel Withdraws from UNESCO**

Israel was the member of UNESCO since 1949. Both Israel

and the US have filed its own withdrawal notice in October 2017.

- **UNESCO**- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- **Headquarters**- Paris, France.

➤ **Women & Child Development Ministry Inaugurated Online Portal NARI**

Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** inaugurated an **online portal NARI** in New Delhi for the empowerment of women.

- **NARI** stands for National Repository of Information for Women.

➤ **GAIL Commissions India's Second-Largest Rooftop Solar Plant in UP**

State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd has commissioned the **country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh**.

- Tata Power Solar commissioned a 12 MW solar rooftop project in Amritsar, Punjab which is India's largest rooftop solar plant.
- **GAIL**- Gas Authority of India Limited.

➤ **Health Ministry and Tata Memorial Centre Launches India's First Digital Online Oncology Tutorial**

The oncology tutorial series aims to train the doctors across the country to educate them in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.

- Oncology is a branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

➤ **Meghalaya signs host city contract for 39th National Games in 2022**

Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.

Meghalaya had successfully co-hosted the South Asian Games in 2017.

➤ **Iceland Becomes 1st Country to Legalise Equal Pay**

Iceland has become the **first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women**.

In Iceland now it will be illegal to pay men more than women for the work.

- Iceland has been ranked by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as the world's most gender-equal country.

➤ **Bilateral Annual Haj 2018 Agreement between India and Saudi Arabia Signed**

Saudi Arabia has given the green signal for India's decision to revive the option of **sending Haj pilgrims through sea route also**.

For the **first time**, Muslim women from India will go to Haj without "Mehram" (male companion).

- **Saudi Arabia Capital**- Riyadh,
- **Currency**- Saudi riyal.

➤ **Haryana Becomes First State to Launch High-Risk Pregnancy Portal**

This innovative web application has been designed to track every high-risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery.

➤ **India's 1st Multi-Petaflop Supercomputer 'Pratyush' Dedicated to Nation**

It will be a national facility for improving weather and climate forecasts and services under the umbrella of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

➤ **World's Largest Ice Festival Held in China**
World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China.

This is one of China's coldest cities in the winter. It features sculptures of Moscow's Red Square and Bangkok's Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

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

➤ **India's 1st All-Women Railway Station in Mumbai Enters Limca Records**

The station is being manned exclusively by women staffers since July 2017, a first on the Indian Railways.

- Matunga station is situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

➤ **Ministry of Railway Launches SFOORTI Application Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App**

The major digital initiative is to help plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations.

- **John Mathai** was the first Railway Minister of Independent India.
- **Piyush Goyal** is the present Railway Minister of India.

➤ **Dr Sivan K Appointed New ISRO Chairman**

i. Noted rocket scientist Sivan K was appointed as the **9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. He has replaced A.S. Kiran Kumar.

- ISRO was established in 1969.
- **Founder and 1st Chairman of ISRO-** Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, **Headquarters in-** Bengaluru, Karnataka.

➤ **Sanjay Manjrekar Launches Autobiography, Titled 'Imperfect'**

Sanjay Manjrekar launched his **autobiography named 'Imperfect'**, in Mumbai. The book 'Imperfect' was released by Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar's first international captain.

The book was published by Harper Collins. Sanjay Manjrekar has played 37 Test matches. His first test appearance was in the Delhi Test against the West Indies.

➤ **List of Winners of ICC Award 2017-**

1. Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)

2. ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)

3. ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)

4. ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)

5. ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)

6. ICC Men's T20I Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)

7. David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year - Marais Erasmus

8. ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)

9. ICC Fans Moment of the Year - Pakistan stuns India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

➤ **Odisha CM Launches 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana'**

i. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched the **'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana' (MMKSJ)** – an assistance scheme for Artists in the state.

➤ **Maharashtra Becomes 1st State to Unveil Public Cloud Policy**

Maharashtra has become **the first state in the country that has come out with a public cloud policy**, virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud.

This move has created a USD 2- billion opportunity for the industry.

➤ **President Kovind Unveils Book on Self-Development in Delhi**

Book Name: **'The Heartfulness Way'**

Author: **Kamlesh D. Patel**

➤ **India's 1st Garbage Festival Organised in Chhattisgarh**

The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh organised the three-day **'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'**.

It is India's first Garbage Festival.

➤ **Malta's Valletta Becomes Europe's Capital of Culture**

Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.

Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.

- Valletta is the smallest capital in the European Union.
- It is located in a fortress and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

➤ **63rd Filmfare Awards 2018: Complete List of Winners**

Bollywood came together to celebrate the industry's talent at **63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018**, held in Mumbai.

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan and filmmaker Karan Johar hosted the show.

Vidya Balan won her career's sixth Filmfare award for her performance in 'Tumhari Sulu'.

➤ West Indies to Host 2018 Women's World T20

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced, the **2018 edition of the Women's World T20** will be hosted by **West Indies in November 2018**.

- **ICC Chief Executive**- David Richardson,
- **Headquarters**- Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

➤ Kolkata Becomes 1st Indian Metro to get a Floating Market

The market, located on the eastern fringes of the city, was **inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**.

➤ India, Vietnam Release First-Ever Commemorative Stamps

India and Vietnam released **first ever set of commemorative postage stamps** to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries. The two set of stamps released carry picture of **Sanchi Stupa and Thien Mu Pagoda**.

➤ Usha Ananthasubramanian Becomes 1st Woman IBA Chief

Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO, Allahabad Bank, has been elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

➤ Padma Awards 2018 Announced: Full List of Recipients

- **Padma Vibhushan**- 3
- **Padma Bhushan**- 9
- **Padma Shri**- 73

In sports personalities, **former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and multiple world champion **cueist Pankaj Advani** have been conferred with the third-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan. The **2017 World Weightlifting Champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** and former **Asian Games gold medallist tennis player Somdev Devvarman** have been conferred with the Padma Shri.

The awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day every year.

➤ Himachal CM Launches 'Shakti' App for Women's Safety

It would be available in both Hindi and English languages and would not require internet connectivity. The main objective of the launch of the app and the helpline is to fight crimes against women in the state.

➤ Australian Open 2018- Complete List of Winners

The Australian Open is a tennis tournament held annually in **Melbourne Park, Australia**. The **2018 Australian Open is the 106th edition of the tournament**.

Roger Federer defeated Marin Cilic in the final. It was Federer's 20th Grand Slam title.

In women's' single, **Caroline Wozniacki** became the first Danish player to win a Grand Slam singles title, **defeating Simona Halep in the final**.

➤ Aadhaar is Oxford Dictionary's Hindi Word of 2017

Oxford Dictionaries has chosen 'Aadhaar' as the Hindi word of 2017. The word gained popularity due to Aadhaar card, which was in news in 2017.

The announcement was made in the Jaipur Literature Festival.

➤ International Bird Festival to be Held in Dudhwa National Park

A **three-day international bird festival** will be held at the **Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh** in February 2018 with nearly 200 leading ornithologists expected to attend.



➤ Asha Bhosle to Get Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle will be given the '**Yash Chopra Memorial Award**'. She will be the **fifth winner of the award**.

The award has been instituted by the TSR Foundation of T. Subbarami Reddy in memory of producer-director Yash Chopra, who died in 2012.

- Previous recipients of the **Yash Chopra Memorial Award** are Bollywood playback singer Lata Mangeshkar, and actors Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, and Shah Rukh Khan.

➤ Google Introduces a New App Named "Bulletin"

i. Google has introduced a new app named "Bulletin" that allows anybody to submit stories for and about their communities. This is a free, lightweight app for telling a story by capturing photos, video clips and text right from your phone.

ii. The app is made for contributing hyperlocal stories about your community. **The application has been launched as a limited pilot project and is available in Nashville, Tennessee and Oakland, California.**

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

➤ **Melbourne to Host Final of 2020 World T20**

i. Melbourne Cricket Ground will host the final of **both the men's and women's World Twenty20** when the tournaments come to **Australia in 2020.**

ii. It will mark the first time the tournaments are held as stand-alone events in the same year in the same country. The women's final will coincide with **International Women's Day (8th March).**

- **Australia Capital-** Canberra,
- **Currency-** Australian dollar.

➤ **PM Modi Launched 1st Khelo India School Games**

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **first Khelo India School Games** at **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.**

ii. **Talented Under-17 players** identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by a High-Powered Committee will be provided **annual financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.**

- **Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports-** Rajyavardhan Rathore.

➤ **Japan Launches Smallest Rocket Ever to Carry Tiny Satellite into Orbit**

i. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the **world's smallest rocket with the ability to put a tiny satellite into orbit.** The rocket lifted off from the Uchinoura Space Center.

ii. It carried a microsatellite **TRICOM-1R**, a three-unit CubeSat weighing about 3 kilograms. This satellite launch was a re-flight of the TRICOM-1 mission, which was lost in SS-520's failure in 2017.

- **Capital-** Tokyo,
- **Currency-** Japanese Yen.

➤ **'Exam Warriors'- A Book Penned Down by PM Modi Released**

The book penned down by PM Narendra Modi named **'Exam Warriors'** was launched to reach out to the students across the country ahead of their exams. The book was released by **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.**

ii. The book has been written to inspire youths to face the

difficult moments of examinations and life, with fresh and new energy. **'Exam Warriors' is published by Penguin India,** which runs into 208 pages.

➤ **1st Ever International Kala Mela Inaugurated in New Delhi**

i. The First ever International Kala Mela was inaugurated by the **Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.**

ii. The International Kala Mela has been organised by the **Lalit Kala Akademi** in partnership with **IGNCA** of the Ministry of Culture. More than 800 artists from across the world took part in the Festival.

- The Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change is **Dr Mahesh Sharma.**

➤ **Mumbai Airport Becomes World's Busiest Single-Runway Airport**

i. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport of Mumbai sets record with **980 flights in 24 hours** or almost one flight every minute.

ii. With this, the Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport bettered its own feat of 974 flights in 24 hours, recorded in December 2017.

iii. While **Gatwick, the U.K.'s second-largest airport,** remains the most efficient single-runway airport in the world.

➤ **Shubhankar Sharma Becomes Best Indian Golfer in the World**

i. Shubhankar Sharma has emerged as **the best Indian golfer in the world,** grabbing the **72nd position** in the **Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR).** He has won the **Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

ii. Sharma has enjoyed a golden run over the past few months on the international stage, **clinching his first European Tour win at the Joburg Open.**

- **Dustin Johnson** from the USA is currently the World Number 1 in Official World Golf Ranking.

➤ **Jhulan Goswami 1st Woman in the World to Take 200 ODI Wickets**

i. Indian women's cricket team pacer Jhulan Goswami has become the **first woman in the world to take 200 wickets in ODI cricket.**

ii. Goswami achieved the feat playing in her **166th ODI** against South Africa. Goswami had become the leading wicket-taker in women's ODI in May 2017, overtaking former **Australian pacer Cathryn Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets.**

➤ **First Ever Chat Based Job Search App 'Empzilla' Launched**

- i. The first ever of its kind in the country chat-based job search mobile app 'Empzilla'** is being launched that will do away with existing limitations of employers and job seekers making selection process quick and cost-effective.
- ii.** The mobile app gets the conversation between employers and job seekers going in seconds and the latter can chat with the potential employers.

➤ **Bermuda Becomes 1st Country in World to Abolish Same-Sex Marriage**

- i. Bermuda** has become the **first country to legalise and then repeal same-sex marriage.**
- ii.** Bermuda's governor John Rankin approved a bill reversing the right of gay couples to marry, despite a supreme court ruling last year authorising same-sex marriage.
- **Bermuda Capital-** Hamilton,
 - **Currency-** Bermudian dollar.

➤ **PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi Becomes ICC's 1st Independent Female Director**

- i. PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi** has been appointed as the **International Cricket Council's (ICC) first-ever independent female director.** Nooyi will join the cricket body in June 2018 for a 2-year term.
- ii.** The introduction of an Independent Director, who must be female, was approved by the ICC in June 2017, aimed at improving the global governance of the sport.
- **ICC Chairman-** Shashank Manohar,
 - **Headquarters-** Dubai, The UAE.

➤ **World's Tallest Hotel 'Gevora' Opens In Dubai**

- i. The Gevora Hotel in Dubai,** developed by the Al Attar Group has now become the **"world's tallest hotel"**. It stands 356 metres and 53 centimetres tall.
- ii.** It is one metre taller than the previous holder of the title, **the JW Marriott Marquis**, in the same city. **The title has been confirmed by Guinness Book of World Records.**

➤ **World's 1st Autonomous Pods Unveiled in Dubai**

- i. Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** launched the first tests of the **world's first autonomous pods at the World Government Summit.** The autonomous pods are launched in cooperation with **Next Future Transportation (US-Based).**
- ii.** They can be coupled together in as little 15 seconds or detached depending on the riders' destination in five seconds.

➤ **Radio Umang: India's 1st Online Radio Station Launched**

- i. India's 1st Online Radio Station 'Radio Umang'** was launched recently in India. Listeners can tune in to this

online radio station through web streaming or download the app.

- ii.** With 24 hours programming, it has found listeners in Hindi speaking regions of India and in over 60 countries worldwide.

➤ **India's First Radio Festival Being Held In Delhi**

- i.** India's first radio festival is being held in New Delhi to mark World Radio Day.
- ii.** The festival includes live performances, an exhibition, and slotted panel discussions. Apart from touching on the theme for World Radio Day 2018 - radio and sports - the festival is also examining the potential of the medium as a platform for social change, ways to make it more creative and will trace the journey of music on the radio.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Wins Senior Women's National Football Championship For First Time**

- i.** Tamil Nadu has won the Senior Women's National Football Championship for the first time. Tamil Nadu, which was playing its first-ever final, defeated Manipur, 2-1 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ii.** Skipper Indumathi and Indrani found the net for Tamil Nadu, while Ratanbala scored Manipur's only goal.

➤ **India's 2nd Mission to Moon Chandrayaan-2 to be Launched in April 2018**

- i.** According to the Union Minister of State of the Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, **the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is planning to launch **Chandrayan-2 Mission around April 2018.**
- ii.** Chandrayaan-2 is the country's second mission to the moon.
- iii.** Chandrayaan-2 is a challenging mission as for the first time we will carry an **orbiter, a lander and a rover to the moon.**
- ISRO was established in 1969.
 - **Founder and 1st Chairman of ISRO-** Vikram Sarabhai,
 - **Headquarters in-** Bengaluru, Karnataka.

➤ **National Conference on "Agriculture 2022- Doubling Farmers' Income"**

- i.** The **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** has organized a **National Conference** under the title of **"Agriculture 2022 - Doubling Farmers' Income"** in New Delhi.
- ii.** The main aim of the conference is to build a consensus around appropriate recommendations that will help in shaping and sharpening the vision of the Government on Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022 into actionable points.
- **Radha Mohan Singh** is the present **Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**

➤ **Mumbai to have India's 1st Artificial Intelligence Centre**

i. **In a first in the country**, the Maharashtra government will be setting up an institute for artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai.

- Maharashtra has already become the first state to unveil a **FinTech Policy**.
- **Maharashtra Governor**- CV Rao.

➤ **Delhi Government to Launch 'Mission Buniyaad' To Fix Learning Crisis In Delhi Schools**

i. **The Delhi government** announced the launch of "**Mission Buniyaad**" for improving learning skills of children studying in state and municipal-run schools. The announcement was made by **Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia**.

ii. Under the programme which will run from **April to June for Class 3 to 5 in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) schools** and for Class 6 to 8 in government's schools, children will undergo a reading level assessment based on which they will be enrolled in specialised "**Mission Buniyaad**" classes.

➤ **Avani Chaturvedi Becomes 1st Indian Woman to Fly Fighter Aircraft Solo**

i. **Flying officer Avani Chaturvedi** scripted history by becoming the **first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo**.

ii. She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo flight from Jamnagar base of Indian Air Force (IAF) in Gujarat.

- **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa** is the 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.

➤ **Aruna Budda Reddy Becomes 1st Indian to Win Individual Medal at Gymnastics World Cup**

i. **Aruna Budda Reddy** has created history by becoming the **first Indian to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup in Melbourne, Australia**. She clinched a **Bronze medal** in the Women's Vault.

ii. Aruna, who hails from Hyderabad, scored **13.649 average points** to finish third and claim the bronze medal at the Hisense Arena. **Tjasa Kysslef of Slovenia took home the Gold, while Emily Whitehead of Australia won the Silver**.

- **Australia Capital**- Canberra,
- **Currency**- Australian Dollar,

➤ **Blue-Coloured Baal Aadhaar Card Launched By UIDAI**

i. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced a '**Baal Aadhaar**' card for **children below the age of five years**.

ii. No biometric details will be required to get this blue-coloured Baal Aadhaar card.

iii. A child below 5 years of age gets a blue in coloured Aadhaar known as Baal Aadhaar. When the child becomes 5 years old, a mandatory biometric update is required.

- UIDAI Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- Ajay Bhushan Pandey,
- Headquarters- New Delhi.

➤ **Smriti Irani Releases 'India-2018' Book**

i. **Smriti Irani** released '**India 2018**' (English Version) and '**Bharat 2018**' (Hindi Version).

ii. The books are published by the Publications Division. The book available in both print and online versions.

➤ **Mascots for 2020 Olympics and Paralympics**

i. **Tokyo** unveiled its mascot for the 2020 Olympic Games: a futuristic blue-checked, doe-eyed character with pointy ears and "**special powers**" that was picked by schoolchildren across mascot-mad Japan.

ii. One has an athletic figure and a **strong sense of justice**. The other is a **cherry blossom-inspired** superhero.

➤ **World's Largest Solar Park 'Shakti Sthala' Launched in Karnataka**

i. **The Karnataka government** inaugurated the first phase of a **2,000 megawatts (MW) solar park** in the drought-prone district, Tumkur.

The first phase of the **Rs16,500 crore park called "Shakti Sthala"** will generate 600MW, while the balance 1,400MW is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2018.

ii. The solar project is the largest in the world, is spread over 13,000 acres and five villages. It is part of the "Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021" which aims to decrease dependence on traditional power sources and move to environmentally friendly ones to meet the growing power needs of the state.

➤ **"Namaste Shalom"- Magazine on India-Israel Relations Launched**

i. The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), **Dr Jitendra Singh**, launched the social media of "**Namaste Shalom**", a magazine on **India-Israel relations**.

ii. **The magazine 'Namaste Shalom' is edited by Tarun Vijay**, former MP.

➤ **Shatrughan Sinha Wins Lifetime Achievement Award in UK**

i. **Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha** has been honoured with the **lifetime achievement award** for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics **in the United Kingdom**.

ii. The annual Political and Public Life Awards instituted by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper was presented at a ceremony in the UK's Parliament complex in London.

➤ **Viswanathan Anand Wins Tal Memorial Rapid Chess Title**

- i. **World rapid champion Viswanathan Anand** annexed the **Tal Memorial rapid chess title in Moscow, Russia** after an easy final round draw **against Boris Gelfand of Israel**.
- ii. His solitary loss came at the hands of Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the third round.

➤ **Rashid Khan Becomes Youngest Captain in International Cricket History**

- i. **The leg-spinner from Afghanistan, Rashid Khan** (19-year-old) has become the youngest captain in international cricket history.
- ii. He now holds the **ICC No. 1 rank for bowlers in both the ODIs and T20Is** and also became the youngest player ever to hold the top spot for any form of ICC men's ranking.

➤ **India's 1st Helicopter Taxi Service Launched in Bengaluru**

- i. **India's first helicopter taxi service** was launched in **Bengaluru** to fly passengers from Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City.
- ii. The service is expected to reduce the time taken to cover the distance from 2 hours to 15 minutes. The helicopter will seat up to six people apart from the pilot and the service will cost Rs3,500 plus GST.

➤ **Marshall Islands 1st Country to Launch Own Cryptocurrency as Legal Tender**

- i. **The Marshall Islands** is creating its own digital currency in a bid to raise money. In doing so it becomes the **first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency as legal tender**.
- ii. The small Pacific Island nation passed the Sovereign Currency Act to create the 'sovereign', or SOV. The cryptocurrency will have equal status with the US dollar and, unlike many cryptocurrencies, users will have to reveal their identity in order to use SOV.
 - **Capital of Marshall Island**- Majuro,
 - **Currency**- United States Dollar.

➤ **Udyam Sakhi Portal Launched for Women Entrepreneurs**

- i. On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** launched a portal for women entrepreneurs of India: www.udyamsakhi.org.
- International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March.

➤ **NITI Aayog Launches Women Entrepreneurship Platform**

- i. **NITI Aayog launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- ii. CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, launched the WEP platform at NITI Aayog premises in New Delhi.
- iii. The WEP theme song "**Naari Shakti**" composed and sung by Shri Kailash Kher was released on this occasion.
 - **NITI**- National Institution for Transforming India.
 - **NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman**- Rajiv Kumar,
 - **CEO**- Amitabh Kant.

➤ **PM Launches National Nutrition Mission and Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**

- i. **On the occasion of International Women's Day**, PM Narendra Modi launched the **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)** and **Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** covering all 640 districts of the Country at a mega event held at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.
- ii. NNM has been set up with a three year budget of **Rs.9046.17 crore** commencing from 2017-18. The NNM is a comprehensive approach towards raising nutrition level in the country on a war footing.
 - Union Minister for Women & Child Development is Maneka Sanjay Gandhi
 - Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme was launch by PM Modi on January 22nd, 2015.

➤ **Architect BV Doshi Becomes 1st Indian to Win Pritzker Prize**

- i. **Architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** has become the **first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize**, the highest award in architecture.
- ii. Doshi's most noted works include a low-cost housing project in Indore which accommodates 80,000 people. The award was announced by Tom Pritzker of the Chicago-based Hyatt Foundation.

➤ **Government Launches Biodegradable Sanitary Pads 'Suidha'**

- i. The government launched a **biodegradable sanitary pad 'Suidha'** to mark **International Women's Day**. The oxo-biodegradable sanitary pads priced at Rs. 2.50 per pad will be available at **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi centres**.
- ii. The biodegradable pad will ensure '**Swachhta, Swasthya and Suidha**' for the underprivileged women.

➤ **Karnataka to Become 2nd State in Country to Unveil its Own Flag**

- i. **The Karnataka government** unveiled the **State flag (nada dhwaja)** for the state. If approved by the Centre, **Karnataka will be the second State to have a flag after Jammu and Kashmir**.

ii. The yellow-white-red flag has the State emblem at the centre. The proposal will be now sent to the Union Home Ministry for approval since a State has no powers to announce its own flag.

➤ President Xi Jinping Becomes China's Leader For Life As Parliament Abolishes Presidential Term-Limit

China's Parliament has abolished the decades-old two-term limit for the President, allowing Xi Jinping to remain as the country's leader for life.

➤ Karnataka's Belgaum Is Now Home To India's Tallest Flag

i. India's tallest national flag was unfurled in Belagavi (also known as Belgaum) in Karnataka.

i. Belagavi District Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi unfurled the 9,600 sq ft wide flag on a 110-metre-tall flagpole.



➤ President of India Inaugurates World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius

i. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated **World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius capital, Port Louis**. The Secretariat is **fully financed by India** and a grant of 33 crore rupees was provided. The land was provided by the Mauritius government.

ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of this building in 2015.

- **Mauritius capital**- Port Louis,
- **President**- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim,
- **Currency**- Mauritian rupee.

➤ Jackie Shroff's 'Shunyata' Wins International Award in US

i. Actor Jackie Shroff's short film 'Shunyata' has won an award at **Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, US**. The 22-minute fiction film **directed by Chintan**

Sarda was selected to be in top six from amongst thousands of entries and was played at a theatre in Los Angeles.

ii. An industry based jury then adjudged it the best film. The prize includes a cash prize of \$1,000.

➤ Indian Army Releases Book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees

i. **General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff** released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees - '**Paramveer Parwane**'.

ii. The book illustrates the **bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from 1947 to 1965**. The book is written by Dr Prabhakaran Jain and is published by Medha Books.

- Somnath Sharma (from 4 Kumaon Unit) was the first recipient of Paramveer Chakra.

➤ Kerala Declares Jackfruit as Official Fruit of State

i. **Jackfruit** has attained a respected status with the state government declaring it as the **official fruit of Kerala**. Kerala has been producing around **30 to 60 crore jackfruits every year**.

➤ Chandigarh Becomes North India's 1st City to Install Digital Automatic Speed Gun Cameras

i. **Chandigarh has become the 1st city** in North India to install **Automatic Speed Gun Cameras** with digital displays for traffic management.

ii. The high-tech speed cameras are equipped with night vision technology and will record the speed of oncoming traffic, helping Chandigarh Police to issue challans to anyone driving above the city speed limits.

➤ World's Longest Sandstone Cave Discovered in Meghalaya

i. The North-eastern state **Meghalaya** of India, is home to the **longest sandstone cave in the world at 24,583m**, with dinosaur fossils from 66-76 million years ago.

ii. The **sandstone cave named Krem Puri** was first discovered in 2016, but during the recent 25-day expedition by the **Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA)**, the actual length of the cave was uncovered. It is 6,000m longer than the current listed sandstone cave in the world, Cueva El Samán, (18,200m) in Venezuela.

➤ 1st Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 Words Launched

i. The **First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words** was launched by Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment at a function.

ii. The dictionary has been developed by **Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC)** under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).

iii. The basic aim of developing the ISL Dictionary is to

remove communications barriers between the deaf and hearing communities as it is focused on providing more information in Indian sign language.

➤ **India's 1st Insect Museum Opened In Tamil Nadu**

i. A Rs 5 crore insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The museum, established at a 6,691 sqft area, is fully dedicated to insects and is first of its kind in the country.

ii. It would display insects preserved as specimens as also live ones depicting their different developmental stages, images, videos and models of their unique behavior, habits, and habitats.

➤ **Andhra Pradesh Government Launches Multi-Utility Vehicle 'Naipunya Ratham'**

i. **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Naipunya Ratham**, a multi-utility vehicle. Also known as '**World on Wheels (WoW)**', Naipunya Ratham is aimed at taking technology and innovation to the remote corners of the State.

ii. As part of the '**Smart Village Smart Ward Programme**' of the state, the Naipunya Rathams will facilitate and look to improve digital literacy and digital skills.

- **Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve** is situated in Andhra Pradesh.

➤ **World's Largest Cruise Ship 'Symphony of the Seas' Sets Sail**

i. The world's biggest cruise-liner, **Symphony of the Seas**, has left the shipyard of **Saint-Nazaire in France** to embark on its maiden voyage in the Mediterranean. French shipbuilder STX handed over to U.S. giant Royal Caribbean International.

ii. The ship, which **weighs 228,000 tonnes, is 362 metres long** just 20 metres shy of the length of the Empire State Building. It is marginally bigger than its sister ship, the **Harmony of the Seas**, which STX France delivered to Royal Caribbean in 2016.

➤ **Anushka Sharma & PV Sindhu Debut in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 List**

i. **Bollywood actress-producer Anushka Sharma and Badminton Ace P V Sindhu** had featured in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 list**. The list includes innovators and disruptors who are reshaping their industries and changing Asia for the better.

ii. Anushka, one of Indian film industry's highest paid actresses, is all of 29. Pakistani singer Momina Mustehsan too found a mention.

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

➤ **West Bengal Introduces 'Rupashree Scheme' for Marriage of Poor Girls**

i. The state government of **West Bengal introduced a new scheme called 'Rupashree'** in order to provide marriage assistance to girls coming from economically weaker families with a **budgetary allocation of Rs 1500 crore**.

ii. The scheme proposes to extend one-time financial assistance worth Rs 25,000 to the family of the girl whose annual income is up to Rs 1.5 lakh.

➤ **CWG 2018: Mirabai Chanu Wins India's First Gold Medal**

i. **Weightlifter and current world champion Mirabai Chanu has clinched India's first gold medal** of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Mirabai Chanu becomes the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2018.

ii. After finishing with the best lift of 86 kg in the snatch round, the 23-year-old finished with a total score of **196 points**. She competed in the 48 kg category.

➤ **TN Govt Launches Mobile App Bi-lingual 'Uzhavan' for Farmers**

i. In a bid to use technology for farmers' benefit, **Tamil Nadu government** has come out with a mobile application named '**Uzhavan (farmer) app**' that will allow ryots to have access to **nine types of services**. It was launched by Chief Minister K Palaniswami.

ii. The app can be used by farmers to get information on farm subsidies, book farm equipment and related infrastructure and get details on their crop insurance, besides receiving weather forecast for the next four days. Palaniswami also launched the '**Amma Bio-Fertiliser' scheme**.

➤ **Anushka Sharma to Get Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award**

i. **Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma** awarded the **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award** for her successful movies as a producer.

➤ **India Win Badminton Team Gold for 1st Time in CWG History**

i. **India clinched their first-ever badminton mixed team event gold in Commonwealth Games history** after defeating defending champions Malaysia 3-1 in the final at Gold Coast.

ii. India's previous best performance in mixed team event at CWG was a silver-medal finish in the 2010 edition. **Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth represented India** in singles' matches of the five-member team event.

➤ PM Modi Launches India's 1st All-Electric High-Speed Train

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first all-electric high-speed locomotive in Bihar.
- ii. The first big Make-in-India project completed by France's Alstom, the train has the country's most powerful engine with 12,000 horsepower and a maximum speed of 120 km/hr.
 - Piyush Goyal is the present Railway Minister of India.
 - John Mathai was the first Railway Minister of Independent India.

➤ Transgenders to be Recognised as Independent Gender Category in PAN Form

- i. The government has amended Income Tax rules that will now allow transgenders to be recognised as an independent category of applicants for obtaining a Permanent Account Number (PAN) for their tax-related transactions.
- ii. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which frames the policy for the department, issued a notification that provides a new tick box for the transgenders to apply for the PAN.
 - Sushil Chandra is the present Chairman of CBDT.
 - It headquarters in New Delhi.

➤ India's Kidambi Srikanth Becomes World No. 1 Badminton Player

- i. Kidambi Srikanth has become the first Indian male badminton player to attain the world number one ranking since Prakash Padukone in the 1980s.
- ii. Srikanth had become the first-ever Indian to win four Superseries titles in a year in 2017. It helped India win gold at the mixed team event at the Commonwealth Games for the first time ever.

➤ Late Veteran Actor Vinod Khanna Awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- i. Veteran Hindi film actor Shri Vinod Khanna was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to Indian Cinema. This was announced during the 65th National Film Awards.
- ii. Some of the other prominent winners in various categories for this year National Film Awards included Assamese movie 'Village Rockstars' in Best Feature Film category and 'Baahubali - The Conclusion' in the Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment category.

➤ CWG 2018: Anish Bhanwala Becomes India's Youngest CWG Gold Medalist

- i. Fifteen-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala became India's youngest gold medalist at the

Commonwealth Games, winning the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Finals with a record score at Gold Coast, Australia.
ii. India's Neeraj Kumar stood fifth at the event. Anish, who is participating in his first Commonwealth Games, won gold at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney 2017.

➤ Naman Tanwar Wins India's 1st Boxing Medal

- i. Nineteen-year-old Naman Tanwar won India its first boxing medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, winning a bronze in the men's 91 kg category.
- ii. Naman lost out to Australia's Jason Whateley in the semifinal of the event to secure the bronze. India has won a total of 35 medals, including 16 golds, 8 silver and 11 bronze medals so far.

➤ Mary Kom, 1st Indian Woman to Win CWG Boxing Gold

- i. Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom has become the first Indian woman boxer to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
- ii. Mary Kom achieved the feat after defeating Northern Ireland's Kristina O'Hara in the 45-48kg category final at Gold Coast, Australia. The 35-year-old boxer from Manipur is participating in her maiden Commonwealth Games.

➤ Aditi Rao Hydari to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award for Bhoomi

- i. Aditi Rao Hydari received Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award 2018 for the Best Leading Lady (Critics Award) for her memorable performance in Bhoomi.

➤ Karan Johar, 1st Indian Filmmaker in Madame Tussauds Collection

- i. Karan Johar has become the first-ever Bollywood filmmaker to get a place at the famous Madame Tussauds.
 - Madame Tussauds is a wax museum in London with smaller museums in a number of other major cities.
 - It was founded by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud.

➤ Nitish Kumar Launches 3 Books On Champaran Movement

- i. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released three books based on Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917.
- ii. The Champaran movement is acknowledged as the first Satyagraha movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi.
- iii. Nitish Kumar released the books titled-
 - 'Mister M K Gandhi Ki Champaran Diary' written by Arvind Mohan,
 - 'Champaran Andolan 1917' edited by Ashutosh Partheshwar

- **'Pir Muhammad Munis: Kalam Ka Satyagrahi'** collected and edited by Srikant.

➤ **Indu Malhotra, 1st Woman Lawyer Appointed as SC Judge**

- Senior lawyer Indu Malhotra** was sworn in as the judge of the Supreme Court in the presence of **Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra**. The appointment was made by the **President Ram Nath Kovind**.
- Malhotra has now become the **first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a Supreme Court judge**.
- In 2007, Mrs Malhotra was only the second woman to be appointed a senior advocate by the apex court, three decades after **Leila Seth first made history**.

➤ **Swachh Bharat Mission Launches GOBAR-DHAN Scheme**

- Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti**, launched the **GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN** scheme at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Auditorium, **Karnal, Haryana**.
- The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.

➤ **Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle Honored with PC Chandra Puraskaar**

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

➤ **Mohamed Salah Named Writers' Footballer of The Year**

- Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah** has been named the **Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year**. Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne came second with Tottenham striker Harry Kane third.
- The Egypt star - the first African winner of the award - also won the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year award.

➤ **No Nobel Prize In Literature This Year**

- The **Swedish Academy** has decided to **postpone the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature**, with the intention of awarding it in 2019.
- The decision has been taken in the wake of a sexual and financial scandal that has engulfed the Swedish Academy, the cultural institution responsible for awarding the prestigious

prize. **For the first time since 1949**, the secretive jury will not unveil a winner this autumn.

- **Kazuo Ishiguro** was the winner of Nobel Prize 2017.

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

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

➤ **Book Release By Chief of Army Staff**

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

➤ **Lata Mangeshkar Conferred With Swara Mauli Award**

- Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar** was honoured with the **Swara Mauli** title by spiritual guru **Vidya Narsimha Bharati Swami**. Mangeshkar, 88, was conferred with the award at her residence in Mumbai.
- Her sisters **Asha Bhosle** and **Usha Mangeshkar** and brother **Hridaynath Mangeshkar** were also present.
 - Mangeshkar was awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, the highest civilian award in the country, in 2001 - the second vocalist, after **MS Subbulakshmi** to receive the honour.

➤ **India's 1st Solar Powered Railway Station in Guwahati**

- Guwahati** now has **India's first railway station run by solar power**. The project of installing solar panels was commissioned in April 2017. Around 2352 solar modules with a capacity of generating 700 kwp has been set up over the roof of the Guwahati railway station.

➤ **Sridevi Honoured At Cannes Film Festival**

- Veteran Bollywood actor Sridevi** was honoured with the **TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award** at the **Cannes Film Festival**.
- The award traditionally celebrates women of the film industry all over the world and also salute the multi-cultural impact on the world of cinema.

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

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a day-long visit to Jammu and Kashmir. During his visit, Prime Minister laid down the foundation stone of '**Zojila Tunnel**' on the **Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh**.

ii. The 14.2-kilometre long Zojila tunnel will be **India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel**.

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

➤ **Shivangi Pathak Becomes Youngest Indian Woman to Scale Mount Everest**

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

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

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

➤ **India Launches Its 2nd IT Corridor In China**

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

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

➤ **Hamburg To Host 2018 Global Wind Summit**

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

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

➤ **Daniel Ricciardo Wins Monaco Grand Prix 2018**

i. Australian Formula One racer Daniel Ricciardo handed **Red Bull** a victory in their **250th race in the Formula One** at Monaco GP.

ii. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, last year's winner at the Monaco GP, finished second while Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton was third.

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

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

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

➤ **Gujarat Government Launches 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy'**

i. The Gujarat government unveiled its '**Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy**' which aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada river.

ii. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel launched the policy at a function held in Gandhinagar. The policy will promote the use of treated wastewater and will see the setting up of **sewage treatment plants (STP)** in all major towns and cities of Gujarat.

➤ **PM Modi 3-Nation Visit: India & Indonesia Sign 15 MoUs**

i. On the first leg of 3-Nation visit, PM Modi has visited Indonesia. India and Indonesia signed **15 MoUs** in the fields of **defence, scientific and technological cooperation, railways and health**, among others.

ii. PM Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo in a joint statement also agreed to develop further cooperation in maritime sector for "**immense stability**" in the region.

➤ **Microsoft Is Now Third Most Valuable Firm Globally**

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

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

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

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

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

➤ India and World Bank Signs \$500 Million Additional Financing for PMGSY

- i. **The Government of India and the World Bank** signed a **\$500 million loan agreement** to provide additional financing for the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project**, implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.
- ii. **The \$500 million loan**, from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a 3-year grace period, and a maturity of 10 years.

➤ World's Largest International Maritime Exercise RIMPAC

- i. As many as 26 countries, including India, will participate in the biennial **Rim of the Pacific, RIMPAC military exercise**, in and around the **Hawaiian Islands and Southern California**. The announcement was made by the Pentagon.
- ii. **It is the world's largest international maritime exercise**. The countries participating in the exercise include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom among others.

➤ Andhra Pradesh Gets Its Own Symbols

- i. **Neem and black buck** have been declared as **the state tree and animal** respectively of Andhra Pradesh.
- ii. **The rose-ringed parakeet** will be the **state bird** while **jasmine will be the state flower**.
- Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated to create Telangana in June, 2014.

➤ US Pacific Command Renamed As Indo-Pacific Command

- i. **The United States** has renamed its oldest and largest military command, **US Pacific Command**, or PACOM, to **Indo-Pacific Command**, according to the US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis.
- ii. The decision has been taken in recognition of the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in US strategic thinking. The Trump administration had also renamed Asia Pacific as Indo-Pacific and identified India as one bookend of the region.

➤ Ordinance to Set Up Country's 1st National Sports University Gets President's Assent

- i. **President Ram Nath Kovind** has given his assent to an ordinance to set up the **country's first national sports university in Manipur**.
- ii. The Union Cabinet had approved an ordinance in May 2018 in this regard. National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 will be on the lines of the National Sports University Bill, 2017 which was introduced in Lok Sabha in 2017.

➤ Government Launches New Scheme 'Seva Bhoj Yojna'

- i. **The Union Ministry of Culture** introduced a new scheme called **'Seva Bhoj Yojna'** to reimburse the central share of **CGST and IGST** on items for food/prasad/langar/bhandara offered free of cost by **charitable religious institutions**.
- ii. The scheme has been launched for financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 crores.

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➤ China Successfully Launches New Earth Observation Satellite

- i. **China** successfully launched a **new Earth observation satellite 'the Gaofen-6'** which will be mainly used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring.
- ii. The Satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. It was the 276th mission of the Long March rocket series.

➤ Asia's 1st 13 'Blue Flag' Beaches To Be Developed in India

- i. Environment-friendly, clean and equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists, **13 Indian beaches will soon get the Blue Flag certification**. These beaches of **Odisha, Maharashtra and other coastal states** will be the first in not just India, but in Asia, to get the Blue Flag certification.
- ii. The Indian beaches are being developed by the **Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)**, an environment ministry's body working for the management of coastal areas.
- The Blue Flag beach standards were established by Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985.

➤ Govt Launches 'Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan' To Help Farmers In Aspirational Districts To Raise Their Income

- i. The government has announced the launch of **'Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan'** under which farmers in select villages

will be given assistance and advice on ways to improve farming techniques and raise their income.

ii. The Agriculture Ministry in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **doubling farmers' income by 2022** has launched the Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan from 1st June to 31st July 2018.

- Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (formerly Ministry of Agriculture), a branch of the Government of India.

➤ **World Environment Day 2018 Celebrated In New Delhi**

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the global celebrations of World Environment Day 2018 on 05th June in New Delhi. Prime Minister also visited the exhibition set up on the occasion, themed '**Beat Plastic Pollution**'.

ii. India was the global host nation for the 43rd edition of this event.

➤ **Election Commission Launches Its Online RTI Portal**

i. The Election Commission has launched its online RTI Portal. The portal- rti.eci.nic.in will facilitate applicants seeking information under the Right to Information Act.

ii. The portal also facilitates the online reply to applications and also for making first appeal and reply thereto.

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

➤ **Mithali Becomes First Indian To Score 2000 T20I Runs**

i. Indian cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first batter from the country to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket.

ii. She achieved the feat during India's Women's T20 Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur.

ii. Mithali is the seventh woman batter to score 2,000 runs in T20Is, a list which is topped by Charlotte Edwards (2,605), followed by Stafanie Taylor (2,582) and Suzie Bates (2,515). When it comes to men's T20I, the list is led by Martin Guptill (2271) followed by Brendon McCullum (2140) and Virat Kohli (1983).

➤ **Kohli To Get Cricketer Of The Year Award At BCCI Annual Gala**

i. India captain Virat Kohli's phenomenal batting form has fetched him the BCCI's best cricketer award for two seasons, while World Cup stars Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana were chosen for the women's equivalent of the honour, the Board announced.

ii. Following his phenomenal show in the past two seasons, Team India captain Virat Kohli was presented with the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the BCCI Awards held in Bengaluru.

➤ **President Declares Queen Pineapple As Tripura's 'State Fruit'**

i. President Ram Nath Kovind has declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit and its export was a major step in connecting the state with world trade.

➤ **Anupam Kher Received Outstanding Achievement Award At IIFA 2018**

i. Veteran actor Anupam Kher was given the prestigious Outstanding Achievement honour at the upcoming International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards ceremony in Bangkok.

ii. The 63-year-old actor, who has worked in over 500 films spanning across languages along with projects both in India and abroad for over three decades, honoured for his contribution in the field of cinema.

➤ **Centre Launches 'Rail MADAD', 'Menu On Rails' Mobile Apps**

i. The Ministry of Railways has launched two mobile applications to ease the traveling experience. The two apps, '**Rail MADAD**' and '**Menu on Rails**', were launched by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State (MoS) Manoj Sinha.

- Rail MADAD will enable travelers to lodge complaints,
- Menu on Rails will facilitate seamless ordering of food.

➤ **World Day Against Child Labour: 12th June 2018**

i. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

ii. This year, the World Day Against Child Labour and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.

- ILO is a United Nations agency dealing with labour problems.
- Headquarters of ILO is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Guy Ryder is current Director-General of the ILO.

➤ **Ronda Rousey To Be The First Female Hall Of Famer In UFC**

i. American fighter Ronda Rousey will become the first female MMA fighter to be inducted into the Ultimate Fighting Championship Hall of Fame, the UFC announced. There would be no women in UFC without Ronda Rousey.

ii. Rousey had a 12-2 win-loss record, winning 11 of them within the first round of the fight.

➤ **India's 1st National Police Museum To Come Up In Delhi**

i. The Union Government has announced to establish **India's first national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi.**

ii. The museum is expected to be inaugurated on **21st October 2018 on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.**

➤ **Virat Kohli Receives Polly Umrigar Trophy At Annual BCCI Awards**

i. **Indian captain Virat Kohli** has received the prestigious **Polly Umrigar Trophy (Cricketer of the Year) award** for two consecutive seasons (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the **BCCI Annual Awards function.**

ii. **Anshuman Gaekwad and Sudha Shah** received the **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement award.**

iii. Jalaj Saxena and Parvez Rasool were adjudged 'Best All Rounders' in Ranji Trophy while Krunal Pandya was rewarded for his performance in the Hazare one-day championship.

- **BCCI President-** C.K. Khanna,
- **Headquarters-** Mumbai.

➤ **Smriti Mandhana to Become 1st Indian to Play in England's Kia Super League**

i. **India Women's Cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana** will become the **first Indian player to appear in Kia Super League** - the women's cricket super league in England.

ii. Smriti was signed by Western Storm and will represent them in the upcoming edition of the tournament that features six teams.

➤ **Anukreethy Vas Crowned Femina Miss India 2018**

i. **Anukreethy Vas, a 19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student,** has been crowned **Femina Miss India 2018** in a grand ceremony in Mumbai hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar and actor Ayushmann Kurrana.

ii. Anukreethy Vas had beaten 30 contestants to bag the top honour in front of a judges panel that included Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar.

iii. Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana was the first runner-up while Shreya Rao Kamavarapu from Andhra Pradesh secured the second runner-up position.

- Reita Faria was the first Miss World from India in 1966.

➤ **Telangana Police Launched 'Cop Connect' App**

i. **The Telangana police** have launched a **mobile-based messenger application named 'Cop Connect'** dedicated to provide real-time information to over 60,000 police officers across the State.

ii. The mobile-based application launched by the Director General of Police M. Mahender Reddy will also support the police department in improving quality of service delivered to the public.

➤ **Punjab Government Launched Mobile App- 'i-Hariyali'**

i. **The Punjab Government** has launched a mobile application named **'i-Hariyali'** aimed at increasing the state's green cover. The mobile application would enable the users to order free plant saplings.

ii. **The 'i-Hariyali' app, under 'Mission Tandarust Punjab'** can be downloaded from the app store for free.

➤ **Vice President Receives The Book 'Vedvigyan Alok'**

i. **The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu** has received the book **"Vedvigyan Alok"** (Maharishi Aitareya Mahidas Praneet - Aitareya Brahmina ki Vaigyanik Vyakhya) **authored by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik.**

ii. The book is divided into four broad volumes. The Book Vedvigyan Alok is the scriptural verse in Vedas' prose.

➤ **World's Most Powerful Supercomputer 'Summit' Unveiled By US**

i. US scientists have unveiled the **world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer named 'Summit'** that can complete over **200,000 trillion calculations per second** - providing unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (AI).

ii. The US Department of Energy's **Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) supercomputer** called Summit will be eight times more powerful than its **previous top-ranked system, Titan.**

➤ **World's 1st International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics Launched in Gujarat**

i. The world's first of its kind and state-of-the-art **International Centre for 'Humanitarian Forensics' (ICHF)** was launched at the **Gujarat Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

ii. The main aim of the Centre would be to provide service to the nation and to the entire world when the need arises.

➤ **World Music Day: 21 June**

i. **The World Music Day** is celebrated across the world on **21 June.** The day is also known as **'Fete de la Musique'** after a music festival that began in France in 1982.

ii. This Day was first celebrated on 21st June 1982.

➤ International Yoga Day: 21 June

i. The **4th International Yoga Day** was celebrated across the globe on 21st of June.

ii. In India Prime Minister Narendra Modi led thousands of people in performing yoga asanas, in the **main event organised at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.**

iii. The **theme** for Yoga Day 2018 is **"Yoga for Peace"**.

- The event at Rajpath in 2015 established two Guinness world records - one for the largest yoga class, featuring 35,985 people, and second for the largest number of participating nationalities (84 nations).

➤ PM Modi Laid Foundation Stone of Paperless Vanijya Bhawan

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Paperless **Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi.** Once ready, the **new building will house Department of Commerce.** The building will accommodate about 1000 officers and staff.

ii. It will be a completely paperless office with state of the art facilities such as smart access control, central air-conditioning, video conferencing, and completely networked systems. The Department of Commerce is currently housed in Udyog Bhawan.

iii. **Ukraine's Sergey Karjakin remains the youngest ever GM,** having achieved the feat at the age of 12 years and seven months in 2002.

➤ Gujarat Launches 'Suryashakti Kisan Yojana' For Farmers

i. The **Gujarat government** launched a solar power scheme for farmers- **Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY)** enabling them to generate electricity for their captive consumption as well as sell the surplus power to the grid and earn an extra buck.

ii. As per the scheme, farmers having existing electricity connection will be given solar panels as per their load requirements. The State and Central governments will give **60% subsidy on the cost of the project.** The farmer is required to take 5% cost, while 35% will be provided to him as an affordable loan with interest rates of 4.5-6%.

➤ IIFA Awards 2018 Announced

i. At the **Indian International Film Awards (IIFA),** late star **Sridevi won Best Actress (posthumously) for MOM** while **Irrfan Khan was given the Best Actor Award for Hindi Medium.**

ii. The award ceremony was held in Bangkok. Vidya Balan's **Tumhari Sulu** was awarded the Best Film trophy. Karan Johar and Riteish Deshmukh hosted the show.



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➤ India's R Praggnanandhaa Becomes World's 2nd Youngest Chess Grand Master

i. **India's R Praggnanandhaa** has become the **country's youngest and the world's second youngest** Grand Master at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days after reaching the final round of the ongoing Grendine Open in Italy.

ii. The Chennai-based player was paired with Grand Master Pruijssers Roland in the final round, which ensured that he would achieve the feat.