

# APPLO STUDY CENTRE



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2018

### JANUARY 1 - 5

#### NATION

**Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** - launched in October 2014, to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation. It aims to achieve Swachh Bharat or make India clean by 2019, as a fitting tribute to the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### **Swachh Survekshan 2018 (cleanliness survey)**

- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 will rank 500 cities on national level which have more than 1 lakh population, while 3,541 cities with less than 1 lakh population will have State and Regional ranking.
- The 2017 edition was conducted in January-February 2017 covering 434 Urban Local Bodies. Indore emerged as the cleanest city in the country in that survey.

#### **First digital Online Oncology Tutorial**

- Designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry.
- Aims to train the doctors across the country to educate them in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.

- This is part of a national program that will be rolled out across the country by Tata Memorial Centre in collaboration with state governments.

### **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**

- Announced in 2003.
- Its objectives are correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- It establishes AIIMS in various regions of India apart from different government colleges.
- It is funded from different centrally sponsored schemes relating to creating infrastructure on health.

### **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved five projects worth Rs. 295.01 crore.**

- Three projects pertain to sewage management in West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs 278.6 crore, one relates to sewage management in Uttarakhand at an estimated cost of Rs 4.68 crore and one project worth Rs 11.73 crore is related to ghat improvement works in Varanasi.
- With these approvals, all projects related to sewage management in high pollution load towns along river Ganga have been sanctioned.

**Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)** - Provides grant-in-aid to non-governmental organizations for various projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. The objective of the scheme is to enable persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

### **Online portal 'NARI'**

- Developed by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

- The portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
- The NARI portal summarizes over 350 government schemes and other important information for the benefit of women, with more being added every day.

**e-Samvad portal** - A platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Government of India has announced to launch of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 commencing from 10th January 2018 to enable resident citizens/HUF to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling.

Centre releases Rs 24,500 crore to compensate states post GST. As per the details of GST compensation released to states as on November 30, Karnataka got maximum compensation from the Centre followed by Gujarat and Punjab.

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of Asia's longest bi-directional Zojila Pass tunnel (14.2-km long tunnel project) at an estimated cost of Rs 6,089 crore, which will reduce the travel time between Srinagar and Leh to 15 minutes from the current 3.5 hours.

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and 'Transport for London', a statutory body established under the Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK) to improve Public Transport in India.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) For capacity augmentation of navigation on 1,380-km Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW1) on Ganga River.

The Union Government has announced details of, electoral bonds for political funding that can be routed by donors to political parties. The electoral bonds scheme was announced in Union Budget

2017 with an aim for increasing transparency in political funding. It makes India first country in the world to have such unique bonds for electoral funding.

India ranked 90th among 163 countries in the positive peace index.

India Cancels \$500 Million Deal For Israeli Anti-Tank Missiles.

## **BILLS IN PARLIAMENT**

### **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill 2017**

- Lok Sabha has passed The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to allow government to take up infrastructure projects within prohibited areas around protected monuments. The Bill amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.
- **AMUSR Act 1968** - The AMASR Act provides for preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance. It provides for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects. It was passed in 1958.

### **NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

- The Parliament has gave its nod to a Bill that allows the central government to increase from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore the limit to which it can increase the capital of NABARD.
- The bill seeks to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.
- The 1981 Act provides for the establishment of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), responsible for providing and regulating facilities like credit for agricultural and industrial development in the rural areas.

**Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill, 2017** - The Bill amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 and replaces Ordinance promulgated in November 2017 to pave way for tightening loopholes in existing code and make resolution process more effective.

## STATES

1. GAIL commissions India's second largest rooftop solar plant in **Uttar Pradesh**.
2. The entire Nagaland has been declared as "disturbed area" for six more months, till June- end, under the controversial AFSPA, which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.
3. Arunachal Pradesh has been emerged as the second state in the Northeast, after Sikkim, to be declared Open Defecation Free.
4. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has launched "Saubhagya Yojana", a programme that would provide electricity to all.
5. Cabinet approves setting up of new AIIMS in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh.

## WORLD

1. Iceland has become the first country in the world to legalize equal pay for men and women equally.
2. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates introduced value-added tax, a first for the Gulf which has long prided itself on its tax-free.
3. China has successfully developed new underwater surveillance network to help its submarines get stronger lock on targets while protecting nation's interests along maritime Silk Road, which also includes Indian Ocean.
4. Ripple becomes second-largest crypto currency by market cap, surpassing ethereum.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. **New Ginger Species** - Botanical Survey of India (ESI) scientists have discovered two new species of ginger named *Hedychium chingrmeianum* and *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* in easternmost districts of northeast India. Both the plants belong to the family of *Zingiberaceae*, to which the commonly found ginger (*Zingiber officinal*) belongs.
2. **Night frog species** - Scientists have discovered new species of frog named Mewa Singh's night frog (*Nyctibatrachus mewasingtii*) in Kozhikode's Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala in Western Ghats. It has been named in honour of wildlife scientist Mewa Singh for his contributions to behavioural ecology and primate studies.
3. **Schistura Larketensis** - New species of blind fish discovered inside Meghalaya cave. The fish has been named after Larket village, where the cave has been found to encourage local people to take up biodiversity conservation.
4. **Four new balsam species** - From various locations in Eastern Himalayas in northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. They are *Impatiens haridasanii*, *Impatiens pseudocitrina*, *Impatiens nilalohitae* and *Impatiens roingensis*.
5. **Parker Solar Probe** - NASA to launch Parker Solar Probe to explore sun's outer atmosphere in 2018. It will be launched onboard of Delta IV Heavy launch vehicle. It will perform its scientific investigations in a hazardous region of intense heat and solar radiation.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

1. AB Mathur - Government interlocutor for talks with the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).
2. Vijay Keshav Gokhale - Foreign secretary
3. Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga - Mali's new PM
4. Rajinder Khanna - Deputy National Security Advisor
5. Salil Parekh - Infosys CEO and MD
6. Eminent Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpuri dies at 71

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, India's Premier Container Port, has won the 'Samudra Manthan - Caring Organization of the Year' award.

## SPORTS AND GAMES

1. **Ranji Trophy** - Vidarbha beat Delhi to win maiden title.
2. **61st National Shooting Championship (NSCC)** - Held in New Delhi. Shahzar Rizvi Wins Men's 10m Air Pistol Gold
3. **Golf** - Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won the Royal Cup at Pattaya, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017.

## JANUARY 6 - 10

### NATION

Income Tax Department launched an on-line chat service on its national website with a prominent icon stating 'Live Chat Online- ask your query'.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) - operational from June 1,2015; with an aim to provide affordable universal access to essential social security protection to unorganized work force of country, which makes major chunk of labour force [83%).

e-Sansad and e-Vidhan - They are mission mode projects of Union Government under Digital India to make the functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures paperless. They aim to digitize and make available Parliament and state legislature documents, including debates, speeches, committee reports and questions on internet.

The Supreme Court has ruled that playing national anthem before screening movies in cinema halls is optional and not mandatory. The ruling modifies apex court's earlier November 2016 order that made the playing of national anthem in cinemas mandatory.

The Union Defense Ministry has sanctioned raising of Territorial Army (TA) battalion comprising ex-servicemen of Indian Army as part of its mission to clean the Ganga by 2020. It has been named as *Composite Ecological Task Force (CETF) battalion* of TA for National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the nodal agency for cleaning Ganga. The CETF battalion will be raised in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh as a pilot project.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is going to roll out *National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis*, a new scheme free treatment of Hepatitis C from the 2018-19 financial year. Under the new scheme, the focus will be on anti-viral treatment of Hepatitis C which will be provided free at all government health set-ups.



The subcommittee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) looking into issues of girl's education has recommended free and compulsory education for girls up to post-graduate level across the country.

New Rs.10 currency notes under the Mahatma Gandhi series. - The new banknotes will have chocolate brown colour as the base and will also bear the picture of Odisha's Konark Sun Temple on the reverse side.

Operation Alert - The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched "Operation Alert" along the over 200 kilometer long International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to curb the increasing movement of infiltrating terrorists from across the border.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

## STATES

Vulnerable Odisha tribe Mankidia - denied habitat in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha under historic Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Mankidia is one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and is a marginalized group that critically depends on making rope with siali fibre that's richly available in Similipal.

Tamil Nadu has emerged as the leader in the country in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. GER for higher education is calculated with reference to the age group 18-23.

The West Bengal government has launched its official emblem. Conceptualized and designed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The state emblem is the "Biswa Bangla" logo with Ashoka Pillar of the national emblem.

Bengaluru has emerged as the most well-read city in India, while Mumbai and Delhi stands at second and third position, respectively, according to a survey conducted by Amazon India's Annual Reading Trends Reports for 2017.

Gujarat tops in logistics ease across different states index, closely followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh to get its first Film and Television Institute. This would be the second such one in the country.

India's first National Park for differently abled people inaugurated in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Gudiya - 24X7 helpline for women in Himachal Pradesh.

Defence Innovation Centre - to be set up at Coimbatore.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Pratyush**

- India's fastest and first multi-petaflops (PF) supercomputer named Pratyush was unveiled at Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). The supercomputer has been named as 'Pratyush' meaning Sun.
- It will help India with better forecasts in terms of monsoon, extreme events, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, air quality, lightning, fishing, hot and cold waves, flood and drought among others.
- Pratyush - an array of computers that can deliver a peak power of 6.8 petaflops.
- Pratyush is the fourth fastest supercomputer in the world dedicated for weather and climate research, and follows machines in Japan, USA and the United Kingdom.

- One petaflop is a million billion floating point operations per second and is a reflection of the computing capacity of a system.

**Charlie-435:** Patrol vessel of Indian Coast Guard. Commissioned at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The vessel will strengthen coastal security between Chennai and Kanyakumari in the Eastern Coastal region. It will be also of great help in rescuing fishermen in sea due to bad weather.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch two missions – GOLD and ICON later this year, to explore the ionosphere.

Scientists from Duke University in North Carolina, US for the first time have developed working human skeletal muscle from stem cells in the laboratory.

### PERSONS IN NEWS

K. Sivan (Tamil Nadu) - Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of Space Commission and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

Arun Jaitley committee - to decide what to do with old, pre-existing projects in ports, which have become unviable.

B.R. Sharma committee - To take a call on National Anthem in cinema halls.

Dilip Asbe - MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

T S Tirumurti - Economic Relations Secretary

Indian-origin businessman Sunny Varghese - Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

A R Rahman - Sikkim's brand ambassador.

Astronaut of NASA John Young, who walked on the moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight passed away in Houston, US.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

**Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** - 1st Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity in Public Life.

### **Golden Globes 2018**

- Best actress in a limited series or television movie: Nicole Kidman
- Best supporting actor in a motion picture (drama): Sam Rockwell
- Best supporting actor in a series, limited series or TV film: Alexander Skarsgård
- Best actor (comedy/musical): James Franco
- Best animated film: Coco
- Best foreign film: In the Fade
- Best film director: Guillermo del Toro
- Best actress in a film (comedy/musical): Saoirse Ronan
- Best film (comedy/musical): Lady Bird
- Best actor (drama): Gary Oldman
- Best actress (drama): Frances McDormand
- Best film (drama): Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

World Book Fair 2018 - New Delhi. The theme of the event is "Environment & Climate Change". European Union will be the guest of honour for this year.

ASEAN India Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas 2018 - Singapore.

The first-ever Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) - Parliamentarian Conference - New Delhi.

Annual Meeting 2018 of World Economic Forum - Davos in Switzerland with the theme of 'Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World'.

18th All India Whips' Conference's - Udaipur, Rajasthan

Conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police - Tekanpur

First Health Ministers Roundtable on Food Safety & Nutrition - New Delhi.

The third edition of the Science Film Festival of India - Goa.

2<sup>nd</sup> Goa Bird Festival - Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Canacona.

International kite festival - Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

## WORLD

- China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is planning to issue its first US dollar-denominated bond with minimum worth of \$1 billion by June 2018.
- The US has placed Pakistan on a 'Special Watch List' for "severe violations" of religious freedom.
- Iran has banned teaching the English language in primary schools, calling the subject a "cultural invasion".

## SPORTS AND GAMES

- Host of 39<sup>th</sup> National Games in 2022 - Meghalaya
- Gilles Simon (France) defeated Kevin Anderson (South Africa) to lift the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra trophy.
- Aditya Mehta wins Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship.

- Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber to win the Hopman Cup.

## **JANUARY 11 - 15**

### **NATION**

#### **National Youth Festival**

- The Festival will commence on the occasion of birth anniversary (January 12) of Swami Vivekananda, the youth icon of India.
- This is the first time that the National Youth Festival is being organized in National Capital Region.
- The objective of organizing NYF is to provide a platform to bring the youth of the country together in an attempt to provide them opportunity to showcase their talents in various activities.
- National Youth Festival (NYF) is the biggest Youth Festival of its kind in the Country.
- This is the 22nd National Youth Festival. The 1st National Youth Festival was held in 1995 in Bhopal.

#### **SFOORTI Application**

- In a major digital initiative to help plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations, Ministry of Railways have launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App.
- This is an app for Freight Managers which provides features for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard.

Jains are the wealthiest religious community in India. Delhi and Punjab are the richest states. Bihar is the poorest - These are the findings of the fourth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), recently released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Delhi's Teen Murti Chowk renamed Teen Murti Haifa Chowk, as a symbolic gesture of friendship with Israel, India renamed the iconic Teen Murti Chowk, a war memorial, during the visit of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

India's first-ever FDI in fertiliser sector: Norwegian fertiliser giant Yara International.

NITI Aayog tank to rank 115 backward (aspirational) districts by April 2018.

The World Economic Forum [WEF] has ranked India at 30th position among 100 countries on its Global Manufacturing Index (GMI). Top 2 countries in GMI: Japan and South Korea.

World Bank projects 7.3% growth for India.

## STATES

India's first plant to convert coal to synthetic gas is to be set up in Odisha by GAIL.

## WORLD

China has successfully launched two BeiDou-3 satellites to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along Belt and Road initiative (BRI) by the end of 2018.

World's largest solar thermal plant to be built in South Australia.

Nepal starts receiving internet connection from China.

## INDIA AND THE WORLD

India, UK ink MoUs to enable return of illegal Indian migrants and sharing of criminal records.

India and Sri Lanka signed four agreements for collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector between both countries.

India contributes \$50,000 to UN Youth Envoy's office to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals.

India top borrower from China-sponsored AIIB in 2017.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### PSLV-C40

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its 100th satellite on January 12 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C40), on its 42nd mission, will carry 'Cartosat-2', a weather observation satellite and 30 other satellites.
- This is ISRO's first launch in 2018.
- It is also the first after the unsuccessful mission of IRNSS-1H in August last year.

**Rizhao:** A new missile frigate of China. It is China's indigenous missile frigate named after Rizhao city in Shandong Province of China.

*Elcysma ziroensis* - New moth species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

Indian Navy decommissions **INS Nirbhik** and **INS Nirghat** warships.

## PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

**Indu Malhotra** - First woman lawyer directly appointed for SC judgeship



**Anil Khanna** - Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association.

**Umesh Sinha committee** - to suggest new poll rules (to study how social media and other digital platforms are used ahead of polls and make suggestions on how to adapt the Model Code of Conduct to these changes).

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

**Actress Kajol** - An advocacy ambassador for a Swachh Aadat Swachh Bharat initiative.

**Shahrukh Khan** - The Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. He will get the award for "his leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India".

The first all-women station in India, **Matunga** (Maharashtra) on Central Railway (CR), manned by a staff of 41 women, has entered the Limca Book of Records.

**Indian Air Force Conquers 'Seven Summits'** - An expert team of IAF mountaineers had successfully scaled highest peaks of six different continents earlier and had recently embarked upon its culminating expedition to Mt Vinson in Antarctica to complete Mission Seven Summits.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

- The 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference on "State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions" was held at Rajgir in Nalanda district, Bihar.
- 65th meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education - New Delhi
- International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure - New Delhi
- Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry - Delhi

- The 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between Govt. of India and Malaysia - New Delhi
- 7th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018' - Karnataka
- Economic Democracy Conclave - Thane, Maharashtra.

## SPORTS AND GAMES

- Hyderabad Hunters - Won the third Premier Badminton League (PBL) in Hyderabad.
- Sarjubala Devi (48kg), representing Manipur, claimed the gold as well as the best boxer trophy in the National Women's Boxing Championships.
- Aanchal Thakur (Himachal Pradesh) made history by winning India's first-ever international medal in skiing. She clinched bronze in the coveted Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organized by the Federation International de Ski in Turkey.

## JANUARY 16 - 25

**Operation Digital Board** - The idea of Operation Digital Board is aimed at providing better digital education in all schools. This will offer new opportunities and new ways of teaching and learning to schools. Operation Digital Board would be launched with the involvement of the Central and State governments, CSIR and community support

**Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative** - To strengthen cyber security ecosystem in India in line with Government's vision for a 'Digital India'. It was launched in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.

**AMRIT scheme** - The AMRIT (Affordable medicine and reliable implants for treatment) scheme aims to reduce expenditure incurred

by patients on treatment of cancer and cardio vascular (heart) diseases to make health care affordable for poor. Its intended beneficiaries are patients suffering from cancer and heart diseases (non-communicable diseases).

**OPV Vijaya** - The second indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named Vijaya for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Tamil Nadu.

**Namaste Shalom** - A regular monthly magazine on bilateral relations between the two friendly nations. The Jewish community has marked Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Mumbai visit with the launch of 'Namaste Shalom'.

**Maitre-2** - The second passenger bus to Kolkata via Dhaka is started from Agartala, Tripura, to give a boost to the trans-border relationship between India and Bangladesh.

Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5, was successfully flight tested for its full range from Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

India, UK ink MoUs to enable return of illegal Indian migrants and sharing of criminal records.

India and Sri Lanka signed four agreements for collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector between both countries.

India has signed \$120 million loan agreement with multilateral lending agency World Bank to help increase access to improved water supply services in peri-urban areas in Uttarakhand.

India was admitted as the 43rd member of the Australia Group, an informal bloc (group) of countries that keeps a tight control over exports of substances used in making of chemical weapons. India is

the first South Asian nation to become its full-time member of Australia Group.

Government of India has approved 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agriculture industry involved in it. Earlier in 2017, India had forwarded proposal to United Nations (UN) for declaring year 2018 as 'International Year of Millets'.

German auto major Mercedes-Benz has unveiled India's first BS-VI-compliant S Class car produced at its Pune facility. The BS-VI-compliant S Class car was unveiled more than two years ahead of Government's deadline of April 2020 for switching to new BS-VI emission norms.

President Ram Nath Kovind has felicitated 112 exceptional women achievers at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. These women achievers 'FIRST LADIES' are those who are first to set milestone of achievement in their respective fields.

The Unique Identification Authority of India, the Aadhaar-issuing authority, has decided to enable face recognition as another means of authentication from July 1, 2018.

Government announces 9 new Smart Cities - Erode from Tamil Nadu one among them.

Indian economy to grow at 7.4% in 2018: International Monetary Fund.

8th National Voters' Day observed on 25<sup>th</sup> January. This year, National Voters' Day theme is 'Accessible Elections'.

**World's Largest Air Purifier** - China has built a 100 metre high, nearly 328 feet tall air purifier, touted to be world's largest, to combat the deadly pollution in the country built in Xian in Shaanxi province of northern China.

Prime Minister Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu dedicated to the nation, the **iCREATE** facility located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. iCreate is an independent Centre created with the objective of facilitating entrepreneurship. iCreate aims to develop an ecosystem in India to generate quality entrepreneurs.

Valletta in Malta has been officially inaugurated as the European Capital of Culture.

**Homeopathy Research Institute - To come up at Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur.**

**Microsoft tops Thomson Reuters top 100 global tech leaders list.**

Mauritius was largest source of FDI in India in 2016-2017: RBI

**Blind Cricket World Cup: India beat Pakistan to retain title. Event held in UAE.**

### 69<sup>th</sup> Republic day celebrations

- The Republic Day is celebrated every year on January 26 to honour the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950.
- This year, the Republic Day celebrations will have 10 heads from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei - as chief guests.
- And for the first time, a newly-formed all-woman bikers contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) will make its debut on Rajpath on Republic Day.

- The 27-member BSF women 'daredevils' squad, named 'Seema Bhavani', showcased their stunts and acrobatics on their 350cc Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles.

## INDICES

The World Economic Forum [WEF] has ranked India at 30th position among 100 countries on its Global Manufacturing Index (GMI).

India was ranked at 62nd place among emerging economies on Inclusive Development Index (IDI-2018) released by World Economic Forum (WEF).

India was ranked 81st among 118 countries in 2017 Global index of talent competitiveness (GTI) list.

India has been ranked 177 among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index - 2018.

**India fifth most attractive market for investments: PwC survey.**

## APPOINTMENTS

Om Prakash Rawat - 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief Election Commissioner

Scientist S. Somanath - Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

Senior scientist Dr V Narayanan - Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

Usha Ananthasubramanian - First woman Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Sudeep Lakhtakia - New Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).

Anandiben Patel - Governor Madhya Pradesh.

**Mehai Tudose - Romania's PM who resigned shortly.**

## **SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

- First International Dam Safety Conference - held in Thiruvananthapuram. A software programme known as Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) was also launched to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country.
- Israeli PM Inaugurates Raisina Dialogue In Delhi. The Raisina Dialogue is India's premiere foreign policy and geo-political conference. Prime Minister Netanyahu will be the first foreign head of government to speak at the Raisina Dialogue. The theme of the Raisina Dialogue this year is 'Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms'.
- 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture - Berlin, Germany. The theme of this year's event is "Shaping the future of livestock - sustainably, responsibly, efficiently".
- DefExpo in April - For the first time, Tamil Nadu will host DefExpo 2018, an international exhibition on Defence, in April, showcasing some of the latest technologies and products manufactured by both Indian and foreign companies.
- Kachra Mahotsav - The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh has organised the India's first garbage festival in Raipur. The aim is to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labeled as garbage.
- International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held in New Delhi.

## AWARDS AND CONFERENCES

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana for the welfare of the artistes in Odisha.

**'Medal of Bravery' -** The residents of Afghanistan's Logar province have awarded United States President Donald Trump a 'Medal of Bravery' over his recent stance against Pakistan.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was conferred the "Ideal Chief Minister" award by former President Pratibha Patil at Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad in Pune.

Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappady K. Palaniswami received the UNESCO Award of Merit awarded to the iconic Ranganathaswamy temple in Srirangam (Tiruchy).

Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust in Odisha has won prestigious United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Award for Innovation in Tourism Enterprise at 14th UNWTO Awards ceremony held in Madrid, Spain.

### **ICC Awards 2018: Full List of the Winners**

- Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)
- ICC M ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
- ICC Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- ICC T20 Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England for India)
- David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year - Marais Erasmus
- ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)



- ICC Fans Moment of the Year - Pakistan stun India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017
- The Test and ODI teams of the year were also introduced, with Virat Kohli being named the captain of both the sides.

## Padma awards

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday approved conferment of 85 Padma awards which include three Padma Vibhushan, nine Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri awards.

## Tamil Nadu

- **The Padma Vibhushan** was awarded to music maestro Ilaiyaraaja.
- **The Padma Bhushan:** Having served as the Director of the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department, Ramachandran Nagaswamy, a multi-faceted personality who has been conferred the Padma Bhushan award, was instrumental in starting several regional, district and site museums, as well as initiating the famous Chidambaram Natyanjali festival.

## Padma shree

- V. Nanammal from Coimbatore, regarded as one of the oldest yoga teachers in the country, has been conferred the Padma Shri. A.
- R. Vasudevan, dean, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai, Well known among the residents of his city as the 'Plastic Man of India' he evolved a technology which enables the use of plastic waste in road construction.
- Romulus Whitaker, founder of the Madras Snake Park, who also set up the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, has been awarded the Padma Shri for his work in wildlife conservation.

- Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha krishnan, an acclaimed Tamil folk artist, has been recognised with the Padma Shri for the collection, documentation and preservation of Tamil folk and tribal music.

தமிழக அரசின் 2017 – 2018-ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான இலக்கிய விருதுகள்:

விருது பெறுவோர் பட்டியல்:

1. திருவள்ளூர் விருது (2018) – முனைவர் கோ. பெரியண்ணன், தலைவர், அனைத்திந்திய தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்கள் சங்கம்.
2. தந்தை பெரியார் விருது – பா.வள்ளமதி, தலைவர், தமிழ்நாடு பாடநூல் கழகம்
3. அண்ணல் அம்பேத்கர் விருது – டாக்டர் ஜார்ஜ் கே.ஜே. முன்னாள் இயக்குநர், மான்.போர்ட் ஆங்கிலோ இந்தியன் மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளி.
4. பேரறிஞர் அண்ணாவிருது – அ. சுப்பிரமணியன், முன்னாள் செயலாளர் ராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்ட அண்ணா தொழிற்சங்கம்.
5. பெருந்தலைவர் காமராஜர் விருது – தா.ரா. தினகரன், அருப்புக்கோட்டை ஸ்ரீ ராமலிங்கா மில்ஸ், ஜெயவிலாஸ் குழுமத்தின் தலைவர்.
6. மகாகவி பாரதியார் விருது – முனைவர் ச. பாலசுப்பிரமணியன் (எ) பாரதிபாலன், தமிழியல் துறைத் தலைவர், தமிழ்நாடு திறந்தநிலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்.
7. பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன் விருது – கே. ஜீவபாரதி, எழுத்தாளர் - கவிஞர்
8. தமிழ்த்தென்றல் திரு.வி.க. விருது – எழுத்தாளர் பாலகுமாரன்.
9. கி.ஆ.பெ. விசுவநாதம் விருது – தமிழறிஞர் மருதநாயகம்.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme 2018
4 January	World Braille Day	
10 January	World Hindi Day	
12 January	National Youth Day	
15 January	Indian Army Day	
24 January	National Girl Child Day	
25 January	National Voters Day	Theme : Accessible Elections
26 January	Republic Day	
26 January	International Customs Day	
27 January	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Theme: Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility
28 January 2018	World Leprosy Day	
30 January	Shaheed Diwas	
31 January	Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force(NDRF)	

## **JANUARY 26 - 30**

### **NATION**

#### **Stree Swabhiman Initiative**

- Under this initiative, Common Service Centres (CSC) will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- Its purpose is to improve awareness on menstrual health and hygiene of women, thus help to protect dignity and rights of women.
- Under this initiative, semi-automatic and manual sanitary napkin manufacturing units will be set up at CSC for producing affordable and eco-friendly sanitary napkins. These micro manufacturing units will be operated by women entrepreneurs and generate employment for 8-10 women.

#### **Khelo India School Games**

- Launched under Khelo India Programme.
- It was held at multiple venues across Delhi from January 31 to February 8, 2018.
- It encompassed 16 sports disciplines.
- It aimed at creating platform to showcase hidden talent fostering young sports prodigies and creating awareness and cognizance about physical fitness as well as good health amongst youngsters.

#### **Khelo India programme**

- Launched in 2016 for building inclusive and comprehensive sports ecosystem in country.
- It aims at inculcating sports into the day to day lives of youngsters early on in their lives.
- It subsumed earlier three different schemes into one namely: *Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA)*, *National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS)* and *Urban Sports infrastructure Scheme (USIS)*.

## Maitreyi Yatra

- Jammu & Kashmir Student Exchange programme.
- Organized by Ministry of Human Resource development.
- It provides a good opportunity for the youth of J&K to be acquainted with culture, language and development story of different parts of the country.

## Zojila Tunnel

- To be constructed in Jammu & Kashmir .
- This would be India's longest road tunnel and the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia.
- The construction of this tunnel will provide all weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh and will bring about all round economic and socio-cultural integration of these regions.

## Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana

- Launched by Punjab Government for the welfare of the downtrodden citizen across the state.
- This scheme is aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.
- It will be on the line of Antyodaya principles (Antyodaya' means rise of the last person) and will be implemented in the state's rural areas.

## Scheme for Adolescent Girls

- The scheme aims at providing them nutritional support, motivating out of school girls to go back to formal schooling or skill training under its non-nutrition component. It also provides nutritional support and girls are also equipped with information on health, hygiene and guidance on existing public services.
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched beneficiary module of **Rapid Reporting System**

(RRS), a web based online portal, a monitoring Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG).

### **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**

- GeM is an Online Market platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of the Government. It has been envisaged as National Procurement Portal of India.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched third version of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM 3.0).

### **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**

- Launched in year 2000 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an objective to provide single all-weather road connectivity to all eligible unconnected rural villages (habitations).
- The Union Government has inked \$250 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Improve Rural Connectivity in 5 States viz. Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched Management Information System (MIS) portal for Anganwadi Services Training Programme.

The Union Finance Ministry has relaxed norms of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to allow small finance banks and payment banks to offer APY distribution. The move is expected to help expand coverage of the scheme and strengthen existing channels of APY distribution.

People with autism, mental illnesses, intellectual disability and victims of acid attacks will now get quota in central government jobs.

The Hindi Word of the Year for 2017 is 'AADHAAR'. This was announced by Oxford Dictionaries at the Jaipur Literature Festival.

## INDICES

India 6th wealthiest country: New World Wealth Report.

India ranks 42nd In 2017 Global Democracy Index.

India Ranks 81st on Global Talent Competitiveness Index.

India ranks 177 out of 180 in Environmental Performance Index.

India is ranked second only to South Africa as the cheapest country to live or retire, according to a recent survey of 112 countries.

India is the leading country in global coconut production.

According to recent report published by World Steel Association (WSA), India has overtaken US to become the world's third largest steel producer in 2017.

## INDIA AND THE WORLD

The Union Government has inked \$100 million Loan Agreement with World Bank for Project to Boost Rural Economy of Tamil Nadu. The loan is from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and has a 5-year grace period and maturity of 19 years.

India and Vietnam have signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in field of information and broadcasting and space cooperation.

India and Lao PDR have signed civil aviation cooperation agreement for providing SkyRev360, a comprehensive e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system.

India and Pakistan have extended agreement of Thar Link Express, second solitary rail service between both countries for three more years i.e. till 2021.

## **India and Pakistan Rail service**

- India and Pakistan currently have only two trans-border trains.
- They are Samjhauta Express: Operates on Delhi-Lahore route via Attari-Wagah border crossing. It carries both passengers and freight.
- Thar Express: It links Jodhpur (India) and Karachi (Pakistan) via Munabao-Khokhrapar border crossing. It carries only passengers.

## **WORLD**

### **World Economic Forum (WEF)**

- WEF is Swiss nonprofit foundation, based in Geneva.
- It is recognized as international institution for public-private cooperation.
- It is committed to improve state of world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- WEF is best known for its annual winter meeting for five days in Davos, a mountain resort in eastern Alps region of Switzerland.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched new Global Centre for Cybersecurity in a bid to safeguard world from hackers and growing data breaches. The centre will be headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and will become operational from March 2018.

Global Centre for Cybersecurity - The Global Centre for Cybersecurity will function as an autonomous organization under WEF. It will help to build a safe and secure global cyberspace.

India has offered to enhance rural connectivity in fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations during the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.



- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi said, “India offers to undertake a pilot project on rural connectivity, which would create digital villages in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.”
- PM Modi also proposed the ASEAN countries declare 2019 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chinese scientists for first time have successfully cloned two identical long-tailed macaques (monkeys), named **Zhong Zhong** and **Hua Hua** using same technique that produced Dolly sheep two decades ago. This development makes them world's first primates. These two identical long-tailed macaques were cloned using process called *somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT)*.

### Rotavac

- Became first indigenously developed vaccine from India to be pre-qualified by World Health Organisation (WHO).
- It means that vaccine can be sold internationally to several countries in South America and Africa.
- So far, several vaccines from India have been pre-qualified by WHO, but Rotavac is first vaccine entirely developed locally to get this status in safety and efficacy.

### Mihir

Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has inaugurated high performance computer system (HPC) or supercomputer Mihir (meaning sun) at National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Noida.

**Pratyush** - Also a super computer at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

## STATES

India-Japan Smart Grid Pilot Project was inaugurated at **Panipat**, Haryana to solve the various complications faced by the power distribution sector.

Kolkata became first metro city in India to get floating market. The floating market is located at **Patuli in South Kolkata**.

**Himachal Pradesh** Government has launched Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project to promote organic farming.

**Gudiya** - 24X7 helpline by Himachal Pradesh government, named after 16-year old rape and murder victim of Kotkhai.

**Shakti Button** - a mobile app linked to police control rooms for ensuring the safety of women in the state, by the government of Himachal Pradesh.

## DEFENCE

### INS Karanj

- Third submarine of Scorpene class.
- Launched at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- INS Karanj has been named after older submarine as per Indian naval tradition that was in operation from 1969 to 2003.

### VINBAX

- The India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise
- Conducted at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is the first military exercise between the two countries.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

Karnataka-based seer, **Siddheshwar Swami** turns down Padma Shri. He has expressed his unwillingness to accept the prestigious Padma Shri award.

**Neelam Kapoor** - Appointed as Director General of Sports Authority of India.

**Usha Ananthasubramanian** - First woman Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

**Jerome H Powell** - Chairman of the Federal Reserve (US), a powerful post having an influence on global economy.

**Sandeep Lamichhane** - Becomes first Nepal player to get IPL contract.

**Sauli Niinisto** - President of Finland.

**Dr. Gurcharan Singh Kalkat** - India's Green Revolution pioneer passes away.

**Sunil Chhetri's** birthday to be celebrated as Delhi's Football Day.

## AWARDS

### 2018 Republic Day parade

Best Tableau State wise

- First: Tableau from Maharashtra depicting coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was awarded first prize.
- Second: Tableau from Assam depicting traditional marks and sastras bagged second prize.
- Third: Tableau of Chhattisgarh depicting Ramgarh's ancient amphitheatre along with artistes performing dance, based on Kalidasa's Meghadootam was awarded third prize.

Union Ministries/Departments Category: Tableaux of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports depicting 'Khelo India' was given first prize.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has announced Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2016 to be awarded to 50 workers.

### **Shram Awards**

- They were instituted in 1985 and are announced every year by Ministry of Labour and Employment. These awards are given to workers in PSUs, Departmental Undertakings of Central/State Governments and Private Sector **units** employing 500 or more workers.
- **Objective:** It recognizes workers for their distinguished performance, innovative ability, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.

### **Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards**

Dr Najma Heptulla - 2013

Hukumdev Narayan Yadav - 2014

Ghulam Nabi Azad - 2015

Dinesh Trivedi - 2016

Bhartruhari Mahatab - 2017

### **Vinod Paul - First Indian to receive WHO'S Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize**

#### **Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize**

WHO's Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize is global honour conferred in recognition to services in field of family health. It was established in 1980 to promote and raise standard of family health by acknowledging individuals who have given distinguished service in this field.

Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappady K. Palaniswami received the Unesco Award of Merit awarded to the iconic **Ranganathaswamy temple** in Srirangam (Tiruchy).

IAF Corporal **Jyoti Prakash Mirala** posthumously conferred with Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime military decoration.

**Asha Bhosle** - Yash Chopra Memorial Award, for her outstanding contribution to the Hindi film industry.

**Mehul Garg** - Indian-origin boy in United Kingdom became youngest applicant in decade to achieve highest score in Mensa IQ test, beating geniuses like Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

Bengali actor **Soumitra Chatterjee** (83) was awarded France's highest civilian award, Legion d'Honneur.

**Asha Bhosle** - Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Badminton Association of India (BAI) Lifetime Achievement Award to 1983 World Championship medallist **Prakash Padukone**.

## SPORTS

**Australian open** - Here is the list of winners this year:

- Men's Singles: Roger Federer (Swiss). He defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia.
- Women's Singles: Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark). She defeated Simona Halep (Romania)
- Men's Doubles: O. Marach and M. Pavic
- Women's Doubles: K. Mladenovic and T. Babos
- Mixed Doubles: G. Dabrowski and M. Pavic

**Leander Paes wins 25th Challenger doubles title at Newport Beach event.**

**Delhi wins Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2018.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit was held in New Delhi to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of sectoral dialogue between two sides under the theme of "Shared Values, Common Destiny". It issued joint statement titled Delhi Declaration.

World Economic Forum Summit - Davos, Switzerland

21st edition of India International Seafood Show - Goa

First ever 'Khadi Haat' - Delhi

3-day International Bird Festival - Dudhwa National Park (Uttar Pradesh)

International spice conference - Jaipur

Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998 - A book by Sheila Dikshit

National Immunisation Day - 28 January

### **Books**

2G Saga Unfolds - A. Raja

The Heartfulness Way - Kamalesh Patel

Imperfect - Autobiography of Sanjay Manjrekar

Poonai Kadhai - Novel by P. Raghavan

கி.மு.5000 – 1500 காலத்தைச் சேர்ந்த தொல் தமிழரின் ஈமக்காடு கண்டுபிடிப்பு: திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம் திருத்தணி சுப்பிரமணியசுவாமி அரசு கலைக்கல்லூரி வளாகத்தில் இதுவரை கண்டறியப்படாத ஏழாயிரம் ஆண்டுகள் பழையமான தொல்தமிழரின் ஈமக்காடு கண்டுபிடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

ஜனவரி 2018ல் நடைபெற்ற போக்குவரத்து ஊழியர்கள் வேலை நிறுத்தப்போராட்டத்திற்கு பிரச்சனையை தீர்க்க மத்தியஸ்தராக ஓய்வுபெற்ற நீதிபதி பத்மநாபனை நியமித்து சென்னை உயர் நீதிமன்றம் உத்தரவிட்டுள்ளது.

தீவிர ஊட்டச்சத்துக் குறைபாட்டில் தமிழக குழந்தைகள்: 2017ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான தேசிய குடும்பநலக் கணக்கெடுப்பின்படி தமிழகத்தில் 5 வயதுக்குட்பட்ட குழந்தைகளில் 8மு பேர் தீவிர ஊட்டச்சத்துக் குறைபாட்டால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர். இது தேசிய சராசரியை விட அதிகமாகும்.

அரசியல் விமர்சகரும், மூத்த பத்திரிக்கையாளரும் நாடக ஆசிரியருமான ஞாநி எனப்படும் ஞாநி சங்கரன் (64) 15.01.2018 அன்று காலமானார்.

திருவள்ளூர் தினத்தையொட்டி, மாமல்லபுரம் மல்லை தமிழ்ச்சங்கம் சார்பில் மாமல்லபுரம் கடற்கரையில் 133 அடி நீளத்தில் திருவள்ளூர் மணல் சிற்பம் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

பாரதிதாசன் பல்கலைக்கழக துணை வேந்தராக மணிசங்கர் நியமனம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளார்.

கோவை பெரியார் பல்கலைக்கழக துணை வேந்தராக குழந்தைவேல் நியமனம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளார்.

முத்துலெட்சுமி ரெட்டி நினைவு மகப்பேறு உதவி தொகை திட்டத்தில் மாற்றம்: தமிழக அரசால் கற்பிணிப் பெண்களுக்கு வழங்கப்பட்டு வரும் டாக்டர் முத்துலெட்சுமி ரெட்டி மகப்பேறு உதவி தொகை தற்போது ஏழாவது மாதத்திலிருந்து உதவித்தொகை வழங்கப்படுகிறது. இதனை மாற்றியமைத்து, 5ஆவது மாதத்திலிருந்தே உதவித்தொகை வழங்கிட அரசாணை பிறப்பிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது என்று சுகாதாரத் துறை அமைச்சர் விஜயபாஸ்கர் தெரிவித்துள்ளார்.

இந்திய அளவில் மூன்றாவது சிறந்த காவல் நிலையமாக கோவை ஆர்.எஸ்.புரம் காவல் நிலையம் தேர்வு.

122 வருவாய் கிரமங்களுடன் விரிவாக்கம் செய்யப்பட்ட சென்னை மாவட்டத்தை முதலமைச்சர் துவக்கி வைத்துள்ளார்.

ஹெத்தையம்மன் திருவிழா: தமிழகத்தில், நீலகிரி மாவட்டத்தில் வாழும் படகர் இன மக்களால் அவர்களின் குலதெய்வமான ஹெத்தையம்மன் திருவிழாவாகக் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது.

உலகப்புக்ழ் பெற்ற கர்நாடக சங்கீத இசைக் கலைஞர் எம்.எஸ்.சுப்புலட்சுமியின் மகனும், பரத நாட்டியம் மற்றும் கர்நாடக சங்கீத வாய்ப்பாட்டுக் கலைஞருமான ராதா விஸ்வநாதன் (83) காலமானார்.

2018ஆம் ஆண்டின் முதல் ஜல்லிக்கட்டு விழா, புதுக்கோட்டை மாவட்டம், கந்தர்வகோட்டை ஒன்றியம் தச்சங்குறிச்சி ஊராட்சியில் நடைபெற்றது.

பிரதமர் மோடிக்கு இஸ்ரேல் பிரதமரின் பரிசு: தங்கள் நாட்டில் தயாரிக்கப்பட்ட கடல் நீரை சுத்திகரிக்கும் வாகனத்தை (ஜீப்) பிரதமர் நரேந்திர மோடிக்கு இஸ்ரேல் பிரதமர் பெஞ்சமின் நெதன்யாகு பரிசளித்தார். அதனை, தனது சொந்த மாநிலமான குஜராத்தின் சுயிகம் கிராமத்துக்கு மோடி அளித்துவிட்டார். இந்த வாகனத்தைப் பயன்படுத்தி ஒரு நாளில் 20 ஆயிரம் லிட்டர் கடல் நீரை சுத்திகரித்து குடிநீராக்க முடியும்.

‘ஹஜ்’ மானியம் நிறுத்தம்: மத்திய அரசு அறிவிப்பு: சவுதி அரேபியாவில் உள்ள மெக்காவுக்கு, முஸ்லீம்கள் மேற்கொள்ளும், ‘ஹஜ்’ புனித பயணத்திற்கு வழங்கப்பட்டு வந்த மானியத்தை இந்தாண்டு முதல் நிறுத்துவதாக மத்திய அரசு அறிவித்துள்ளது.

வங்காளதேசத்தில் உள்ள சிட்டாகாங் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் முன்னாள் குடியரசுத் தலைவர் பிரணாப் முகர்ஜிக்கு கௌரவ டாக்டர் பட்டம் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

சமூக வலைதளமான பேஸ்புக்கில் 2017ஆம் ஆண்டில் மிகவும் அதிகம் பேசப்பட்ட எம்.பி.க்களில் பிரதமர் மோடியும், சச்சினும் இடம் பெற்றுள்ளனர்.

ரத்ததானம் அளிக்கும் அரசு ஊழியர்களுக்கு ஊதியத்துடன் கூடிய விடுப்பு வழங்கப்படும் என்று மத்திய பணியாளர் நலத்துறை அமைச்சகம் அறிவித்துள்ளது. ஆண்டொன்றுக்கு 4 முறை அத்தகைய விடுப்பு வழங்கப்படும்.



உலக இனிப்பு திருவிழா தெலுக்கானாவிலுள்ள, செகந்தராபாத் நகரில் 13-15 ஜனவரி 2018ல் நடைபெற்றது.

தாய் தந்தையற்ற அநாதை குழந்தைகளுக்கு கல்வி மற்றும் வேலைவாய்ப்பில் 1 சதவீத இட ஒதுக்கீடு வழங்குவதாக மகாராஷ்டிரா அரசு அறிவித்துள்ளது.

அன்வர் ஜலால்புரி : பகவத் கீதையை உருது மொழியில் மொழிபெயர்த்த புகழ்பெற்ற உருது மொழி எழுத்தாளர் காலமானார்.

இந்தியாவின் இரண்டாவது மிகப்பெரிய கூரைமேல் அமைக்கப்பட்ட சூரிய மின்சக்தி நிலையம் (rooftop solar power plant) “கெயில் இந்தியா” (GAIL INDIA) நிறுவனத்தினால் உத்திரப்பிரதேச மாநிலம் “பாடா” வில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்தியாவின் மிகப்பெரிய கூரை மேல் அமைக்கப்பட்ட சூரிய மின்சக்தி நிலையம் 2015ஆம் ஆண்டில் “டாடா பவர்” நிறுவனத்தால் பஞ்சாப் மாநிலத்திலுள்ள அம்ரிஸ்தாரில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

தண்ணீர் ஏ.டி.எம். (Water ATM) திட்டம் மேற்கு வங்காள அரசினால் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளது.

“ஆ.பரேசன் அலர்ட்” (Operation Alert): இந்திய எல்லைப்பகுதிகளில் பாகிஸ்தானிலிருந்து தீவிரவாதிகளின் ஊடுருவலை தடுப்பதற்கான மத்திய எல்லைப்பாதுகாப்பு படையினால் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள நடவடிக்கை.

“சாரெக்ஸ்-18” – என்ற பெயரில் இந்தியா மற்றும் ஜப்பான் நாடுகளின் கடலோரக் காவல் படையினரின் கூட்டு பயிற்சி சென்னை துறைமுகத்தில் நடைபெற்றது.

“வஜ்ரா பிரகார்” (Vajra Prahar): இந்திய அமெரிக்க நாடுகளின் கூட்டு இராணுவ பயிற்சி வஜ்ரா பிரகார் எனும் பெயரில் ஜனவரி 2018 மூன்றாம் வாரத்தில் வாசிங்டனிலுள்ள சியாட்டில் நகரில் நடைபெறவுள்ளது.

இந்திய வம்சாவளியைச் சேர்ந்த ஹரிந்தர் மாலி மற்றும் இந்திரா நாயுடு ஹாரிஸ் என்ற இரண்டு பெண்களும் கனடாவின் ஒண்டாரியோ மாகாண அமைச்சர்களாக நியமிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர்.

‘அவா’ புயல், ஜனவரி 2018ல் மடகாஸ்கர் தீவைத் தாக்கியது.

விக்கிலீக்ஸ் இணையதளத்தின் உரிமையாளர் ஜூலியன் அசாஞ்சேவுக்கு ஈக்குவடார் நாடு குடியுரிமை வழங்கியுள்ளது.

இந்திய வம்சாவளியைச் சேர்ந்த இருவர் பிரிட்டன் அமைச்சரவையில் புதிதாக சேர்க்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர். ரிஷி சுனக் மற்றும் சுயிலா .:பெர்னாண்டஸ்

உலகின் மிகப்பெரிய பணக்காரர் எனும் பெருமையை, அமேசான் நிறுவனத்தின் முதன்மை செயல் அதிகாரி ஜெஃப் பெஷோஸ் பெற்றுள்ளார்.

ஆண் - பெண் பணியாளர்களுக்கான சம ஊதியத்தை சட்டப்பூர்வமாக்கியுள்ள உலகின் முதல் நாடு எனும் பெருமையை ஐஸ்லாந்து நாடு பெற்றுள்ளது.

“ஹார்பா” (Harba) என்ற பெயரில் ஏவுகணையை பாகிஸ்தானின் கடற்படை வெற்றிகரமாக சோதித்துள்ளது.

2016-2017ஆம் ஆண்டில் இந்தியாவில், அதிக அளவில் வெளிநாட்டு முதலீடு செய்த நாடுகளில் **மொர்சியஸ்** நாடு முதலிடத்திலுள்ளதாக ரிசர்வ் வங்கி வெளியிட்டுள்ள அறிக்கையில் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

எழுத்தாளர் மாலனுக்கு ‘பாரதிய பாஷா’ விருது வழங்கப்படவுள்ளது. கடந்த ஆண்டுகளில், அசோகமித்ரன், ஜெயகாந்தன், சாண்டில்யன், இந்திரா பார்த்தசாரதி, சிவசங்கரி, சி.ஆர். ரவீந்தரன், லஷ்மி, பிரபஞ்சன், வைரமுத்து, பா. ராகவன் உள்ளிட்டோருக்கு இவ்விருது அளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

2017ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான இயல் விருது, எழுத்தாளர் வண்ணதாசனுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. கனடா தமிழ் இலக்கியத் தோட்டம் சார்பில் அளிக்கப்படும். இந்த விருது தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்களுக்கு அளிக்கப்படும் முதன்மையான விருதுகளில் ஒன்றாகும்.

பாடகர் எஸ்.பி.பிக்கு எல். வைத்தியநாதன் விருது (2018)

விளக்கு விருது 2016: அமெரிக்கத் தமிழர்களின் விளக்கு இலக்கிய அமைப்பின் சார்பில் 1996ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் புதுமைப்பித்தன் நினைவு விருது வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. 2016ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான இவ்விருதுக்கு

எழுத்தாளர்கள் ராஜ் கௌதமன் மற்றும் சமயவேல் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளனர்.

ஏ.பி.ஜே.அப்துல் கலாம் சர்வதேச அறக்கட்டளையின் அப்துல் கலாம் விருது நிர்வாகத்தில் புதுமைகளை அறிமுகப்படுத்தியதற்காக, ஆந்திர மாநில தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பத் துறை அமைச்சரும், முதல்வர் சந்திரபாபு நாயுடுவின் மகனுமான நாரா லோகேஷ்க்கு வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இன்டர்நெட் பயன்பாட்டை மேம்படுத்த புதிய செயற்கைகோள்: ஜிசாட் - 11 எனப்பெயரிடப்பட்டுள்ள இந்தியாவின் அதிக எடை கொண்ட செயற்கை கோள் நாட்டின் இன்டர்நெட் பயன்பாட்டை மேம்படுத்துவதற்காக பயன்படுத்தப்படவுள்ளது. சுமார் ரூ.500 கோடி செலவில் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட இந்த செயற்கைகோள் 6 டன் எடை கொண்டது. பிரதமரின் டிஜிட்டல் இந்தியா திட்டத்திற்கு பங்களிக்கும் வகையில் இந்த செயற்கைகோள் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்த செயற்கை கோள் மூலம் கிராம பஞ்சாயத்து, தாலுகா பகுதிகளுக்கும், பாதுகாப்பு துறைக்கும் உள்ள இணையதள வசதியை மேம்படுத்துவதற்காக வடிவமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.



**APPOLO STUDY CENTRE**  
No.25, Nandhi Loop Street,  
West C.I.T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 035  
Near T.Nagar Bus Stand,  
Landmark: Nandhi Statue  
Ph: 24339436, 42867555, 9840226187  
E-mail: appolotnpsc@gmail.com  
Website: [www.appolosupport.com](http://www.appolosupport.com)  
[www.appolotraining.com](http://www.appolotraining.com)