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INTERNATIONAL

TIME's 100 Most Influential People

- ❖ The TIME Magazine has released the 100 Most Influential People List of 2018.
- ❖ The 2018 list features the names of four self-made Indians- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal and Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella, Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone.
- ❖ The list also features the US President Donald Trump and the activist Tarana Burke, who founded the Me Too movement against the sexual predators.
- ❖ Astronaut Peggy Whitson also made it to the list this year. It is also notable that Whitson recently completed her 665th day in space.
- ❖ England Prince Harry and his fiancé Meghan Markle also made their names in this list.
- ❖ In the field of sports, the list names Chloe Kim, who is breaking all the world records in snowboarding.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

National Testing Agency- Vineet Joshi

- ❖ The Government has appointed former CBSE chairperson and Secretary Vineet Joshi as the director general of the National Testing Agency.
- ❖ An order regarding this was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training
- ❖ Vineet Joshi is 1992-batch IAS officer of the Manipur cadre.
- ❖ Joshi has been appointed to the director general post for five years in National Testing Agency.



National Testing Agency

- ❖ Union Cabinet has recently approved the creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
- ❖ It will be registered as a society under the Indian Societies Registration Act.
- ❖ It will act an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization chaired by eminent educationist appointed by Ministry of HRD.
- ❖ The setting up of NTA was announced in the union budget of 2017-18.
- ❖ It would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE (NEET, JEE etc).
- ❖ The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, giving adequate opportunity to candidates.
- ❖ It will be given a one-time grant of Rs.25 crore from the Government to start its operation in the first year. Thereafter, it will be financially self-sustainable.
- ❖ It will relieve CBSE, AICTE, and other agencies from the responsibility of conducting the entrance examinations.

SPORTS

Chinese Grand Prix 2018

- ❖ The 2018 Chinese Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race that took place at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the race and the Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes and Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari secured second and third places respectively.
- ❖ The race was the third round of the 2018 FIA Formula One World Championship and marked the fifteenth time that the Chinese Grand Prix has been run as a round of the Formula One World Championship.



Asian Arm wrestling Championship

- ❖ The differently-abled Indian arm wrestler Shrimant Jha clinched a bronze medal at the Asian Arm wrestling Championship held in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Shrimant Jha, a resident of Naxal-hit Chhattisgarh finished behind Tajikistan's Firuz and Magolia's Munkhbald to settle for the bronze in the 80kg senior category.
- ❖ It is notable that he also secured a silver medal in Para-Arm Wrestling World Cup in Poland under 80 kg category.

11th Monte Carlo Masters Title

- ❖ Rafael Nadal of Spain has won the 11th Monte Carlo Masters title, held in France, by defeating Japan's Kei Nishikori in final and retained the world number one ranking.
- ❖ Nadal also overtook Serbia's Novak Djokovic to clinch most Masters 1000 titles. So far Nadal has won 31 Masters 1000 titles.



8th South Asian Judo Championship

- ❖ India has clinched the title of team champion in the 8th series of South Asian Judo Championship held at Kathmandu in Nepal.
- ❖ In the men's team category, India defeated Pakistan in the finals to claim the title. Under the women's team category, India thrashed Nepal to seal the title.
- ❖ India ended this tournament by securing first place in the medal tally with 15 medals in total including 12 Gold medals and three Bronze medals.
- ❖ In the event, Nepal stood second with two Gold medals, seven Silver and 13 Bronze medals in total.
- ❖ Nepal secured second place in the medal tally with 22 medals in total including 2 Gold medals, 7 silver, and 13 Bronze medals.
- ❖ Pakistan secured third place in the medal tally with 9 medals in total including 2 Gold medals, 4 silver, and 3 Bronze medals.
- ❖ As per the decision taken at South Asian Judo Federation's meeting next series of South Asian Judo Championship will be held in Bangladesh.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Liver Day - April 19

- ❖ Every year, April 19 is celebrated as World Liver Day across the world.



- ❖ This year on World Liver Day 2018, the theme is "Riding new waves in liver diagnosis, staging, and treatment."

- ❖ According to the study of World Health Organisation, liver-related disease is the 10th most common cause for a high number of deaths in India.

Civil Services Day – April 21

- ❖ Every year Civil Services Day is celebrated in India on April 21 to commemorate the address of countries first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the first batch of IAS officers at Metcalfe House, Delhi on April 21, 1947.
- ❖ A two-day Civil Services Day function was organized in New Delhi by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on 20-21 April 2018.
- ❖ In the inaugural session, Vice President released a book titled: ‘Emulating Excellence — Takeaways for Replication’.
- ❖ Prime Minister conferred the Awards for Excellence in Public Administration for effective implementation of identified Priority Programmes and Innovation to districts administrations and other Central, state organizations.
- ❖ Following four priority programmes have been identified for the awards to be presented on Civil Services Day 2018:
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,
 - Scheme for the Promotion of Digital Payments
 - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban & Rural.
 - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

Earth Day - April 22

- ❖ Every year world Earth Day is celebrated worldwide on April 22 to create awareness among world masses about the need of protection of the planet and the necessity of preservation of its environment.



- ❖ The Earth Day observed globally from 1990 and is now celebrated by 192 countries.
- ❖ According to a report of Earth Day Network, Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and focus on catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

World Book and Copyright Day – 23 April

- ❖ Every year World Book and Copyright Day is being observed on 23 April to increase the reading habit among world public and to promote publishing and copyright of books.
- ❖ The UNESCO and the other international organizations select the World Book Capital for a one-year period, effective 23 April each year.
- ❖ This year, UNESCO designated Athens, Greece as the World Book Capital for 2018.
- ❖ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had created this day and was first observed in 1995.
