

June – 04

NATIONAL

India's First Advanced Forensic Lab

- ❖ Minister for Women and Child Development, Mrs. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi laid the foundation of Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory in the campus of Central Forensic Science Lab, Chandigarh.
- ❖ It is India's first advanced forensic lab dedicated to crimes related to women for timely deliver justice.
- ❖ At present, there are 6 Central Forensic Science Labs (CFSLs) in Chandigarh, Guwahati, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune and Bhopal and one State Forensic Science Lab in each State/UT.



- ❖ These labs are responsible for conducting forensic analysis of all cases in the country including sexual assault homicide.
- ❖ In Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory, four units are to be established to address cases related to women:
 - Sexual Assault and Homicide Unit
 - Paternity Unit
 - Human Identification Unit
 - Mitochondrial Unit

Mission Raftar

- ❖ Ministry of Railways conducted one-day workshop Mission Raftar aimed at raising average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi.
- ❖ The mission aims at doubling the average speed of freight trains and increasing average speed of coaching trains by 25kmph over a five-year period.
- ❖ It was launched as part of the strategy of Indian Railways to keep pace with growing competition from competing modes viz. road and airlines etc.
- ❖ Principal routes have been identified for raising of speed under Mission Raftar.
- ❖ These are six routes on Golden Quadrilateral namely, Delhi – Mumbai, Delhi – Howrah, Howrah- Chennai, Chennai – Mumbai, Delhi – Chennai and Howrah – Mumbai.

Times Higher Education ranking

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has made it to the top 100 universities in the Times Higher Education's World Reputation Rankings 2018.

Rank	Name	No. of FTE Students	No. of students per staff	International Students	Female:Male Ratio
1	Harvard University United States	20,326	8.9	26%	n/a
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology United States	11,177	8.7	34%	37 : 63
3	Stanford University United States Explore	15,845	7.5	22%	42 : 58
4	University of Cambridge United Kingdom	18,389	10.9	35%	45 : 55
5	University of Oxford United Kingdom	20,409	11.2	38%	46 : 54
6	University of California, Berkeley United States	36,182	13.1	17%	52 : 48
7	Princeton University United States	7,955	8.3	24%	45 : 55
8	Yale University United States	12,155	4.3	21%	49 : 51

- ❖ It becomes the only Indian institution to make it to the prestigious list this year.
- ❖ The IISc has been ranked in the 91-100 band of the annual list topped by American universities Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford, with the UK's Cambridge and Oxford completing the top five.
- ❖ India features in the table for the first time since 2011.

INTERNATIONAL

Denmark ban of face veil

- ❖ The Danish parliament passed a law banning the Islamic full-face veil in public spaces.
- ❖ Covering the face includes niqab and burqa.
- ❖ Before this Austria, France and Belgium have also passed similar laws.

Paraguay interim president

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



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Pinaka Rocket

- ❖ An upgraded version of Pinaka rocket, with enhanced range and guidance system, was successfully test-fired from Chandipur in Odisha for the second consecutive day
- ❖ The earlier Pinaka system, which was an unguided one, has now been transformed into a guided version, with a navigation, guidance and control kit developed by the Research Centre, Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.
- ❖ The RCI comes under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



- ❖ The conversion helped in enhancing the range and accuracy of Pinaka. If its range was 40 km earlier, it is more than 70 km now.
- ❖ The test was carried out from a multi-barrel launcher from the firing point of the Proof & Experiment Establishment (PXE) under DRDO.

STATES

Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana

- ❖ The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has launched 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kissan Yojana' to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming System.
- ❖ This would increase soil productivity, decrease use of fertilizers and harmful chemicals and increase water infiltration.

- ❖ Moreover, the State Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the week-long 'Polythene Hatao Paryavaran Bachao' campaign.

Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy

- ❖ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani released the 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy' at a high-level meeting at Gandhinagar.
- ❖ The state government planned to create water-grid, on the lines of power-grid, for reuse of the treated wastewater from urban areas.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ It also aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada river.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

'Most Inspiring Icon of the Year for Social Welfare'

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



- ❖ Yuvraj, who was a member of India's 2011 World Cup winning squad, was diagnosed with cancer (mediastinal seminoma) shortly after the World Cup.

- ❖ Post his diagnosis, Yuvraj opened his foundation 'YouWeCan' that focuses on creating cancer awareness and helping educate the cancer survivors kids.

World Press Cartoon award

- ❖ Kerala cartoonist Thomas Antony has won an international award, in the best caricature category.
- ❖ Antony is currently working as Executive Artist of Malayalam daily 'Metro Vaartha'



- ❖ He is among the nine winners at the 13th edition of the World Press Cartoon awards, instituted by an organization based in Lisbon, Portugal.
- ❖ Antony is the lone cartoonist selected from Asia selected for the prize.

Bengal's Chau mask acquires GI

- ❖ The Chau mask of Purulia, the wooden mask of Kushmandi, the Patachitra, the Dokras of Bengal, and Madhurkathi (a kind of mat) have been presented with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India.



- ❖ During 2017-18, The Registrar of Geographical Indications awarded GI tags to 25 products, of which nine were from West Bengal.
- ❖ While 500 families were involved in the making of large and colorful Chau masks used in the Chau dance, around 200 families in Kushmandi make the wooden masks used for the Mukha dance.



- ❖ In Paschim Medinipur, a few hundred families in Pingla village make the beautifully painted scrolls called Patachitra, and 3,000 families in two districts were into making Madurkathi.



SPORTS

Thomas Cup 2018

- ❖ China emerged as the winner of the 2018 Thomas Cup and brought home the trophy for the 10th time after defeating Japan by 3-1 in Bangkok (Thailand).

- ❖ The Thomas Cup, sometimes called the World Men's Team Championships, is an international badminton competition.



- ❖ It is played among teams representing member nations of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), the sport's global governing body.
- ❖ The championships have been conducted every two years since the 1982 tournament, before that, it was conducted every three years since the first tournament held in 1948–1949.
