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NATIONAL

2018 Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Rankings

- ❖ Indian universities have seen an improvement in their positions in the latest Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018.

Emerging Economies University Ranking 2018	Emerging Economies University Ranking 2017	Position in World University Rankings 2018	Institution	Country/region
1	1	=27	Peking University	China
2	2	30	Tsinghua University	China
3	3	194	Lomonosov Moscow State University	Russian Federation
4	6	116	Fudan University	China
5	5	132	University of Science and Technology of China	China
6	9	=177	Zhejiang University	China
7	7	=188	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China
8	11	=169	Nanjing University	China
9	4	171	University of Cape Town	South Africa
10	10	=198	National Taiwan University	Taiwan

- ❖ Four Indian intuitions have been ranked among the top 50 in the rankings, top 100 list has eight from India.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is ranked on 13th position while Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay is ranked on 26th position and IIT Kharagpur is ranked at 45th position.
- ❖ China's Peking University and Tsinghua University claim the top two places of the Times Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018 for the fifth year in a row.
- ❖ China takes a further five places in the top 10 ranking.

Ramayan Circuit

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated direct bus service between Janakpur (Nepal) and Ayodhya (India).
- ❖ Both are sacred cities for Hindus and bus service was launched as part of India's Ramayan spiritual tourist Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to promote religious spiritual tourism in Nepal and India.
- ❖ Janakpur is known as the birthplace of Sita, the wife of Lord Rama. Janaki temple was built in memory of Sita in 1910.
- ❖ The government has identified 15 destinations in India for development under Ramayana Circuit theme under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- ❖ Those are;
 - Ayodhya, Nandigram, Shringverpur -Uttar Pradesh
 - Sitamarhi, Buxar and Darbhanga-Bihar
 - Chitrakoot -Madhya Pradesh
 - Jagdalpur -Chhattisgarh
 - Mahendragiri -Odisha
 - Nashik and Nagpur -Maharashtra
 - Bhadrachalam-Telangana
 - Hampi -Karnataka
 - Rameswaram -Tamil Nadu

Integrated Centre for Crisis Management

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Integrated Centre for Crisis Management (ICCM) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The ICCM will help the nation to respond more effectively to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.
- ❖ The Integrated Centre for Crisis Management will monitor radiological data from a network of 504 radiation sensors across the country.

INTERNATIONAL

REPLACE campaign

- ❖ World Health Organization (WHO) has launched comprehensive plan “REPLACE” to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans-fats from global food supply chain by 2023.
- ❖ REPLACE is abbreviated in six strategic actions as Review, Promote, Legislate, Assess, Create awareness and Enforce.
- ❖ The campaign provides a step-by-step guide in six strategic actions of ‘REPLACE’ package to ensure prompt, complete, and sustained elimination of industrially-produced trans-fats from the global food supply.
- ❖ Denmark was the first country to mandate restrictions on industrially-produced trans fats.

STATES

Rythu Bandhu Scheme

- ❖ Telangana government has launched Rythu Bandhu (friend of farmers) Scheme, an investment support scheme to support the livelihood of farmers.
- ❖ It is first of its kind investment support scheme for farmers to be launched by any state in India.
- ❖ Under this scheme, financial support will be given directly to the farmers twice a year to maximize agricultural production and productivity.
- ❖ Under this scheme, farmers get investment support of Rs 8,000 per acre every year-Rs. 4000 each for monsoon and Rabi season.

Amnesty-cum-rehab scheme - Kerala

- ❖ The Kerala State Cabinet has approved an amnesty-cum-rehabilitation scheme for the welfare of Maoists in the State.
- ❖ It is aimed at bringing people who have been swayed by the Left extreme ideology back to the mainstream of society.

Arunachal's biggest solar plant

- ❖ Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the state's biggest solar power plant at Energy Awareness Park in Itanagar.
- ❖ The project was implemented by the Arunachal Pradesh Energy Development Agency (APEDA).
- ❖ The state is working towards the fulfillment of the target set by the Centre for rural electrification within this year under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

100th birth anniversary of Mrinalini Sarabhai

- ❖ Google commemorated the 100th birth anniversary of Mrinalini Sarabhai, a renowned Indian classical dancer, with a doodle.



- ❖ She was an expert on two south Indian dance forms of Bharatanatyam and Kathakali.
- ❖ She founded the Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, choreographed over 300 dance dramas and wrote many novels, plays, and poems for children.
- ❖ Mrinalini was bestowed with several awards. She received the
 - Padma Shri in 1965,
 - Padma Bhushan in 1992,
 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 1994 and

- Nishagandhi Puraskaram, an annual award of the Government of Kerala, in 2013.

11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018

- ❖ Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate, and noted economist has been conferred with the 11th KISS Humanitarian Award 2018.
- ❖ He has been awarded this award for his unwavering commitment to eradicating the global poverty and for his contribution towards fostering socio-economic development.
- ❖ He is the founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and is widely known as the Father of Microfinance.
- ❖ The KISS Humanitarian Award is a prestigious international award given to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the society in various fields relating to social issues and who has distinguished himself or herself as a true humanitarian.
- ❖ It was instituted in 2008 by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Bhubaneswar.

National Technology Award 2018

- ❖ Central Government's Technology Development Board has awarded National Technology Award 2018 to Leading vaccine maker Bharat Biotech for its Rotavac vaccine.
- ❖ This prestigious award for innovative technologies, successfully developed and commercialized from India, was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind at the national Technology Day ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Rotavac launched in 2015. Rotavac was introduced into the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in India during 2016, with initial implementation in 9 states.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Families – 15 May

- ❖ The International Day of Families is observed every year on 15th of May across the world.

- ❖ The International Day of Families is celebrated to promote awareness among masses about the issues related to families and increasing knowledge of social, economic matters and demographic progression that affects families which are the basic unit of society.
- ❖ The theme for this year is “Families and inclusive societies”.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993.
