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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A short film, 'Raaya', about an autistic girl has been chosen as India's official entry into the Cannes Film Festival 2018. Apart from the honor, 'Raaya' has already bagged the 'Special Festival Mention Award' at Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2018.
- ❖ Badminton Association of India (BAI) President Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected as the Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) during the Annual General Meeting of the continental body in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The Union government has selected Mangaluru as “India’s best city in solid waste management” under the categories of cities having a population between three lakh and 10 lakhs under Swachhata Survekshan 2018.
- ❖ Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala appointed Kombarana Ganapathy Bopaiah, the Karnataka BJP legislator from Virajpet as the Pro-Tem Speaker of the assembly to preside over a crucial floor test.
- ❖ Guatemala is now the second country to move its Israeli embassy back to Jerusalem. The move comes just two days after the U.S. opened its own embassy in the city.
- ❖ The very first National Para Games, created on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July in Bengaluru.
- ❖ A 16-year-old girl from Haryana has registered her name as the youngest woman to scale the world highest peak (Mt Everest) from the Nepali side.
- ❖ Green Good Deeds, the societal movement launched by Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan to protect the environment and promote good living has found acceptance by the global community.
 - The BRICS Ministerial on Environment has agreed to include “Green Good Deeds” in its official agenda in the next Ministerial in Brazil and another meeting in Russia.

NATIONAL

Intellectual Property mascot 'IP Nani'

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani'.



- ❖ The mascot was launched during a conference on the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.
- ❖ The first and foremost objective of the Policy is “IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion”, aimed at raising awareness on IPR for school children to nurture creativity and the ability to innovate from a very young age.
- ❖ In this context, the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), a professional body under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) produced a series of animated videos on IPRs for children with IP Nani as their central character.
- ❖ For creating such inspirational videos, CIPAM collaborated with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EU-IPO).

4th BRICS Ministerial Meeting

- ❖ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan addressed the 4th BRICS Ministerial meeting in Durban, South Africa.

- ❖ India has called for a judicious use of resources amidst concerns over resource depletion and scarcity.

INTERNATIONAL

15th Meeting of SCO Cultural Ministers

- ❖ The Minister of State for Culture (I/c) and Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma attended Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Cultural Ministers Meeting at Sanya in China.



- ❖ It is the first time that India would be attending the SCO Culture Ministers' Meeting.
- ❖ The meeting will showcase India's initiatives to actively pursue cultural cooperation with other countries including SCO countries.
- ❖ India became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on 9th June 2017 during the SCO Heads of State Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

First female director of CIA

- ❖ Veteran spy Gina Haspel will become the first female director of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency - CIA) after six Democrats joined Republicans in a Senate confirmation vote.



- ❖ It has overridden concerns about her role in the spy agency's harsh interrogation program after 9/11.
- ❖ Haspel, who has spent nearly all of her 33-year CIA career in undercover positions, is the first career operations officer to be confirmed since William Colby in 1973.

ECONOMY

First Indian stock exchange to get DOSM recognition

- ❖ BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) became first Indian exchange to be designated as Designated Offshore Securities Market (DOSM) by United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US-SEC).
- ❖ DOSM status will allow the sale of securities to US investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US SEC.
- ❖ This will ease trades by US investors in India and also enhance the attractiveness of Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs) amongst US investors.
- ❖ BSE is Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai (Maharashtra). It was established in 1875, making it Asia's first stock exchange.
- ❖ BSE is first exchange in India and second in the world to obtain an ISO 9001:2000 certifications.
- ❖ It is also first Exchange in India and second in the world to receive Information Security Management System Standard BS 7799-2-2002 certification for its On-Line Trading System (BOLT).



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Russian award for 'Atom on Wheels'

- ❖ Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited (NPCIL)'s prestigious campaign "Atom on Wheels" has won the international award under the category of world's best public communication campaign at the 10th anniversary of international event ATOM EXPO-2018 held at Sochi, Russia.
- ❖ NPCIL Executive Director Gautam Biswas received the award that the organization won beating the two other finalists from Hungary and Kenya.



- ❖ This international award was conferred to NPCIL by the chief of the State Atomic Energy Corporation of Russia aka 'Rosatom' in an event held during Atom expo.

- ❖ The campaign aims to spread awareness in rural areas about the benefits of nuclear energy and dispel doubts about its risks.

S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018

- ❖ NMDC Limited, the largest iron ore mining company in India, has bagged the prestigious S&P Global PLATTS Global Metals Award 2018 in corporate social responsibility (CSR) category held at London.



- ❖ This is the first time since the inception of this award that an Indian Company bagged an award in this category.
- ❖ NMDC's CSR engagement has increased from Rs.86 crore (13.25 million USD) in 2011-12 to an average of Rs.190 crore (30 million USD) during the last three years.
- ❖ S&P Global Platts is the leading independent provider of information, benchmark prices and analytics for the energy and commodities markets. It has been in existence for over 100 years.

Asian Voice Charity Awards 2018

- ❖ The Indian charity 'Jagriti Yatra' has won the Charity Clarity award for Outstanding Impact at the 3rd annual Asian Voice Charity Awards 2018 in London, United Kingdom.

- ❖ The Jagriti Yatra organizes 15-day long train journeys, covering 800 km for 400 young change-makers across India every year, to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise.
- ❖ The event was organized by Britain's oldest Asian diaspora publication 'Asian Voice' and Europe's first independent charity due diligence platform 'Charity Clarity'.
- ❖ Meanwhile, the 'Cleft Lip and Palate Association' won the Charity of the Year award & 'Road To Freedom' won Start-up Of The Year.
- ❖ The awards are about rewarding charities that think big and solve the most pressing social issues of our time, both in Britain and globally.

SPORTS

Spanish Grand Prix

- ❖ Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix with a commanding victory from the pole and in doing so has extended his lead in the Formula One world championship.



- ❖ In a strong race for Mercedes, his team-mate Valtteri Bottas was second, with the Red Bull of Max Verstappen in third.
- ❖ The win is Hamilton's second of the season and this 64th career victory is his third in Barcelona.

ITF Women's tennis tournament

- ❖ Ankita Raina and Harriet Dart of Great Britain beat Chinese Liu Fangzhou and Xun Fang Ying claimed the doubles title in the ITF women's tennis tournament held at Luan, China.



- ❖ It was the first doubles title of the season for Ankita and the second title after the singles crown in Gwalior.

International shooting championship

- ❖ Indian shooter Heena Sidhu clinched the gold medal while compatriot P Shri Nivetha settled for bronze in the women's 10m air pistol at the International Shooting Competitions of Hannover (ISCH) ahead of next week's ISSF Munich World Cup.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World AIDS Vaccine Day – May 18

- ❖ World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on May 18.
- ❖ HIV vaccine advocates mark the day by promoting the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.
- ❖ The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech, and the tradition continues today.
