

July – 01

## NATIONAL

### UNESCO World Heritage List

- ❖ Two building clusters of Victorian Gothic and Art Deco architectural styles in Mumbai, Maharashtra were jointly inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List.
- ❖ The decision was taken during 42nd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Manama, Bahrain.



- ❖ With five sites, Maharashtra has a maximum number of world heritage sites in India, including Ajanta and Ellora caves in Aurangabad and Mumbai has three.
- ❖ This is first world heritage site that flaunts combination of 19th Century Victorian Gothic structures and 20th Century Art Deco buildings.
- ❖ This is third such honor for Mumbai after Elephanta Caves and majestic Victoria Terminus (rechristened Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station) which had earned coveted tag in 1987 and 2004 respectively.
- ❖ With this, Mumbai has an equal number of World Heritage sites as Delhi, which has three — Red Fort, Qutub Minar, and Humayun’s Tomb.

- ❖ With this, the count of World Heritage Sites in India has now risen to 37, of which 29 are cultural, seven natural and one mixed site.
- ❖ It makes India seventh-ranked country in the list of world heritage properties.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 'World Tolerance Summit'

- ❖ The United Arab of Emirates (UAE) will host a two-day "World Tolerance Summit" in November.
- ❖ The theme of the summit is "Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration"
- ❖ It has been announced that the summit will be launched on November 15th-16th, 2018, to coincide with the International Day of Tolerance on November 16th.

### 4th Annual Meeting of AIIB

- ❖ Moving out of Asia first time, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)'s Fourth Annual Meeting will be held in Luxembourg in July 2019.
- ❖ Luxembourg is a founding member of AIIB as well as a leading international financial center and facilitator of investments between Europe and Asia.



- ❖ The first AIIB Board of Governors meeting was held in Beijing in 2016, followed by Jeju, South Korea in 2017 and the latest two-day meeting in Mumbai.
- ❖ The AIIB is a multilateral development bank Headquartered in Beijing with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.

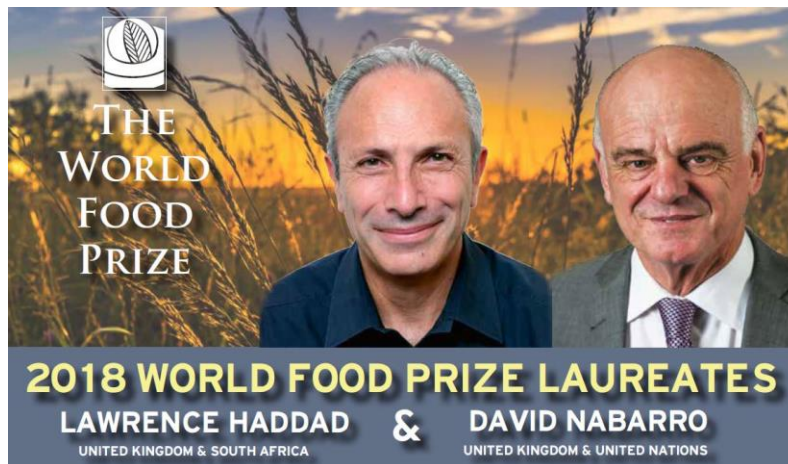
### **42nd session of World Heritage Committee (WHC)**

- ❖ The 42nd session of World Heritage Committee (WHC) meeting of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held in Manama, Bahrain has inscribed four cultural sites on the World Heritage List.
- ❖ These four cultural sites are
  - Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai (India),
  - Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars region (Iran),
  - Hidden Christian Sites in Nagasaki Region (Japan) and
  - Sansa, Buddhist Mountain Monasteries in Korea (South Korea).

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **World Food Prize 2018**

- ❖ The World Food Prize 2018 was awarded to Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro for their individual but complementary global leadership in elevating maternal and child undernutrition within food security.



- ❖ World Food Prize is a most prominent global award for individuals whose breakthrough achievements alleviate hunger and promote global food security.

- ❖ It was conceived in 1986 by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug (considered as the father of the Green Revolution).
- ❖ Since its formation, 7 Indians have won it. Prof. M. S. Swaminathan (1987) was the first recipient of the prize).
- ❖ This year's \$250,000 prize will be divided equally between two recipients.

### **Kalidas Samman**

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Government has conferred prestigious National Kalidas Samman on noted artist Anjolie Ela Menon (78) for her contribution to visual arts.



- ❖ The award was conferred in recognition of her insightful and sensitive portrayal of the identity and spirit of women through her meaningful paintings in a variety of media.
- ❖ It is prestigious arts award presented annually by Government of Madhya Pradesh. The award is named after Kālidāsa, a renowned Classical Sanskrit writer of ancient India.
- ❖ It was first awarded in 1980. It was initially conferred in alternate years in fields of Classical Music, Classical Dance, Theatre and Plastic Arts.
- ❖ From 1986-87 onwards, it was presented in all four fields every year. The award is presented for outstanding achievement in one of the four categories.
- ❖ Some of the previous recipients are Pandit Ravi Shankar, MF Husain, Pandit Jasraj, Shambhu Mitra, Habib Tanvir, Ebrahim Alkazi etc.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Parliamentarism - 30 June

- ❖ The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed every year on June 30 across the globe.
- ❖ The aim of the day is to recognize the role of parliaments in national plans and strategies and in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at national and global levels.
- ❖ The year 2018 marks the first celebration of International Day of Parliamentarism.
- ❖ The International Day of Parliamentarism was proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting a resolution in May 2018 to recognize the role of parliaments
- ❖ The chosen date i.e. June 30, coincides with day in 1889, close to 130 years ago, that Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)—the global organization of parliaments was founded.

### International Day of the Tropics – 29 June

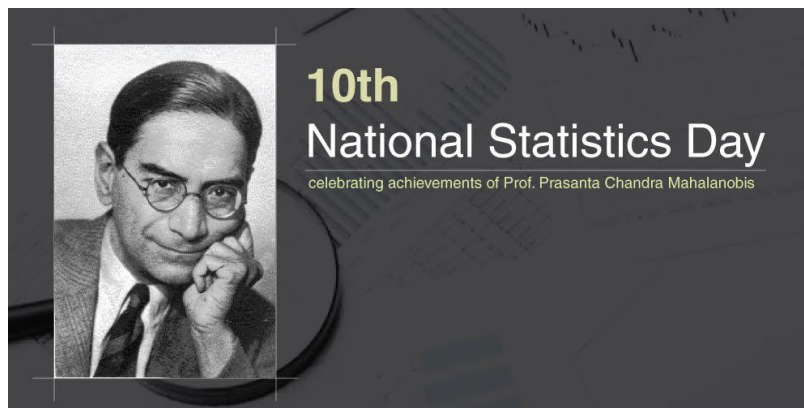
- ❖ The International Day of Tropics is observed every year on 29 June across the world.
- ❖ Its aim is to raise awareness to specific challenges faced by tropical areas and far-reaching implications of issues affecting world's tropical zone.



- ❖ The International Day of the Tropics was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 14 June 2016 by adopting the resolution.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed to mark the anniversary of the launch of ‘State of the Tropics Report’ by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on 29 June 2014.

### **National Statistics Day – 29 June**

- ❖ The National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on June 29 in India to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- ❖ The 2018 theme is “Quality Assurance in Official Statistics”.



- ❖ The day also acknowledges the notable contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in fields of statistics, statistical system, and economic planning.

- ❖ In 1933, he had founded the first Indian statistical journal Sankhya. He is also best remembered for the statistical measure of Mahalanobis distance.
  - ❖ He had founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and contributed to the design of large-scale sample surveys.
  - ❖ The Union Government had designated June 29 as National Statistics Day in 2007 in recognition of notable contributions made by Late Professor PC Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics.
  - ❖ The Second Five-Year Plan had relied on Mahalanobis's mathematical description of Indian economy.
  - ❖ This plan had encouraged the development of heavy industry in India and later became known as Nehru-Mahalanobis model or Basic Industry strategy of economic growth.
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