



August – 23

NATIONAL

International Buddhist Conclave 2018

- ❖ The International Buddhist Conclave (IBC), 2018 was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ It was the sixth edition of International Buddhist Conclave. Its theme was 'Buddha Path – The Living Heritage'.
- ❖ The Conclave was organized by Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Japan is Partner Country for IBC-2018.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Tourism has been organizing International Buddhist Conclave biennially.
- ❖ Earlier conclaves were organized in Bodhgaya and Varanasi (September 2014) and in Sarnath/Varanasi and Bodhgaya (October 2016).
- ❖ ASEAN countries were guest of honor during IBC, 2016.

President appoints Governors of seven states

- ❖ President appointed Governors of seven states including Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura by exercising his authority under Article 156.
 - Satya Pal Malik - Jammu and Kashmir
 - Lal Ji Tandon - Bihar
 - Ganga Prasad - Sikkim
 - Tathagata Roy - Meghalaya
 - Kaptan Singh Solanki - Tripura
 - Satyadev Narayan Aryav - Haryana
 - Baby Rani Maurya – Uttarakhand



Online child pornography and sexual violence

- ❖ Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as the nodal authority to curb online child pornography, sexual violence, and rape videos.
- ❖ NCRB can act on such online child pornography, sexual violence and rape videos content either on the basis of complaints or by taking suo moto cognizance.
- ❖ It also has been mandated to launch an online portal for receiving complaints and acting on them.

Use of NOTA option scrapped in Rajya Sabha elections

- ❖ Supreme Court scrapped the use of NOTA (none of the above) option for Rajya Sabha elections, saying it defeats fairness in indirect elections, destroys democratic values.
- ❖ The ruling was given by three judges bench of SC comprising of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, Justices A M Khanwilkar, and D Y Chandrachud.
- ❖ It quashed June 2014 notification of Election Commission that allowed the use of NOTA option in Rajya Sabha elections.
- ❖ NOTA was introduced in Lok Sabha polls (direct election) by Election Commission of India (ECI) following 2013 Supreme Court decision.
- ❖ It was extended to Rajya Sabha election (i.e. indirect elections) via notification in January 2014.

3 Member Committee formed - Sterlite

- ❖ National Green Tribunal has announced the formation of an Independent 3-member to look into the future operations of Sterlite company.
- ❖ The committee will be
 - Headed by a Retired Judge and
 - Comprises of 2 technical officials,
 - 1 from Ministry of Environment and Forests and another from Central pollution control board.
- ❖ The committee will submit its report within six weeks



INTERNATIONAL

First domestically manufactured fighter jet – Iran

- ❖ Iran has unveiled first domestically manufactured fighter jet nicknamed Kowsar. It was unveiled at defense show held in the capital city of Tehran.



- ❖ It is a fourth-generation fighter with advanced avionics and multi-purpose radar. It was 100% indigenously made in Iran.



- ❖ Its name Kowsar means river in paradise in Islam and also the title of a chapter in Koran.
- ❖ Iran has unveiled several new fighter jets in the last few years. In 2013, it had unveiled domestically built fighter jet Qahar-313, which was compared to US F-22 and F-35.

ENVIRONMENT

Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala

- ❖ Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced to set up Cyclone Warning Centre in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ It also proposed to set up C-band Doppler weather radar at Mangalore, Karnataka.
- ❖ This comes in view of recent heavy rainfall and concerns over extreme weather activities in future.
- ❖ At present, IMD has six cyclone warning centers,
 - 4 along the east coast at Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, and Kolkata.
 - 2 along west coast at Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Most Patriotic Brand

- ❖ As per a survey conducted by UK-based online market research and data analytics firm YouGov, the State Bank of India (SBI) has been ranked as the most patriotic brand.
- ❖ In terms of sectors, the financial sector topped the chart followed by auto, consumer goods, food, and telecom sectors.
- ❖ The survey results as per the sectors are,
 - Financial Sector - SBI, LIC.
 - Auto sector - Tata Motors, Bharat Petroleum, Maruti Suzuki.
 - Food sector - Amul.



- Personal care - Patanjali.
- Oral Care - Colgate, Dabur, Vicco.
- Telecom sector - BSNL, Reliance Jio.
- Homecare products - Nirma.
- Beverages category - Tata Tea, Taj Mahal.

SPORTS

YONEX-SUNRISE Vietnam Open 2018

- ❖ The 2018 Vietnam Open officially known as YONEX-SUNRISE Vietnam Open 2018, was held at Nguyen Du Cultural Sports Club in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- ❖ The tournament was organized by Hochiminh City Badminton Association.
- ❖ This was the 6th Super 100 tournament of the 2018 BWF World Tour. It is also part of the Vietnam Open championships initiated in 1996.

Event	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Shesar Hiren Rhustavito (Indonesia)	Ajay Jayaram (India)
Women's Singles	Yeo Jia Min (Singapore)	Han Yue (China)
Men's Doubles	Ko Sung-Hyun, Shin Baek-Cheol (South Korea)	Lee Sheng-mu, Yang Po-Hsuan (Chinese Taipei)
Women's Doubles	Misato Aratama, Akane Watanabe (Japan)	Nami Matsuyama, Chiharu Shida (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	Nipitphon Phuangphuapet, Savitree Amitrapai (Thailand)	Alfian Eko Prasetya, Marsheilla Gischa Islami (Indonesia)



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Senior Citizens Day – August 21

- ❖ The World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated every year on 21 August across the world.
- ❖ Its aim is to raise awareness of the condition of elder people and support them through the process of senescence.
- ❖ The day was officially established by the former president of United States Ronald Reagan after he had signed Proclamation on August 19, 1988, declaring August 21 as National Senior Citizens Day in the US.
- ❖ Other countries later adopted the day to pay respect to the elderly community.
- ❖ Later United Nations General Assembly on 14th of December 1990 proclaimed to observe 21 August as World Senior Citizens Day.
