

### **World Biofuel Day**

World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 annually to create awareness about the importance of nonfossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.

### **International Youth Day**

International Youth Day is observed annually on August 12th. It is meant as an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide. During IYD, concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings involving national and local government officials and youth organizations take place around the world

### **World Elephant Day**

World Elephant Day is observed on 12 August annually. The day was observed to make people understand to preserve and protect the giant animal elephant. The first international Elephant Day was celebrated on 12 August, 2012. Bringing the world together to help elephants is the main motto of the day.

### **Vikram Sarabhai's 100th Birth Anniversary**

India is celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of scientist and innovator Dr Vikram A Sarabhai. He was considered to be the father of India's space program. Dr. Sarabhai established the Indian National Committee for Space Research in 1962, which was later renamed the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

### **15-km long national flag unfurled in Raipur, Chhattisgarh**

Thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a 15-km long national flag by forming a human chain in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The event, organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation, entered the Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour).

### **India in US list of major illegal drug producing, transit countries**

US President Donald Trump has designated India among the over 20 major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries. Trump said that a country's presence on the list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counternarcotic efforts or level of cooperation with the US. The countries identified in the list are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

## West Bengal heads GDP growth rate recording 12.58 per cent during 2018-19

West Bengal is at the top of the list of states for GDP growth rate recording 12.58 per cent during 2018-19. Bengal is followed by Andhra Pradesh which has recorded GDP growth of 11.02, Bihar with 10.53 and Telangana 10.5 per cent respectively. Goa is at the bottom of the list with 0.47 per cent growth rate.

## Lionel Messi wins UEFA Goal of the Season award

Lionel Messi has won UEFA's Goal of the Season prize for the third time in five seasons. Only goals from UEFA club or international fixtures in 2018-19 were eligible for consideration. Messi came first in the vote on UEFA's website for his spectacular free-kick against Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League semi-final at Camp Nou. Ronaldo came second for a strike against his former club Manchester United for Juventus in the group stage.

## Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu

The Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. A high level "Mission Reach Out" conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station. The Corps commander lauded the absolute synergy between the Army, civil administration and other security establishments in maintaining peace, harmony and a conducive environment.

## Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open title

Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open. The 26-year-old Sourabh from Madhya Pradesh had won the Slovenian International in May this year. He had also won two Super 100 titles at the Dutch Open and Russian Open last year. Top seeds Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, however, finished runners up in women's doubles.

## Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix

India's top wrestlers Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix. Bajrang Punia prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65 Kilogram category final of the men's free style competition in the capital city of Georgia. It is fourth gold for the Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament.