

Parbati Ghose, Odisha's first female filmmaker, passes away

- Parbati Ghose, Odisha's first female filmmaker, passed away recently following a prolonged illness. She was 85.
- **Parbati Ghose:** Born in Cuttack district in 1933, Parbati started as a child artiste in All India Radio and soon moved to the silver screen, also as a child artiste, playing Nila Madhava in Shri Jagannath (1949).
- Her departure is a great loss to our industry and the world of silver screen. She will always be remembered for her contribution to Odia cinema. Odisha government announced a state funeral for Parbati Ghose.

Chandrashekhara Kambar elected as President of Sahitya Akademi

- Kannada litterateur Chandrashekhara Kambar has been elected as president of the Sahitya Akademi. Hindi poet Madhav Koushik has been elected as vice-president.
- Prof. Kambar is the third Kannada writer to head the country's premier literary institution, after Vinayak Krishna Gokak (1983) and U.R. Ananthamurthy (1993).
- This is the second time election was held in the history of Sahitya Akademi, after Ananthamurthy's election to the post.
- Prof. Kambar has served as member of the Akademi executive board for over 10 years and was vice-president for 2013-18.

Foundation stone for first dairy plant of East Champaran District laid

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh, laid the foundation stone for the first dairy plant in Motihari of East Champaran District.
- **India is the prime producer of milk and has been holding the number one position globally** over the past two decades. During the year 2016-17 milk production increased by 20.12% as compared to 2013-14.
- For the first time in the country Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in December 2014 for the conservation and promotion of the indigenous breeds. Under this scheme, 41 bovine breeds and 13 buffaloes will be preserved.

6th World Government Summit held in Dubai

- The sixth edition of annual global gathering was held in Madinat Jumeriah Dubai from 11 to 13 February 2018 with 4,000 delegates and 130 speakers.
- **India was the guest country for this year's summit, prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a speech at the inauguration.** The summit closed with the presentation of awards at the summit venue at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai.
- **World Government Summit:** The World Government Summit is an annual event held in Dubai, UAE. It brings together leaders in government for a global dialogue about governmental process

and policies with a focus on the issues of futurism, technology and innovation, as well as other topics.

Global Theatre Olympics to be held in India for first time

- The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the 8th Global Theatre Olympics on 17th February, 2018 at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi. This Global Theatre Festival is being held in India for the first time.
- It is for the first time in the history of independent India that a theatre festival of such a large magnitude is being organized. The 51 days long event will travel to 17 Indian cities with 450 shows, 600 ambience performances and 250 power packed youth forum shows.
- The objective is to create a platform for conversation between voices of Indian and global artists with an intent to enrich our collective understanding and expression of art. The 8th Theatre Olympics is being organized with a budget of Rs.51.81 Crore and the performances will be held in 30 Indian languages, 15 foreign languages as well as non-verbal languages.
- **Theatre Olympics:** The Theatre Olympics was established in 1993 at Delphi, Greece. Being an international theatre festival, the Theatre Olympics presents some of the greatest theatre practitioners from around the world. It is a platform for theatrical exchange, a gathering place for students and masters, where a dialogue despite ideological, culture and language differences is encouraged.

DAC Clears Proposal Worth Rs 15,935 Crore

- In a major decision, the defence ministry approved capital acquisition proposals worth Rs.15,935 crore which included purchase of 7.40 lakh assault rifles, 5,719 sniper rifles and light machine guns to bolster the strength of the armed forces.
- Essential quantity of Light Machine Guns will be through the "fast track" route at an estimated cost of over Rs. 1,819 crore, primarily to meet the operational requirement of the troops deployed on the borders.
- The sniper rifles will be bought under the 'Buy Global' category, the ammunition for these weapons will be initially procured and subsequently manufactured in India.
- To enhance the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of Indian Navy, the DAC also approved the procurement of Advanced Torpedo Decoy Systems for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs. 850 crore.

Centre makes Amendments in Small Savings Act

- The Government gives highest priority to the interest of small savers, especially savings for the benefit of girl child, the senior citizens and the regular savers who form the backbone of our country's savings architecture.
- In order to remove existing ambiguities due to multiple Acts and rules for Small Saving Schemes and further strengthen the objective of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance".

- With a single act, relevant provisions of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 and the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968 would stand subsumed in the new amended act without compromising on any of the functional provision of the existing act.
- The main objective in proposing a common act is to make implementation easier for the depositors as they need not go through different rules and acts for understanding the provision of various small saving schemes, and also to introduce certain flexibility for the investors.
- Apart from offering higher interest rates compared to bank deposits, some of the small savings schemes also enjoy income tax benefits. No change in interest rate or tax policy on small savings scheme is being made through this amendment.

Centre to set up at least one sanitary pad unit in each block of the country

- Centre will set up at least one sanitary pad unit in each block of the country for better health and hygiene of women.
- These units will be set up through Common Services Center network and will create employment for around 60 thousand women.
- Government will also establish seven Centre of excellence across the country which will empower Digital India initiatives and promote new technology in different sectors.
- They will be set up in Chennai, Guwahati, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Gurugram and Lucknow in the fields of Financial technology, Medical Tech, Virtual Reality, Electronics Products and Blockchain.

South Africa declares drought a 'national disaster'

- South Africa, declared a "national disaster" over a drought that has ravaged parts of the country and threatened to leave the city of Cape Town without domestic tap water.
- The department of cooperative governance said it had elevated the drought to a "national disaster" after reassessing its "magnitude and severity".
- Cape Town is in the grip of a catastrophic three-year-long drought as sparse winter rains have failed to bring relief, and dam levels have dropped to dangerously low levels.
- ***South Africa's second city is now facing the prospect of having to turn its taps off*** under a so-called "Day Zero" scenario to conserve the city's remaining water supplies.

India won silver at Asian Games basketball test event

- The Indian men's team bagged the silver medal at the Asian Games 5x5 basketball test event. The India side went down fighting 68-78 to hosts Indonesia at the Istora Sanayan Hall, Gelora Bung Karno Sports Complex to finish runners-up in the invitational tournament.
- India fought hard in the fourth quarter to bounce back but it was not enough as Indonesia kept on scoring at regular intervals.
- The hosts thus avenged their loss against their opponents a few days back, which was India's first victory of the tournament.

- Considering that India started their campaign with a 72-79 loss against Thailand, the second-place finish could be considered a creditable one.