

- The move is aimed to prevent fraudulent property registrations through impersonations
- The recordings in CD will serve as evidence and a second layer of protection for both buyers and sellers
- ✓ Earlier, the department had started its video recordings system in 2013 but it was discontinued later due to several issues

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Tamil Nadu Government – bans commercial fishing in Singanallur lake from January 1 – to preserve biodiversity



- ✓ The move was announced during the celebration of the first anniversary of the declaration of Singanallur lake as an urban biodiversity conservation zone
- A special postal cover featuring bird species in the lake was released to mark the occasion
- ✓ The lake is being developed under the smart city mission of Coimbatore
- ✓ A new freshwater fish conservation project is also inaugurated in the lake

22 Artisans from Thanjavur – get user certificates from 'GI Registry' of the Government of India – for making 'Thanjavur Veena'



- ✓ As per the GI Goods (Registration and Protection) Art, 1999 GI tag is provide to goods having a specific geographical origin possessing distinct qualities attributable to the place of origin
- ✓ Thanjavur veena was earlier given GI tag and the 'Registered Proprietor' certificate was given to Thanjavur musical instruments workers cooperative cottage industrial society limited on July 2010 by the GI registry
- ✓ In order to help the artisans, the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology – had applied for authorized 'user certificates' to make individual veenas on October 2013
- ✓ The user certificates have been sanctioned earlier in April 2018

STATES

Rajasthan Government – abolishes the minimum educational qualification condition – to contest in the Local body elections

- ✓ The current 'Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Amendment Bill 2015' stipulates a passing of Class X for contesting municipal elections, Class VIII for contesting panchayat polls for the post of a sarpanch, and Class X for contesting zila parishad elections
- ✓ It has to be recalled that earlier, Haryana had passed a law mandating minimum education qualification for those contesting in Panchayat Raj Institutions

Madhya Pradesh Government – to create a new Adhyatmik Vibhag (spiritual department) – by merging other existing departments

 Madhya Pradesh had earlier became the first state in the country to create Happiness Department and announced setting up a Happiness Institute

NATIONAL

Union Government – approves the proposals from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of 'Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme'



- ✓ It has to be recalled that Haryana was the first state to adopt the initiative of Mahila Police Volunteer at Karnal and Mahindergarh District on a pilot basis under the Nirbhaya Fund during the financial year 2016-2017
- ✓ The scheme is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs
- ✓ The Mahila Police Volunteers will act as a link between police and community and help women in distress directly reporting to the Circle Inspector in the police limits

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INTERNATIONAL

Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Prime Minister – wins 3rd consecutive and 4th overall term as the Prime Minister of the country



- Sheikh Hasina's ruling party, Bangladesh Awami League and its allies won 288 of the 299 parliamentary seats contested
- ✓ In the 2014 elections, it had won 234 seats out of 300
- ✓ Sheikh Hasina's Awami League has been ruling in Bangladesh since 2009

Portugese Airline 'Hi Fly' – launches the world's first plastic-free passenger flight from Lisbon to Natale, Brazil on December 26, 2018



- ✓ It took off without a single piece of single use plastic on board
- ✓ As per the airlines, this was only a test run for it to completely ban single use plastic from all its flights in 2019

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CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to inaugurate the 106th Indian Science Congress - at Lovely Professional University in Jalandhar, Punjab on January 3, 2019



- \checkmark The five-day annual science event will be attended by over 30,000 delegates, including Nobel laureates, across the globe
- ✓ Theme 'Future India Science and Technology'
- \checkmark The event will have a special 'Pride of India' expo where scientific research bodies of the country like ISRO, CSIR, DRDO and ICAR - will showcase their innovations
- ✓ The 105th Indian Science Congress took place in Manipur University during March 2018

PERSONALITIES

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi - praised the efforts of 3 girls in this year's last 'Mann Ki Baat' program on December 30, 2018



300 kms every day

12-year-old from Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir won a gold medal in a karate championship held in Kore:

16-year-old hailing from Panipat won gold became the fastest Asian medal at the Junior to traverse the globe Women's Boxing riding a bicycle in 159 Championship and a days covering around medal in Serbia too

- ✓ The young achievers recognized by the Prime Minister were –
- ✓ Raini, Boxer (Harvana, 16 years old)
- ✓ Hanaya Nisar, Martial artist (Kashmir, 12 years old)
- ✓ Vedangi Kulkarni, Cyclist (Pune, 20 years old)
- ✓ Rajni had earlier won the gold medal at the international event 'Nations Junior' Cup' in Serbia
- ✓ Hanaya Nisar from Anantnag had won gold in the 3rd World Say Martial Arts in South Korea in October
- ✓ Vedangi kulkarni became the fastest woman in Asia recently to cycle across the globe, completing a distance of 29,000 km in 159 days, averaging 300 km a day

SPORTS

Saurabh Chaudhary – swept the 10m air pistol National trials - in both the men's and junior boy's categories



✓ Saurabh was the current Asian Games and Youth Olympic Games champion

Ministry of Sports - has earmarked Rs 100 crore for funding the athletes under the (TOPS) Target Olympic Podium Scheme

✓ The scheme was launched in September 2014 to provide financial assistance to potential Olympic medal winners, apart from other international events like Asian Games and Common Wealth games

OBITUARY

Mrinal Sen, acclaimed film director (95 years)



- ✓ In a career spanning for more than six decades, Sen along with his contemporary stalwarts Satyajit Ray and Ritwick Ghatak paved the way for the reign of parallel cinema in the country
- ✓ The three directors were known to be the greatest ambassadors of Bengali parallel cinema on the global stage
- ✓ He was the Director of several notable films including Ek Din Achanak, Padatik,Mrigaya, Akaler Sandhane, Chorus, Kharij, Kandahar, Bhuwan Shome, Akash Kusum and Calcutta 71
- ✓ Sen was also a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2003
- ✓ His last film as a director was 'Aamaar Bhuvan' ('This, My Land') released in 2002

- ✓ He won National award for best feature film for movies such as 'Bhuvan Shoma' in 1969, 'Chorus' in 1974, 'Mrigaya' in 1976 and 'Akaler Sandhane' in 1980
- Sen had also won the four National Awards for direction for 'Bhuvan Shome', 'Ek Din Pratidin', 'Akaler Sandhane' and 'Khandhar'
- He was a recipient of 12 international film awards which includes the prestigious Venice Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival and Moscow International Film Festival
- ✓ In 1981, the Government of India conferred him the third-highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan
- ✓ In 2005, he had received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest honor given to an Indian filmmaker, from the Government of India awarded for the year 2003

GENTR

✓ In 2017, he was inducted as a member of the Oscar Academy

