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NATIONAL NEWS

- On **16th July 2018**, Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** laid the **foundation stone for National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) at Barang, in Bhubaneswar**, to be established at a cost of Rs 160 crore
 - NSTI will function under the Directorate General of Training (**DGT**). It will have training activities like Trainers Training (**Long term/Short term**), Refresher Training and **Re-skilling/Up skilling courses**.
- The '**BIMARU**' Indian states – **Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** – have the highest numbers of partially immunized and non-immunized children, according to **UN bodies WHO and Unicef**.
 - According to data shared by the **UN bodies on Monday**, the national average for full immunization is **62 per cent**, for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine (**DTP3**) coverage is **78.4 per cent** and for **measles first dose 81.1 per cent**.
- **IIT Madras** has launched "**world's first**" remotely operatable **microscope** that would enable a precise atom-by-atom view of a material in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
 - The Local Electrode Atom Probe (**LEAP**) was developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions headed by IIT Madras. It was developed at a cost of **Rs 40 crore**.
- The government has decided to set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr **Anil Swarup**, former **Secretary, School Education**, with suitable representations from **NCC, M/o Youth Affairs and Ministry of HRD** to suggest measures to strengthen National Cadet Corps (**NCC**) and National Service Scheme (**NSS**).
- A high level **National Conference of State/UT Ministers-in-charge of Women & Child development** was held in **New Delhi**.

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- The meeting was chaired by the Union Minister of Women and Child development, Smt. **Maneka Sanjay Gandhi**.
- The **National Level Conference** was held with the objective to discuss issues pertaining to **safety of women and children** as well as **Poshan Abhiyan** with the purpose to direct and seek the support of **State Governments** to further their effective implementation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The UN has entered into a **partnership with Google to monitor** the impacts of **human activity** on **global ecosystems** by using sophisticated **online tools**.
- The Union Minister of **Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu** co-chaired **8th session of India-Oman** Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) along with **Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy** of Oman, **Dr Ali bin Masoud Al Sunaidy**.

AWARDS

- A team comprising experts from the **Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur** and the **University of Oxford** has been selected for an award for exceptional research-led innovation to mitigate arsenic poisoning in the **Ganga-Brahmaputra** delta in the **north and northeast India**.

SPORTS

- India's star shuttler **PV Sindhu** (seeded second) suffered a defeat to fourth seed **Nozomi Okuhara of Japan** in straight games inside **50 minutes** to settle for runners-up spot in the **Thailand Open at the Nimibutr Stadium in Bangkok**.
 - In men's singles, **Kanta Tsuneyama** (Japan) was the winner and **Tommy Sugiarto** (Indonesia) was runner up.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Nelson Mandela International Day** (or Mandela Day) is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on **18 July, Mandela's birthday**.
 - The day was officially declared by the **United Nations in November 2009**.