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NATIONAL NEWS

- The **Ministry of Tourism in partnership** with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (**FAITH**) and with the help of State/UT Governments is organizing the India Tourism Mart (**ITM**) **2018** from **16th to 18th September, 2018** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) has organised a two-day **International Round Table Conference** on ‘**Data for New India**’ in **New Delhi**. Such a Conference was organized in India for the **first time**.
 - The objective of the **Round Table Conference** was to identify innovative ideas for improving the statistical system in **India**, taking cue from the **best practices** followed in advanced countries like **Canada, UK and Australia**.
- **Odisha** Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced a **ban** on the **use of plastic** in the state from **October 2**, on the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti**.
- The next **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** will be held in the holy city of **Varanasi** in **January 2019**. The **theme of the three-day event**, which is being organised in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s parliamentary constituency, will be the ‘**Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India**’.
- **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will inaugurate the new** Headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India (**ASI**), at **Tilak Marg** in **New Delhi** on July 12, 2018.
 - It shall include a **Central Archaeological Library** with a collection of

about **1.5 lakh books and journals.**

- Inaugurating the 16th Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Asia (**WGIA16**) in **New Delhi**, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** stressed that while efforts of experts are necessary, there is also a need for an active involvement of people in the fight against climate change.
 - He said that India is committed to **achieve 175 GW** of installed capacity of renewable energy generation by **2022**.
- The Global Innovation Index (**GII**) has ranked India as the **57th** most innovative **nation in the world**. The country has improved its ranking from **60th position in 2017**. India has been improving steadily since it was ranked **81st in 2015**.
- The **Top 3 Countries in Global Innovation Index** are:
 - **Switzerland**,
 - **The Netherlands**,
 - **Sweden**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Nepal** is set to hold a **two-day Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** Summit, starting from August 31, in **Kathmandu**.
- Union Minister of State for **HRD**, **Dr Satya Pal Singh** attended the **6th** meeting of **BRICS** Education Ministers at **Cape Town, South Africa**.
- In this meeting of **BRICS**, India was allotted the key theme of **‘Digitization in Education’**.
- He apprised to all present about the India’s initiatives like **SWAYAM**, **SWAYAM PRABHA**, **National Digital Library**, **National Academic Depository**, **E-Yantra**, **Virtual Labs**, **Operation Digital Board**, **E-Pathshala**, **Diksha**, and **Geographic information System (GIS)**.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** was sworn-in as the President of Republic of **Turkey** for another term under the **new governmental system**.

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