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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Israel** has opened a **Visa Application Centre in Kolkata** for tourists from West Bengal and the northeastern states to encourage more **Indian travelers to visit that country**. Israel recently announced a reduction in visa fees to **INR 1,100 rupees** from its previous 1,700 charged from Indians.
 - The **Union Government** has unlocked **green funds worth over Rs 66,000 crore** to increase the country's forest cover. The fund is an accumulated amount of money, which user agencies have been depositing as compensation for diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, including industries and infrastructure, **since the past 10 years**.
- Digital technologies to transform the lives of people of the northeast and enhance the ease of living, the Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad released '**Digital North East Vision 2022**' in **Guwahati**.
 - The foundation stone for a common facilitation centre and smart meter manufacturing facility at the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (**EMC**) in **Tech City at Bongara village** was laid
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Nepal-India Literature Festival 2018** has begun in **Birgunj**, Nepal. The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Province **2 Mohammad Lalbabu Raut**. The festival is aimed at strengthening **Indo-Nepal ties**.
 - On this occasion, eminent writers from both the countries were also felicitated. Around **250 participants from India and Nepal** attending the two-day festival. The event is organised by **Nepal India Co-operation Forum**.
- A special meeting of Senior Officials of the Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) was held in Kathmandu today. The meeting also agreed to recommend a theme "**Towards a peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region**" for the Summit.

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- **Santhali** has become the **first Indian tribal** language to get a Wikipedia edition in its own script. **Wikipedia** contributors from **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** generated the content.

AWARDS

- **Indian-American Aruna Vishwanathan** was one of the **3 women** honoured with ‘**Women in Business: Making a Difference Award**’ at the **19th annual** Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (**IACCGH**) gala, in Houston, United States.
 - The **3 women** honoured with ‘**Women in Business: Making a Difference Award**’ are: **Aruna Vishwanathan (Indian), Carlecia Wright (American), Jewel Smith (American)**

APPOINTMENTS

- **Justice M R Shah** has been appointed as Chief Justice of Patna High Court. He became a judge of the **Gujarat High Court** on **March 7, 2004** and was confirmed as permanent judge on **June 22, 2005**.
- Justice **Rajendra Menon** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the **Delhi High Court** by **Lt Governor Anil Baijal** at a ceremony held at the **Raj Niwas in New Delhi**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **India** will launch its second lunar mission “**Chandrayaan-2**” on **January 3, 2019**, to land on the moon with a lander and rover. According to Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman **K. Sivan**, **ISRO** is aiming to launch the mission but the window to land on the **lunar** surface is open till **March 2019**.
 - The 800-crore rupees is the cost of lunar mission named “**Chandrayaan-2**”. The 3,890-kg Chandrayaan-2, which will be launched onboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch **Vehicle Mk-3**, will orbit around the moon and study its lunar conditions to collect data on its **topography, mineralogy and exosphere**.
- **NASA’s Parker Solar Probe**, the **world’s first mission to touch the Sun**, was launched from **Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station**, in United States.
 - The Parker Solar Probe was carried by a **United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket**.

- The **Parker Solar Probe** has been sent on a **7 year** long mission to study the **Sun's outer atmosphere** and its effects space weather.on

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **18th International Youth Day**
- **August 12** is annually celebrated as **International Youth Day**. It is an awareness day designated by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.
 - The Theme for **IYD 2018** is: **“Safe space for Youth”**.
 - The **first IYD** was observed on **12 August, 2000**.
- **August 12** is annually celebrated as **World Elephant Day**. It is an international annual event dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
 - To celebrate this day in India, the Coochbehar Mountaineers Club (CMC) have started awareness programmes and campaigns at **Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal**. It was started in **August 12, 2012**.



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