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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Chhattisgarh** Cabinet approved the proposal to rename **Naya Raipur**, capital of Chhattisgarh as '**Atal Nagar**'. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Raman Singh** announced the renaming of some other institutions and projects after **Vajpayee**.
 - The **Bilaspur** University will be known as **Atal Bihari Vajpayee University**.
 - **Narrow Gauge Line** will be called **Atal Path**.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (**IIT-Kharagpur**) launched '**Aditya Choubey Center for Re-Water Research**' to treat and convert sewage water into **potable water**. This has been launched to handle the issues of sewage disposal in urban areas and access to **clean potable water**.
- The **Northern states** have decided to set up a joint secretariat at **Panchkula, Haryana** for data and information sharing to effectively fight the drug menace. The decision was taken at a meeting of Chief Ministers of Northern States in **Chandigarh**, convened to **evolve and formulate a joint strategy to fight the malady**.
- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) has extended **\$100 million (Rs 700 crore)** as financial assistance to rebuild the **southern Indian state** amid a host of other nations. Also, **Sharjah ruler Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi** donated **Rs 4 crore for Kerala flood victims**, whereas the **UAE** government had formed a **national emergency committee** to help the flood victims.
- The Supreme Court ruled that the '**None of The Above**' (**NOTA**) option will not be applicable for voting in the **Rajya Sabha** elections. The ruling was made by a bench of Justices comprising **CJI Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **first-ever joint** air exercise involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced at **Subang Air Base in Malaysia**. This is the inaugural bilateral exercise between **IAF & RMAF**.
 - It was inaugurated by **Gp Capt CUV Rao**, team leader **IAF & Col Mahadzer**, **Ex** director of **RMAF**. It's a platform to exchange Knowledge & Good practices with each other.
- **India and Japan** has resolved to expand their maritime cooperation and work together to ensure peace and stability in the **Indo-Pacific** region, which is witnessing growing Chinese assertiveness.
 - In their wide ranging talks, Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and her **Japanese** counterpart **Itsunori Onodera** also agreed to deepen the overall defence cooperation between the two countries including in areas of co-development of **military platforms and weapons**.

AWARDS

- The **Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi** was honoured with this year's **Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award** for promoting communal harmony and **peace**. The award was presented on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**.
- The **Delhi** government's additional director of health **S.K. Arora** has been awarded the prestigious **WHO World No Tobacco Day 2018 Award** for his extraordinary contribution towards tobacco control.
 - Tobacco prevalence in Delhi has come down by **6.5% in the past six years**, which is more than the rest of **India average figures**. Delhi has already achieved these targets **before 2017**.

APPOINTMENTS

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** appointed governors for seven states — **Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura**. Governor **Satya Pal Malik** has been transferred from **Bihar to Jammu and Kashmir** to replace **NN Vohra**, while senior **BJP** leader **Lalji Tandon** has been appointed the Governor of Bihar, replacing Malik.
- **Newly appointed governors of all the 7 states:**
 - **Satya Pal Malik** - Jammu & Kashmir (Replaced NN Vohra)
 - **Tathagata Roy** - Meghalaya (Replaced Ganga Prasad)
 - **Lalji Tandon** - Bihar (Replaced Satya Pal Malik)

- **Ganga Prasad** - Sikkim (Replaced Shriniwas Patil)
- **Kaptan Singh Solanki** - Tripura (Replaced Tathagata Roy)
- **Satyadev Narayan Arya** - Haryana (Replaced Kaptan Singh Solanki)
- **Baby Rani Maurya** - Uttarakhand (Replaced K K Paul)

SPORTS

- Indian shooters **Saurabh Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma** bagged the **gold and bronze medal**, respectively in the Men's **10 metre Air Pistol** final in the **ongoing 2018 Asian Games at Jakarta, Indonesia**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Indian** cricketer **VVS Laxman**, known for the suppleness of his wrists, plans to release his emotional journey as cricket player through his autobiography **"281 and Beyond"** on **November 20, 2018**.
- **Australia** Cricketer and bowling spin legend **Shane Warne** plan to release his extraordinary cricketing career and his life off the pitch besides unveiling several unknown facts in his autobiography **'No Spin'** which will be published on **October 2018**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Sadbhavana Diwas 2018 (74th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi)** will be celebrated all over the **India** on **20th of August**.
- **World Senior Citizen Day, 2018** will be observed worldwide on **August 21**. The main aim of observing the World Senior Citizens Day is to raise awareness of the condition of elder people and support them through the process of senescence.
 - The World Senior Citizens Day on 21 August 2017 is kept with the theme of **"Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society."**
- The month of September will be celebrated as the **National Nutrition Month** every year to mark India's fight against malnutrition. This announcement was made by the Ministry of **Women and Child Development** at the **second** meeting of **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** under the **Poshan Abhiyaan** on **25th July 2018**.