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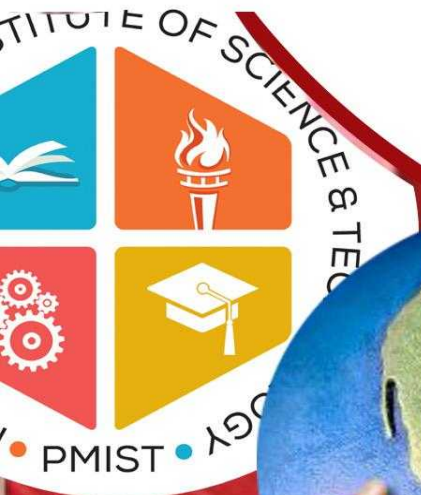
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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia** after the Nipah virus attack last year.
 - Kerala has received a communication in this regard from the Saudi Arabian authorities that has led to the commencement of direct exports from the state.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that the time-window for using the **Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)** for customer transactions will be extended from 4:30 pm to 6 pm on all working days.
 - It will be effective from June 1, 2019. The current RTGS service window for customer transactions is available to banks from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on a working day.
- Record 78 women candidates have been elected to the **Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections.**
 - According to the Election Commission, the number has grown from the previous 62 women who were elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014.

APPOINTMENTS

- The former **Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed** has been nominated as the country's parliamentary speaker.
 - Nasheed was unanimously chosen to head the People's Majlis, or the parliament, by his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) which won a near three-quarter majority in the 87-member assembly in April.
- **Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee appointed Alapan Bandyopadhyay, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, as the new Home Secretary for West Bengal.**
 - He succeeds Atri Bhattacharya Alapan Bandyopadhyay was in charge of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department with additional charge of Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30 May. It was on this day in 1987 Goa

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became the 25th state of the Indian Union.

- Before this, Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was a union territory.
- **The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed on 29 May 2019.** The objective is to pay tribute to the invaluable contribution by the uniformed and civilian personnel and to honour more than 3,800 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while rendering peacekeeping services.
 - The theme this year is “Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace”.


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