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## International Affairs

### Indian-origin entrepreneur to swim across English Channel

- An Indian-origin woman entrepreneur Leah Chowdhry in the UK is training to swim across the English Channel to raise funds to combat child trafficking in India.

### Japan to buy advanced US radar for missile defence system

- Japan will pick US-made advanced radar for its multibillion-dollar missile defence system, an upgrade that could help ease trade friction with Washington and provide cutting-edge protection against the arsenals of North Korea and China.

### UN declares Colombia's Chiribiquete park world heritage site

- The United Nations has placed Colombia's Chiribiquete national park on its list of world heritage sites.

### World's first digital art museum in Tokyo

- The world's first digital art museum opened in Tokyo, Japan. The installation is located in the Digital Art Museum: teamLab Borderless in Tokyo's Mori Building and is collaboration between Japanese art collective teamLab and Tokyo-based urban developer Mori Building.

### India to operate "world's emptiest airport" in Sri Lanka

- India has agreed to form a joint venture with Sri Lanka to operate the country's loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota.

**First from the minority community to contest elections**

- Sunita Parmar, a Hindu woman in Pakistan’s Sindh province, has created history by becoming the first from the minority community to contest the provincial assembly elections to be held on July 25.

**Ethiopia, Eritrea sign statement that war ‘has come to an end’**

- Ethiopia and Eritrea are no longer at war; a day after their leaders held a historic meeting and signed “Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship” by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki at state house in Asmara.

**Tesla plant in Shanghai**

- Tesla Inc. Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk landed a deal with Chinese authorities to build a new auto plant in Shanghai, its first factory outside the United States that would double the size of the electric car maker’s global manufacturing.

**Sri Lanka to restore capital punishment for drug offences**

- The Sri Lankan Cabinet has unanimously approved a move to bring back capital punishment for drug-related crimes.

**Brave Kids International Festival**

- Indian students represented our country at “The International Movement of Children & Their Friends” at the Brave Kids International Festival held in Ukraine and Poland under the patronage of UNESCO.

**Canada will assume command of new NATO training & capacity building mission in Iraq**

- Canadian troops will be deployed in the Baghdad region to help Iraq build a more effective national security structure and improve training for Iraqi security forces.

**Portugal parliament approves new gender change law**

- The Portuguese parliament approved a law that will allow citizens to change their gender and name from the age of 16 without a medical report showing “identity disruption”.
- Portugal joins Denmark, Malta, Sweden, Ireland and Norway to become “the sixth European country to grant the right to self-determination of transgender identity

**UN Security Council imposes arms embargo on South Sudan**

- The United Nations Security Council has imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan, almost five years after a ruinous civil war in the country started.

**World Customs Organisation (WCO)**

- India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years, from July, 2018 to June, 2020. The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions.

**Iceland Fills US-Vacated Seat on UN Human Rights Council**

- Members of the United Nations have unanimously elected Iceland to take a seat on the world body’s 47-member Human Rights Council.

**India opens its largest visa centre in Bangladesh**

- India inaugurated its largest visa centre in the world in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka to reduce the waiting time for applicants.

**EU, Japan sign major trade deal**

- Japan and the EU signed a sweeping free trade deal sending a “clear message” against protectionism, as Washington puts up barriers and threatens a trade war.

**Google celebrated the 124th birth anniversary of Georges Lemaitre**

- Google Doodle celebrated the 124th birth anniversary of Belgian astronomer Georges Lemaitre, the founder of the Big Bang theory.

**Theresa May narrowly wins key Brexit vote**

- British Prime Minister Theresa May narrowly survived another crunch Brexit vote in Parliament, as she struggles to unify her divided party around her strategy for leaving the European Union.

**Mattis, Pompeo to travel to India in September for 2+2**

- The first 2+2 dialogue between Defence and Foreign Ministers of India and the U.S. will take place in September first week in New Delhi.

**BRICS news portal soon**

- A decision to establish a BRICS Media Academy and a BRICS news portal were among those taken at the 2018 BRICS Media Forum at Cape Town in South Africa.

**Russia tests new nuclear weapons**

- Russia's military is testing an array of new nuclear and other weapons, from a high-powered laser weapon system to a nuclear-powered cruise missile with "unlimited" range.

**First women to join nuclear-powered fleet crew**

- France has become just the third country to bring women onboard its nuclear-powered subs, which operate much longer and isolated missions than traditional vessels, after the U.S. and Britain.

**Japanese start-up to deliver ‘meteor showers’ on demand**

- A Japanese start-up developing “shooting stars on demand” says it will be ready to deliver the world’s first artificial meteor shower in a spectacular show over Hiroshima in early 2020.

**Expansion of Emergency Ambulance Service**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, delivered an address over live video link, on the occasion of the expansion of Emergency Ambulance Service over the entire island in Sri Lanka, with Indian Assistance.

**China offers fresh grant of \$295 mn to Sri Lanka**

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has offered Sri Lanka a fresh grant of two billion yuan (\$295 million), as Beijing tries to expand its influence in the island-nation.

**UN urges Myanmar to create conditions for Rohingya return**

- The UN Security Council has urged Myanmar’s government to step-up efforts to create conditions that will allow Rohingya Muslims who fled a violent crackdown to safely return to the country from neighbouring Bangladesh.

**Prime Minister addressed the Ugandan Parliament**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Uganda’s capital Kampala as part of a two-day visit to the country – the first bilateral tour by an Indian prime minister since 1997.

**Imran Khan declares victory in Pakistan election**

- Pakistan’s cricket star-turned politician Imran Khan declared victory for his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI), in the country’s general election.

**Imran Khan wins in Pakistan election but needs coalition to become PM**

- Pakistan's Election Commission declared former cricket star Imran Khan's party the winner of Pakistan's historic third consecutive election of a civilian government, but he didn't win an outright majority and must form a coalition.

**World's oldest person dies at 117**

- The world's oldest person Chiyo Miyako, a 117-year-old Japanese woman, has died.

**Modi meets South African President Cyril Ramaphosa**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and to expand the bilateral ties in a number of sectors, including trade and investment, information technology and defence.

**Imran Khan to be sworn in as Pakistan PM**

- Imran Khan will be sworn in as Pakistan's new Prime Minister before the country's Independence Day on August 14.

**India to give flash flood warning to Asian nations**

- India has been designated as a nodal centre for preparing flash-flood forecasts that can issue advance warning of floods in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

**Indo-Nepal Tourism Forum**

- Indo-Nepal Tourism Forum to be set up for mutual consultation and promotion of tourism.
- Ramayana and Buddhist circuits to be promoted through common branding by India and Nepal.

**Zimbabwe set for landmark election**

- Voters in Zimbabwe are going to the polls in the country's first election without long-time leader Robert Mugabe's name on the ballot.

**New Zealand to remove 'sexist' road signs**

- New Zealand's transport authority said it would adopt gender-neutral signs.

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