

2 july

1) **A 216-foot-tall statue of Ramanuja will be built at Hyderabad.** When unveiled, **it is set to become the world's second tallest statue of a seated figure.**

**About Ramanujacharya:**

- He was a Hindu theologian, philosopher, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
- His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.
- He is famous as **the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta.**
- He wrote **influential texts**, such as bhāṣya on the

2) In a Remarkable Achievement, **India gets its 37th WORLD UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE.** The decision was taken at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO at Manama in Bahrain.

**37th site:** Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai.

- This makes **Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.**
- In the past 5 years alone, India has managed to get inscribed seven of its properties/sites on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.
- **India now has overall 37 World Heritage Inscriptions** with 29 Cultural, 07 Natural and 01 Mixed sites.

3) The Odisha government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) for effective management of disasters. RIMES was established on 30 April 2009 to provide user-relevant early warning services to its Member States and others. **It is a UN registered**

***international*** and ***inter-governmental institution***.

4) U.S. President Donald Trump is planning to create a “space force” or a sixth branch of the American armed forces. This has taken many by surprise within and outside the U.S.

The purpose is to deny the Russians and the Chinese advantages in space. The main intention is to see that the U.S. establishes and maintains dominance in space.

5) ***India’s longest-range ballistic missile, Agni-V***, will be inducted into the nuclear arsenal very soon. It is a strategic asset which will act as a deterrent.

6) The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 (AMCDRR 2018) will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It is convened by the UN Office for DRR (UNISDR) and the Government of Mongolia. The conference will represent a key milestone for reflection on three years into the implementation of ***the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030***. Specifically, the conference will enable governments and stakeholders to review progress made against the commitments at the AMCDRR 2016, i.e. the New Delhi Declaration, the Asia Regional Plan, and ten stakeholder voluntary action statements.

7) **Hubble Space Telescope**: Nasa’s Hubble Space Telescope has detected a stunning image of a huge collection of ageing stars, believed to be 10 billion-years-old. This rich and dense smattering of stars is a massive globular cluster, a gravitationally bound collection of stars that orbits the Milky Way.

Globular clusters are denser and more spherical than open star clusters like the famous Pleiades.

**8) Golden Globe Race (GGR):**

The Golden Globe Race is being conducted by Sir Robin Knox Johnston of UK to commemorate 50 years since the world's first solo non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968 onboard the Indian built boat, Suhaili.

The uniqueness of the race is that boat designs and technology newer than 1968 is not permitted, hence use of Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite communication, navigational aids, etc is forbidden.

9) 1st July 2018 will be celebrated as 'GST day', to commemorate the first year of the unprecedented reform of Indian taxation.

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