

28/05/18

1) **Ireland** voted decisively to **repeal** one of the world's more restrictive **abortion bans**, sweeping aside generations of conservative patriarchy and dealing the latest in a series of stinging rebukes to the Roman Catholic Church. The vote repeals the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution.

The eighth amendment is a clause inserted into the Irish constitution after a referendum in 1983. It recognises an equal right to life for both mother and unborn child, effectively prohibiting abortion in almost all cases.

2) **Ganeshi Lal and Kummanam Rajasekharan** have been appointed as Governors of **Odisha** and **Mizoram** respectively by the President of India.

Governor is the head of the Executive power of any state in India, just like the President who is the head of the executive power in the Union. But, Governor is the nominal head of a state, unlike the Chief Minister who is the real head of a state in India. According to an amendment in the Constitution of India, brought about in 1956, the same person can be the Governor of two or more states.

3) **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** is engaged in restoration works of a trove of more than 600 pages of rare Tibetan manuscripts which contains Buddha's teachings written in gold letters. The restoration work is being carried out at Mak Dhog Monastery in West Bengal.

The manuscripts contain the **ancient Tibetan text called Gyetongba**, which contains teachings of Buddhism. The manuscripts are in the **Tibetan script Sambhota**, named after its inventor.

4) **Colombia** is all set to formally become the NATO's first **Latin American "global partner."** Colombia will join as a "global partner", which means it will not necessarily have to take part in military action, and will be fully accredited in Brussels. The move would improve Colombia's image on the world stage.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 and is a group of 29 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members.

5) The first edition of the **Global Wind Summit** will be held in **Hamburg, Germany.**

The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide. The event combines two conferences, WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope. **India is fourth largest country** after China, the US and Germany in terms of wind energy installation capacity at around 33 GW. The government has set a target of achieving 60 GW by 2022.

6) **Eastern Peripheral Expressway** was recently inaugurated by PM Modi.

The 135- km expressway connects National Highway 1 and 2 from the eastern side of Delhi and aims to decongest and de- pollute the national capital by diverting traffic.

7) Scientists have developed a nanocomposite material that can selectively **convert environmental carbon monoxide into less toxic carbon dioxide.**

The new composite material is made of **graphene** and an **alloy of platinum** and palladium in the form of nanoparticles. Graphene was used as a substrate and then "decorated" with alloy nanoparticles made of platinum and palladium. The material was then used for

selective oxidation of CO into CO₂.

Graphene has been touted in the global electronics industry as a “**miracle material**” given its strength, electrical conductivity and elasticity, and has been seen as an alternative to lithium-ion batteries since its discovery in 2004. It is a form of carbon that can be used to develop smaller, slimmer batteries but with higher capacity.