First in Finance, Economy & Banking

Iraq has become India's biggest crude oil supplier by overtaking Saudi Arabia with a wide margin in this current financial year. Iraq supplied 38.9 million tonnes (MT) of oil, which was more than 20% of country's oil needs.

Three months after announcing an incubation center exclusively for women, **Government of Telangana launched Women Entrepreneurship Hub (WE- Hub) in Hyderabad**. WE-Hub is **India's first state-led incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs.**

Microsoft announced on March 26, the formal opening **in Hyderabad of India's first Microsoft Garage**, a facility that supports its employees' endeavours in experimentation and encourages problem solving in new and innovative ways.

India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term contract of GAIL (India) Ltd. A GAIL statement said the cargo was received at Dabhol.

First in India

The Telangana government is planning to set up India's first Centre of Excellence (CoE) for defence to develop the ecosystem in the state on the back of an increasing number of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) like Boeing and Airbus, among others, setting up manufacturing centres.

In a first-of-its-kind service, India's much-awaited app-based heli taxi trip took off in Bengaluru. The maiden trip of the heli taxi was between a Bengaluru airport and Electronic City.

The South Central Railway (SCR) management on March 6, 2018 named the Chandragiri station in Guntakal Division, near Tirupati as the first 'all-women railway station' in Andhra Pradesh.

Diu has become the first Union Territory of the country to run 100 per cent on solar power energy. The installation of solar power plants has resulted in significantly reducing the power loss which was earlier faced when the UT consumed electricity supplied from the power grid owned by the Gujarat government.

India's popular Live TV App JioTV have announced that it has introduced India's FIRST interactive sports experience for consumers watching the ongoing tri-nation Nidahas trophy which is being shown exclusively on JioTV in India.

Chandigarh hosted Play Write 2018, India's first of its kind Sports Literature Festival on March 17-18.

India Oil Corporation (IOC), the country's largest fuel retailer, on Monday announced the successful demonstration trials of India's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered bus in collaboration with Tata Motors.

The first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit ended successfully on March 11, 2018 with a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications between the two countries.

Banlotwa has become the first 'alcohol-free' village in Ranchi district.

The first-ever multilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise of the Indian Air Force in association with South Asian Region nations began off the coast of Kerala on March 12, 2018.

The Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) on March 16, 2018 claimed that a cloned Assamese buffalo male calf was born for the first time in India.

India's first ever elevated railway track projected launched in Rohtak! Recently, the nation's first elevated railway track project has been launched in Rohtak, Haryana.

The first National workshop on Poshan Abhiyaan was held in New Delhi on March 20, 2018 to implement the campaign in a fast track mode across the country.

The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot on March 23, 2018 launched the first Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary containing 3000 words at a function in Delhi.

Saras Mk2, India's first indigenous passenger aircraft, will be inducted into service after 2022. The National Aeronautics Laboratories (NAL) has undertaken the development programme with a renewed vigour under the Narendra Modi government.

Two years after signing a Memorandum of Understanding, the 'Hyderabad Security Cluster' (HSC) is all set to take off next month, making it the first cyber security cluster in the country. While a search for a physical space for housing this intended cyber security 'magnet' is on, three institutions have readily offered 'space' for the same.

A Rs 5 crore insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The museum, established at a 6,691 sqft area, is fully dedicated to insects and claimed to be the first of its in the country.

The world's longest sandstone cave named Krem Puri was discovered near Laitsohum village in Mawsynram area in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.

The first-ever International Print Biennale, an International Exhibition of Graphic Prints was held in New Delhi.

India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre will come up in Jaipur on a 50-acre land. Rajasthan home department has identified land for the centre near Bagru town of Jaipur district, said a senior officer of the department.

PHE Minister Losii Dikho declared Senapati District as the first "ODF" (Open Defecation Free) district in Manipur at a function today held at Mini Stadium, Senapati.

First in the World

Saudi Arabia hosted **its first marathon for women on March 3, 2018** as the conservative kingdom seeks to boost female sports in a far-reaching modernisation drive.

The Marshall Islands will launch the world's first legal tender crypto-currency to raise some hard cash to pay bills and boost the economy. The parliament has passed a law to create its own digital currency.

Oklahoma on March 14, 2018 announced its plans to use Nitrogen Gas for executions. **Oklahoma will be the first US State to use Nitrogen Gas for executions** once it resumes using the death penalty.

Air India launched the first scheduled service to Israel to be allowed to cross Saudi airspace. **Saudi Arabia has opened its airspace for the first time to an Israel-bound passenger plane**, breaking a 70-year-ban on commercial jets flying over the Arab kingdom to reach the Jewish state.

The United Arab Emirates said on March 26, 2018 that **one of the four nuclear reactors at its debut nuclear power plant has been completed**. With this development, UAE moves closer to **becoming the first Arab nation to produce atomic power.**

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** on March 30, 2018 announced to send **its first-ever mission to Mars to study its deep interior and find traces of how it was formed**.

First Person

Krishna Kumari Kohli was on March 3, 2018 **elected as the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator in the upper house of the Muslim-dominated Pakistan.**

Popular ridesharing app Uber announced **the appointment of Indian skipper Virat Kohli as its first brand ambassador in India,** thus embarking on a first-of-its-kind initiative across the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

Indian architect **Balkrishna Doshi** was on March 7, 2018 **awarded with 2018 Pritzker Prize for being able to interpret architecture and transform it into buildings that respect Eastern culture**. With this, Doshi became **the first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize**, the premier global award for architecture.

First in Sports

Navjot Kaur scripted history by **becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold in the Senior Asian Championships** as she clinched the yellow metal in the 65kg freestyle category in Bishkek.

The highly-competitive World Series of Boxing comes to India for the first time, with *the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak set to host an explosive clash between the Indian Tigers and the Astana Arians from Kazakhastan.*

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