

**July 29<sup>th</sup> news:**

**International:**

**New Ebola virus strain discovered in Sierra Leone, dubbed Bombali**

A new strain of the Ebola virus has been discovered in bats in Sierra Leone. It has been dubbed Bombali. It is not known whether this strain can develop into the Ebola virus. But scientists say that it could be transmitted to humans. The Ebola virus outbreak ended two years ago and claimed over 11,000 lives across West Africa.

**National:**

**Three-day VCs' conference on research and innovation in higher education ends**

Vice-Chancellors from across the country reaffirmed their commitment to improve quality of teaching learning process and achieving the UGC Quality Mandate in Universities and the affiliated institutions by 2020 and NAAC accreditation for all institutions by 2022.

In a 10-point resolution adopted unanimously on the concluding day of the 3-day Conference of Vice-Chancellors, chaired by Union Minister of Human Resources Development Prakash Javadekar, the Vice-Chancellors belonging to Centrally-funded Universities, State Universities, Deemed to be Universities and Private Universities, also committed themselves to transforming the Universities into institutions engaged in cutting edge research blended harmoniously with quality teaching for creating and disseminating new knowledge.

The Conference noted the necessity to improve the employability of the students by providing them market related skills, apart from the subject related knowledge.

It also noted that improving opportunities to the students in backward areas can best be improved through digital learning platforms like SWAYAM.

The Vice-Chancellors also affirmed to create awareness about ethics in research and provisions for checking plagiarism and to weed out predatory journals.

**Economy:**

**10% GDP growth not possible without improving HDI: NITI Aayog CEO**

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has said the country needs to improve its human development index (HDI) to achieve a growth of around 10 per cent. Such growth, Kant said, was not possible if infant-mortality and maternal mortality rates were at very high rates and if one in three children was stunted.

In the 2016 UN Human Development Report, India had slipped one place to rank 131st among 188 countries in the HDI.

Stating that there were around 200 backward districts in India, Kant underlined that it was not possible for the government alone to transform. Therefore, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a very important role

### **Sports:**

#### **Indian women's compound archery team becomes world's top ranked team**

Indian women's compound archery team, for the first time ever, reached the top of the world rankings. The India team has catapulted to No. 1 spot just ahead of the Asian Games. Helping the Indian women's compound archery team on their way to the top were silver medals at the 2018 Antalya World Cup in May and Berlin World Cup in July, 2018.