



• 1st July is being observed across India as - GST Day

On 1st July 2018, GST day is being observed across India. GST is considered as a reform in Indian Taxation system. On July 1st 2018, its first anniversary of GST. Full form of GST is Goods and Services Tax. With GST India was transformed into One Nation and One Tax.

ReUnite Mobile App launched by - Suresh Prabhu

On 29th June 2018, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched 'ReUnite' mobile application to trace Missing children in India.

IT Company Capgemini and NGO named 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' has jointly developed this app. This app is available for both Android and iOS.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan NGO works for protection of Children. It has been founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi who is a Social activist.

Do You Know ?

- Every year more than 40,000 children goes missing in India out of which only 11000 are rescued. Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh have highest cases of missing children.
- International Day of Parliamentarism 2018 observed across the globe on - 30th June

International Day of Parliamentarism 2018 observed across the globe on - 30th June

On 30th June 2018, International Day of Parliamentarism was observed across the globe. This day is observed annually to recognise the role of parliaments in national plans and strategies.

There are two types of Parliamentary systems. First which has two chambers of parliament also known as Bicameral and second which has one chamber of parliament also known as Unicameral. There are total 193 member countries of United Nations, out of which 144 countries are unicameral while 79 are Bicameral.

Do You Know ?

Oldest parliament of world is Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament. It was founded in 930.

• Which site of Mumbai was declared as World Heritage Site by UNESCO - Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles

On 30th June 2018, Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai was declared as World Heritage Site by UNESCO. After Ahmedabad now Mumbai has become the second city to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Apart from Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai there were three other cultural sites that make it to World Heritage List, these are :

- Sassanid Archaeological Landscape (Fars region of Iran)
- Hidden Christian Sites (Nagasaki Region of Japan and Sansa)
- Buddhist Mountain Monasteries (Korea)

More about Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai

○ This architectural ensemble comprises of two architectural styles, first is 19th century collection of Victorian structures and second is 20th century Art Deco buildings along the sea.



o This represents the most remarkable collection of Victorian and Art Deco buildings in the world.

o Victorian buildings of 19th Century form part of larger Fort area situated to the east of the Oval Maidan.

Do You know :

India has total 37 World Heritage Inscriptions including this. Out of 37, 29 are cultural, 07 are natural and 1 is mixed site.

Name of the first transgender lawyer of India - Sathyasri Sharmila

On 30th June 2018, Sathyasri Sharmila became first transgender lawyer of India. She has been enrolled with Bar Council Of Tamil Nadu And Puducherry. She want to devote her career to welfare and development of transgender community.

Sathyasri Sharmila is from Ramanathapuram district of Tamilnadu. She completed her law degree from Salem Central Law College in 2007.

Name of two cricketers who were inducted into ICC Hall of Fame - Rahul Dravid and Ricky Ponting

On 1st July 2018, ICC inducted Rahul Dravid (India) and Ricky Ponting (Australia) into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. If we talk about women player then Claire Taylor (England) was also inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. They all were inducted in a ceremony in Dublin, Ireland.

Rahul Dravid has become fifth player to be named in the Hall of Fame from India. Other four Indian cricketers are Anil Kumble, Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar.

Name of committee constituted to upgrade norms for computation of economic data - Ravindra H Dholakia Committee

On 30th June 2018, Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) constituted 13 member committee to upgrade the norms for computation of economic data at states and districts level.

This committee will be headed by retired professor of IIM Ahmedabad Mr Ravindra H Dholakia. Important to mention here that base year for the calculation of GDP and IIP numbers will be changed from 2011-12 to 2017-18.

Name of journalist who has been elected as DDCA President - Rajat Sharma

On 2nd July 2018, Journalist Rajat Sharma was elected as new President of DDCA (Delhi and District Cricket Association). Rajat Sharma got 54.4 percent votes (Total 1521) to be on top post of DDCA.

He defeated former Indian player Madan Lal as he was able to get 1004 votes.

Which state to implement Ayushman Bharat Yojana - Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh will implement Ayushman Bharat Yojana (from 15th August 2018) under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Mission. For this a MoU has been inked with National Health Agency.

Under this scheme each family will get Rs 5 Lakh annual health security cover. Which can be availed from Government as well as private hospitals.



On the basis of socio-economic caste census approx 84 lakh families will get benefit of it. If we talk about cost for state then it is expected to be Rs 1600 Crore.

Instant PAN Card Service launched by - Income Tax Department

On 1st July 2018, Income Tax Department of India launched Instant Aadhaar-based PAN allotment service. Individuals can avail this facility free of cost. Important to mention here that it will be given on the basis of Aadhaar card. Basically department will fetch all details from your Aadhaar card and generate PAN card on the basis of that.

If you want to avail this facility then please visit to incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in

Sunil Mehta Committee suggestions approved by Finance Minister Piyush Goyal, It is regarding - NPA's

Among Important Financial Current Affairs, On 2nd July 2018, Sunil Mehta Committee's suggestions to tackle NPA's (Non Performing Assets) were approved by Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal. Sunil Mehta is Chairman of Punjab National Bank. This draft report was titled as Sashakt. These recommendations are now subject to approved by RBI.

Following are the recommendations :

- This report highlighted total nine principles aimed at the operational turnaround of the banking sector.
- Within 90 days there should be resolution of bad assets below Rs 50 Crore.
- Within 180 days there should be resolution of bad assets between Rs 50 - 500 Crore.

○ For Loans above Rs 500 crore a national Asset Management Company should take over NPA. Committee also suggested creation of platforms where banks can trade in bunched load assets.

As per Supreme Court Judgement, states can't approve - Director General of Police

On 3rd July 2018, The Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, comprising A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud ordered all States and UT's that they can't appoint any police officer as acting Director General of Police (DGP).

As per ruling, States will send names of senior police officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). These names will be for probable candidates for the posts of DGP's or Police Commissioners. Then UPSC will in turn prepare list of three most suitable, then states can choose any one name among them for these top posts.

cVigil App launched by - Election Commission

On 3rd July 2018, cVigil app was launched by Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat along with Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa. Using this android mobile app citizens can report any violation of model code of conduct to Election Commission. Using this any citizen can share proofs of any malpractice with authorities.

Important to mention here that this app will be operational only after elections will be announced. Identity of person who sends any proof will not be disclosed.

From technical prospective, this app can share geo-tagged photographic and video evidence. To prevent any misuse of this app, this app will not allow users to upload any pre



recorded video or photo. So user will get 5 minutes time to upload photo or video.

5th RCEP intersessional ministerial meeting held in - Tokyo, Japan

On 3rd July 2018, 5th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) intersessional ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo Japan. This meeting was co-chaired by Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and his Japanese counterpart Hiroshige Seko.

RCEP is a free trade agreement between 10 ASEAN countries. These are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. It also has six FTA partners, these are Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea.

Who has been appointed as UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan - Major General Jos Eladio Alcain of Uruguay

Among important appointments, Major General José Eladio Alcain of Uruguayan Army has been appointed as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Before his appointment, Major General Per Gustaf Lodin of Sweden was serving at this position.

UNMOGIP was established by UN Security Council in 1949. Its main task is to monitor ceasefire line between India and Pakistan. UNMOGIP is financed by United Nations regular budget. This group conducts investigations into alleged ceasefire violation

complaints, which two parties (India and Pakistan) can submit to it.

As per Shimla accord, India and Pakistan had agreed to change ceasefire line to LoC and held that they will resolve their disputes bilaterally without third party interference. So as per India UNMOGIP is irrelevant after the Shimla (Accord) Agreement.

Supreme Court upholds RBI's ban on which Currencies - Virtual Currencies

Among Important Financial current affairs, On 3rd July 2018, Supreme Court upheld RBI's ban on virtual Currencies. So all virtual currencies transactions (like bitcoin) through banks will be banned from 6th July 2018. This petition was filed by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

Bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud was hearing this petition. Important to mention here that virtual Currencies were never a legal tender.

Subsidised power scheme 'Sambal' launched by - MP government

On 3rd July 2018, Madhya Pradesh state government launched subsidised power scheme called 'Sambal'. This scheme is focused on labourers and poor families. All families below poverty line would be given electricity at a cost of Rs 200 per month, So all people can avail power facility in the state. Also free power connections will be given to people of this category. It is expected to benefit 88 lakh families.

Lieutenant Governor bound by "aid and advice" of elected



Delhi Government - Supreme Court

On 4th July 2018, A five judge Supreme Court bench unanimously held that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi is bound by the "aid and advice" of a elected government. Court said that both have to work harmoniously with each other.

Five judges bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.K. Sikri, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and A.M. Khanwilkar. Bench said that except for issues of Public order, police and land, the Lieutenant Governor is bound by the aid and advice of the Delhi government, as Government has mandate of People.

Bench said that Delhi Government only needs to inform its well-deliberated decisions to the LG. The government need not obtain his approval in every issue.

Khan Prahari app launched by - Union Minister Piyush Goyal

On 4th July 2018, Union Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal launched Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) and Mobile Application "Khan Prahari". This app has been developed by CMPDI (Ranchi) and Bhaskarcharya Institute of Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG).

CMSMS has been developed with an aim to monitor all coal mining activities so any unauthorised activity can be reported. For any complaint an alert will go to District Magistrate and SP of the district. Using Khan Prahari App any one can upload geo tagged photographs with text directly to the system and then Nodal officers will take suitable action on reported issue.

In which state of India, Animals conferred with the status of legal entity/ legal person - Uttarakhand

On 4th July 2018, Uttarakhand High Court accorded the status of legal entity / legal person to the animals of Uttarakhand state. Uttarakhand High Court bench comprising Justice Rajiv Sharma and Justice Lokpal Singh said that to protect and promote the greater welfare of animals including avian and aquatic, animals are required to be conferred with the status of legal entity/ legal person.

Important to mention here that this order is also for avian and aquatic animals. Court declared all citizens of state as guardians of the animals, so its their duty to ensure welfare of animals. Court also said that all animal drawn carriages have to be given "Right of Way" over other vehicles.

DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018 approved by - Union Cabinet

With an aim to strengthen justice delivery system, Union Cabinet has approved The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2018. This will allow use of DNA Based forensic technologies. Law enforcement agencies will not able to collect DNA samples and can have special databanks for forensic-criminal investigations.

Though as per this bill DNA profiles can only by used for identification of a person, they can't be used for any other purpose. DNA Profiling Board will authorise creation of State-level DNA databanks and will also approve the methods of collection and analysis



of DNA-technologies. As we know DNA test results are very reliable, so it will help speedier justice delivery.

Successful flight testing of Crew Escape System conducted by - ISRO

On 5th July 2018, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted successful flight testing of "Crew Escape System". Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew module along with the astronauts to a safe distance from the launch vehicle in case launch is aborted due to any reasons.

ISRO executed this test on its news Crew capsule. Approx 300 sensors were used to monitor various performance levels.

EU's controversial copyright law rejected by - European Parliament

On 5th July 2018, European Parliament lawmakers rejected highly controversial European Union copyright law proposal. This law was proposed against the creator of Wikipedia. It failed to get required support of parliamentary legislator. This proposal was also resisted by US tech companies and other people who advocate Internet freedom.

Uttar Pradesh orders ban on Plastic from - 15th July

On 6th July 2018, CM of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath issued order to ban use of plastic in the state from 15th July 2018. Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to end the use of single use plastic products by 2022.

Do you Know ?

If we talk about a year, then world uses 500 billion plastic bags in a year. Out of which 8 million tonnes end up in the oceans. 50

percent of plastic we use is single use or disposable plastic. Out of total waste of world 10 percent is of plastic.

Law Commission recommends legalising sports betting in - India

In its 276th report, Law Commission of India has recommended legalisation of regulated betting and gambling in sports. Report also found that complete ban is also not getting desired results, since it is not possible to prevent these activities completely so regulating them would be a feasible option.

Reports made two group of people on the basis of their income. People with high income shall be permitted into Gambling for higher stakes but people with lower income groups will be able to do small gambling.

Commission also suggested there should be a limit on number of transactions for any individual for a specific period.

S Sivakumar (One member of Commission), filed a separate opinion of dissent stating that betting can have bad impact on society. He further said that the socio-economic and cultural circumstances of the country are not pragmatic to accept legalised gambling activities, as it is still treated as a social stigma.

Who has been appointed as NGT Chairperson - Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel

On 6th July 2018, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was appointed as new Chairperson of the NGT (National Green Tribunal). He will be serving at this position for the term of five years. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was the first person from Haryana to become a Supreme Court Judge in 2014.

Under National Green Tribunal Act 2010, National Green Tribunal was established on



October 18, 2010. NGT was set up with an aim for enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment.

.Name of first Railway Division of India, which became first to eliminate all unmanned level crossings - Sambalpur Railway Division

On 5th July 2018, Sambalpur railway division of Railways became first to eliminate all unmanned level crossings. It also set a record of constructing six limited height subways (LHS) at one go in four and half hours.

Completion of six limited height subways in just four and half hours was an achievement for railways which was widely appreciated too.

International Day of Cooperatives 2018 observed on - 7th July 2018

On 7th July 2018, International Day of Cooperatives was observed across the globe. Theme of this year was Sustainable societies through cooperation. This day is being celebrated with an aim to promote the co-operative model for sustainable development with a base of ethics and principles.

On 16th December 1992, United Nations General Assembly proclaimed in resolution 47/90 "the first Saturday of July 1995 to be International Day of Cooperatives, marking the centenary of the establishment of the International Cooperative Alliance."

17th World Sanskrit Conference to begin between - 9th July to 13th July 2018

The 17th World Sanskrit Conference will going to be held from July 9th-13th, 2018 at

Vancouver, Canada. The conference is set to be inaugurated by Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar. The Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia will be hosting this five day event and it is expected to witness participation from over 500 scholars and delegates from more than 40 countries.

Important Highlights

- The conference will be providing an ideal platform to the scholars to exchange their knowledge by presenting papers on various subjects followed by discussions among the group members.

- There will be a special panel discussion on topics such as - Sanskrit Buddhist Manus, Mimamsa

- Beyond the Yagasala, History and Education of Women in Vedic Literature, the Yuktidipika forging a place for Sankhya, introducing Bhagavata Purana Commentaries and research on the Gargiyajyotisa.

- Over 500 papers on various themes are likely to be presented during World Sanskrit Conference.

- The Indian delegation participating in the 17th World Sanskrit Conference includes 10 scholars and two officers other than Union HRD Minister.

More about World Sanskrit Conference

- It is a premier international forum for professional researchers and educators of the Sanskrit language and its literatures and of the history, religion and cultures of pre-modern South Asia.

- The conference is held in various countries across the globe once every three years with the support of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. So far it has been held thrice in India.



Section 377 of IPC from - 10th July 2018

• The 17th WSC is being held in Vancouver, Canada from July 9th-13th, 2018 for the first time.

First Indian to win gold at Gymnastics World Cup ? - Dipa Karmakar

Dipa Karmakar, one of India's leading gymnasts, scripted history on 8th July 2018 by becoming the first Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in the vault event of the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey. She won it after returning to action after a layoff of almost two years due to a knee injury. She is 24-year-old, hailing from Tripura had overall scored 14.150 to clinch the gold.

Important Highlights

• This is Dipa's first medal in a World Challenge Cup. She had also topped the qualification also with a score of 13.400.

• During her first attempt, Dipa had a difficulty score of 5.400 while collecting 8.700 in execution for a total of 14.100.

• Later on she improved the score in her second attempt to 14.200 (5.600+8.600), giving her a total 14.150 on an average.

• The contestants who came second and third included Rifda Irfanaluthfi of Indonesia, clinched the silver with 13.400 points and Goksu Uctas Sanli from Turkey, took the bronze with a score of 13.200.

• Dipa had also qualified in the balance beam finals by finishing third in the qualification with a score of 11.850. However, she ended up finishing fourth in the overall event.

• Her coach, Bisheshwar Nandi accompanied her in the entire event.

New five-judge constitution bench to hear challenge to

A newly re-constituted five-judge constitution bench going to do the hearing of four crucial matters, including the much-contested case challenging the Constitutional validity of Section 377 of Indian Penal Code from July 10th, 2018.

Below are the four cases that have been listed for the hearing before the bench:

• Constitutional validity of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code criminalising homosexuality

• Validity of the ban on entry of women between the age of 15 to 50 years in the sanctum sanctorum of Sabrimala Temple

• Validity of the Adultery Law under Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, seeking to punish only men for adultery and treating women involved in the crime as victims.

• Whether a legislator can be disqualified on account of a charge sheet filed against him/her or should it be done only upon conviction?

A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud, Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices R F Nariman, and Indu Malhotra will be heading this five-judge bench.

Did you know?

The Delhi High Court legalised homosexual acts among consenting adults on back on July 2nd, 2009 holding that this 149 years old law making it a criminal offence was violative of the fundamental rights whereas Supreme Court had in 2013 set aside the Delhi High Court's 2009 judgement again decriminalising sex between consenting adults of the same sex by holding Section 377 of IPC as "illegal", and declared the sexual relationship between persons of the same sex as a criminal offence.



Which company has opened largest mobile factory in India - Samsung

On 9th July 2018, Samsung opened largest mobile factory in Noida, India. South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Indian PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the factory. This factory has been opened at sector 81, Noida (Uttar Pradesh).

Earlier in June 2017, Samsung announced Rs 4915 crore investment in Noida plant with an aim to increase its manufacturing capacity. Samsung India is employing over 70000 people in India. In we talk about Samsung India Mobile business then it registered 27 percent growth in financial year 2016-2017.

17th World Sanskrit Conference begun in - Canada

On 9th July 2018, 17th World Sanskrit Conference started at Vancouver, Canada. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated this conference. This conference will be held from 9th July to 13th July 2018.

This conference is being hosted by Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. Delegates from more than 40 countries are part of this event. Purpose of this event is to promote, preserve and practice the Sanskrit language. It is the first time this event is taking place in Canada.

Name of Indian gymnast who became first Indian to win gold at Gymnastics World Cup - Dipa Karmakar

Among Important Sports Current Affairs, On 8th July 2018, Dipa Karmakar became first Indian gymnast to win a gold medal at FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin, Turkey.

Important to mention here she scripted history after recovering from a knee injury. Because of this injury she was off the field for almost two years. So she is also an inspiration for us that with strong determination and hard work we can achieve anything.

Dipa Karmakar was also the first female gymnast from India to qualify for the final vault event at the 2016 Rio Olympics, though she missed bronze medal that time. She was honoured with Khel Ratna award in August 2016. Then later on in 2017, She received Padma Shri award too.

Use of thermocol cutlery banned by Himachal Government on - 7th July 2018

The Himachal Pradesh government issued a fresh notification to ban the use of thermocol cutlery across the state on July 7th, 2018. It was announced by the state's Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5th.

In case of the breach, there will be penalties to anyone selling and littering thermocol cutlery

The main motto behind this ban is to minimize plastic waste. As a result, this ban not only help in environment conservation, but also promote eco-tourism in the state.

Did you know?

The development comes a month after the Himachal Pradesh state government launched its "Plastic Hatao Himachal Bachao" campaign on 5th June 2018, International Environment Day.

Revenue Status to 3 forest villages under FRA, 2006 granted by - Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh Government granted Status of Revenue Village to three villages inhabited by the Tongia Scheduled Tribe in



and around forests in Saharanpur district under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) in the first week of July 2018. These villages are - Sodhinagar, Kaluwala and Bhagwatpur.

Important Points

- The granting of Revenue Status to villages means that these villages will now be coming under the revenue department instead of forest department.

- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 has a provision to turn forest villages into revenue villages so that civic facilities reach these areas.

- As per the FRA, forest villages are “the settlements which have been established inside the forests by the forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through the forest reservation process and includes its forest settlement villages.”

Gujarat Government granted Religious Minority Status to Jews on - 6th July 2018

Gujarat Government granted Religious Minority Status to Jews living in the state on July 6th, 2018. With respect to this regard, Gujarat's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment issued a GR to this effect. As a result, the Certificate has been mandated by the government issuing competent authorities to issue Religious Minority Status Certificate to the members of this community.

If we join this then there are now seven religious minorities in the state. The other six are - Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims, Parsis and Jains.

Important Highlights

- As religious minority members, Jews in the state will soon be getting religious minority rights envisaged in Constitution of India and various other acts and rules of the state government.

- They will also be getting benefits of welfare schemes formulated for religious minority communities within the Gujarat jurisdiction.

Did you know?

Gujarat is the third state in India to grant Minority Status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

5 MoUs for cooperation in Science & Technology signed between India and - South Korea

India and South Korea signed five MoUs for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology on July 9th, 2018. The MoUs were signed on the conclusion of 4th Indian-Korea Science & Technology Ministers Steering Committee Meeting. The South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who arrived in New Delhi on 8th July 2018 for a three days visit led the Korean delegation. Both the sides reviewed bilateral S&T cooperation between both the nations since the last meeting of the Steering Committee at Seoul back in November 2015.

Important Highlights of the MoU

- This MoU was signed by Indian Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan and his South Korean counterpart You Young Min on three subjects:
(i) Program of Cooperation 2018-21
(ii) Establishment of Future Strategy Group
(iii) Cooperation in Biotechnology & Bioeconomy

- Between other two MoUs, one was signed by Council of Scientific & Industrial



Research (CSIR), and South Korean National Research Council for Science & Technology and another was signed between IIT Mumbai and Korea Institute of Science & Technology to further boost future-oriented cooperation in their respective sectors.

- They agreed to establish IKCRI (Indo-Korean Center for Research and Innovation) in India, which will be acting as the hub for systematic operation and management of all cooperative programs in research and innovation including innovation & entrepreneurship and technology transfer.

Programme of Cooperation 2018-21 Memorandum of Understanding

Both the countries renewed the Program of Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology for 2018-21 in order to augment the cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

MoU related to establish Future Strategy Group

- The MoU was signed by Indian Science & Technology and Commerce Ministers signed this MoU on 'Establishment of Future Strategy Group'.

- Also on the Korean side, Science and ICT and Trade Ministers signed the same.

- The Future Strategic Group will be building a collaborative platform that can utilise the potential of both the countries towards fostering innovation and creating impact which is of social and economic good.

- Both the sides will be co-funding collaborative enterprise-led joint R&D projects to cover Digital Transformation, Future Utilities, Health Care and Future Manufacturing.

First dwarf container service introduced by - Indian Railways

The Indian Railways has introduced a commercial service to run double-stack dwarf

containers on trains to capture the lost traffic through a new delivery model for domestic cargo as stated by the Railways Ministry on July 9th, 2018.

Key highlights

- These containers are shorter in size and are capable enough to run on electrified tracks.

- To be precise, a double-stack container is 6 feet and 4 inches in height.

- Even if these are smaller in size, the dwarf containers can hold a capacity of 30,500 kgs as compared to regular containers.

- The containers would be enabling the railways in the double-stack movement of cargo.

- The freight train with the dwarf containers was flagged off for its maiden commercial run on 7th July from Western Railway's Rajkot railway station.

US President Donald Trump nominates Brett Kavanaugh as Supreme Court Judge on - 9th July 2018

Donald Trump nominated conservative Brett Kavanaugh as the Supreme Court Judge on July 9th, 2018 to succeed Justice Anthony Kennedy, who recently announced his retirement from the current role. He made this announcement during his prime time address to the nation from the White House.

The nomination of Judge Kavanaugh comes after a thorough and transparent selection process, involving the President's public disclosure of a list of 25 highly qualified potential judges for the vacancy in the Supreme Court.

More about Brett Kavanaugh

- He is currently serving as a judge in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.



• He has served in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit since 2006 and was formerly a White House aide under George W Bush.

• He previous work was with Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel who also investigated former Democratic president Bill Clinton in the 1990s.

• Kavanaugh lately also disagreed with a court decision to allow an undocumented teenage immigrant to have an abortion.

• Back in 2009, he wrote a Minnesota law review article arguing that presidents should be shielded from criminal investigations and civil lawsuits while in office.

World Population Day 2018 observed on - 11th July 2018

On 11th July 2018, World Population Day was observed across the globe. This day is being observed with an aim to give attention to urgency and importance of population issues.

Theme of World Population Day 2018 was Family Planning is a Human Right.

Important to mention here that Current Population of World is 7.6 billion which is expected to reach 8.6 billion by 2030. Approx 83 Million people increasing every year in world. Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme established this event in 1989.

Gujarat Government grants Religious Minority Status to - Jews

On 6th July 2018, Gujarat Government granted Religious Minority Status to Jews Community. So now there are total seven religious minorities in the state, these are :

- A. Muslims,
- B. Christians,

- C. Sikhs,
- D. Buddhists,
- E. Parsis,
- F. Jains and
- G. Jews.

Important to mention here that West Bengal and Maharashtra has already granted minority status to Jews.

Rajya Sabha signs MoU with - Rwanda

On 10th July 2018, Rajya Sabha inked an MoU with Senate of Rwanda for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue. This is first time Rajya Sabha has entered into this type of MoU in 76 years. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu inked MoU with visiting President of the Senate of Rwanda Bernard Makuza.

Highlights of the MoU

There are 6 articles in MoU which will help to promote Inter-Parliamentary dialogue, these are :

- A. Capacity building of parliamentary staff,
- B. Organisation of conferences,
- C. Forums,
- D. Seminars,
- E. Staff attachment programmes and
- F. Workshops and exchanges.

What is the rank of India in terms of largest economy - Sixth

As per latest per World Bank data on the gross domestic product (GDP) of countries for 2017, India became 6th largest economy of world. India recorded a GDP of USD 2,597,491 million in 2017.

If we talk about top 3 largest economies, then these are :



A. USA - GDP of USD 19,390,604 million,

B. CHINA - GDP of USD 12,237,700 million

C. Japan - GDP of USD 4,872,136.95

India became 69th shareholder in which bank - European development bank

On 11th July 2018, India became 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). This will make way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.

All other stakeholders voted unanimously in favour of India. Earlier Indian government had applied for EBRD membership in December 2017.

Home Ministry instituted how many Police Medals - Five

New five Police Medals were instituted by Union Home Ministry to promote professionalism and excellence in police services.

These five medals are :

A. Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal

B. Police Antarik Suraksha Seva Padak

C. Asadharan Aasuchana Kushalata Padak

D. Utkrisht and Ati Utkrisht Seva Medal

E. Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation

F. Which company launched India's first internet telephony service - BSNL

G. BSNL has launched first internet telephony service through its mobile app "Wings". Now using this app BSNL customers will able to make call to any phone number (domestic or international). Important to mention here, that before this phone calls were possible within users of particular app not on telephone numbers. But using wings BSNL users can call to any number. Though it requires mobile data or wifi. Customers can make video or audio calls by paying particular fee.

H. In October 2017, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had refreshed VoIP guidelines, that were approved by Telecom Commission in May 2018. As per new guidelines full fledged telephony telephony was allowed by telecom operators which will enable calls from app to app of licensed service providers as well as on phone numbers. Only authorised licensed holders will be provided with full fledged internet telephony. Means services like Whatsapp, Duo etc will not able to provide this service, as they only allow app to app calling.

Name of first Indian woman to win gold in World Junior Athletics - Hima Das

Among the Important Sports Current Affairs, On 12th July 2018, Sprinter from India, Hima Das made history by becoming first Indian woman athlete to win Gold medal in women's 400m race. This event took place at Tampere (Finland) during the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships.

Hima Das who is 18 years old finished the race in 51.46 seconds. Silver went to Andrea Miklos of Romania, while Bronze medal was bagged by Taylor Manson of USA.



She thus became first Indian (Man or Woman) to win a gold in a world level track event. Hima Das basically belongs to Nagaon district of Assam. Her village name is Dhing.

Net Neutrality approved by - Telecom Commission of India

On 11th July 2018, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations were approved by Telecom Commission. This will bar service providers from discriminating against internet content. This decision was taken to ensure open and free Internet in the Country with an aim for benefit of end user. It would also not restrict the adoption of reasonable traffic management practices by the service provider.

Do you Know ?

Chairman of Telecom Commission - Aruna Sundararajan

President Ram Nath Kovind declared Four Nominations for - Rajya Sabha

On 14th July 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind announced four nominations for Rajya Sabha. As there were four seats vacant after retirement of Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, Actress Rekha, Social activist Anu Agha and Veteran lawyer K Parasaran. These four were retired in April 2018. New four people who has been nominated by President are :

A. Ram Shikal - Mr. Ram Shikal is three time MP from Robertsganj constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He is a farmer leader and has worked for farmers, farmers, labourers and migrants.

B. Rakesh Sinha - Rakesh Sinha is Ideologue of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and also founder and Honorary Director of the Delhi-based think-tank

"India Policy Foundation." He is also a author and columnist. He is professor at Motilal Nehru College of Delhi University.

C. Raghunath Mohapatra - Raghunath Mohapatra is an international sculptor. He is very famous for this art of stone carving. He is doing it since 1959 and has trained over 2000 students. He has worked on beautification of the Sri Jagannath Temple in Odisha. Six feet high statue of the Sun God in the Central Hall of Parliament is also his work. His another famous work is Wooden Buddha in Paris Buddha Temple.

D. Sonal Mansingh - Sonal Mansingh is exceptional Indian classical dancer. She has been performing Bharatnatyam and Odissi for over six decades. She is very well known choreographer, orator and social activist too. She is founder of Centre for Indian Classical Dances (in 1977).

Longest Total Lunar Eclipse of Century will occur on - 27-28 July

On 27-28 July 2018, total lunar eclipse will occur. It will be longest of this century (2001 AD to 2100 AD).

On 27th July 2018, Sun and Mars will lie opposite to each other and earth will be middle of both. Thus mars will be coming close to earth causing it to appear brighter. Mars will remain very close to eclipsed Moon and can be spotted with naked eye too. Eclipse will be visible from all parts of India.

FIFA World Cup 2018 final - France won on 15th July 2018

France , a multi cultural team has won their second WORLD cup 2018 on 15th July 2018 held in Russia . This victory is



followed 20 years after Zinedine Zidane had led the first victory to home in 1998. France won this match against Croatia against 14 attempts from Croatia and 7 attempts from France.

Important Points

- This 21st FIFA World cup started from 14th June and ended on 15th July.
- This most expensive, with an estimated cost of \$14.2 billion world cup held in Russia.
- France won this match with 4-2 and bagged its second world cup title.

India becomes Regional Head of - Asia Pacific Region in WCO

From July 2018 to June 2020 (Two Years), India has become the Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO). Important to mention here that WCO has divided its membership into six regions. Each region is represented by regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council. Vice Chair position in WCO in Asia Pacific Region will enable India to take on the leadership role in the organisation.

Name of Indian supersonic missile successfully test-fired under extreme conditions - BrahMos

On 16th July 2018, BrahMos supersonic missile was successfully test fired under extreme weather conditions. It was a life extension test of missile which achieved all parameters.

BrahMos missile has a flight range of up to 290km, that too with a supersonic speed. BrahMos speed is upto Mach 3.0, which is

three times the speed of sound. It can take conventional warhead weighing 200 to 300kg along it. BrahMos missile has been already inducted into Indian Army and Navy and soon it will be a part of Air Force fighter jet Sukhoi 30 MKI.

Important to mention here that, BrahMos Missile has been created by a joint venture of India (DRDO) and Russia (Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya).

LIC board approves acquisition of up to 51 per cent stake in which bank - IDBI Bank

Among Important Banking Current Affairs, LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) Board has approved acquiring up to 51 per cent stake in state-run IDBI Bank. Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg shared this information on 16th July. This will inject more funds into IDBI bank.

IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has already given its approval to LIC for the stake purchase. Now it will ask for SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) approval. LIC has already 8 per cent stake of IDBI Bank till June 2018.

World's first remotely operable LEAP microscope unveiled by - IIT-Madras

A remotely operable Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP) microscope has been commissioned by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras. This is world's first such kind of microscope which can be remotely operated by researchers divided geographically.



This is very high performance microscope which has capability to provide a precise atom-by-atom view of materials. Total eight research institutions in country took part in its development these are IITs of Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Ropar, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) and Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS).

Paudhagiri Campaign for planting of saplings launched by - Haryana Government

Haryana Government launched "Paudhagiri campaign" with an aim to increase green cover in the state. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched this campaign by planting in Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex premises of Gurugram.

Under this campaign total 22 lakh students studying in Class 6th to 12th of all schools will plant sapling each during July - September (which are monsoon months and good for plantation). Governemnt will give incentive of Rs 50 in every six months after any student upload a selfie with his or her plant. A student will be getting Rs 300 in total, as prize for looking after tree planted by him/her.

Supreme Court passed a slew of directions to deal with Mob Lynching on - 17th July 2018

The Supreme Court condemned mob lynching incidents across the country on July 17th, 2018 and urged the Parliament to enact a law to deal with the crime that is threatening rule of law and the country's social fabric.

The Bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice AM Khanwilkar and

Justice DY Chandrachud ruled that a special law in this field would be instilling a sense of fear for law amongst the people involving themselves in such kind of activities.

The bench ruled that "Horrendous acts of mobocracy cannot be allowed to become a new norm and has to be curbed with iron hands." The apex court also asserted that it is State's duty to prevent any sort of mob vigilantism, be it Cow vigilantism or any other vigilantism of any sort of perception.

Important Highlights

- The state governments need to designate a senior police officer in each district for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching.

- The state governments would be identifying districts, sub-divisions and villages where instances of lynching and mob violence have been reported in the recent past.

- The nodal officers shall also bring to the notice of the DGP about any inter-district co-ordination issues for devising a strategy to tackle lynching and mob violence related issues.

- Every police officer shall be ensuring to disperse the mob that has a tendency to cause violence in the disguise of vigilantism or otherwise.

- Central and the state governments shall be broadcasting on radio, television and other media platforms about the serious consequences of mob lynching and mob violence.

- There shall be curb on irresponsible and explosive messages, videos and other material on various social media platforms that instigate such acts.

- The FIRs should be registered against persons who disseminate such messages under relevant provisions of law.



- Authorities shall be ensuring that there is no further harassment of the victim's family members.

Union Government notified amendments to Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 on - 17th July 2018

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified the draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, making FASTags and Vehicle Tracking System device mandatory for all commercial vehicles obtaining national permit on July 17th, 2018. The Ministry has invited suggestions and objections to the proposed amendments by August 11th, 2018.

Below are the proposed amendments to Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

- The front wind screen of the vehicle need to be affixed with a sticker confirming fitting of the Fastag.
- The draft amendments need to stipulate additional conditions in order to obtain national permit that include display of the words 'National Permit or N/P' in the front and rear of the vehicles in bold letters.
- For trailer cases, the words 'N/P' will have to be inscribed on the rear and left side of the vehicle.
- The body of a tanker, carrying dangerous or hazardous goods, has to be painted in white colour and display the prescribed class label on both of the sides alongwith tanker rear. The vehicle will have to be affixed with reflective tapes at front and rear.
- No fitness certification shall be required at the time of registration of new transport vehicles sold as fully built vehicles. Such vehicles will be deemed to already have

fitness certificate for a period of two years from the date of registration.

- It has also been proposed that fitness certificate of transport vehicles shall be renewed for a period of two years for vehicles up to eight years old and for one year for vehicles more than eight years.

- The Driving License and Pollution under Control certificates can be also carried in physical or digital form.

World's top 'soft power' in 2018 - UK

The United Kingdom has been ranked at the top in the 2018 'Soft Power 30' index, which was published by the UK-based strategic communications consultancy firm Portland and the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy. But the list does not feature India.

Top 10 countries

- United Kingdom was ranked first with a score of 80.55, whereas France was placed at a close second with 80.14 points.
- The third-ranked nation was Germany with 78.87 points, followed by the United States at the fourth position with 77.80 points and then Japan standing at fifth with 76.22 points.
- Canada is ranked sixth with 75.70 points, while Switzerland and Sweden were ranked at the seventh and eighth positions with their 74.96 and 74.77 points respectively.
- Final two in the top ten included the Netherlands at which is at the ninth position with 73.79 points and Australia at the tenth rank with 72.91 points.

• Nelson Mandela International Day observed on - 18th July 2018



On 18th July 2018, Nelson Mandela International Day was observed across the globe. This year this day was special as it marked 100th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela. He fought throughout his life to make world better place to live with equality. Aim to observe this day it is to awake everyone to their ability and responsibility to change the world for the better.

Theme of Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 was - Take Action! Inspire Change!

More about Nelson Mandela :

Nelson Mandela was anti-apartheid revolutionary from South Africa. He was a political leader who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. From University of Fort Hare and University of the Witwatersrand he studied law. He then in 1943 joined African National Congress and co founded Youth League in 1944.

In November 2009, July 18 was declared as Nelson Mandela International Day by United Nations.

Name of Indian javelin thrower who clinched Gold at Sotteville Athletics meet in France - Neeraj Chopra

On 17th July 2018, Javelin thrower of India, Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the Sotteville Athletics meet (France). He won the gold with a throw of 85.17m. Silver medal went to Andrian Mardare (81.48m) of Moldova, while Bronze medal went to Edis Matusевичius (79.31m) of Lithuania.

Neeraj Chopra is twenty years old and hails from Panipat (Haryana). He had also won gold in 2016 World Junior Championship where he covered distance of 86.48m. He is also first to win Gold from India in CWG in the sport of javelin throw.

Union Cabinet approved proposal to grant special remission to prisoners on - 18th July 2018

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval to the proposal to grant special remission to prisoners as part of commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

With this scheme, certain categories of prisoners including women, transgenders and physically disabled, will be set free after satisfying the given criteria.

The prisoners will be released in three phases:

Phase I: October 2nd, 2018 (Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)

Phase II: April 10th, 2019 (Anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha)

Phase III: October 2nd, 2019 (Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)

Below are the categories of prisoners eligible for special remission

- Women convicts of 55 years of age and above and have completed 50 percent of their actual sentence period
- Transgender convicts of 55 years of age and above and have completed 50 percent of their actual sentence period.
- Male convicts of 60 years of age and above and have completed 50 percent of their actual sentence period.
- Physically challenged or disabled convicts with 70 percent disability and more, who have completed 50 percent of their actual sentence period.
- Terminally ill convicts.
- Convicted prisoners who have completed two-thirds (66 percent) of their actual sentence period.



LS Speaker accepted no-confidence motion against ruling government on - 18th July 2018

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan admitted a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the ruling government on July 18th, 2018, on the opening day of the Monsoon session of Parliament.

This no-confidence motion against the Narendra Modi government brought by the TDP and opposition parties will be taken up for debate on July 20th, 2018.

Key Objective

The opposition parties have brought in the no-confidence motion against the ruling government on issues including grant of special status to Andhra Pradesh, atrocities, lynchings against women and the dalits and the dilution of a law meant for Scheduled Caste.

Important Highlights

- The discussion will going to be held for the full day, followed by voting on the issue.
- The Speaker announced that there will be no question hour on that day of the debate.
- The House will also not be having any other business on the day except for the discussion on the no-confidence motion.
- During that Zero Hour, the Speaker named all the opposition members who had moved similar no-confidence motion notices and said that TDP's Kesineni Srinivas would also be moving his motion as his party was the first to bring up that matter.

(Amendment) Bill on - 18th July 2018

The Parliament passed the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 2017 on July 18th, 2018. Seeking to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952, was adopted by a voice vote in Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the parliament. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill in December 2017.

Important Highlights

- Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill was moved by Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri moved the Requisitioning and Acquisition of this bill.
- It seeks to amend the regulations governing the compensation payable for the acquisition of immovable property by the Centre for security and defence purposes.
- It seeks to amend a provision to allow the Centre to re-issue the notice of acquisition to ensure that the property owner gets an opportunity to be heard.
- The bill will be helping to bring justice to those whose land was taken without proper notice.
- This is the 12th amendment that is being introduced to the bill and so far bill has been amended 11 times before.

Major Critics of the bill

- The major concern of this bill's critics is that it should not breach the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, ensuring double compensation for land, if acquired for a public purpose in the urban area, and four times in the rural area.
- According to the 2013 law, compensation for land acquisition for even national security and defence was not tampered and entitled for the enhanced compensation.

Rajya Sabha passed Immovable Property



○ The critics hope that the newly amended bill does not lower the compensation that a landowner was entitled to under the 2013 law or act against the farmers interest.

The Bill stated that enhanced compensation will be awarded only when:

I. The acquisition notice is already re-issued

II. The land is being acquired for national security and defence purposes in the nation.

'Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan' in five Ganga Basin States organised by - National Mission for Clean Ganga

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organised the 'Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan' in five main Ganga basin states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. This week-long afforestation drive was organised during July 9th to July 15th, 2018 as 'Shubharambh Saptah'.

The State Forest Departments of these five states did act as the Nodal Agencies for the smooth and effective execution of the campaign. While, DFOs (Divisional Forest Officers) were designated as the district level Nodal Officers and CCF (Chief Conservator of Forest) at the State level for the event.

Apart from these states, various organisations took part in this drive such as the NYKS (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan), GVM (Ganga Vichar Manch), NGOs and educational institutions.

Key Highlights of the 'Ganga Vriksharopan Abhiyan'

• The campaign was initiated as part of the FIG (Forest Interventions in Ganga) component of Namami Gange Program.

• It was aimed to bring greater awareness among people and other stakeholders regarding the importance of afforestation for the Ganga Rejuvenation task.

• A number of schools, colleges and departments were requested to "Adopt a Plant" to turn this campaign into a people's movement.

Various workshops, seminars, lectures, drawing and painting competitions are being organised for the same purpose.

• Plantation activities were carried out with great enthusiasm all along the River Ganga banks with participation of local people.

• Formal events to mark the campaign were held at more than 100 locations. In Uttar Pradesh, this program is merged with the Ganga Haritima Abhiyan.

• Some of the plants which were sown during the campaign are Jamun, Arjun, Gatal, Siras, Kanji, Sheesham, Farmis, Chhitvan, Mango, Neem, Semal, Jungal Jalebi, Gulmohar, Kadam, Sagwan, Saal, Mahogni, Ber, Bamboo, Karaonda, Ashwagandha, Curry Patta, Jathrofa, Beheda, Dhatura, Sarpandha etc.

• In order to implement the afforestation project in a scientific manner, FRI (Forest Research Institute), Dehradun was assigned the project to prepare a DPR (Detailed Project Report) on the basis of which the State Forest Departments would carry out their plantation activities.

Israel's new law gives only Jews right of self-determination on - 19th July 2018

Israel passed a law declaring that only Jews have the right of self-determination in the country. This controversial bill has defined the country as an exclusively Jewish state. It is being called racist and on the verge of being



apartheid by the members of the Arab minority in the country.

The state law, which was backed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government, was passed by a vote of 62 in favour, 55 against and two abstentions in the 120-member parliament after months of political argument. Speaking after the vote, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that this is a defining moment in the annals of Zionism and the Israel history.

Important Highlights

- This law was enacted immediately after the 70th anniversary of the birth of the state of Israel.

- This law mentioned that Israel is the historic homeland of the Jewish people thereby they have an exclusive right to national self-determination in it.

- The bill also taken off Arabic of its designation as an official language alongside Hebrew, downgrading it to a special status enabling its continued use within Israeli institutions.

- Advancing Jewish settlement as a national interest is stated in the bill and the "whole and united" Jerusalem is its capital.

Government to launch Student Police Cadet Programme on - 21st July 2018

The Student Police Cadet (SPC) Programme will going to launch nationally on July 21st, 2018 by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of the Union Human Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar and the Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal.

Objective

The SPC programme seeks to build a bridge between the Police and the larger community through school students by

inculcating values and ethics in them through classes in school and outside.

Important Highlights

- The program will be focusing on students of class 8 and 9 and special care will be taken to ensure that it does not increase the workload of the students.

- The program will not having any prescribed text book and nor will it be included in any exam. Only one class is proposed in a month under its schedule.

Other Details

The program will be steered by a state level committee headed by Home Department with the Principal Secretary, the Principal Secretary, Education and Director General of Police as members.

A similar committee will also be formed at the district level, headed by the District Magistrate with the District Inspector of Schools and Superintendent of Police as members. The Centre has released an amount worth Rs 67 crores to the states for the implementation of the programme.

Other than this, an amount of Rs 50,000 will be earmarked for each school to be spent on training, educational aids and contingency. The program shall first going to be implemented in government schools, in both urban and rural areas

India, Japan hold 4th round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue on - 19th July 2018

India and Japan held the 4th round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue in New Delhi on 19th July, 2018. Key issues related to the Indo-Pacific region and maritime security were discussed during this dialogue. Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) in the External Affairs



Ministry led the Indian delegation, while Ambassador Kansuke Nagaoka, Policy Planning and International Security Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Japanese side.

The dialogue meet provided a platform to Japan and India to exchange views on various topics of mutual interest including:

- The Indo-Pacific region
- Maritime security
- Cooperation in HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief)
- SAR (Search and Rescue)

Rajya Sabha passed Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 on - 19th July 2018

The Rajya Sabha passed the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 by a voice vote on July 19th, 2018. The Bill is seeking to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. It was introduced in the Rajya Sabha after thorough deliberations with the Standing Committee and the Law Commission and at last after consultations in the Select Committee. Now the Bill will going to be tabled in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill makes the act to bring a public servant an offence.

Provisions given in the Bill

- The Bill has introduced the offence of giving a bribe as a direct offence. However, a person who is compelled to give a bribe will not be charged with the offence, if he reports the matter to law enforcement authorities within seven days after giving it.

- The Bill also made specific provisions related to give a bribe to a public servant, and giving a bribe by a commercial organisation.

- The Bill also redefined criminal misconduct to only cover misappropriation of

property and possession of disproportionate assets.

Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill passed by Lok Sabha on - 19th July 2018

The Lok Sabha passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill on July 19th, 2018 aiming to deter fugitive economic offenders who evade from the legal process by fleeing the country and remain outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

The legislation was passed through a voice vote after almost a two-hour long debate. The ruling government has been under attack from the opposition for failing to bring back defaulters like Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya and Mehul Choksi. The Bill will now be taken up in the upper house of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

Moer about the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill

- The main motto of the bill is to lay down measures to deter fugitive economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

- It's implementation will going to restore law and order, as the fugitive economic offenders would be forced to return to India to face trial for their respective offences.

- The action would also be helping the financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from financial defaults committed by such fugitive economic offenders and hence improving the financial health of these institutions.

RBI to issue new Rs 100 denomination banknote, bearing



a motif of 'Rani Ki Vav' announced on - 19th July 2018

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to shortly issue Rs 100 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing signature of Dr Urjit R. Patel, Governor of Reserve Bank of India on July 19th, 2018. In addition to that, previous series of Rs 100 banknotes will still be valid.

Important Features

- The new banknote is bearing a motif of 'Rani Ki Vav' on the reverse, to depict the country's cultural heritage.
- The base colour of this new note is Lavender.
- These new Rs 100 banknote has other designs, geometric patterns aligning with the overall colour scheme, at the front and reverse both.
- The dimensions of the banknote are 66 mm × 142 mm.

Did you know?

The existing green coloured Rs 100 note carries an image of Mount Kanchenjunga which is the third highest peak in the world.

International Solar Alliance joined by Myanmar on - 19th July 2018

Myanmar joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA) on July 19th, 2018, thus, has become the 68th signatory to the Framework Agreement of the ISA that aims for optimum utilisation of solar energy.

Myanmar Minister for International Cooperation, Kyaw Tin handed over the ISA Framework Agreement to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during a bilateral meeting during this year's Delhi Dialogue.

Other projects discussed between India and Myanmar during the meeting

India is also implementing a number of infrastructure projects in Myanmar such as the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project to connect Mizoram with Sittwe port in Myanmar, the Trilateral Highway Project to connect India with Myanmar, Thailand and the Rhi-Tiddim road. India is also offering humanitarian and economic aid to its eastern neighbour's Rakhine State in the wake of the Rohingya refugee crisis.

More about International Solar Alliance

- It was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the first day of the COP-21 summit jointly at Paris in 2015.
- It is aiming to undertake joint efforts required to minimize the cost of finance and technology and mobilise over USD 1000 billion of investments needed by 2030 for massive deployment of solar energy.
- It is India's inter-governmental and first international organisation of 121 Countries and has headquarters in India with UNs as Strategic Partner.
- Its main objective is to make a collaborative platform to increase deployment of solar energy technologies and sustainable development and energy security.
- It will be working with partner countries in order to formulate projects and programs to boost development of clean solar energy technologies.
- It's Governing Structure consisting of an Assembly, a Secretariat and a Council.
- The ISA Assembly is providing guidance, direction and advice to the Secretariat to undertake the activities.
- At present ISA has four ongoing programs which are Scaling Solar Applications for the Agricultural Use, Scaling Solar Mini Grids, Affordable Finance at Scale and Scaling



Solar Rooftop catering to the needs of solar energy in specific areas.

- The ISA framework agreement entered into force on December 6th, 2017, the 30th day after the ratification by Guinea, the 15th country to ratify the agreement.

Buyback programme for PET bottles in Maharashtra launched by - Beverage Companies

Top beverage companies including Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Bisleri, have initiated a buyback program for all PET bottles sold in Maharashtra. With this program, a predefined buyback price will going to be mandatorily printed on the larger PET/PETE bottles.

Important Highlights

- Almost all of the companies have set the buyback value for Rs 15 per kg for PET bottles and Rs 5 per kg for shrink wraps.
- The beverage companies have already started printing the buyback value on all the PET bottles to be sold in the state of Maharashtra.
- The companies are working with Gem Enviro to set up collection points, reverse vending machines and collection centres for PET waste bottles at several locations in the state to enable the buyback program.

Did you know?

The state of Maharashtra enforced a state-wide ban on the manufacture, use, sale, distribution and storage of single-use plastic items, including carry bags, disposable plates and cutlery and even thermocol in March 2018.

Government defeated no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha with two-thirds majority on - 20th July 2018

The no-confidence motion moved by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) faced a heavy defeat at the Lok Sabha on July 20th, 2018. After a marathon 12-hour debate, the no-confidence, which witnessed support from many opposition parties including the Congress, was rejected by the majority of the house. The motion was defeated with 325 votes against and 126 in favour with 451 parliament members present and voting.

Important Highlights

- TDP which is a former NDA ally moved up no-confidence motion where the parties that supported the motion were Congress, CPI, CPI (M), TMC and AAP.
- While there were no abstention from the members present in the house, Shiv Sena members gave the vote a miss and the BJD staged a walkout right before the debate started.
- Though the TRS participated in the debate in the no-confidence motion, but its 11 MPs did not vote.
- A total of 451 out of 534 MPs were present and voting in the house, brought down the required majority mark to 226.
- The government obtained a two-thirds majority of the votes where several AIADMK members supported the government and voted against the motion.
- This was the first no-trust motion against Narendra Modi-led NDA government after it came into power back in May 2014 and also less than a year before the next general elections.

Did you know?

This no confidence motion was the first no-trust vote in 15 years.

NASA launched toolkit to promote commercial use of satellite data on - 19th July 2018



NASA launched the 'Remote Sensing Toolkit' to promote commercial use of satellite data on July 19th, 2018. This online toolkit was launched aiming to make it easier to find for users, analyse them and utilise the relevant satellite data for their business projects, research, or conservation efforts.

More about Remote Sensing Toolkit

- It is to provide a simple system that quickly identifies relevant sources based on user input.

- The toolkit is designed to help users search for data and ready-to-use tools and code to build new tools.

- This new tool makes to find and using NASA satellite data easier than ever before, and aiming to spark innovation among the entrepreneurial community and lead to further commercialise NASA technology.

- It will be helping to grow the number of users who put NASA's free and open data archive to work for people.

Student Police Cadet Program launched by - Government

The Student Police Cadet (SPC) program was launched to implement nationwide by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at a ceremony in Gurugram, Haryana on July 21st, 2018. While speaking on the occasion, Singh stated that he hoped that the SPC would lead to a silent revolution more than the years by focusing on character building by imparting moral values to budding minds.

The Home Minister further expressed his concern that education these days stressed more on mere book reading with little attention being paid towards students character building, which shows negative effects on society in terms of increased crime. The Union Human

Resources Minister Prakash Javadekar and the Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar attended the inaugural ceremony.

Important Highlights

- The program will be focusing on students of class 8th and 9th and special care will be taken to ensure that it does not increase the workload of the students.

- The program will not be having any prescribed text book and nor will it be including any exam. Only one class is proposed in a month under its schedule.

- The program broadly seeks to cover two topics:

Crime prevention and control: This subject covers the topics on - community policing, fight against social evils, road safety, safety of women and children, fight against corruption and disaster management.

Values and ethics: The topics covered under this part include values and ethics, patience, attitude, empathy and sympathy, respect for elders, tolerance, team spirit and discipline.

- BPR&D with the support of NCERT has prepared a handbook to impart instructions.

- This program would be laying a bigger emphasis on field demonstrations and hands on learning of the police functioning through visits to women police stations, child protection homes including NGOs, traffic police and fire brigade stations.

- It will also be enabling learning through group discussions and audio-visual mediums.

Advanced system of air quality 'SAFAR' inaugurated by - Environment Minister

Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan unveiled a state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System- 'SAFAR'



(System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at Chandni Chowk on July 21st, 2018 in New Delhi.

Important Highlights

- The giant true colour LED display will be giving out real-time air quality index on 24x7 basis with colour coding along with 72-hour advance weather forecasting.

- On the basis of the air quality index on a particular day, health advisory and related precaution will be notified to prepare citizens in advance only.

- The new system would also be able to measure sun's UV-Index and track ultrafine particles such as mercury, PM1 and black carbon in real time, which have a direct relevance to human health.

- Based on the UVI, skin advisories will be issued on display too.

More about SAFAR

- The Environment Ministry's mission model project 'SAFAR' is being implemented in four cities of India – Mumbai, Delhi, Pune and Ahmedabad as an operational service.

- The system will be an integral part of India's first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi and will also be strengthening the existing air quality network of SAFAR, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and Central Pollution Control Board.

Sports Authority of India shortlists 734 youngsters for KHELO INDIA scholarship program on - 22nd July 2018

The SAI (Sports Authority of India) shortlisted 734 young players for a scholarship program under the KHELO INDIA Talent Identification Development Scheme on July 22nd, 2018.

The move came following the successful conduct of the Khelo India School Games.

- HPC finalised the names after due diligence.

- A Talent Identification Committee was also formed earlier, comprising Arjuna Awardees and Dronacharya Awardees, to shortlist and to propose beneficiaries names to the High Powered Committee.

More about KHELO INDIA scholarship program

- It is designed to take care of expenses of the players including development, training, boarding and lodging and tournament exposure apart from the expense allowance.

- The age verification and talent spotting of the selected players has been driven by the scientific and trusted method through Tanner Whitehouse 3 (TW3) method, popular test to assess children's bone age.

- An annual stipend of Rs 1.2 lakhs will be given on a quarterly basis to the players to meet their out of pocket expenses and their treating injuries.

- This amount will be covering even smaller but very important expenses like local travel for themselves and their parents or family members.

- Support and skill trainings will be given at KHELO INDIA accredited Academies.

- A strong performance management system would be in place and henceforth performances will be rewarded.

- In case athletes are not fulfilling the criterion and coming up to the requisite standards, they may be pulled out from the academies.

- Athletes must report injury immediately so that timely rehabilitation can be offered to them.



NASA to launch Parker Solar Probe to touch the Sun , announced on - 20th July 2018

The US space agency NASA announced to launch the Parker Solar Probe, a robotic car-size spacecraft, to study the Sun and reveal multiple mysteries behind the star on July 20th, 2018. The spacecraft will going to be launched in August 2018 on the United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy from Cape Canaveral in Florida, USA. This planned seven-year mission will going to fly into the Sun's corona within 3.8 million miles (6.1 million km) from the solar surface which seven times closer than any other spacecraft.

More about Parker Solar Probe

- It is part of NASA's Living with a Star Program to explore aspects of the Sun-Earth system that directly affects life and society.
- The spacecraft has been designed to endure wicked heat while zooming through the solar corona to study the outermost part of the stellar atmosphere giving rise to the solar wind.
- Parker Solar Probe will be flying down within 4 million miles of the sun's surface, facing heat and radiation like no spacecraft before it.
- It will also be providing new data on solar activity and will be helping scientists in forecasting major space-weather events that impact life on Earth.

Tokyo 2020 committee officially launched Olympic mascots on - 22nd July 2018

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee officially launched its Olympic mascots Miraitowa and Someity at a ceremony attended by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and Committee's President Yoshiro Mori on July 22nd, 2018.

More about Mascot Selection Process

- The three final designs were chosen from the 2,042 entries submitted from all over Japan.
- The winning mascots will be beating the other two competing pairs by a huge margin, and hence bagged 53 percent of the votes.
- The mascots were designed by Japanese illustrator Ryo Taniguchi designed the mascots, he is the same guy who designs characters for language teaching books and companies
- Approximately 17000 primary schools in Japan, around 70 percent of all such schools in the country, took part in voting, along with some Japanese schools abroad.

More about 2020 Summer Olympics

- 2020 Summer Olympics is officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and is also a major international multi-sport event.
- The games are planned to be held from 24th July 2020 to 9th August 2020 in Tokyo, Japan. Tokyo was announced as the host city at the 125th IOC Session on 7th September 2013 in Buenos Aires in Argentina.
- Tokyo previously hosted the 1964 Summer Olympic Games, and in 2020 will be becoming the fifth city to host the Summer Olympic Games more than once.
- The city will also host the 2020 Summer Paralympics.

Supreme Court lifted ban on protests at Jantar Mantar on - 23rd July 2018

The Supreme Court of India ruled that there cannot be a "complete ban" on holding protests at Jantar Mantar or India Gate on July 23rd, 2018. The bench comprising Ashok Bhushan and Justices A K Sikri stated that



there was a need to strike the balance between conflicting rights such as right to protest and right of citizens to live peacefully.

Important Highlights

- The apex court also stated that there cannot be a complete ban to hold protests at places like Boat Club and Jantar Mantar or near India Gate New Delhi.

- The court directed the Centre to frame guidelines for the according sanctions in case of such events.

Did you know?

The National Green Tribunal had announced a ban on all kinds of protests around the Jantar Mantar on October 5th, 2017 in Delhi stating that such activities violated the environmental laws.

India, Rwanda sign 8 agreements on - 23rd July 2018

India and Rwanda signed eight agreements on July 23rd, 2018 following delegation-level talks between Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda.

Modi and Kagame, both held wide-ranging talks and discussed a host of measures to boost bilateral strategic ties. Addressing a joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi assured Rwanda that India will be continuing to back the African country's development. Rwanda President said PM Modi's visit represents a milestone between both the countries.

Important Highlights

- The agreements were signed in the fields of trade, agriculture, leather, defence, and allied products and dairy.

- India also extended two lines of credit worth \$200 million to Rwanda:

- For the industrial parks development and Kigali Special Economic Zone

- For the three agricultural projects development in Rwanda

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced the opening of the first Indian diplomatic mission in the East African nation.

- The move will not only be establishing communication between the governments of both the countries but also will also enable facilities for consular, passport and visa.

- Other than this, a task force will be set up between both the countries to enable digital learning mediums for children.

Other Details

- Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Rwanda when he landed in Kigali on the first leg of his three-nation tour to Africa. The Rwandan President personally received Modi at the airport.

- During his visit, the Prime Minister is expected to visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial which is the final resting place of more than 2 lakh 50,000 victims of Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda.

- Modi will also be visiting the Rweru Model Village where he would be donating 200 cows under the Girinka programme, a scheme initiated by President Kagame in response to the high rate of child malnutrition and as a means of accelerating poverty reduction and integrate livestock and crop farming.

- Modi would take part in the India-Rwanda Business Forum.

Did you know?

The Prime Minister's visit to Rwanda is historic as Rwanda is an important gateway to Eastern Africa and also The Rwandan President is the current Chair of the African Union.

Indian banks, financial institutions sign agreement to



speed up bad loan resolution on - 23rd July 2018

Indian banks and financial institutions signed an inter-creditor agreement to fast-track the resolution of stressed assets of Rs 500 crore or above that are under consortium lending on July 23rd, 2018.

The Sunil Mehta Committee recommended the preparation of ICA and under the aegis of IBA (Indian Banks' Association). It is a part of Project Sashakt, aiming to strengthen the credit culture, credit capacity and credit portfolio of public sector banks. The Boards of respective lenders approved this agreement.

Important Highlights

- In this pact, each resolution plan will going to be submitted by the lead lender to an Overseeing Committee.
- The lead lender (lender with the highest exposure), shall be authorised to formulate the resolution plan, presented to the lenders for their approval.
- Under the deal, the decision making will be by way of approval of 'majority lenders'- those with 66 percent share in the aggregate exposure.
- Once a resolution plan is approved by the majority lenders, it will bind all the lenders that are a party to the ICA.
- Each resolution plan ,formulated in terms of the agreement shall be in compliance with the RBI circular and all other applicable laws and guidelines.

Amendments in Bill to ban liquor to stop its misuse passed by - Bihar Assembly

The Bihar Assembly passed the Bihar Prohibition and Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2018 on July 23rd, 2018 to amend some of the stringent provisions of the prohibition law in

order to prevent its misuse and make the quantum of punishment proportionate to the nature of the offence.

While the prohibition was introduced in the state with unanimous support from the supporting parties, the opposition, which were seeking the declaration of Bihar as 'drought-hit', staged a walkout before the bill was taken up for its consideration.

Bill's main objective is to stop misuse of law provisions against the innocent and bring the punishment in proportion to the crime. The bill contains 16 amendments that offer relief to people found in violating the various provisions of the law.

Important Highlights of the amended Bill

- The prohibition law earlier provided for a 5-year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh, for those who consume liquor or caught in an inebriated state.
- With the new changes, the first-time offenders will be paying a fine of Rs 50,000, failing which, they will need to undergo a prison term of 3 months.
- The offence has now been made bailable.
- On the other hand, the repeat offenders will be punished with a prison term of not less than a year and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh.
- Those causing disturbance or violence in an inebriated state or facilitating consumption of liquor on their premises will continue to attract a prison term not shorter than five years and penalty of not less than Rs 1 lakh.
- For those who are guilty of manufacture, storage and illegal trade in liquor, the prohibition law earlier provided for a maximum term of life imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh.



- Under the new amendment, the first offence of this nature will be punishable with a prison sentence of at least five years and a fine of not less than Rs 1 lakh, while subsequent offences will be punishable with a prison term of at least 10 years and a fine of not less than Rs 5 lakh.

- The new amendment would also be removing the provision for imposition of a collective fine and banishing of notorious and habitual offenders from a district.

- It also removes the provision to book all the adult members of a household if liquor is found in the house.

Did you know?

On November 26th, 2015, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced that all types of alcohol would be banned in the state from April 1st, 2016. A complete ban on all liquor items was declared on April 5th, 2016.

NITI Aayog signs SoI with Lupin Foundation for collaborating in Aspirational Districts on - 23rd July 2018

The NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Program on July 23rd, 2018. The SoI was signed by Yaduvendra Mathur, Additional Secretary of NITI Aayog and Sita Ram Gupta, Executive Director of Lupin Foundation.

Key Highlights

- The NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation will be collaborating to improve indicators in education, health & nutrition, financial inclusion and skill development, agriculture and water resources and basic infrastructure in Aspirational Districts of India.

- Lupin Foundation, along with the NITI Aayog, will be working in three states - Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

- The collaboration will be facilitating the creation of an ideal template to develop economic strength, technological viability and moral leadership across three districts in these 3 states as part of Phase I of the cooperation.

- Lupin Foundation will be working towards three main pillars of ensuring integrated developmental policy in the model states Social development - It will be including initiatives for health, education and women empowerment.

- Economic empowerment – It will be focusing on interventions in spheres of animal husbandry, agriculture and skill enhancement.

- Infrastructure development - Lupin will be looping to establish durable infra in the form of school buildings, internal roads and water resources.

Phase I of cooperation between Lupin Foundation and NITI Aayog

Phase I of cooperation between Lupin Foundation and NITI Aayog will be focusing on the districts of Dholpur in Rajasthan, Nandurbar in Maharashtra and Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh. It will be helping to develop a comprehensive district-level action plan that integrates various initiatives and interventions.

More about Aspirational District Program

- In January 2018, PM Narendra Modi launched the ‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ program aiming to effectively and quickly transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

The broad features of the program are:

- 1) Collaboration of Central, State level ‘Prabhari’ Officers & District Collectors
- 2) Convergence of Central & State Schemes
- 3) Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan



- The program aiming to focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for measure progress, immediate improvement and rank districts.

- It is also supporting Government's initiative of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' to raise the living standards of its citizens and ensure inclusive growth for all.

- The Government has chosen 49 key performance indicators to measure progress of the districts under this program.

- Districts are encouraged to first catch-up with the best district within their state, and aspire to become one of the best in the country subsequently.

File a detailed affidavit related to appointment of Lokpal on - 24th July 2018

The Supreme Court asked the Union Government to file a detailed affidavit mentioning all the steps being taken for setting up a search committee for suggesting probable names for the appointment of Lokpal on July 24th, 2018.

The Supreme Court bench of Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Navin Sinha and Justice R. Bhanumathi expressed dissatisfaction over the Centre's response on appointment of search committee members.

The bench described the affidavit filed by the Centre as "insufficient" and directed the Department of Personnel and Training to file a fresh affidavit with full particulars in 4 weeks time. On July 2nd, 2018, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to inform it within 10 days about the time frame to appoint the anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal in India.

'#Childline1098' contest launched by - WCD Ministry

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a contest, '#Childline1098' to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30th, 2018.

This contest is inviting people to share images of the Childline 1098 logo that they spot at unique locations with a tagline. According to the WCD Ministry, the main objective of the online contest is a means to connect with the citizens and engage them in spreading information about the initiative towards curbing trafficking.

Important Details

- Childline is India's first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of assistance, which is operational at 450 locations at present.

- The last submission date is 30th July 2018, and these can be shared on creativecorner.mwcd@gmail.com or on MyGov

- Contest's full details are available on the Facebook & Twitter accounts of Ministry WCD (@MinistryWCD).

Did you know?

MoU was signed between the Ministry and Railways to rescue and rehabilitate runaway, kidnapped, abandoned and trafficked children through the Railways. According to activists, there are about 17 million victims of human trafficking in India and 40.3 million globally, as per the latest report.

India inked four MoUs in various fields with - Uganda

During the Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India and Uganda inked 4 MoUs on 24th July 2018. These cover the areas of defence, diplomatic ties, cultural exchange and material testing laboratory. PM of India also announced two Lines of Credit worth nearly USD 200 million to



Uganda. PM also offered to build a commemoration centre in Kampala in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

Important to mention here that it is the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Uganda and Rwanda in over 20 years and PM Narendra Modi became first ever Indian PM to deliver the keynote address at the Ugandan Parliament.

Name of exercise of Australia, in which Indian Air Force participated for first time - Pitch Black Exercise

On 24th July 2018, Indian Force aircrafts landed at Australia with a purpose to participate in Exercise Pitch Black-2018. Total 145 Indian Airforce personnel will take part in this exercise. This exercise will be three weeks long starting from 27th July to 17th August 2018.

Apart from India, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and the United States will join it.

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) use to host Exercise Pitch Black which was started in 1981.

Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018 passed by - Parliament

On 24th July, 2018, Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2018 was passed by Parliament with an aim to enhance transparency and accountability of the government. Earlier we had Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988, which was amended in this bill.

As per this bill, Giving bribe will also be a direct offence. But person will not charged with it if person is compelled to give bribe provided that person report it within 7 days. It also has provision to prosecute former officials too as currently it was only for serving officials.

Green Mahanadi Mission launched by - Odisha Government

On 24th July 2018, Green Mahanadi Mission was launched by Chief Minister of Odisha Mr. Naveen Patnaik. This mission is a plantation drive under which 2 crore saplings will be planted along the Mahanadi river and its tributaries. This will help in reducing soil erosion on river banks.

If we talk about Mahanadi then it is major river in East Central India. Hirakud Dam build over this river is longest major earthen dam in India which supplies 260 MW of hydroelectric power. Plantation will also help in improving water level of river which has been decreased in recent times.

Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 passed by - Lok Sabha

On 23rd July 2018, Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed in Lok Sabha. It was amendment in negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. This act has been amended to deal better with cheque bounce cases.

19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated on - 26th July

On 26th July 2018, 19th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated in India to mark the success of Operation Vijay. Nation remembered the supreme sacrifice of the



Indian soldiers during Kargil war (1999). Kargil war was fought for 73 days after intruders from Pakistan had captured positions of Indian Territory. On 26th July 1999, Indian Army took control of that positions. For the bravery in Kargil war four Param Vir Chakras were awarded to :

- Captain Vikram Batra, 13 JAK Rifles, Posthumous
- Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, 1/11 Gorkha Rifles, Posthumous
- Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, 13 JAK Rifles
- Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, 18 Grenadiers

West Bengal assembly passes resolution to change name of State to - Bangla

On 26th July 2018, State assembly of West Bengal unanimously passed a resolution to change the name of state to Bangla. Now if Union home ministry give its approval then this name will become official.

In 2018 AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index, rank of India is - 11th

As per 2018 AT Kearney FDI Confidence Index, India ranked 11th.

In 2017 rank of India was 8th. Global consultancy firm AT Kearney published this report.

Definition of hydrocarbon amended by Government to include - Shale

Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 were amended by Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to include shale in definition of petroleum. This will allow private companies to explore and produce it in their respective blocks.

Shale gas is natural gas formed from being trapped within shale formations. Shale gas is unconventional source of methane, like coal-bed gas (in coal seams) and tight gas (trapped in rock formations). It has no colour and it is odourless gas. Shale gas releases 50% less CO₂ if we compare it to natural gas and also cheaper than natural gas. So it is a better source for generating electricity too.

Vodafone-Idea merger got - Government approval

On 26th July 2018, The Department of Telecom (DoT) gave final approval to merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular. Idea Cellular and Vodafone India jointly paid Rs. 7,268.78 crore 'under protest' to the DoT few days ago.

Now together it will known as "Vodafone Idea". It will be largest mobile-phone company. In this company CEO will be Balesh Sharma (Chief Operating Officer of Vodafone India) and Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla will be the Non-Executive Chairman. Vodafone will be have 45.1 percent while Idea promoters will hold 26.1 percent of this new entity.

Which party emerged as single largest party in Pakistan Elections - Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI)

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party emerged as single largest party after the Pakistan Elections 2018. Former Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan is head of this party. PTI secured 119 seats however majority mark is 137 seats.

Imran Khan who has a great career in international cricket for over two decades. His schooling was from Lahore while he did his graduation from Oxford University with



Bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics and economics.

Under this captaincy, Pakistan cricket team won world cup in 1992. Imran Khan entered politics in 1996.

Name of Ramon Magsaysay Award winners from India - Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk

On 26th July 2018, Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk from India won 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award. This award is also known as Asian Nobel Prize. In total six individuals won this prestigious prize, those are :

- Bharat Vatwani (India),
- Sonam Wangchuk (India),
- Youk Chhang (Cambodia),
- Maria de Lourdes Martins Cruz (East Timor),
- Howard Dee (Philippines) and
- Vo Thi Hoang Yen (Vietnam).

Bharat Vatwani was awarded for his work towards healing of mentally-ill street persons and Sonam Wangchuk was awarded for his community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India, thus improving the life opportunities of Ladakhi youth.

Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957. It was created in the memory of 3rd President of Philippines Ramon Magsaysay.

NGT forms monitoring committee for - Clean Yamuna Project

On 26th July 2018, The National Green Tribunal formed a monitoring committee on the cleaning of the Yamuna River. Committee was directed to develop an action plan and asked it to submit it by 31st December 2018.

Retired expert member BS Sajwan and former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra are the members of this committee. Also NGT directed Govt of Haryana and UP to assist the committee on Yamuna rejuvenation.

• World Hepatitis Day observed globally on - 28th July

On 28th July 2018, The World Hepatitis Day was observed across the globe. This is an annual event which is being observed with an aim to spread awareness about Hepatitis.

Theme of World Hepatitis Day 2018 was "Test. Treat. Hepatitis".

Since 2010 this day is being observed annually, as in May 2010 WHO passed resolution for observance of this day. Important to mention here that 28th July was chosen as it is birth anniversary of Professor Baruch Blumberg who had discovered hepatitis B virus.

Longest Lunar Eclipse of the century was witnessed on - July 27-28, 2018

Longest Lunar Eclipse of century was witnessed on July 27-28, 2018. Total eclipse lasted up to 2 hours and 43 minutes. During this time moon was located at apogee in its orbit and moved at slower speed.

Government notified ethanol-making directly from - Sugarcane juice, B-molasses

As per amendment in Sugarcane Control Order 1966, Now Union Food Ministry has notified decision which allows sugar mills to manufacture ethanol directly from sugarcane juice or an intermediate product called B-molasses. So during surplus years now mills can divert cane juice for ethanol



manufacturing.

As during 2017-18, sugar mills have record output of 32 million tonnes which is record high. Prices of sugar have fallen below production cost, so now by producing ethanol directly from sugarcane juice or B-molasses will help sugar mills.

Name of Committee which submitted report on Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 - Justice Srikrishna Committee

On 27th July 2018, Justice BN Srikrishna Committee submitted its report on the data protection law. Committee submitted its report to Union Minister for Electronics and IT, law and justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Following are the main points of this report :

- Committee proposed that critical personal data of Indian citizens shall be processed in centres located within the country.

- Processing sensitive personal data should be on the basis of "explicit consent".

- For data processing outside India, the law will apply to those carrying on business in India or other activities such as data profiling which could cause privacy harms to data principals in India.

- It also recommended setting up of a Data Protection Authority (DPA) to prevent misuse of personal information and also provides for setting up an Appellate Tribunal.

- For Children Data Protection it recommended that companies should be barred from certain types of data processing such as behavioural monitoring, tracking and any other type of processing which is not in the best interest of the child.

Projects worth Rs 60000 crore launched in Lucknow by - PM Narendra Modi

On 29th July 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched projects worth Rs 60000 crore in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This hefty amount has been approved for total 81 projects.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were present on this event along with many business tycoons. Government aims to create Approx 2 lakh jobs through it. Reliance Jio will invest 10000 crore while BSNL will invest Rs 5000 crore for optical cable network in state. Infosys and TCS will also be investing Rs 5000 crore and Rs 2300 crore respectively. Apart from them Adani Power and Paytm will also be investing in the state.

Important to mention here that on 21-22 February 2018 UP Investors Summit was held in which many MoU's were inked. These business investments are happening after that.

India inked MoU with UAE on - Artificial Intelligence

On 28th July 2018, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) inked MoU in the field of artificial intelligence with an aim to boost their economies in this field. UAE Minister for Artificial Intelligence Omar bin Sultan Al Olama and Managing director and CEO of Invest India Mr Deepak Bagla inked MoU to create a "Artificial Intelligence Bridge" with an aim to get USD 20 billion in economic benefits in next decade.

Which state signed MoU for first Cow Sanctuary in state - Rajasthan



On 27th July 2018, Rajasthan inked MoU with private trust Sohanlalji Buladeviji Ojha Gaushala Samiti to build first Cow Sanctuary which will provide shelter to 10000 cows. Total area of this Sanctuary will be more than 220 hectares which will be build in Bikaner district.

Lok Sabha passes bill to replace - Homoeopathy council

On 30th July 2018, Lok Sabha passed bill to replace Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) with a board of governors. Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2018 was passed with a voice vote. This bill amendment was done with an aim to bring accountability and quality in the homeopathy colleges and education.

As per this bill, Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) will be reconstituted within a year. New board will comprise of seven eminent homeopathy practitioners and administrators who will be appointed by the government.

Parliament passes Bill for merger of five subsidiary banks with - SBI

On 30th July 2018, Indian Parliament passed the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017 that merges the subsidiary banks with the State Bank of India (SBI). Important to mention here that this merger is already into effect from 1st April, 2017 as Union government approved it earlier in February 2017.

These five banks are :

- A. State Bank of Bikaner,**
- B. State Bank of Mysore,**
- C. State Bank of Patiala,**
- D. State Bank of Travancore and**
- E. State Bank of Hyderabad.**

US elevates India's status to ease export controls for - High-tech product sales

As per information shared by US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross on 30th July 2018, Export controls for high-technology product sales to India has been eased by United States. India has been given status of Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) country.

Now India will be having same access as NATO allies, Australia, Japan and South Korea. Now India will be able to buy more advanced and sensitive technologies from the United States. So India will be having greater supply chain efficiency, both for defence and other high-tech products.