



Upgraded Pinaka rocket successfully test-fired by - DRDO

DRDO has effectively test-fired Advanced guided version of Pinaka Rocket from Proof & Experiment Establishment at Chandipur, Odisha. During the test-fire, 2 rounds were directed and few more rounds have been prearranged.

Upgraded Pinaka

- The guided version is Pinaka rocket mark-II has progressed from earlier version of unguided Pinaka mark-I.
- The advanced Pinaka mark-II has been equipped with navigation, guidance and control kit established by Research Centre, Imarat.
- The conversion has assisted to improve range of Pinaka to above 70 kilometres with accuracy to 50 metres.

Pinaka Missile

- It is combinedly developed by Armament Research & Development Establishment-Pune, Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad and Research Centre, Imarat.
- It is fired with the help of multi-barrel rocket launcher which can shoot 12 explosive-loaded Rockets within 44 seconds and terminate target area of 4 sq kilometres at a time.
- It has competence to incorporate various types of missiles makes it deadly for enemy as it can even abolish solid structures and bunkers.
- The quick reaction time and high rate fire system stretches an edge to Army during less conflict situation. It already has been inaugurated into Indian Army.

PM Narendra Modi launched RuPay card, BHIM and SBI apps in Singapore on - 31st May 2018

PM Narendra Modi released 3 Indian digital payment systems- RuPay, BHIM and UPI apps by State Bank of India at the Business, Innovation and Community Event in Singapore, on May 31st, 2018. With the release, India's RuPay digital payments system was connected with Singapore's 33 years old Network for Electronic Transfers. The initiative will enable RuPay subscribers to complete payments at all of Network for Electronic Transfers System acceptance points across Singapore. Whereas, holders of Singapore Network for Electronic Transfers System will be able to complete online purchase on any National Payment Corporation of India e-commerce merchant website in India, using 2.8 million RuPay point of sale stations in India.

Importance

The progress is significant, because it would develop multi-billion-dollar transactions as around 5 million Indians travel and transit via Singapore, internationalising the RuPay commencement with the 1st cross border usage.

Did you know?

PM Narendra Modi initiated the apps during the 1st day of his tour in Singapore, which is a part of his 3 countries tour of South-East Asia. This is PM Modi's 2nd formal visit as the Prime Minister to the island country. India seeks at Singapore as a gateway to ASEAN and as a connection between India and Asia. Singapore is also a main partner for India in projects related to smart cities, urban infrastructure and logistics.

Facebook partners with NCW to launch - Digital Literacy Programme

Social networking mega Facebook has collaborated with National Commission for



Women to release Digital Literacy Programme to train women on secure use of internet and social media. The programme was released by Facebook in partnership with Ranchi, Jharkhand-based Cyber Peace Foundation involved in exercise linked to all aspects of cyber security.

More about Digital Literacy Programme

- Under it, awareness training will be directed for 60,000 women in universities in major cities over a 1-year period.
- These interactive exercise sessions will deliver training on secure and responsible usage of internet, social media and email.
- It will permit trainees to differentiate between credible and questionable data.
- The training will be directed in local languages. The digital literacy programme will advantage females in universities in big cities including Haryana, Delhi, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

National Commission for Women

- National Commission for Women is a constitutional body formed under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. It was formed in January 1992 to analysis the constitutional and legal safeties for women.
- It commends remedial legislative measures, advise Government on all policy issues affecting females and smooth redressal of complaints related to females.

Government, World Bank sign agreement worth \$500m for PMGSY rural roads project on - 31st May 2018

The Union Government inked a \$500 million loan MoU with the World Bank on May 31 st , 2018 to deliver extra financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Rural

Roads Project. The project, executed by the Union Rural Development ministry, goals to shape 7,000 kilometres of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 kilometres will be built using green technologies.

The Loan MoU for the project was inked by Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Sameer Kumar Khare, on behalf of the Government of India and Country Director, World Bank India Junaid Ahmad, on behalf of the World Bank in the presence of Alka Upadhyaya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development.

Objective

Under this extra financing, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the Bank's involvement will highlight on managing the rural road network via green and climate robust construction using green, less carbon projects and new technologies.

Key Importance

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has over the years carried about a paradigm shift in the way rural roads are shaped, fabricated, monitored and built, involving communities especially women.
- The extra finance will assist bring a new shift in construction technology using green and low carbon designs and climate strong construction techniques.
- It will facilitate the rural communities to have entree to better economic options and social services.

Maiden test Next Generation SFDR Air to Air Missile successfully conducted by - DRDO

DRDO effectively carried out maiden flight trial new surface-to-air missile which is power-driven by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet Propulsion Technology. The test also



efficaciously demonstrated technology of nozzle-less booster for 1st time in the nation.

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet's technology for test flight was directed from Launch Centre-III of Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. The self-protective missile flew in its proposed trajectory at thrice the speed of sound and met all mission purposes.

Key Importance

- Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology is combinedly produced by India and Russia.
- It will assist both India's surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles to perform healthier and enhance their strike capability, making them extra lethal.
- Thus, India will have quickest long-range missiles in 2 categories with protection from intimidating attacks.
- Its effective usage in missiles will mark India's entry into first-class club of countries that utilises next-generation missile technology against manoeuvring targets.

Difference between SFDR and Conventional Missiles

- Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet is propulsion technology different than that of unadventurous solid fuelled or liquid-fuelled missiles.
- Currently, lot of conventional missiles practices booster configuration with solid/liquid propellants, which have restrictions against manoeuvring target.
- This is because mortal stage of conventional missiles cannot deliver sufficient energy to maintain their pace to hit targets.
- Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology eliminates this drawback by remarkably enhancing endgame manoeuvrability of missile at mortal stage when its seeker is locked onto target.

Press Council of India reconstituted on - 31st May 2018

The Union Government re-formed the Press Council of India on May 31 st , 2018, for a 3 years term. However, the names under medium newspaper group have not been acknowledged yet as the matter linked to it is sub-judice.

Nomination of members of the reconstituted PCI

- On March 16th , 2018, the government informed the names of 8 nominated members of the reconstituted Press Council of India.
- Parliamentarians designated to the fresh body were Meenakshi Lekhi, T.G.Venkatesh Babu, Prathap Simha, Vinay.P.Sahasrabuddhe and Swapan Dasgupta.
- Uttam Chandra Sharma, Pravat Kumar Dash, K.Sreenivasarao, Meenakshi Lekhi and Chhayakanta Nayak were designated for the 2 nd term in the refurbished Press Council of India.
- Members designated to the Press Council of India from different companies were Sushma Yadav from the UGC, Manan Kumar Mishra from the Bar Council of India and K.Sreenivasarao from the Sahitya Akademi.
- Future on May 22nd , 2018, former Supreme Court judge C.K.Prasad was selected as the Chairman of the Press Council of India for a 2nd term.

Denmark Parliament banned wearing of face veils in public on - 31st May 2018

Parliament of Denmark barred the wearing of face veils- burqa and niqab, in public places, on May 31 st , 2018. This is a initiative that will criminalise Muslim women who selected to wear the burqa. The Danish parliament voted 75-30 with 74



absentees. The measure will come into effect on August 1 st , 2018.

The restriction was maintained by the ruling liberal-conservative coalition parties, the far-right People's Party and the antagonism Social Democrats, who trust that face veils are conflicting to the Danish values. **Highlights of the legislation banning face veils in public**

- The law prohibits the wearing of full-face niqab, balaclavas, face-covering masks and fake beards.
- It does not bandit headscarves, turbans, traditional Jewish Kippa and winter clothing including scarves and motorcycle helmets.
- Denmark's Justice Minister Soren Pape Poulsen informed that police will not order criminals to remove their veils, however, would charge penalty from them.
- Penalties will vary from 1000 Danish crowns/USD 160 for a 1st offense to 10000 crowns for a 4th violation.

• India's First Advanced Forensic Lab dedicated to women related cases to come up in - Chandigarh

Foundation of "Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory" was placed in the Central Forensic Science Lab campus, Chandigarh. It is India's 1st advanced forensic lab devoted for crimes connected to women for in-time deliver justice.

Key Points

- The advanced lab at par with global standards will help to address gap in forensic DNA analysis of incomplete sexual assault cases in the nation.
- The laboratory has been formed as model forensic lab and will be imitation in other parts of the nation.
- Five extra such advanced forensic labs will come up in Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati, Pune

and Bhopal in the upcoming three months bringing total least annual handling capacity of labs to 50000 cases.

- The laboratories in Chennai and Mumbai will be formed with capital from Ministry of Women and Child Development, while outstanding three laboratories would be formed with money by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Units of Sakhi Suraksha Advanced DNA Forensic Laboratory

- There are 4 units i.e. sexual assault and homicide unit, human identification unit, paternity unit, and mitochondrial unit. Apart from Homicide and Sexual Assault Unit, other 3 units are interconnected. They will work to study cases related to crime against females.
- Paternity Uni will be helping in solving cases related to criminal parenthood, gender selection and child substitution in hospitals.
- Human Identification Unit will play crucial role to resolve cases of missing person/children.

Mitochondrial Unit will conduct mitochondrial-DNA analysis in such cases where regular DNA analysis is not possible due to highly dishonoured samples. It can also be utilised to well explore family relationships.

Online Analytical Tool to monitor foreign contributions under FCRA launched by - Government

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs released an Online Analytical Tool to enable closer monitoring of flow and usage of foreign contributions acknowledged by various firms registered/permitted under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. The web grounded tool will benefit to efficiently monitor



thousands of transactions undertaken by such firms and assist shareholders in Government to better control acceptance and usage of overseas contributions.

Features of web-based tool

- It permits decision-makers in numerous Government Departments to scrutinise source of overseas funds and their actual usage in India. It will deliver them capacity to take evidence-based and information motivated decisions for compliance of provisions of FCRA, 2010.
- It has analytical structures to conduct immense data mining and information exploration.
- It has been joined with FCRA listed entities bank accounts via Public Financial Management System for updating transactional information on a real-time basis.

Did you know?

There are about 25,000 active firms listed under FCRA, 2010. Such firms have received overseas contributions worth Rupees 18,065 crores from overseas donors for various social, cultural, economic, educational and religious activities in 2016-17. Each FCRA-NGO organises multiple financial transactions in receiving and utilising foreign contribution.

Core industries register 4.7% growth in - April 2018

As per to index of 8 core industries published by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 8 core infrastructure sectors raised by 4.7 percent higher in April 2018. It was obsessed by healthy performance in segments like coal, natural gas and cement. Sector wise breakaway in April 2018 Coal production augmented by 2.6 percent. Crude Oil production deteriorated by 0.8 percent.

Natural Gas production grown by 7.4 per cent. Petroleum Refinery production grown by 2.7 percent.

Fertilizers production grown by 4.6 percent. Steel production augmented by 3.5 percent. Cement production grown by 16.6 percent. Electricity generation grown by 2.2 percent.

Core industries

- Core industries can be well-defined as key industries of the economy.
- In most nations, these particular industries are support of all other industries.
- In India, there are 8 essential sectors consisting of coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. The 8 infrastructure sectors, constitute 40.27 percent of the total index of industrial production.

Revised weightage in core sectors:

- Petroleum Refinery production weighted 28.04 percent
- Electricity generation weightage 19.85 per cent
- Steel production weighted 17.92 percent
- Coal production weighted 10.33 percent
- Crude Oil production weighted 8.98 percent
- Natural Gas production weightage 6.88 percent
- Cement production weightage 5.37 percent
- Fertilizers production weightage 2.63 percent

New scheme SevaBhojYojna launched by - Union Government

SevabhojYojna is introduced by the culture Union ministry on 1st June 2018 in order to reimburse the central share of CGST and IGST on items like prashad, langar, bhandara which are offered free of cost by the charitable and religious institutions.

Key details

- The ministry of Culture is planning to register the charitable institutions for the time period



goes with the finance commission period, and then later on it may be renewed by the ministry.

- These registered institutions details would be made online on the portal for the public view and GST authorities.
- Eligible institutions are also required to register with Darpan portal simultaneously.

New Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018 launched by - Income Tax Department

The Income Tax Department has issued a new reward scheme named “Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme, 2018” in order to seek out people’s participation in the Income Tax Department’s efforts to unearth black money and to minimize tax evasion.

Key objective of this scheme is at encouraging people to give information about benami transactions and properties as well as income earned on such properties by such hidden investors and beneficial owners.

Important Highlights

- In the new rewards scheme, a reward up to Rs 1 crore will be given to those who can give specific information in the prescribed manner to the Joint or Additional Commissioners of BPU (Benami Prohibition Units) in Investigation Directorates of Income Tax Department about:
 - Benami properties , transactions, and proceeds from such properties which are to be actionable under Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, as amended by Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016.
 - Substantial evasion of tax on income or assets in India which are actionable under the Income-tax Act, 1961 People of foreign origin would also be eligible for such a reward if they

provide the required specific information.
- The identity of the people giving information will be kept strictly confidential.

- Other than this, the Government has also introduced a reward of up to Rs 5 crore to those people who can share specific information regarding income and assets actionable under Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.
- The amount has been kept high to make it attractive to potential sources in foreign countries.
- This same act was introduced by the Union Government to investigate and assess income and specific assets kept in foreign countries by people taxable in India, recover tax on it and take other actions like penalty and prosecution.

Did you know?

The new reward scheme supersedes the earlier reward scheme, issued in 2007. The Government initially amended Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, by Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 to make the this law stronger.

Cauvery Water Management Authority formed by - Central Government

Following guidelines from Supreme Court, the Central Government has constituted the Cauvery Water Management Authority to address the disagreement over sharing of river water among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry. In February, 2018 ruling, the Supreme Court had guided centre to set-up the Cauvery Water Management Authority within 6 weeks. In the same judgement, the court had also improved Karnataka’s share in Cauvery Water a little bit.
Cauvery Water Management Authority



- The freshly established CMA has been formed according to the Cauvery Management Scheme previously outlined by Centre and sanctioned by Supreme Court.
- The committee will include a chairman, a secretary and 8 associates. Out of the eight members, 2 will be full-time basis, while other 2 will be part time members from centre.
- Remaining 4 will be part-time associates from states. The chief mandate of the Cauvery Water Management Authority will be to sheltered implementation and acquiescence of the Supreme Court's order in concern to "storage, allotment, regulation and regulator of Cauvery waters".

Cauvery Water Management Authority will also guide the states to adopt appropriate measures to progress water usage efficiency. It will do this by encouraging with the utilisation of micro-irrigation, cropping patterns alterations, better-quality farm practices and expansion of command areas.

- The Cauvery Water Management Authority will also formulate an annual report covering its activities during the previous year.

Role of Central Government

The central government will deliver help in execution of the modified award in case of any of the state or UT parties including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry, that do not collaborate in executing the decision of the tribunal. Primarily, centre will pay Rupees two crores for the functioning of the authority.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression observed on - 4th June 2018

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed worldwide on June 4th, 2018. The main aim of the day is to recognize the pain suffered by children worldwide who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. The day confirms the United Nation's promise to shielding the rights of children. Its work is directed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the most quickly and extensively ratified international human rights treaty in history.

Important Highlights

- In current years, the violations cases against children has augmented in many conflict zones.
- As per to the UNICEF, violence has become a devastating situation child worldwide, as they are either being killed in continuing conflicts/suicide attacks or getting frozen to death while fleeing from active war zones.
- Data suggest that in the month of January only, rising violence in Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Yemen sued the lives of minimum 83 children.
- Therefore, the situation calls for immediate remedial measures to safeguard the 250 million children living in nations and areas exaggerated by conflict from being targets of violence.
- More wants to done to promote international humanitarian and human rights law and to make sure responsibility for violations of the rights of children.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consists of a universal master plan to safeguard a better future for children.

Did you know?

On August 19th, 1982, the United Nations General Assembly, horrified at the number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese child victims of Israel's acts of aggression, thus,



definite to commemorate 4th June of every year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.

National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 comes into force on - 1st June 2018

President of India Ram Nath Kovind gave his approval to the National Sports Ordinance, 2018, on June 1st, 2018. The ordinance had previously received sanction from the Union Cabinet on May 23rd, 2018. The suggestion for endorsement of the ordinance was placed forward by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Key Features

- The National Sports University Ordinance, 2018 will be with the guidelines of the National Sports University Bill, 2017.
- The consent of the ordinance will cover way for the set-up of the nation's 1st National Sports University with HQ at Manipur.
- The 1st specialised University, will have objective to encourage sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching.
- It will also work as a National Training Centre for specific sports guidelines by accepting the best international practices.

Did you know?

The suggestion was officially proclaimed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech of 2014-15 on July 10th, 2014. For the formation of the University, the Manipur government has issued approximately 325.90 acres of land in Koutruk, West Imphal district of Manipur.

Odisha's Health Insurance Scheme for Journalists as - Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana

Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana is a fresh Health Insurance Scheme for the reporters released by the state government in Odisha. This scheme delivers Rupees two Lakh annually health insurance cover to all working media-persons of the state.

Key Points

- Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana has is effective from June 1st, 2018 and will primarily covering approximately 3200 media-persons and their families.
 - The insurance coverage will be valid for cash-free treatment in government as well as in private hospitals.
 - The scheme will also cover the injuries and illness suffered by journalists while on duties.
- ### Name of Scheme
- The scheme has been called after Gopalbandhu Das, who was a prominent social worker, political activist, media-person, poet and author from Odisha.
 - His contribution to art, culture and society of Odisha received him the epithet of Utkalmani. His contribution to reporting in the state was short but extraordinary.
 - In the decade of 1910, he had released a monthly literary magazine Known as 'Satyabadi' to educate the masses.

India receives first shipment of cheapest LNG from Gazprom Russia on - 4th June 2018

India received 1st shipment of its much cheapest 'Liquefied Natural Gas' from Russian supplier Gazprom, on June 4th, 2018. The Liquefied Natural Gas has been issued at a price approximately USD 7 per million British Thermal Unit. This price is near to 1.5 USD cheaper from the Liquefied Natural Gas imported from Qatar, which is India's biggest and major supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas. This price value is also 1-1.5 USD per mmBtu



cheaper than the Liquefied Natural Gas sourced from Australia and USA.

India's Natural Gas Production and Import

- As per to the official information, India's total natural gas generation in 2017-18 was 32.64 billion cubic meters of which 22.01 billion cubic meters is offshore production while 10.63 per cent is onshore production.
- However, presently, approximately half of Natural Gas request is fulfilled by imports. India's natural gas import dependence in 2016-17 was close to 45 per cent. Presently, India is 4th largest importer of Liquefied Natural Gas.
- Natural Gas is one of the crucial inputs for generation of power and producing products in fertilizer and steel industries. The present government policy also impulses towards a gas-based economy by increasing the portion of environment friendly fuel in the energy bag to 15% from present 6.2%.

India's Gas Deals

- Presently, Qatar is major supplier of Natural Gas to India. The current shipment from Russia has come under a 20-year deal among India's State gas company GAIL India Ltd and Russian supplier Gazprom.
- A few weeks earlier, India had also imported its 1st ever Liquefied Natural Gas cargo from United States under a long-term import contract.
- The government policy is to enlarge the Liquefied Natural Gas import basket to complete any eventuality due to geopolitical/economic reasons.

RBI organises 'Financial Literacy Week' from - 4th June 2018 to 8th June 2018

The RBI is planning "Financial Literacy Week" around the country from June 4th to

June

8th,

2018.

Key Highlights

- The week will aim on 4 consumer protection messages like know your liability for unauthorised digital banking transaction and good practices for a harmless digital banking experience.
- Among different messages, the subscribers will be informed via banners/posters that in case of unauthorised electronic transaction, if the bank is well-versed within three days, the liability of the account holder is nil.
- Further, the resolution of the criticism is to be done by the bank anxious within a period not more than 90 days from the date of receipt of the complaint.
- Besides, banks have also been informed to spread awareness about Banking Ombudsman scheme of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The week will see contribution from bankers, financial literacy counsellors and other shareholders to generate awareness regarding the similar concern.

Other Details

- To quicken the level of outreach of the initiative, Reserve Bank of India has planned a pilot project for financial literacy in 80 blocks of Nine states, in which six NGOs have been listed themselves in Depositor education and awareness fund.

Reserve Bank of India has also inked a deal with Ten banks to deliver financial education. The targeted groups of this initiative will be farmers, industrialists, school going students, senior citizens and self-assisted groups.

Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution adopted in - Agra

With an aim to make 500m area around Taj Mahal "litter free" and phase out one-time usage of plastic, Union Minister Mahesh Sharma directed a pledge to Agra Residents.



The pledge called “Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution” was made in the attendance of

United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Erik Solheim and United Nations Environment

Programme Goodwill Ambassador Diya Mirza. The announcement came ahead to the World Environment day, June 5th .

Key Objective

- Well beforehand the announcement was made, workshops were directed to deal with issues. The major emphasis of the workshop is to control littering around the 17th century memorial.
- Short-term and Long-term plans are worked up on.
- Minister Mahesh Sharma lime-lighted that India and the entire world is facing an enormous problem of pollution caused by the use of plastic.
- He further informed that the communication of ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ is meant not just for Agra inhabitants, but to the entire nation.
- The United Nations Environment Programme representatives and Goodwill Ambassador articulated their happiness that all the bodies came together for a noble cause of curbing plastic pollution.
- The Environment day to be observed on June 5th has a slogan of ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’.

World Environment Day celebrated on - 5th June 2018

World Environment Day is celebrated across the globe with theme: “Beat Plastic Pollution” India will be presenting the “World Environment Day” this year, which is one of the most significant days celebrated by the United Nations around the world.

- A platform for inspiring awareness and spreading the necessity for safeguarding the

environment, this day is observed on June 5th .

- Ever since its beginning in 1974, World Environment Day has had a distinct theme relating to the persistent environmental concern at the time. The subject for the year 2018 is “Beat Plastic Pollution”.

- History With plastic making up to 10% of the total waste produced, half of it utilised is disposable items. This presents a main problem due to its non-renewable nature and its production and demolition exposes people and environment to many pollutants, including carcinogens.

Therefore, World Environment Day is a call for arising of individuals to take part for safeguarding their environment and to understand the severity of plastic usage in day to day life. **More about World Environment Day**

- Plastic is violently polluting our water bodies, harming aquatic-life and posing a threat to human health and therefore, it has been one of the major concerns of environmental bodies present year.
- Though a great part of the population depends upon plastic for their day-to-day needs, nearly one-third of it is not disposed-off adequately and ends-up clogging drains and pungent the environment.
- Plastic can continue in the environment for approximately a thousand years beforehand, it fully breaks and thus, many organisations and governments are always trying for replacements to tackle this threat.
- Through this day, United Nations is making an effort to impulse governments, industries and individuals to tie in the fight against plastic and discover suitable replacements.

Government launched 'Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan' to help farmers



raise their income on - 1st June 2018

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and farmers' welfare has released the Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan from June 1st, 2018 till July 31st, 2018 to help, support and advice farmers on skills how to advance their farming methods and increase their incomes. The Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan will be undertaken in 25 Villages with above 1000 population, each in 111 Aspirational Districts recognized in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development according to the guidelines of NITI Ayog. In the districts where the villages are less than 25, all villages will be covered.

Key Highlights

- An action plan containing specifically identified activities under numerous departments of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries and Department of Agricultural Research and Education will be executed to dowse the selected 25 villages in each district with these activities.
- The total management and implementation in the 25 villages of a district will be finished by Krishi Vigyan Kendra of that district.
- Further, 111 officers have been designated in-charge of single district each for overall synchronization and field level monitoring.
- The officers have been nominated from subordinate, attached, autonomous organisations or PSUs of the Agriculture Ministry.
- Training programmes will also be directed in each of the villages by ICAR for bee keeping, mushroom cultivation and kitchen gardening. Female participants and farmers will be given preference for these training programmes.

M K Jain named new RBI deputy governor on - 4th June 2018

Mahesh Kumar Jain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of IDBI Bank was selected as the 4th deputy governor of the RBI on June 4th, 2018. He would be working for a term of 3 years. The 4th Deputy Governor's position has been vacant since S.S.Mundra retired on July 31st, 2017. In his fresh role, M.K.Jain is predictable to be put in charge of banking supervision. He is also supposed to be a communication bridge among Governor Urjit Patel and bankers on different issues, most prominently on the bankruptcy code and the Non-Performing Asset gratitude norms that Reserve Bank of India instituted on February 12th.

Other Details

- The designations made for the position of Deputy Governor are normally for 3 years, after which the government finalises on renewal if the obligatory has not reached the retirement age of 62.
- On that front, 55 years old M.K.Jain succeeds for re-appointment at the end of his 3 years term.
- A deputy governor receives a immovable salary of Rupees 2.25 lakhs per month, with addition of allowances.
- As per to the RBI Act, the central bank should have 4 Deputy Governors comprising 2 from within the ranks, 1 commercial-banker and 1 economist so as to led the financial policy branch.
- The finance ministry had 37 submissions for the position. Besides Jain, UCO Bank ED Charan Singh and State Bank of India MDs B.Sriram and P.K.Gupta were among the candidates for the position.
- K.P.Krishnan, Secretary, Skill development and Entrepreneurship, Yaduvendra Mathur



additional secretary, NITI Aayog, and T.V.Somanathan, were among the qualified candidates.

Government launched 'Suvidha'-affordable, biodegradable sanitary napkin on - 4th June 2018

The State Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Mansukh L Mandaviya, released the 'Janaushadhi Suvidha', oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana in Delhi on June 4th, 2018. The affordable sanitary napkin will now be accessible at more than 3600 Janaushadhi Kendras operating in 33 states and UTs across the nation.

Key Highlights

- The normal price of sanitary napkins present in the market presently is approximately Rupees eight per pad, while the Suvidha napkins will be accessible at Rupees 2.50 per sanitary pad.
- The move will deliver the basic hygiene need aid inexpensive for the underprivileged females.
- These pads also come with a special biodegradable additive which in contact with oxygen easily degrades after being discarded.
- As per to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, approximately 58% of females aged 15-24 years utilise local pads and tampons.
- Further, about 78% females in cities practice hygienic methods during menstrual period, however, only 48% females in villages have access to clean sanitary pads.

Centre proposes to ban on obscene depiction of women on - Internet

The Ministry of Women and Child Development projected modifications on June

4th, 2018, to the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 with an objective to restrict indecent and offensive depiction of women on internet.

The modifications were projected following the government received the inputs from the parliamentary standing committee to study a bill to take the law up to date and also from the National Commission for Women. Proposed Amendments

The Centre projected modifications to broaden the scope of the Indecent Representation of Women Act to comprise digital and internet-based communication facilities.

Once the Parliament approves the projected modifications, the indecent representation of women in digital forms via text and online messaging facilities will be taken as a crime and will have penalties same to those under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The ministry also suggests a fine of Rupees two lakhs and a custodial term of up to 3 years.

It suggests modifications in the definition of 'advertisement' to including digital form of hoardings including the SMS and MMS. It also projected to modify the definition of 'distribution' of material i.e. publishing and uploading it electronically.

It also proposes modifications in Section 4 of the Act to have that no person shall publish/distribute any material which consists indecent representation of women in any method. The government has also projected to contain hoardings in the Act as it is limited to traditional media consisting of books,



pamphlets, pictures and movies.

The proposed modifications call for forming a central authority under the National Commission of Women to receive and examine grievances of offences under the law. The authority will have members from Advertising Standards Council of India, Press Council of India (PCI) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Ministry of Women and Child Development holds National Consultation on Child Protection on - 5th June 2018

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development planned the National Consultation on Child Protection in New Delhi, on June 5th, 2018. The conference purposefully deliberated the Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of Children) Act (JJ Act), 2015 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012.

The National Consultation on Child Protection was planned as a part of new initiative by Ministry of Women and Child Development to discuss the concerns concerning child protection with all the State Women and Child Development Departments and State Police Departments along with Union Ministry of Home Affairs and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various laws and schemes such as:

1. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
2. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012- POCSO Act
3. Child Protection Services

All these laws and schemes fall under the

parasol Integrated Child Development Services for the defense of children from various exploitations and ensuring their best interest.

Center forms 3 key panels for Prime Ministers of India Museum Project on - 5th June 2018

The Union Culture Ministry set-up 3 power-driven panels on June 5th, 2018, that will work towards forming a unique museum on the Prime Ministers of India in the Delhi. The Culture Ministry has extensively preparing to form an up-to-date museum that will express the story of all the PMs of the nation at the locations of the iconic Teen Murti Estate in the Chanakyapuri area, which is the certified residence of India's 1st PM Jawaharlal Nehru. The iconic landmark Teen Murti Estate belongs to the government. Details of the three committees formed Of the 3 committees designed by Union Culture Ministry, 1 will emphasis on project implementation while the remaining 2 will focus on choice and progress of content for the unique museum.

Significance

The Ministry strongly felt that the involvement and story of India's decision-making, as characterized by the PMs should be voiced for the advantage of upcoming generations.

The formation of museum on PMs would be of great service to the forthcoming generations as well as for those attracted towards the history of independent India. More about Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)

- The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library is a commemorative to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, is housed in the historic Teen Murti House



and the formal residence of the 1st PM of India Jawaharlal Nehru.

- The Teen Murti House was planned by Robert Tor Russel and constructed in 1929-30 as part of Edwin Lutyens imperial capital.

Centre gets go ahead from SC for -Reservations in Promotions

The Supreme Court has permitted Centre to proceed with reservation in promotion for SC/ST employees according to the law. From the centre's behalf, the Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh had delighted Supreme Court to permit standstill promotions, according to mandate of the constitution. This appeal was acknowledged by Supreme Court bench hearing the case.

Reservation in Promotions

Reservations in promotions are instructed by Article 16 (4A) of the constitution. This article is an permitting provision and permits the state to deliver for reservation in concerns of promotion to SC/ST which in its estimation were not sufficiently represented in the services.

Did you know?

With respect to the reservation in advancements in government occupations, the SC verdict in M Nagaraj Case that notion of creamy layer is not appropriate to SC/STs. 2 past cases in 1992 and in 2005 had allocated with the concern of creamy layer for OBCs. On this basis, the centre had delivered an order in 2017 outspreading reservation in promotions to SC/ST employees above 5 years from November 16th,1992. This government order was dared in Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court suppressed the Central Government order and thus, the advancements came to standstill. Central Government later contacted Supreme

Court for relief and the present SC order delivers that much required relief to Centre.

Uttarakhand to ban use of polythene from - July 31st 2018

The Government of Uttarakhand has finalised to totally ban the use of polythene plastic from July 31 st , 2018. The initiative is focused at reducing rampant utilisation of plastic, which is majorly becoming a mega environmental challenge. The declaration was done by the state on the eve of World Environment Day on June 5 th , 2018.

Key Highlights

- All the polythene merchants in Uttarakhand have been informed to finish the plastic stock earlier July 31 st .
- The state would also be releasing an inclusive public awareness campaign on the environmental damage caused by polythene.
- As per to the state's CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, environmental preservation is a collective accountability and therefore, people's support is must to make Uttarakhand free from polythene.
- The governments of Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Maharashtra and Jharkhand on June 5 th declared their commitment to make their states free of plastic.
- The state governments expressed their determination to finish the plastic-use as India played worldwide host to 2018 World Environment Day observations with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
- State governments of Jharkhand and Maharashtra wanted a year to get free their states of plastic goods.
- Jharkhand CM declared that the state would be free of plastic by June 5 th , 2019 and Maharashtra Environment Minister Ramdas



Kadam informed the state would be completely plastic-free in the next 1 year.

- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee also advised the people of the state to control plastic pollution on the eve of World Environment Day.

Ecuador's Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces elected as President of UN General Assembly on - 5th June 2018

Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces was designated as the President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly on June 5th, 2018. She will be subsequent Miroslav Lajcak, the present Assembly President. Espinosa is a Poet and politician, who grabbed 128 votes against 62 votes gained by United Nations Ambassador Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake of Honduras. Espinosa Garces' agenda After getting chosen, Espinosa Garces sworn to maintain an open-door policy during her presidency as an impartial, neutral and open facilitator."

Her urgencies during the 73rd Assembly session will consist of United Nations reforms, finalisation of the global compact on migration and execution of the Addis Ababa Agenda on financing for progress.

More about Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces

- Espinosa had previously worked as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; Minister of Defence; and Ecuador Coordinating Minister of Cultural and Natural Heritage.
- She was the 1st female to be named as the Permanent Representative of Ecuador in New York, after working as Ambassador in Geneva.

India hosted 11th edition of Geo Intelligence Asia in - New Delhi

The 11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was organised at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on June 4th-5th, 2018. The yearly event was planned by GeoSpatial Media and Communication in teamwork with Directorate General of Information System and Military Survey as co-organisers.

Key Highlights

- The session brought together military, security officials as well as Border Security Force and police forces, government and industry collected to assess the latest technology solutions and deliberate on the serious role of geospatial technology for safety and security.
- The session consisted of an exhibition having stalls of various technological companies commencing with geospatial technologies.
- The programmes during the seminar enclosed crucial subjects of improved situational mindfulness for fight, smart cantonments, GIS and logistics, cyber security and LIDAR.
- Generally, the assemblies and exhibits deliberated the modern advancements in Geospatial Technologies, which were extensively esteemed by all participants.
- During the event, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, informed that the Armed Forces are the source of big information and there is a necessity to record and institutionalize the data and carry out extrapolative analytics using artificial intelligence.

President approved promulgation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 on - 6th June 2018



President Ram Nath Kovind approved the promulgate the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018 on June 6th, 2018. The Regulation provides noteworthy relief to home-buyers by recognising them as financial creditors. **Home-buyers: Biggest beneficiaries of the ordinance**

- From now onwards, home-buyers will have depiction in the Committee of Creditors and will be an essential part of the decision-forming procedure.
 - Home-buyers will have the authority to initiate a resolution procedure against the bankrupt real estate firms and get their money returned.
 - It will also permit home-buyers to appeal Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 against sinful developers. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance 2018**
 - The committee of creditors' voting rights of resolution plans will be restricted to 66% from previous threshold of 75%, and this initiative will help gear-up the resolution procedure.
 - The Ordinance also delivers for a process to permit participation of security holders, depositors and all other classes of financial creditors in the meetings of the Committee of Creditors.
- Section 29(A) of the IBC, 2016 has been revised to excused pure-play financial components from being ineligible on account of NPA.
- Taking into consideration the wide variety of disentanglements contained in Section 29(A) of the Code, the Ordinance delivers that the Resolution Applicant shall deposit an certifying affidavit for its entitlement to bid.
 - Promoters of organisations with business about Rupees 250 crores will be permitted for bid.

The ordinance suggests to facilitate implementation of the resolution strategy by the successful bidder.

- It delivers a year time to the Resolution Applicant to get essential statutory clearances from central, state and other the ruling classes.
- The other amendments brought about by the Ordinance are non-applicability of suspension period to implementation of guarantee; and liberalising terms and conditions of provisional finance to enable financing of corporate debtor.

Rs. 8500 Crore Bailout Package for Sugar Industry Approved by - The Union Cabinet

The Union Cabinet led by PM has sanctioned a Rupees 8500 Crores bailout package for the troubled sugar industry in the nation. **Government Efforts**

Though government deregulated sugar industry partially in 2013 and permitted them to trade their produce in open market, the sugar industry faces a curious problem of fixed raw material price by state and central governments as State Advised Price and Fair and Remunerative Price correspondingly. The government-maintained cane prices are good-looking to farmers, but harm due to any decrease in the prices of sugar in open market has to be tolerated by the sugar industry. Additionally, nonappearance of ethanol production infrastructure ensures that the excess making of sugarcane is not optimally captivated.

Current Package
This package proclaimed on June 6th, 2018



comprises Rupees 4500 crores soft credit for ethanol

production capacity and Rupees 1540 crores production connected direct payments to cane-farmers by

sugar manufacturers. Further, government has also scrambled import-duty on sugar to control the plenty problem. Government has also finalised to create some sugar stock.

Did you know?

- India is world's 2nd largest sugar producer after Brazil with production of approximately 25 million tonnes of sugar per year. Presently, Uttar Pradesh is India's leading sugar producing state which is likely to uphold this position for the coming 2 years. Maharashtra is on 2 nd position in production of both sugarcane and sugar.
- The plentiful sugarcane harvest has developed issue of plenty for already problemed cane farmers, sugar mills and state/centre governments. Higher purchase price of sugarcane and low sale price of sugar in open market results into stress on sugar mills and they are not able to complete payments to farmers, thus results into buildup of arrears.

IBSA Ministerial Meet held at - Pretoria, South Africa

A meeting of external affairs ministers of India with Brazil and South Africa was held in Pretoria, South Africa. This ministerial summit led by India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was appeared by South African Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation Lindiwe Sisulu and the Brazilian Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvao. The result of this meeting was a document called as "IBSA Declaration on South-South Cooperation".

This document demands for contribution of every India-Brazil-South Africa forum member to support to greater understanding of progress collaboration as a common endeavour of the global South.

More about IBSA

- India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum is a tri-partite group which provisions promotion of collaboration in numerous fields between these 3 important poles of South-South cooperation. Main aim of India-Brazil-South Africa include:
 1. To encourage South-South cooperation by making a significant axis between 3 important nations of 3 continents i.e. India, Africa and South America.
 2. To shape consensus on matters of international importance including UN and UNSC reforms and reforms in Bretton-woods Organizations.
 3. To upsurge trade and exchange of data between the 3 nations and their efforts in international poverty mitigation and social progress.
- India-Brazil-South Africa forum was formed in 2003 via Brasilia Declaration by external affairs ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa.

RBI Hikes Repo Rate to - 6.25%

The 6 members Monetary Policy Committee of Reserve Bank of India has finalised to hike Repo to 6.25 per cent from 6 per cent, on June 6 th , 2018. According to the 2 nd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, the present policy rates of Reserve Bank of India would be as follows:

1. Repo Rate: 6.25%
2. Reverse Repo Rate: 6%
3. Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.50%

The fresh increase of 25 base points in



important policy rates is for the 1st time in 4.5 years since NDA government was shaped in May, 2014.

Repo Rate
Repo rate/repurchase rate, is the rate at which Reserve Bank of India loans to banks for small periods.

This is accomplished by Reserve Bank of India buying government bonds from banks with a contract to sell them back at an immovable rate. When Reserve Bank of India upsurges Repo Rate, the banks can borrow less at a lesser cost and thus essential to loan at higher rates. This contributes to increase of the interest rates in markets. When Reserve Bank of India upsurges the repo rate, this is generally known as a tight monetary policy stance.

Reverse Repo Rate
Reverse repo rate is the rate of interest at which the Reserve Bank of India borrows funds from other banks in the short term. This is done by Reserve Bank of India selling government bonds or securities to banks with the promise to buy them back at an upcoming date. The banks practice the reverse repo ability to deposit their short-termed excess funds with the Reserve Bank of India and receive interest on it. Reserve Bank of India can decrease liquidity in the banking system by growing the rate at which it borrows from banks. When the Reserve Bank of India increases the Reverse Repo, it means that now the Reserve Bank of India will provide additional interest on the money which it borrows from the banks. An

upsurge in reverse repo rate means that banks receive higher returns by lending to Reserve Bank of India. This specifies a hike in the deposit rates.

Funding for Atal Bhujal Yojana approved by - World Bank

The World Bank has sanctioned Water Resources and River Development Ministry's Rupees 6000 crores central 'Atal Bhujal Yojana'. The scheme will be executed over a period of 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 with support from the World Bank. The scheme suggestion has already been suggested by the Expenditure Finance Committee and the Ministry will be looking forward Cabinet endorsement for the project shortly.

Key Objectives

- Making sure active community participation in groundwater management.
- Making sure active participation of the activities such as formation of Water User Associations, monitoring and disseminating ground water data, water budgeting, gram-panchayat wise water security plans and IEC activities related to sustainable ground water management.
- Permitting better thoughtful of the ground water regime.
- Permitting focused and integrated community wise approach for addressing matters related to ground water reduction.
- Empowering sustainable ground water management via convergence of on-going and fresh schemes.
- Funding Under the scheme, funds will be issued to the states for solidification the institutions responsible for the governance of ground water and for inspiring community participation for enlightening ground water management to foster behavioural



changes for promoting conservation and efficient usage of water.

- The funds will be issued to the participating states in form of grants.

India's Current Maternal Mortality Ratio is 130 by - World Health Organisation

The registrar general of India has published new information showing noteworthy decline in maternal mortality ratio of the nation.

Maternal Mortality and MMR

As per to World Health Organisation, Maternal Mortality is death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy. Maternal Mortality Rate is death of such women/100,000 live

births. Maternal and child mortality and injuries are taken as significant health indicators because they reflect the state of female healthcare.

Global Maternal Mortality Rate

The worldwide Maternal Mortality Ratio for year 1990 was 385. In 2015, this number stood at 216,

showing a decline of 44 percent in 25 years. Most of the universal maternal deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa i.e. 66 percent, followed by South Asia 22 percent.

Maternal Mortality Rate in India and its states

- In the 2011-13 period, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio was 167. According to the freshly released information, the Maternal Mortality Ratio during 2014-16 period is 130.
- Significant drop of 246 to 188, was noticed in the Empowered Action Group states and Assam. Empowered Action Group states are those states where economic and progress pointers are a specific concern.

- Such states are Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and UP.

- MMR is one of the significant measures of the quality of safe deliveries and maternal care and India has padded behind China, Maldives and Sri Lanka in its neighbourhood.

Election Commission launches its online RTI Portal on - 6th June 2018

The Election Commission of India released an online Right to Information web Portal to benefit claimants looking forward data under the Right to Information Act, on June 6 th , 2018.

Chief Election Commissioner O.P.Rawat, Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa witnessed the occasion.

Key Highlights

- The web portal can be retrieved by the general public on the commission's website "eci.nic.in".
- There is also online payment link for making payment of requisite-fees under the Right to Information Act.
- The web portal also enables online reply to applications and also for making the 1st petition and replying to the similar.
- In-time notification alarms will also be sent to Right to Information applicant via SMS and e-mail.
- The online Right to Information applications filled in the past in the portal of DOPT were downloaded and all such submissions barring a few have been disposed of with an appropriate reply to the applicants.
- The outstanding applications and 1st appeals will be disposed of shortly.

Significance

- The web portal would be supportive for applicants looking forward data from the



Commission under the Right to Information Act.

- Though the online portal has been announced, the offline method of applications will remain as earlier.

Coast Guard interceptor ship commissioned on - 7th June 2018

The Indian Coast Guard introduced an interceptor boat- Indian Coast Guard Ship C-439 at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, on June 7th , 2018. The ICGS C-439 was introduced by Additional Director General K.Natarajan, Coast Guard Commander of Western Seaboard. The function was witnessed by senior dignitaries from central, state government as well as the armed forces.

Key Features of the boat

- The Indian Coast Guard Ship C-439 is outlined by the Larsen & Toubro Marine and Ship Design Division.
- The ship is 27.4 meters long with a displacement of 136 tonnes. It can attain a supreme speed of 45 knots.
- It has complete aluminium-alloy hull for compact weight and is powered by twin water jet propulsion system to facilitate quick response.
- It is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment and medium ranged armament.

Crew Composition

The ship's squad consists of 1 officer and 11 workers, all of whom trained to perform coastal surveillance, search & rescue, anti-smuggling operations in close coast less intensity maritime operations. The ship will work under the operational and administrative control of the Commander, Coast Guard District Headquarters No 2 Mumbai and will further augment the operational competences to undertake diverse

tasks including surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and medical evacuations of the region.

EFC extended timeline of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project to 2020 on - 7th June 2018

The Expenditure Finance Committee sanctioned the reviewed cost estimate of the Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project for Rs 3466 crore on June 7th, 2018 and protracted time period for conclusion of the project till June 2020. The sanction came at a meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure that was organised to contemplate the proposal of Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for reviewed cost estimate of the Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project. The meeting was witnessed by officials of Ministry of Power, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, NITI Ayog and Ministry of Environment.

Aim

- It goals to attain rehabilitation of older dams in the nation that may be are in necessity of attention for ensuring their structural safety and operational competence.
- The project also goals to fortify the institutional capacity and project management in this area.
- To permit the same, the project has been involved in bringing greater mindfulness on dam safety matters and finding innovative solutions by pooling the best technologies, knowledge and experience available worldwide.

Implementing Agencies:

- Kerala Water Resources Department.



- Kerala State Electricity Board
- MP Water Resources Department.
- Orissa Surface Water Resources Department.
- Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department.
- Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation.

World Oceans Day 2018 observed across the world on - 8th June 2018

The World Oceans Day is celebrated worldwide on June 8th, 2018 to lime light the major part of the oceans in day-to-day life.

World Oceans Day celebrations

- To retell everyone of the major role the seas have in day-to-day life. They are the lungs of our planet, providing maximum of the oxygen that we breathe.
- To notify the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean.
- To progress an international movement of inhabitants for the ocean.
- To activate and unite the world's population on a development for the sustainable management of the around the world's oceans. They are a foremost source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere.
- To celebrate together the beauty, the wealth and the potential of the ocean.
- The UNs General Assembly via its resolution 63/111 of December 5th, 2008 selected 8th June as the World Oceans Day.
- The notion of a World Oceans Day was 1st planned in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro as a way to observe world's shared ocean and to advance awareness about the crucial role the ocean plays in our lives.
- The United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea actively organizes various activities of the World Oceans Day.

Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated Jammu & Kashmir sportspersons on - 7th June 2018

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh honoured sports-persons in Srinagar, J&K, on 7th June 2018.

Key Highlights:

- On June 7th, 2018, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh visited Srinagar on his 2 days visit to Jammu & Kashmir.
 - He joined the sports meeting in Srinagar where more than 3,000 sportspersons, students and concerned people took part.
 - The sports-persons who were honoured during the function include Parvez Rasool for cricket, Manzoor Ahmad Pandav for cricket, Mehraj Uddin Wadoo for football, Real Kashmir Club for football, Ms Palak Kaur and Ms Balween Kaur for the gymnastics.
- National parks in J&K:
1. Hemis National Park
 2. Kazinag National Park
 3. Kishtwar National Park

RBI amends Gold Monetisation Scheme to make it more attractive on - 7th June 2018

The RBI revised the Gold Monetisation Scheme-2015 on June 7th, 2018 with an objective to facilitate people to create a gold deposit account without any disturbance.

Short term deposits

- Now, the short-term deposits will be kept as bank's on-balance sheet liability.
- These short-term deposits will be kept with the designated banks for a small time period of 1-3 years.



- Deposits can also be permitted for liquidation periods for instance, for 15 months or for 2 years-4 months-5 days.
- The interest rate payable in the case of deposits will be calculated as the sum of interest for the accomplished year with addition of interest for the number of outstanding days.

Redemption of principal at maturity

- In the case of Medium and Long-Term Government Deposits, the reclamation of principal at maturity will be either in gold, or rupees equal of the value of placed-gold at the time of reclamation, as per to the preference of the account holder.
- However, any pre-mature reclamation of Medium and Long-Term Government Deposits shall be only in Rupees.
- In case of reclamation of the gold-deposit, an organizational charge of 0.2% of the Rupees value will be charged from the depositor.
- The interest accumulated on Medium and Long-Term Government Deposits will be calculated with reference to the value of gold in terms of rupees during the time of deposit and will be given only in cash money.

Handling charges

The selected banks will be remunerated handling charges including charges for gold's purity testing, refining, transportation and storage at a flat rate of 1.5% and directive at the rate of 1% of the amount equal to the amount of gold utilised under the plan.

'Business First Portal' launched by - Punjab government

The Punjab Government released a 'Business First Portal' to push towards the comfort of doing business in the state. The online portal was released by the state's Industry Minister Sunder Sham Arora in Jalandhar, Punjab. While addressing the entrepreneurs, the Minister informed that online portal

would ease the entrepreneurs for regulatory clearances and fiscal endorsements and real-time applications tracking on a common platform.

Other Details

- The Punjab state government would also make sure 100% VAT reimbursement to the entrepreneurs by the end of 2018.
- The complete VAT reimbursement would be given to the entrepreneurs by releasing instalment worth Rupees 300 crores to them after every 2 months.
- Unfolding the industry as the mainstay of the state's economy, the Industry Minister informed that every problem of the entrepreneurs would be resolved on high priority.
- Further, the Punjab government has recognized 22 industrial clusters for progress of Common Facility Centres.
- 10 contracts were also inked on the eve with an investment of more than Rupees 46.50 crores.

First Indian to score 2,000 runs in T20 International - Mithali Raj

Mithali Raj came out as the 1st Indian cricketer to score 2,000 runs in T-20 International cricket. She attained the feat during India's 7 wickets victory over Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup T-20 at Kuala Lumpur.

Mithali Raj now has 2,015 runs in 75 matches. Indian men's team skipper Virat Kohli with 1,983 runs is the subsequent on the list, trailed by Rohit Sharma and Suresh Raina.

Key Facts

- Mithali Raj became the 7th female cricketer and the only Indian to achieve the T-20 International feat.
- Overall, the list is led by former England captain Charlotte Edwards with 2605 scores, trailed by present West Indies and New



Zealand skippers, Stafanie Taylor with 2,582 runs and Suzie Bates with 2,582 scores.

- Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum from New Zealand are the only 2 male-cricketers to have surpassed the 2000 scores mark in T-20 International cricket, with 2271 and 2140 scores respectively.
- Mithali Raj has played both Test and ODIs cricket for India's women's cricket team.
- She made her ODI debut in 1999 against Ireland at Milton Keynes and recorded unbeaten 114 runs.
- She made her Test match debut in the 2001–02 season against South Africa at Lucknow.

Mission extension for Juno approved by - NASA

NASA sanctioned an extension of Juno's science operations until July 2021. This delivers the space probe with an extra 41 months in orbit around Jupiter. The conclusion was taken after an independent panel of experts established in April that Juno is on track to attain its science aims and is already sending spectacular results. The spacecraft and all its instruments were described to be in good health and operating nominally. The spacecraft will complete its 2 years anniversary of being in the orbit of Jupiter in July 2018.

Significance

- The postponement of its operations will permit Juno to attain its primary science purposes.
- The larger orbits will also permit the researchers to further discover the far reaches of the Jovian magnetosphere, the region of space subjugated by Jupiter's magnetic field including the southern magnetosphere and the magnetospheric borderline region known

as the magnetopause.

Key Highlights

- NASA has now sponsored Juno through FY 2022. The spacecraft was imagined to finish its mission by deafening into the atmosphere of Jupiter in July this year.
- The end of major operations is now supposed to be in July 2021, with data analysis and mission closing events ongoing into 2022.
- The spacecraft is in 53 days orbits in place of fourteen days orbits as originally intentional due to the reason of valves on the fuel system of spacecraft.
- The longer the orbit the maximum time it will take to gather the required scientific information.

Upward revision of pension to meritorious sportspersons approved by - Sports ministry

Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore has sanctioned the ascendant revision of pension to meritorious players. Under the reviewed rates, the pension amount has been double-folded from the present pension amount on securing medals in international sports programmes. The revised pension rates are as follows: The medal-winner at the Olympic or Para-Olympic Games will now receive Rupees 20,000, double from earlier Rs 10000 every month.

The gold medal winners at World Cup or World Championship in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will receive Rupees 16,000, which is also double from past Rupees 8,000 every month.

The silver and bronze medallist in Asian Games or Commonwealth Games or Para Asian Games will receive Rupees 12,000.

Other Details



- The rate of pension of medal winners in the Para-Olympics Games/Para Asian Games will be according to the medallist in the Olympic Games/Asian Games respectively.
- The World Championships organised single time in 4 years will only be measured for the pension.
In the case of present pensioners, the amendment in the rate of pension will be effective from April 1 st , 2018.
- Under the reviewed scheme, it is lime-lighted that the player should retire from active sports career and be achieving the age of 30 years at the time of smearing pension under the scheme.
- An undertaking to this will have to be submit by the players in the application form itself and the similar has to be verified from Sports Authority of India while submitting application for verification of achievements of the applicant.

India and Norway sign MoU to extend health cooperation through NIPI on - 8th June 2018

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inked a contract with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway on June 8 th , 2018, to outspread the collaboration withinhealthcare via theNIPI for a time period of3-year from2018 to 2020. The enterprise was grounded on India’s health initiative, theNational Health Mission and efforts to deliver greatest health care for the children and mothers.

Key points

- The key area include maternal, new-born, child health, and shall develop on experiences from Norway India Partnership Initiative phase-I and II.

- It would aim on ground-breaking and planned support, and pace in taking the Indian Government’s Intensification Plan for Augmented Maternal and Child Survival in India.
- The Phase-III would be develop on Phase-I and II to shape innovation hubs and thereby escalating districts.
- The greatest practices in maternal and new-born child health accepted out under the National Health Mission and Norway India Partnership Initiative.
- The attention states areBihar, Odisha, MPandRajasthan and also partner inJ&K.
- Norway India Partnership Initiative has also backed National Health Mission by delivering trustworthy technical provision in the 5 states and at national level.

India and Belgium gears up to celebrate International Yoga Day on - 21st June 2018

India,Belgium, and the European Union are mutually planning few events to observe the fourth

International Yoga Day, in the Belgian capital and across the nation. Therefore, on June 21 st 2018, the Indian Embassy, Brussels, in cooperation with the European Parliament and the Art of Living Foundation, and on June 24 th 2018 in partnership with the Ministry of Housing, Environment, and Energy of the Brussels Capital Region Government, the City of Brussels and Vidonne Asbl will arrange events on Yoga.

Important Highlights

- At the European Parliament, a superior yoga session will be organised on June 21 st 2018 from 12-1.30 pm at the Yehudi Menuhin Space.
- The programme will be beautified by the President of the European Parliament,



Antonio Tajani, and External Affairs Minister of India, Sushma Swaraj.

- The yoga and meditation sittings will be headed by famous Indian spiritual leader and Yoga Guru, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Associates of European Parliament, administrators from the European Commission and European External Action Service and other notables are anticipated to take part in the event.
- The India Embassy in Brussels, in connotation with local authorities and yoga foundations, is celebrating 'Brussels Yoga Day' programmes at the city's Bois de la Cambre Park on June 24th.

• Rural sanitation coverage crosses 85 percent mark under - Swachh Bharat Mission

The sanitation coverage in rural India has increased to 85% under Swachh Bharat Mission, which is the major cleanliness drive throughout the worldwide. A fresh survey conducted by an Independent Verification Agency across 90,000 families in more than 6000 villages noticed that the use of toilets in villages had increased to 93.4 percent. 2 independent studies directed in the past by the QCI-2017 and NSSO-2016 also verified the use of toilets in Indian villages to be approximately 91% and 95% respectively.

Key Highlights

- Through mobilisation of rural communities, about 7.4 crore toilets have been constructed across rural India, and as a result, more than 3.8 lakh villages and 391 districts have been acknowledged Open Defecation Free.
- The progress is remarkable because under the Swachh Bharat Mission, sanitation attention raised to above double the coverage as compared to the time of the launch of the Mission.

○ The success has allegedly been attained due to the difference in approach to sanitation implemented by the Swachh Bharat Mission in evaluation to the earlier sanitation programmes in the nation.

Union Government to constitute two border battalions proclaimed by - Union Home Minister

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh proclaimed recently that 9 fresh battalions would be formed, among which 2 would be for the border areas. Rajnath Singh added that 2 new females battalions have also been permitted for the Jammu and Kashmir police, 1 for Kashmir Division and 1 for Jammu Division. The battalions will mainly deal incidents including stone pelting and other laws and orders in Kashmir. The initiative is supposed to deliver employment to approximately 2000 females from the state. The declaration was made by the Home Minister while talking at a press conference in Jammu on the 2nd day of his visit to the state of J&K. Reiterating the union government's promise to protect the interests of border people and Kashmir migrants in J&K, the Home Minister informed that centre is completely aware of the adversities faced by these people and has been taken a number of steps to address them.

Initiatives taken by the government in the interest of border people:

- The Home Ministry would be issuing the border youth with 60% reservation in the special 5 IRP battalions being formed.
- The authority has also re-entered the scheme of providing five lakhs rupees, straight credited to the account of the next family person of the killed resident, for the people murdered during cross-border firing or ceasefire desecrations and all conditions



connecting to fixed deposit have been detached.

- Further, 14,460 bunkers with approved amount of Rupees 415 crores will be built in border areas, which consist of 13,029 separate and 1,431 community bunkers.
- The Union Government is also anticipating the building of Seema-Bhawans for the security of border people.
- 5 bulletproof ambulances will also be providing to border areas to transport the injured to hospital during cross-border firing.

Who has been appointed as Chairman of CBIC by Committee of Cabinet? - S Ramesh

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has selected S Ramesh, member of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs as its succeeding Chairman. He will succeed current chairman Vanaja N. Sarna who retires in June 2018.

Central Board of Excise and Customs

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is the nodal national agency accountable for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax and Narcotics in India.
- It is part of the Department of Revenue under Union Ministry of Finance HQ in New Delhi.
- It is one of the eldest government departments of India which was recognized in 1855 by the then British Governor General of India, to manage customs laws in India and collection of import duties and land income.
- It was retitled to current name from CBEC in March 2017.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs pacts with tasks of policy formulation regarding levy and collection of customs and central excise duties & service tax, smuggling inhibition and administration of matters

linking to customs, central excise, service tax & narcotics.

- It is organizational authority for its secondary establishments, consisting CESTC, Custom Houses and Central Revenues Control Laboratory.

China awards its first highest state honour to - Russian President Vladimir Putin

China bestowed its 1st highest state honour Friendship Medal to President of Russia Vladimir Putin. The prize was personally conferred to Vladimir Putin by Chinese President Xi Jinping in majestic ceremony organised at Great Hall of the People in capital city of Beijing.

Key Points

- This was 1st time China has bestowed medal since it was recognized in 2015. Friendship Medal is deliberated by China only on foreigner who has made outstanding contributions in promoting exchange and collaboration between China and world, and in maintaining World Peacefulness.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin was bestowed this prize during his formal state visit to China, which will consist joining 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit at Qingdao.
- China and Russia had been collaborating since late 1990s as they answered to quite same pressures from West.
- For China, Russia always had been its greatest friend and for Russia, China is strategic partner. In December 2017, United States branded both nations strategic opponents that challenge United States interests and values.
- China is presently locked in continuing trade dispute with the United States, which has also forced tough approvals on Russia. Both China and Russia have nil choice but to raise



collaboration so they can mutually deal with United States.

- The prize to Russia's most powerful leader Vladimir Putin is considered as clear sign that both nations were rising closer amid cumulative pressure from United States.
- It is also replication of the special relationship that has occurred for few decades.

5 countries elected as non-permanent members of - UNSC

United Nations General Assembly designated South Africa, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Germany and Belgium as non-permanent associates of United Nations Security Council. They will have 2 years term starting from January 1st, 2019.

These 5 non-permanent associates were designated as per to the following pattern 2 seats for Group of African states and Group of Asia-Pacific states, 1 for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean states 2 seats for Western European and other states.

More about UN Security Council

- United Nations Security Council is utmost powerful and one of the six major organs UNs.
- Under United Nations Charter it has key responsibility for the preservation of international peace and security.
- It has fifteen associates, including 5 permanent members with the veto power including China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States.
- Ten non-permanent associates are nominated for 2 years terms each. Its authorities include establishment of peacekeeping activities, International sanctions establishment, and permission of military action through United Nations Security Council resolutions.

- It is only United Nation body with power to release binding resolutions to member states.

Functions of UNSC

- United Nations Security Council is accountable for defining existence of threat against peace and to answer to act of aggression.
- It is also accountable for finding peacekeeping means to resolve conflict among states. In few cases, it resorts to approvals or even permit usage of force to maintain/restore international peace and security. It also commends to United Nations General Assembly selection of United Nations Secretary General and admission of fresh associates to the United Nations.

CSIR lab to give technology for India's first indigenous Lithium Ion Battery project on - 10th June 2018

Central Electro Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu under CSIR and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd has inked an Agreement on June 10th, 2018, for transfer of technology for India's 1st Lithium Ion Battery project in Bengaluru. The objective is to decrease down the cost of cell production less than Rupees 15,00 per kilowatt and to replace Lead-Acid Battery.

Key Points

- A developed in India technology of Lithium-ion cells has been constructed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-CECRI led by Dr. Gopu Kumar in collaboration with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute Kolkata and Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad.



- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-CECRI has formed a demonstration provision in Chennai to produce prototype Lithium ion cells. It has also held global IPRs.
- Indian producers source Lithium Ion Battery from China, Japan and South Korea among few other nations. India is one of the biggest importers and in 2017, it imported approximately \$150 million worth Lithium Ion batteries.
- It will give marvellous boost to 2 flagship programmes of PM Narendra Modi including growing the share of Clean Energy in the energy basket by producing 175 GW by 2022, of which 100 GW will be Solar and National Electric Mobility Mission, to shift entirely to electric vehicles by 2030.
- To manufacture Lithium Ion battery for solar rooftops with life time of 25 years to make it cheap enough to drive the Photo Voltaic segment.
- This scheme has been added along with the optical fibre network under BharatNet, which is connecting 2.5 lakh gram panchayats through broadband.
- So far, 7-8 villages have been connected digitally with this set of WiFi hotspots.

India's first national police museum to come up in Delhi on - 21st October 2018

The Union Government has finalised to start India's 1st national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi.

The museum will showcase the history, articles and gear of central and state police forces and it will be formed in the national police memorial's underground buildings in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

The museum is anticipated to be initiated on October 21st, on the eve of Police Commemoration Day, by either PM Narendra Modi or Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

Key Highlights

- The CAPFs, the CPOs and the State Police Forces have been asked to gather their historical papers, items, police associated gazette announcements and unique weapons and uniforms for displaying at the museum.
- The items sought to be displayed at National Police Museum will consist of brass insignia, ceremonial and operational head-gears and dresses, belts, dog squad photographs and old copies of the Indian Police Act.
- Few other items will be women in police department, mahila masses, the much older and basic police communication and wireless apparatus, flying squads and police souvenirs.
- An enthusiastic police staff will be positioned at the museum to undertake audio-visual excursions.

5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages launched by - Union Government

On June 11th, 2018, the Union Government has launched 5,000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages and delivery of rail tickets through CSCs (Common Service Centres). Union Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the service in New Delhi. Government has started this service with the aim to transfer the rural connectivity through Bharatnet by providing 60 thousand wifi hotspots initially.

Important Highlights

- The WiFi Choupals will be enabling people in rural areas with an effective internet access for their various digital processes.
- The target is to have Wi-Fi choupals in all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats by offering them the last-mile connectivity.



Arvind Saxena appointed as acting UPSC Chairman on - 20th June 2018

Arvind Saxena has been selected to work as the acting Chairman of the UPSC from June 20th, 2018.

The declaration was done via a government order, which informs that Arvind Saxena will complete the

duties of the position of UPSC Chairman, with effect from June 20th till further orders/completion of his tenure on August 7th, 2020.

Arvind Saxena, would be succeeding compulsory Vinay Mittal who finishes his term on June 19th.

More about Arvind Saxena

- Arvind Saxena is a 1978 batched Indian Postal Service officer. He served as Divisional Head of Postal Services at Bharatpur and Kota in Rajasthan.
- He transferred to Delhi in 1982 to join as Officer on Special Duty, in-charge of arrangements for Postal services for the IX Asian Games and the 7 Non-Aligned Summit Meet.
- He later joined as Philately Officer at the Postal Directorate in New Delhi and next as OSD for updation of the Stamps and Seals Factory in Aligarh.
- He was positioned as Director, Mail Planning Operations at Bombay, where he looked after mail arrangements in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and MP before being selected as Principal of the admired P&T Training Centre at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- He joined the Research & Analysis Wing of the Cabinet Secretariat in 1988 and specialised in study of strategic progress in neighbouring nations.

- Worked in 5 nations and J&K, he travelled widely, attaining domain perfection in progresses relating to China, Pakistan and other regional nations and economic, military, worldwide terrorism and supply and transport issues.

NGT directs hill states to file report on - Forest fires

The National Green Tribunal has instructed the hill states to file a statement on the steps attained by them to control recurring forest fires. The bench led by acting National Green Tribunal Chairperson Jawad Rahim imploded the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the states of Arunachal Pradesh, HP, Nagaland, Sikkim, J&K and West Bengal in the case.

Key Highlights

- The green tribunal showcased notices to the hill states and questioned them to file an affidavit affirming measures taken by them in regard to National Action Plan to crisscross forest fires. The process has to be performed within 2 weeks.
- The issue is now listed for next hearing on July 30th.

Did you know?

- The tribunal was hearing an appeal by NGO Friends that had supposed that timber mafia, villagers and officials were supposed to be cause for fire incidents and degradation of the environment.
- In its appeal, the NGO had sought an investigation by the judicial authority into the reasons behind the fire occurrences.
- It also required a restriction on the practice of burning wood for road work.
- The appeal proclaimed that above '1,300 cases of forest blaze have taken place in the current season and above 2,600 hectares of forest area has been ruined' in the state.



Rail Madad app to expedite and streamline passenger grievance redressal launched by - The Union Ministry of Railways

The Union Ministry of Railways has released Rail MADAD- Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During Travel Application to accelerate and modernize passenger complaint redressal. The app was released in-line with Union Government's Digital India Initiative.

Rail Madad app

- The application for the 1st time entirely digitized the Complaint management system.
- It assimilates Railway Passenger Grievance Redressal and Management System established by Northern Railway's Delhi Division.
- It records complaint of passengers with least inputs. It also has option of photograph and release unique ID rapidly. It transmits online complaints to relevant authority/officials for instant action.
- The action taken on complaint is also passed to the passenger via SMS.
- It also shows various helpline numbers including Security, Child helpline and many more and also provides direct calling facility for instantaneous assistance in single easy step. It assimilates all modes of registering complaints including offline/online modes on single platform.
- It represents holistic picture of deficient areas and permit focused corrective action by concerned administrators.
- It also aids in data analysis to produce trends on various performance parameters of particular train and stations like cleanliness, facilities to make managerial process more accurate and effective.

Met dept to use flash flood guidance system for first time to forecast floods

- The Indian Meteorological Department will be able to publish forecast on floods and guidance on June 11 th , 2018, on the precautionary measures to the disaster management agencies with the support of a new soil study statistics known as Flash Flood Guidance System.
- Indian Meteorological Department would release this service by July 2018.
- The soil study completed from different soil types of various regions will also be conveyed by the rain forecast to determine how much water would be remained after absorption into the ground.
- The state and district-level farmers' bodies and disaster management firms will be given suitable guidance for flood readiness.
- In plains like Rajasthan and MP, where the soil is much absorbent, 10-20 cm of rainfall will not result into floods.
- In hilly areas like Uttarakhand, the soil is less absorbent and similar amount of rainfall is sufficient to cause floods.
- Currently, the Central Water Commission gives out flood warnings.

Mauritius to host 11th World Hindi Conference between - 18th August to 20th August

As part of the visit of the South African countries by the External Affairs Minister Sushma

Swaraj, she took halt by Port Louis to examine the work on the 11th World Hindi Conference, which will be organised by Mauritius Government from August 18-20th 2018.

Key Highlights

- The Event is held by the Indian External Affairs Ministry every three years.



- Current year, the organizing authority is World Hindi Secretariats situated in Mauritius.
- The government has been recommended to support major Hindi scholars as this might be a public relations exercise prior to the 2019 general elections.
- Special focus of this year's programme will be on Bollywood and the global reach of Hindi via Bollywood cinema and films.
- The Conference will have both the classical and up-to-date elements of Hindi.
- The tenth World Hindi Conference was organised in Bhopal in September 2015.
- Mauritius Prime Minister of Mauritius is Pravind Jugnauth with capital Port Louis and currency is Mauritian Rupee.

World Day against Child Labour 2018 observed globally on - 12th June 2018

The World Day against Child Labour was celebrated worldwide on June 12th, 2018 with an objective to spread awareness against child labour.

Key Details

- There are 541 million young workers worldwide. They account for above 15% of the world's labour force and suffer approximately 40% higher rate of non-fatal occupational grievances.
- More than 73 million children are in dangerous work and almost half of the 152 million children aged between 5-17 are still into child labour.
- These children are working in mines, fields, factories and homes, carrying heavy loads and working long hours where many griive lifelong physical and psychological consequences.

- According to the International Labour Organisation's Conventions, no child less than the age of 18 should perform dangerous work.

Did you know?

The International Labour Organisation declared the World Day against Child Labour in 2002 to emphasis attention on the worldwide level of child labour and the action and exertions desirable to eradicate it. Every year on 12th June, the Day carries together governments, workers administrations, and civil society to lime light the dilemma of child labourers and plans to support them.

India to host first BIMSTEC military exercise in - September 2018

India will organise 1st military exercise of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation nations in September 2018 in Pune, Maharashtra. The subject of the workout

comprises counter-terrorism in semi-urban territory and barricade and search.

Main Objectives

Technological and economic collaboration among South-Asian and South-East Asian nations sideways the coast of the Bay of Bengal. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is sector determined supportive society, including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries. In 2008, it was prolonged to hold 8 extra sectors including agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, combat terrorism, environment, culture, people-to-people contact and climate alteration.

Key Points

- The main objective of this military workout is to encourage strategic alignment among the



membered states and to share best performs in countering terrorism.

- Each contributing member nation will bring in few 30 soldiers. As part of this exercise, a congress of Army chiefs of all 7-associate member is being planned.
- In it, the heads will discuss terrorism challenge and international crime, which is major concern among all states. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation nations had organised disaster management activity in 2017 in New Delhi, but this will be 1st military workout of the grouping.

More about BIMSTEC

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is the provincial group of 7 nations in South-Asia and South-East Asia twofaced in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal constituting adjoining regional harmony.
- It was recognized on 6th June 1997 via Bangkok Declaration. It is HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Member countries
India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka from South-Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South-East Asia. They are jointly home to about 1.5 billion individuals which found about 22 percent of worldwide population.

NITI Aayog announced 3000 additional Atal Tinkering Labs on - 12th June 2018

NITI Aayog announced creation of 3000 additional Atal Tinkering Labs under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) on June 12th, 2018. For the same purpose, NITI Aayog has so far selected 3000 extra schools to establish of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), and to bring the total number of ATL schools to 5441.

Atal Tinkering Labs aims to be innovative play

workspaces for students between Grade VI to Grade XII, which stimulate innovations combining science & technology.

Important Highlights

- Also the grant of 20 lakh will be given to these selected schools in next 5 years in order to establish Atal Tinkering Labs to nurture innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among secondary school children.
 - With the development of these more than 5000 ATLSs, almost every district of India will be having atleast one lab to enable an innovation ecosystem, which will be facilitating transformational change in technological innovation and pedagogy.
 - These additional 3000 schools are expected to expand the reach of the ATL program, increasing the number of children exposed to innovation and technologies like 3D Printing, Robotics, IoT and microprocessors.
 - These schools will be facilitating the creation of over 1 million Neoteric Child Innovators by 2020.
- ATLs will be functioning as innovation hubs for these student innovators to explore solutions towards unique local problems which they come across in their day to day lives.
- With these new schools, the Atal Innovation Mission envisions strong growth in the collaborative ecosystem, where students, teachers, mentors and industry partners will be working to facilitate innovation.

RBI releases draft guidelines to modify loan system for large borrowers on- 11th June 2018

The RBI on June 11th , 2018 published the draft strategies to alter the loan system for release of bank credit, making the rules harder to regulate larger borrowers appreciating working capital provision from the banking system.



Minimum level of 'loan component' Borrowers having collected fund based working capital perimeter of Rupees 150 crores from the banking system, require to withdraw least 40% of the limit as loan part and the balance as cash credit, starting from October 1st, 2018.

Sharing of Working Capital Finance

- The base rules for sharing of cash-credit and loan components will be arranged by the consortium, subjected to strategies on bifurcation. Under Multiple Banking Arrangements, each bank will have a responsibility to make sure obedience to these rules at individual bank level.
- The amount of the Working Capital Demand Loan will be immovable by banks in discussion with the borrowers, and the tenure of these loan shall not be less than 7 days.
- Repayment of loan component Banks will have the option to demand repayment of the 'loan component' in the form of either instalments or by 'bullet' repayment.

Government sets up Technical Committee headed by T.C.A. Anant to bring - Transparency in jobs data

The Labour ministry informed that, the Union Government has formed a Technical Committee led by former chief statistician of India, T.C.A. Anant, to convey transparency in the jobs information intention and presentation.

Panel formed to bring transparency in jobs data

- Labour bureau carries out 2 major investigations on employment situation. First was Annual Employment-Unemployment

Survey and second was Quarterly Employment Survey.

- The AEUS was swapped by Periodic Labour Force Survey and this survey is done by ministry of statistics and program implementation.
- Therefore, this will be analogous with the conforming AEUS information set. Also, the EPFO has initiated publishing monthly payroll information.
- The Government has formed a Technical Committee to investigate into the above matters. T.C.A Anant is the Chairman of the committee. The committee has been told to present its report as earliest.

Haryana raises age limit for entry in government service to 42 years on - 12th June 2018

The Government of Haryana raised the maximum age limit for entry into government service from 40 years to 42 years, on 12th June 2018. Haryana raises age limit for entry in government service to 42 years. All departments of Haryana government have been informed to integrate the provisions concerned for raising the maximum age limit to join the government service in their service rules.

The departments need not to get the sanction of council of ministers, general management, Finance Department and Haryana Public Service Commission, as per to a conclusion granted by the council of ministers on May 30th, 2018.

Thus, a circular has been passed to all administrative secretaries, HODs, commissioners of all divisions, all chief superintendents and deputy commissioners, sub-divisional officers (Civil) and all university registrars.



Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project with - 99 million Financial Help from India

India stretched financial help to Nepal of Rupees 99 million, for the building of 2,700 shallow tube wells irrigation systems in twelve districts of southern Terai area for growing agricultural productivity. The aid was extended as part of final payment for Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project. India so far has issued a sum of 227.6 million Nepali rupees to Nepal for executing this project.

Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project

- The project was released in January 2017 to enhance growth to Nepal's agricultural sector via enhanced provisions.
- Its eventual aim is to elevate the socio-economic status of farming families in the twelve districts covered under the project.

Did you know?

India has been associating with Nepal for development of Deep Tube Wells and Shallow Tube Wells in different areas of Nepal for any years finding scope for educating agriculture productivity in Himalayan nation whose economy is led by agriculture. The fitting of shallow tube wells has been profiting farmers, who previously depended on natural rainwater for irrigation.

SEBI constitutes Group to facilitate the stock market listing of startups on - 12th June 2018

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India formed a Group on June 12th, 2018, to evaluate Institutional Trading Platform Framework to visualise stock market listing attractive for start-ups. The group will present the report to Securities and Exchange Board of India within a period of single

month that is by July 2018.

Terms of Reference of the Group

- To look into the present ITP framework and recommend measures to simplify listing of start-ups.
- To re-enter the present Institutional Trading Platform framework and recognize the areas, which need further alterations.
- To address concerns relevant to Institutional Trading Platform which the group may like to assess.

Members of the group

- The members of the group include representatives from:
- Indian Software Product Industry Round Table
- The Indus Entrepreneurs
- Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
- Law firms Merchant bankers Stock exchanges

Did you know?

Securities and Exchange Board of India had put in place the Institutional Trading Platform framework in 2015 with a facility listing of fresh age enterprises in sectors like e-commerce, data analytics, bio-technology and other start-ups.

World record by distributing 2330 bee-boxes in one day created by - KVIC

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has formed a world record of dispensing extreme number of bee-boxes in single day under 'Honey Mission'. Talking on the eve, Khadi and Village Industries Commission Chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena, informed that the 'Honey Mission' is focused to full fill the call of PM Narendra Modi, for a sweet Kranti. The Chairman further informed that Khadi and Village Industries Commission is the nodal agency of PM



Employment Generation Programme under which loans will be issued for forming units of processing,

bottling, wrapping and labelling for the honey.

Key Highlights

- The record was attained by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the Zangalee Army area at Kupwara, Kashmir.
- The programme was organised in collaboration with the Indian Army, in order to form peace and harmony in the Kashmir valley.
- The Indian Army assisted in deliverig training and also delivered 10% finance for forming of the apiaries, thus, providing the recipients a platform for earning an income.
- Total 2330 bee-boxes were circulated among 233 recipients in the Zangalee Army area.

President Ramnath Kovind to embark on three nation tour between - 16th to 22nd June 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind will board on 3 countries formal tour to Greece, Suriname and Cuba from 16th -22nd June 2018. Greece will be 1st leg of the visit followed by Suriname and Cuba. President will be escorted by large delegation including Minister of State for Steel Vishnu Deo Sai.

Key Points

Greece

- President Ram Nath Kovind will meet President of Greek Prokopis Pavlopoulos during his visit. He will also meet his Greek counterpart Alexis Tsipras.
- He is planned to visit places of historical and archaeological importance and address the Indian migration.

Suriname

- President will clasp discussions with President Desire Delano Bouterse followed by official

level discussions.

- Besides, number of agreements in the areas of health and medicine, elections, Information and Technology, Ayurveda are planned to be inked.
- India will offer Line of Credit of \$54.5 million to Suriname for solar projects because Suriname is a launching member of the International Solar Alliance.
- **Cuba**
- President Kovind will have variety of talks with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez. Besides, number of agreements in various fields will be inked between both nations during the visit.

Solar Charkha Mission to be launched soon in 50 clusters on - 27th June 2018

The Solar Charkha Mission of the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) is going to be launched by President Ram Nath Kovind on June 27th, 2018 in capital itself. The Government of India has already approved the mission and will be disbursing subsidy of Rs 550 crore to the artisans. It will also be covering 50 clusters and every cluster will also be employing 400 to 2000 artisans.

Important Points

- Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (I/C), MSME shared this information during a press conference in New Delhi on 13th June 2018 while releasing a booklet on the 4 years' achievement of his Ministry.
- The Minister further informed that 15 new state-of-the-art technology centers are being set up all over the country including North-East, of which 10 centers will become operational by March 2019.
- Each of the centres will be building at a cost of around Rs 150 crore. The 10 centers, which



will be becoming operational soon, are located in Durg (Chhattisgarh), Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Rohtak (Haryana), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Sitarganj (Uttarakhand), Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Bhopal (M.P.), Kanpur (UP) and Puducherry.

- The Minister further informed that under PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme), budgetary allocation for Financial Year 2018-19 has been enhanced by 75 percent, which is Rs 1,800 crore.
- Further, in order to incentivise entrepreneurs, mainly SC/ST and women, the government will also be making an investment of Rs 10,000 approximately crore in the micro sector in this financial year.
- The Ministry of MSME has provided training to more than 15 lakh people during the last 4 years through its various initiatives launched time to time.

NITI Aayog launched Composite Water Management Index on - 13th June 2018

NITI Aayog announced to launch the Composite Water Management Index with an aim to achieve the objective of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' on June 13th, 2018.

More about Composite Water Management Index

- It will be a useful tool to assess and improve the performance in efficient management of water resources.
- It is an attempt to inspire States and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilisation of water and recycling, with the sense of urgency.
- The index can also be utilised to formulate and implement suitable strategies to manage water resources in a better way.
- The index is expected to provide useful information for the States and also for the

concerned Central Ministries, hence, enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.

10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis held in - New Delhi

The 10th Meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis- GAELF was organised in New Delhi, India. It was inducted by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P.Nadda. This is 2nd time India organising meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis. Past in 2002, India had organised 2nd meeting of Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.

Key Points

- The 10th meeting documented that India has highest problem of Lymphatic Filariasis and there is necessity of take lead role to eradicate lymphatic filariasis.
 - It delivered insight of larger global initiative and make them able to participate in conversation and contribute to resolutions.
 - On this eve, Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis awards was given to Eleven nations including Cambodia, Egypt, Maldives, Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Togo and Vanuatu for their effectively interrupting the broadcast. Moreover, India's Augmented Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 2018 was also outlined.
- ### Lymphatic Filariasis
- Lymphatic Filariasis is normally known as Elephantiasis. It is one of primogenital and most debilitating deserted topical disease, which is presently endemic in 73 nations, including India.



- Lymphatic Filariasis disease is caused by Wuchereria Bancrofti and further transmitted by mosquito Culex.
 - The disease infects the poorest population living in areas with poor sanitation, water and hygiene. Lymphatic Filariasis may cause everlasting disfigurement, compact productivity and social disgrace.
- Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis**
- Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis is association of partners from 72 Lymphatic Filariasis endemic national country initiatives, Non-Government Organisations, academic and examination institutes that contributes World Health Organisation's Global Programme to Eradicate Lymphatic Filariasis.

HDFC Bank gets Cabinet nod to raise Rs 24000 crore as - FDI

The Union Cabinet led by the PM permitted foreign direct investment worth Rupees 24,000 crores for HDFC Bank. This comprises the premium, over and above the earlier sanctioned limit of Rupees 10,000 crores, such that the composite foreign stake holding in the Bank shall not surpass 74 percent of the heightened paid-up equity share capital of the bank. With this floating of this capital, Foreign Direct Investment in the HDFC bank would hit the regulatory ceiling of 74 percent. It would also make sure that the compound foreign stake holding in the bank including all type of direct and indirect foreign investments, will not surpass 74 percent of the enhanced paid-up equity share capital of the bank. The decision will be subject to FDI Policy conditionalities and other sectoral regulations and guidelines.

Objective

The fund-raising conclusion to permit the Foreign Direct Investment in the bank which is the major by any Indian firm taken against the backdrop of robust growth in the bank balance sheets over the past 2 years and an anticipation that credit demand will resuscitate as the economy stabilises.

Sale of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India approved by - US Government

The US State Department has permitted sale of 6 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters along with support equipment to India. The Apache helicopters are one of the most advanced multi-role combat choppers which are equipped with advanced weapons systems and night-fighting features, industrialised by Boeing.

Key Facts

- The sum projected cost of the deal is \$930 million. The deal also comprises 180 Hellfire Longbow air-to-surface anti Armor missiles, 90 R-3 Hellfire-II air to surface missiles, 200 Stinger Air to Air missiles, 30 mm cannons and ammunition.
- It also comprises communication equipment, spare/repair parts, training, engineering and other assistance.
- The major contractors for the support sale will be Lockheed Martin, Longbow, Raytheon General Electric and Boeing.
- The sale of Apache attack coppers will toughen India's ability to defend its homeland and discourage regional threats.
- It will upsurge in India's defensive capability to counter ground armoured fears and update Indian Armies. India will have no trouble absorbing the choppers and support equipment into its armed forces.



Himachal Cabinet approves admission of 100 MBBS students for 2018-19 on - 14th June 2018

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet led by CM gave the following suggestions on June 14th 2018. Improving the payment of part-time water carriers on contractual basis in the education department from Rupees 1900 to Rupees 2200 from April 1st . Admission of 1st batch of 100 MBBS students in Dr. S. Radha Krishnan Medical College, Hamirpur for fy 2018-19. Limited the quota of NRI seats to deliver extra merit based admissions dropping it from 34 to 20 now. To engage 100 vacancies of accountant-cum-support staff and 30 vacancies of data-entry operators at block level under the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan. 'Akhand Shiksha Jyoti, Mere School Se Nikle Moti, as fulfilment of potential made in the 'Swarnim Himachal Drishti Patra' to bestow pass outs from the government schools.

More about Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

- Endorsement of a revision in Rule-69A of Motor Vehicle Act, 1999 for validation of fee structure for contract departments from other states.
- Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, is an Indian Government initiative focused at the universalisation of elementary education in an exact time situation, as directed by the 86th Amendment to the Constitution of India making free and necessary education to children between the age group of 6-14 years.

World Blood Donors Day 2018 observed globally on - 14th June 2018

The World Blood Donors Day is celebrated Worldwide on June 14th , 2018 with an objective to showcase gratitude to voluntary, non-paid blood donors for their life safeguarding gifts of blood and to increase alertness of the necessity for regular blood donations.

Facts about blood safety, blood availability and blood transfusion

- Of the 112.5 million blood donations gathered worldwide, approximately half of these are gathered in high-income nations, founding 19% of the world's population.
- In less income nations, about 65% of blood transfusions are issued to children elow five years of age; whereas in greater income nations, the most normal transfused patient group is more than 65 years of age group.
- According on samples of 1000 individuals, the blood donation rate is 32.1 donations in high-revenue nations, 14.9 donations in upper and middle-income nations.
- 126 nations have National strategies on the suitable clinical utilisation of blood., whereas, 57 nations gather 100% of their blood supply from either voluntary or non-paid blood donors.
- Just 51 out of 180 reported nations generate Blood-Plasma Derived Medicinal Products from plasma gathered in the reporting nation.

PM Naraendra Modi inaugurated Integrated Command and Control Centre at - Naya Raipur

PM Narendra Modi devoted nation's 10th Smart City Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh. In the Smart City Mission, Integrated Command and Control Centre in 9 cities are effective in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Pune, Nagpur, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Bhopal and Kakinada.

Key Points



- The Integrated Command and Control Centre at Naya Raipur will monitor and control water and electricity supply, sanitation, traffic, integrated building management, city connectivity and information centre, under single roof.
- The centre will be achieved via Geographic Information System platform, where inhabitants can enroll their complaints concerning service unavailability via helpline numbers.

More about Naya Raipur

- Naya Raipur is future capital city of Chhattisgarh and nation's 1st smart green-field city. It is one of the 3 Smart Cities of Chhattisgarh designated under Smart Cities Mission. Other 2 cities are Raipur and Bilaspur.
- Naya Raipur is intended as service hub for multiple sectors consisting IT, finance, business, hospitality service, bio-technology, medical and education.
- It is also the 1st digitally available smart city in nation which has established in applying Universal Access Information Technology systems which comprises and empowers inhabitants with disability to access with comfort.

Three 100 MW solar power projects initiated by NLCIL

Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited's 3 100-megawatt Solar Power Projects for commercial motives were initiated freshly. These projects located at Thoppalaakkarai and Sethupuram in Virudhunagar District and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tamil Nadu.

Key Points

- The 3 solar units have fitted capacity of 100 megawatts each. They were constructed at value of Rupees 1300 crores, that includes

Operation and Maintenance cost for fifteen Years.

- The electricity generated from these plants will be sold to Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Company at price of Rupees 4.41 per unit.
- **Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited**
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited is Central Government's Navratna revenue generating unit.
- It consists of mining of lignite and electricity generation via lignite-based Thermal Power Units. It was recognized in 1956, after presence of lignite deposits in Neyveli. It is HQ in Neyveli, Tamil Nadu.
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited is under control of Ministry of Coal and works as significant source of power production to Southern states of Tamil Nadu, AP, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Rajasthan and Puducherry.
- Presently, it functions 4 open-cast lignite mines of total capacity worth 30.6 MTs yearly and five thermal power stations with total fitted capacity of 3240 megawatts.

20 States sign MoU for implementing Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission

20 States have inked MoU with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for executing Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission. The Memorandum of Understandings were inked during Health Ministers' meeting organised in New Delhi. During the meeting, aspects of National Health Protection Mission, including operational strategies, model tender papers for selection of insurance firms and execution support agencies for trusts were deliberated.



More about Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission

- Ayushman Bharat- National Health Protection Mission focuses to goal more than 10 crore poor and susceptible families based on Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 record.
- It will cover Rupees five lakh per family every year. There will be no limitation of family size and age in the plan.
- The plan assimilates 2 continuous Centrally subsidized plans including Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme.
- Benefit cover under this consists of pre and post-hospitalisation charges. It will also pay well-defined transport allowance for every hospitalization to the recipient.
- Cashless benefits permit the recipient to enjoy cashless advantages from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the nation.
- The payment for treatment will be completed on package rate which will be well-defined by Government in advance.
- State governments are permitted to enlarge the scheme both horizontally as well as vertically. They are also free to select modalities for execution. States, Union Territories will have also elasticity to alter these rates within limited bandwidth.
- Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council will be formed at top level. It will be headed by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.

106th Science Congress to be hosted by Lovely Professional University (LPU) in - Jalandhar

The 106 th Indian Science Congress will be organised at Lovely Professional University- Jalandhar, Punjab from January 3rd -7th , 2019. It will be initiated by PM Narendra Modi. The subject for the 5 days science congress is 'Future India: Science and

Technology'. It will be held by premier scientific organisation of India, the Indian Science Congress Association.

Key Points

- The science congress will include 18 plenary gatherings, including medical, environmental, chemical and various other science fields.
 - There will also be 4 parallel jumbo events, consisting female's science conference, children's science conference and science demonstration.
 - About 15,000 delegates, especially from United States, Australia, Germany and Switzerland and 300 topmost scientists and Nobel Laureates worldwide are going to attend and participate in the congress.
- Did you know?**
Indian Science Congress Association was initiated in the year 1914 at its HQs in Kolkata. It arranges Indian Science Congress yearly in 1st week of January. The 1st meeting of Indian Science Congress Association was organised in January 1914 in Asiatic Society, Kolkata. Indian Science Congress Association serves under Department of Science and Technology Government of India initiative. The 106 th edition of Indian Science Congress was organised at Manipur Central University in Imphal, with subject of 'Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology'.

10 days 'Yoga Ambassadors Tour' inaugurated by Ministry of AYUSH with Kerala Government on - 15th June 2018

As a part of Kerala government's tourism promotion programme, a specialized trip for Yoga specialists 'Yoga Ambassadors Tour' around worldwide was initiated on June 15th , 2018, by Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad



Yesso

Key Points

- It goals to outline a healthy yoga package for visiting tourists with known yoga terminuses with associated activities.
- It is a ten days educational tour for yoga experts. It has been planned by Association of Tourism Trade Organisations in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH and Kerala Tourism department.
- Places like Kerala, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, famous Yoga destinations including Shivandanda Yoga Ashram, The Meditation Centre at Vivekanada Rock in Kanyakumari and sites of Munnar.

National Parks in Kerala

Famous National parks in Kerala are Periyar National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park and Pampadum National Park.

Naval Women Mountaineers team led by Lt Cdr Kokila Sajwan Summit Mount Deotibba on - 10th June 2018

An all women Naval mountaineering team headed by Lt Cdr Kokila Sajwan summited Mount Deotibba on June 10th 2018.

Naval Women Mountaineers summit Mount Deotibba

- The excursion was initiated by Vice Admiral A.K.Chawla, AVSM, NM, VSM, Chief Of Personnel on 28th May, 2018 from New Delhi.
- Mount Deotibba is the 2nd highest peak with 6001m height in the Pir-Panjjal range in Himachal Pradesh. It is one of the greatest difficult peaks to summit.
- The team was headed by Lt.Cdr Kokila Sajwan.
- Team include members Lt.Cdr Nanadini Dam Roy, Lt.Cdr Seema Chaudhary, Lt.Cdr Pooja Sharma, Lt.Cdr Rekha Shree, Lt.Cdr Rashu

Naik.

Tyagi, Lt.Saino Wilson, Lt.Chamm Kumari, Surg Lt.Himwant Kaur, Lt.Surbhi Sharma, Lt.Shristi Thakur, Lt.Vipasha Sharma, Lt.Kritika Sharma.

- They began the trek from the road head of Bara Hazari to the base camp at a height of 4250 meters via Chikka and Seri.
- They passed via advance base camp at 4700 meters and the Summit camp at 5250 meters. After 12 hours of climbing, they summited the peak.

World's largest iceberg set to disappear after 18-year-long journey by - NASA Study

The World's major iceberg could be nearing the end of its voyage, that was broke-away from Antarctic's Ross ice shelf about 18 years before, according to NASA study. The iceberg B-15 calculated approximately 296 kms long and 37 kms in width when it 1st torn away in March 2000 and since then its numerous smaller bergs have been molten away.

Just 4 fragments remaining that have the least size needed, minimum 37 kms to be chased by the United States National Ice Centre. When spacemen clicked a photo of the iceberg on May 22nd , 2018 from the International Space Station, it calculated just 18 kilometres in length and 9 kilometres in width. In a documentation, NASA informed that the iceberg is still well within the appreciable size, however, it may not be noticeable if it further shards down into smaller particles. A bigger fracture is visible sideways the centre of the iceberg and minor fragments are visible as breaking-off from the edges. When the May 2018 photos were captured, the iceberg was approximately 277 kms North-West of the South Georgia islands.



India among over 90 nations without paid paternity leave for new dads by- UNICEF

As per to the fresh study by UNICEF, India is among 90 nations in the world without National Strategies in place that make sure new fathers granted satisfactory paid leave with their new-born babies.

Important points from UNICEF's Analysis

- The study explained that approximately 90 million of the world's children under one year old reside in nations where their fathers are not eligible by law to a single day of paid-paternity leave. India and Nigeria are among the 92 nations who do not have National Guidelines for new fathers to enjoy sufficient paid leave with their Newly-born babies.
- It noted that Worldwide, momentum for family favouring policies were increasing.
- India is the nation where bureaucrats are suggesting a Paternity Benefit Bill for attention in the upcoming session of Parliament which would permit fathers about 3 months Paid Paternity leave.
- "Super Dads" Campaign The fresh study forms part of UNICEF's "Super Dads" Campaign in its 2nd year, goals to break down barricades avoiding fathers from playing an active role in their young one's growth.
- The campaign observes Father's Day, which is observed in over 80 nations in the month of June, and aims on the importance of Love, Play, Protection and Healthy Nutrition for the healthy growth of young children's brains.

WhatsApp Introduced payments service in India on - 17th June 2018

WhatsApp payment service has been in beta testing on June 17th , 2018 and almost 1 million people are testing the feature. This is

being executed with the support of NPCI multiple banks.

Key points:

- WhatsApp has linked-up with banks to simplify financial transactions via Unified Payments Interface.
- The RBI has mandated all payment system machinists to make sure that information concerned to payments will be kept only within India, thus, giving organisations 6 months to conform with it.
- The acquiescence would be supervised by NPCI.
- It has been informed that sensitive subscriber information including the last six digits of a debit card and Unified Payments Interface PIN is not saved at all.

NASA's record-breaking spacewoman retires as astronaut - Peggy Whitson

NASA's record-breaking female astronaut, Peggy Whitson at the age of 58 has publicized her retirement as astronaut less than year after coming back from her past and longest spaceflight. During her career, she had tormented up sum of 665 days in space, which is more than any other NASA spaceperson, and record for women around the world. Her previous spaceflight took about 10 months, spanning 2016 and 2017.

More about Peggy Whitson

- Peggy Whitson was born on February 9th , 1960 in Mount Ayr, Iowa, United States.
- She is a biochemist and Peggy joined NASA as scientist in 1986 and became a spaceperson in 1996.
- She had sailed 3 missions aboard International Space Station, Expedition 5 in year 2002, Expedition 16 in year 2008 and her longest stint in space from November 2016 till September 2017, which crossed Expeditions 50, 51 & 52.



- She had directed Expedition 51 and became the 1st woman to guide an International Space Station mission two folds.

Records

- Peggy Whitson is world’s most knowledgeable female spacewalker, with record-setting total time of 60 hours and 21 mins.
- She is the oldest female astronaut ever to fly in space.
- She was 1st and only female to work as principal of NASA’s male subjugated spaceman forces from 2009-2012.

80 Social Enterprise Programme in all 8 member nations to be launched by – SAARC Fund

SAARC Development Fund will soon be releasing a Social Enterprise Development Programme just to Endowment 80 entities yearly across the 8 members states including India.

Key points

- SAARC Development Fund would enable access to financial services which can boost job creation, reduce vulnerability and rise investments in human capital in SAARC nations Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- SAARC Development Fund is presently implementing 12 Home-grown projects with above 70 implementing and lead implementing agencies covering all the member countries under the social window funding.
- It has already committed USD 73.74 million for social window projects till date out of which it has disbursed USD 47 million to the member states.
- It has recently launched 2 energy infrastructure projects in the region:
- These include left-over to energy production project in Sri Lanka with participation of India

and Hydro-Power project in Nepal with contribution of Bangladesh and India.

- The total loan commitment would Be USD thirty million.

More about SDF

- SAARC Development Fund was established by the Heads of 8 SAARC member states in April 2010 and its Governing Council is comprising finance ministers of these eight countries.
- It had launched the Social Enterprise Development Programme as part of its social window to be implemented in all the SAARC member states with the objective of identifying and building social enterprises by using a mix of grants and concessional returnable capital.

Union Cabinet approves proposal for enactment of Dam Safety Bill, 2018 on – 13th June 2018

The Union Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi sanctioned the suggestion for introduction of Dam Safety Bill, 2018 in the Parliament, on June 13th , 2018. The draft bill has been completed following extensive consultation with foremost Indian professionals and international specialists.

Key Features of the Bill

- The Bill will be delivering for appropriate surveillance, examination, operation and maintenance of all definite dams in the nation to make sure their harmless functioning.
- It will be delivering for the building of a National Committee on Dam Safety that will develop dam safety policies and commend essential guidelines as needed for the purpose.
- It will also deliver for the constitution of a State Committee on Dam Safety by the state government.
- It will also permit the founding of “National Dam Safety Authority” as a supervisory body, which will release to implement the policy and ethics for dam safety in the nation.



Importance

- The Bill will discourse all matters about dam protection with regular inspection of dams, Emergency Action Plans, Complete Dam Safety evaluation, satisfactory Repair and Preservation funds for dam safety and instrumentation and safety manuals.
- Under the bill, the accountability of guaranteeing dam safety will lay on the dam proprietor.
- The bill will also deliver for penal provisions for commission and oversight of positive acts.

RBI eases norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors to invest in debt on - 15th June 2018

The RBI relieved the standards for Foreign Portfolio Investors on June 15th , 2018, to invest in debt, particularly into individual large trades.

Minimum residual maturity requirement

- Foreign Portfolio Investors will now be allowed to invest in Government securities without any lowest residual maturity obligation, with a condition that short-term investments by a Foreign Portfolio Investors shall not surpass 20% of the overall investment.
- Foreign Portfolio Investors will be allowed to invest in corporate bonds with lowest residual maturity of more than 1 year.
- The obligation that short-term investments shall not surpass 20% of total investment by a Foreign Portfolio Investors in any category is applicable on an end-of-day basis.
- Short-term investments by a Foreign Portfolio Investors may surpass 20% of total investments, only if investments involve completely of investments made on April 27th, 2018.

Concentration limits for Investment by any FPI

- For Long-term Foreign Portfolio Investors, the concentration limit is 15% of usual investment limit.
- All other Foreign Portfolio Investors will be permitted to invest about the valid concentration limit.
- **Investor-wise limits in corporate bonds**
- Investment by any Foreign Portfolio Investors, including investments by concerned Foreign Portfolio Investors, shall not surpass 50% of any issue of a corporate bond and if exceeded more than 50%, then it shall not make further investments in that issue.
- No Foreign Portfolio Investors will have an exposure of above 20% of its corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate.
- ‘New’ investments made after April 27th, 2018 in corporate, by Foreign Portfolio Investors would be exempted from this need till March 31st, 2019.

'Three Year Action Plan' of Agricultural Education Division & ICAR Institutes approved by - Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned the formation of “Three Years Action Plan” of Agricultural Education Division and Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institutes with budget of Rupees 2225.46 crores for solidifying and evolving higher agricultural education in India.

Key Highlights

- The action plan consists of several fresh enterprises including attracting talented students, dipping academic inbreeding and tackling faculty shortage.
- It will also take care of green initiatives, international ranking, involvement of alumni, innovations promotions, enthused teacher network, technology abled learning,



fellowships, agriculture education portal and scientific social responsibility.

- The plan would also deliver provision for fortifying and modernisation of infrastructure linked to students and faculty facilities and bulk building of both faculty and students in cutting-edge areas, which will advance teaching and inspire holistic development of the students.
- On the other hand, ICAR-NAARM will provide to the bulk building needs of the HR and shareholders of the full National Agricultural Research & Education System, resulting to enhancing of capabilities and capacities of the shareholders including farmers, young scientists and students.

Dhanush artillery gun clears third and final trials directed from - 31st May - 7th June 2018

The Made in India advanced artillery gun Dhanush has effectively finished final user trials and is ready for initiation into Indian Army. During 3rd and final phase of user exploitation firings directed from May 31st - June 7th, 2018 at Pokhran firing range, 6 Dhanush guns were test-fired in battery formation with 301 rounds each. Thus, Dhanush artillery gun has been tested in all topographies.

More about Dhanush

- Dhanush is advanced version of Swedish 155mm Bofors howitzers, that India obtained in the middle of 1980s.
- It is also known as desi Bofors with 155mm and 45mm calibre artillery gun.
- It has been produced by OFB, Kolkata grounded on needs of Indian Army and build by Gun Carriage Factory Jabalpur.
- Its arming system consists of a barrel, muzzle brake, breech device and recoil device to shot 155mm calibre ammunitions with a strike range of 38 kms with accuracy.

- It delivers greater fire power, depending on the ammunition used. It also has Night Firing Capability in direct fire mode.
- It has various noteworthy advance features of an electric drive, greater mobility, quick installation, advanced communication system and automated command & control system.
- It has 6 round magazine that weighs slightly extra normal due to the greater chamber.
- Its 81 percent machineries are developed in India and it will be scaled about 90 percent by 2019. the power pack, electronic suite parts and few seals and bearings are the imported systems.
- Each of this gun costs around Rupees 14.50 crores. Indian Army has well-ordered 114 guns that will be carried within 4 years.
- The 1st phase of trials was carried out between July-September 2016 at Pokhran and Babina ranges.
- The 2nd phase was carried out between October-December 2016 at Siachen base camp with 3 guns.

World Sustainable Gastronomy Day celebrated globally on - 18th June 2018

The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is celebrated every year on June 18th worldwide. The day recognizes gastronomy as cultural expression linked to natural and cultural diversity of the World. It also reiterates that all cultures and societies are contributors and vital enablers of sustainable development.

More about Gastronomy

It is the study of relationship among food and culture. It is an art of cooking and serving delicate and appetizing food, cooking patterns of various regions, and science of good and healthy eating.

Did you know?

The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day was announced by the UN General Assembly by



accepting resolution in December 2016. Celebrations of this day, highlights necessity to focus world's attention on part that sustainable gastronomy can play crucial role due to its inter-linking with 3 dimensions of sustainable development in attaining Sustainable Development Goals by encouraging agricultural development, food security, sustainable food production and biodiversity conservation.

'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty' 2018 observed by - Indian Army

The Indian Army is celebrating the year 2018 as the 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty' to bestow soldiers who have been incapacitated during their duty hours while working for the country and to observe the undying spirit of 'Soldiering'.

Key Highlights

- The Union Government is accepting the proposal of a main funding to start a separate endowment that can be further improved with the charities from individuals, institutions and business sector for simplifying meaningful creativities for disabled soldiers.
- On the flip side, the Indian Army devices to spread awareness on organisational provision available to soldiers and their family with respect to medical, restoration, advantageous schemes of the central and state governments etc.
- The Indian Army also devices to highlight the talented disabled soldiers by planning sports/physical activities, various cultural events and their art-exhibitions.
- The Indian army also outlines to colect due support for the unemployable disabled soldier and his family with a starting financial funding to make sure a life of dignity through semi-funded private enterprise venture.

Union Government collaborates with Google for flood forecasting on - 18th June 2018

India's top technical firm in the field of Water Resources- Central Water Commission, on June 18 th , 2018 inked an Agreement with Google for flood forecasting. Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari has showcased that partnership with Google will benefit in effective flood management in India.

Agreement between Central Water Commission and Google

- Central Water Commission would utilise updated technology of Google for Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and geo-spatial mapping for actual management of water resources in the field of flood forecasting.
- The contract includes distribution of flood related news to the people by the distribution platforms established by Google.
- This contract will assist crisis management firms to deal extreme hydrological programmes in a much better manner. The data would be dispersed with a lead time of about three days.
- For the flood season of 2018, flood forecasting would be accomplished on trial and the same would be mounted in the future.

Importance

- The partnership between the Government and Google on flood forecasting is believed to complete the much-awaited mandate of the residents of the flood prone areas for flood warnings with adequate lead time.
- It will save huge money that government have to be spent on getting high resolution Digital Elevation Model, high end computational resources and evolving dissemination platforms used by the people.



- This cooperative initiative is anticipated to be a milestone in flood management and in justifying the flood losses.

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- This cooperative initiative is anticipated to be a milestone in flood management and in justifying the flood losses.

US President Donald Trump orders US Military to form 'Space Force' on - 18th June 2018

United States President Donald Trump ordered the US Defence Department and the Pentagon to produce a Space Force which would be an autonomous 6th branch of the Armed Forces, on June 18th , 2018. The Space Force Military division would be distinct but equivalent to the Air Force. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would supervise the formation of the force. The declaration regarding the formation of the Space Force was accomplished at a meeting of the National Space Council. Donald Trump was accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, who heads the NASA Manager Jim Bridenstine.

Other initiatives announced by President Trump

- During the assembly, President Donald Trump also inked a fresh space policy dictate aimed at decreasing debris in Earth's orbit. The policy forms new rules for satellite outline and



operation and chasing the growing amount of clutter in space.

- The President Trump also reviewed plans to land spacemen on the moon again and do another human moon landing within ten years on Mars.

Outer Space Treaty
In 1967, the USA had inked the Outer Space Treaty that restricts states from testing weapons and founding military bases on the lunar and other heavenly bodies. The agreement bans the placement of weapons of mass-devastation in orbit around Earth.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict observed on - 19th June 2018

The 3rd annual International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was celebrated worldwide on June 19th, 2018. The day focuses to substitute solidarity with the survivors who tolerate numerous, intersecting disgraces in the awaken of sexual violence, including the disgrace of association with terrorist associations and of bearing children perceived via rape by the enemy. These women and children are frequently granted as affiliates of armed and ferocious extremist groups.

Key Highlights

- The International Day was memorialized with a panel talk at the UNs HQ in New York.
- The event consisted of reflections on how the teachings of history can be functional to modern conflict and post-conflict cultures, in which females and children free from violent extremist groups fight to reintegrate into their respective families and societies.
- The event also measured strategies including recruiting religious and traditional front-

runners to assist change damaging social standards and dismiss the perception that these females and children were intricate in the criminalities accomplished by their abductors.

National Digital Library launched by - HRD Minister

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar initiated the National Digital Library of India on June 19th, 2018. The library focuses to operate as a single-window platform for all educational requirements.

More about National Digital library of India

- The National Digital library of India is a plan under Ministry of Human Resource Development, India.
 - The platform is a combined one for schools, colleges, universities, teachers and students similar.
 - The library will deliver free access to various books in English and other Indian languages. It was released in pilot form in May 2016.
 - Presently, more than 35 lakh e-books in above 200 languages are accessible in the digital library.
 - Access The library can be retrieved at ndp.iitkgp.ac.in. The subscriber registration is open to subscribers from worldwide.
 - However, insides from few popular sources are only freely available to registered subscribers.
- Subscribers would be able to register for free National Digital Library from Google Play-store.

Scheme to provide Rs 8,000 monthly assistance to female acid victims approved by - Haryana



The Haryana government has sanctioned a scheme on June 19 th , 2018 to issue monthly financial support of Rupees 8,000 to women who are the victims of acid attacks.

Key points

- This would be applicable to the sufferers, who would come within the description of disability under Section 2 (i) of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights of Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- These sufferers would also be provided with additional priority during the allocation of Fair Price Shops by the Haryana Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

Chhattisgarh Govt approves merger of around 1.50 lakh 'shikshakarmi', with state school education department on - 19th June 2018

The Chhattisgarh cabinet headed by CM Raman Singh permitted union of "shikshakarmi" with the department of State School Education, on June 19th, 2018.

Key Facts

- This will be applicable from July 1 st , 2018, and will advantage approximately 1.50 lakh shiksha-karmi.
- In the 1st phase, the union of 1.03 lakh shiksha-karmi who have completed 8 years of job will be carried out from the July 1st .
- The balance 48,000 shiksha-karmi will become qualified for union into the Department of School Education as and when they finish their 8 years of job duration.

- The shiksha-karmis will enjoy the advantage of Pay Commission guidelines, Pay Scale, various Allowances, employment on compassionate grounds and level elevations to which other confirmed teachers are eligible.
- The conclusion will put a load of Rupees 1346 crore on the department.

Other

Sanctions

Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Approximately forty lakh families will be entitled under the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state as per information shared by Chandrakar. The scheme will be released on August 15th .

UK excluded India's from student visa norms list on - 19th June 2018

The United Kingdom government has straightway linked the prohibition of Indian students from a list of nations to India's rejection to ink a Memorandum of Understanding on the homecoming of illegal immigrants on June 19 th , 2018. This list would propose easier visa standards. The Indian Cabinet had sanctioned the so-called Memorandum of Understanding on homecoming to simplify the deportation of suspected illegal Indian migrants in the United Kingdom to India. India being excepted from Tier 4 foreign student visa moderations revealed by the United Kingdom. But the United Kingdom government's Tier 2 visa easing for doctors and other specialists from nations like India has been most accepted.



International Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 2018 held in Kathmandu on June 17-18 on - 19th June 2018

International Conference on Information and Communication Technology will be held on June 19th, 2018, in Kathmandu, Nepal from June 17th-18th, 2018. The subject of 2 days conference is 'Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society'. The conference was commanded by Federation of Computer Association, Nepal. The aim of the conference was to bring government and private entrepreneur together for evolving plan of action using sustainable Information and Communication Technology apps. It also released the prospects of SMART Nepal 2030. About 500 representatives, including Information and Communication Technology workers, specialists, trainers, scientists and experts from India, Japan, China, Korea and Nepal took part in the conference.

Governor's Rule imposed in Jammu and Kashmir, as approved by - President Ram Nath Kovind

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his approval to execution of Governor's rule in J&K. This is the 8th time in the past 4 decades Jammu and Kashmir has been under Governor's rule and 3rd time under Jammu and Kashmir Governor N.N.Vohra time period.

Key Points

- Presidential consent was received following Jammu and Kashmir Governor N.N.Vohra passed his report to President commending execution of Governor's rule in the state following PDP-BJP government malformed with BJP finishing the 3 years old association

with PDP, prior to conclusion of 6 years tenure of the present Assembly which was going to finish in March, 2021.

- None of the other major political parties showed their interest in continuing any alliance for government in the state.
- With Governor's rule, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has been put under suspension.

More about Governor's Rule in J&K

- In case of disappointment of constitutional body in any Indian state, President Rule is executed under Article 356 of the Constitution.
- But in case of Jammu and Kashmir, according to Section 92 of state Constitution, Governor's Rule is executed in the state only after the harmony of the President of India. During this, State Assembly is either suspended or dissolved.
- If the Constitutional machinery is not reinstated earlier to the expiry of this 6 months period, the provision of Article 356 of the Constitution of India is prolonged to Jammu and Kashmir and the President's rule is executed in the State.

RBI revises housing loan limits under Priority Sector Lending on - 19th June 2018

The RBI reviewed the increasing housing loan limits under Priority Sector Lending, on June 19th, 2018. The housing loan restrictions were reviewed to bring union of the Priority Sector Lending rules for housing loans with the Affordable Housing Scheme of the Union Government and to provide an impetus to low-cost housing for the EWS and low-income sections. Priority Sector Lending loans are relatively inexpensive than market interest rate.

Key Highlights



- Housing loans of up to Rupees 35 lakhs for residential purpose estimate less than Rupees 45 lakhs will now be considered as Priority Sector Lending to boost the low-costing group.
- The housing loan limitations for suitability under PSL will be reviewed to Rupees 35 lakhs in Metropolitan centres and to Rupees 25 lakhs in other centres.
- However, for being stated as priority section, the total cost of the residence in the metropolitan centre with population of 10 lakh and above and at other centres should not go beyond Rupees 45 lakhs and Rupees 30 lakhs, correspondingly.
- The present family income limit of Rupees two lakhs annually for getting the loans for housing projects for Economically Weaker Sections and Low-Income Groups now altered to Rupees three lakhs annually and Rupees six lakhs annually, correspondingly.
- These upgradations have been done according to the salary criteria specified under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics launched in Gujarat on - 20th June 2018

The World's 1st state-of-the-art International Centre for "Humanitarian Forensics" was initiated on June 20th, 2018, at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The centre is a combined venture of the Regional Designation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Gujarat Forensic Science University.

Key Highlights

- The centre will help humanitarian efforts during crises and natural disasters like the work done by Red Cross during the Gujarat Earthquake.

- It would not only aid in honorable and proper management of the dead bodies during disasters but also in their credentials.
- The combined project signifies how humanitarian work will look like in upcoming time. It will join local and international proficiency to build capacities beforehand disasters hit people.
- The Centre will carry out different academic and professional programmes, research and deliver technical proficiency to support operations in the field of humanitarian forensics.
- The Gujarat Forensic Sciences University will operate various courses both PGs and PG-diploma courses in Humanitarian Forensics.

Gujarat government launched Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018 on - 21st June 2018

The state government of Gujarat declared its Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy for 2018 on June 21st, 2018, to encourage formation of wind and solar energy projects at single location.

Key Highlights

- The Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy 2018 will be effective for 5 years and it will issue inspiration to renewable power fabricators supplying to the grid and to those having confined use.
- The policy would permit the designer of a present solar project to utilise the similar land for forming wind and solar power plants and at the same time it would also permit them to utilise the communal transmission line to abandon the energy.
- A power project could also be formed on a terrestrial being utilised for wind farms.
- The welfares of the new policy will be appropriate for a time period of 25 years. The



power produced from wind-solar hybrid projects will be excused from energy charges.

- The policy would also deliver 50% discount for cross-subsidy surcharge and extra surcharge when the produced energy is traded to a 3rd party.
- For the captive subscriber, the hybrid projects will have wide-ranging waiver on cross-subsidy extra-charge and added surcharge. The projects will also succeed for 50% reduction in wheeling charges and distribution loss.

United States quits United Nations Human Rights Council under - President Donald Trump government

The US under President Donald Trump government has declared its removal from United Nations Human Rights Council labelling it duplicitous and self-serving. It has held responsible United Nations Human Rights Council for bias against Israel and declining to expel members who are human rights violators. United States had elected to stay out of United Nations Human Rights Council before also. The George W. Bush government had elected against looking for membership when the council was formed in 2006. United Nations Human Rights Council's regular trade almost as it has occurred. With United States removal, the council will be remained without one of its old-style defenders of human rights.

More about United Nations Human Rights Council

- United Nations Human Rights Council is an inter-governmen form within UN system.
- It is answerable for fortifying promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

- It was formed by United Nations General Assembly on 15th March 2006 by accepting resolution to encourage human rights around the world. It had substituted previous United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- It is HQ in Geneva, Switzerland.

Did you know?

United Nations Human Rights Council is formed of 47 United Nation member states which are nominated by United Nations General Assembly with specific number of seats assigned for each member. Members work for 3 years terms and can work only 2 terms in a continuation.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos becomes world's richest man , study by - Forbes World's Billionaires list

Amazon founder and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos became the richest man worldwide with a net prosperity of \$141.9 billion, according to the Forbes World's Billionaires list. The Principal founder of Microsoft Corporation, Bill Gates, is the 2nd richest man in the world with a net capital of \$92.9 billion. Warren Buffet, has held at 3rd place with a net capital of \$82.2 billion, who is one of the most effective investors in the world. Jeff Bezos formally became the richest person in the world in early 2018. Amazon has become the 2nd most appreciated organisation in the world afterward Apple. According to Fortune's previous list, Amazon attained Eighth position on the America's major companies list of 2018, with income of \$177.87 billion.

International yoga day observed globally on - 21st June 2018

The 4 th International Yoga Day was observed worldwide on June 21 st , 2018. The



observance of the day in India were headed by PM Narendra Modi in Dehradun. The PM united thousands of volunteers, executing Yoga in the lawns of Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. Same Yoga related programmes were organised worldwide to celebrate the occasion. Previously, the PM took part in the opening Yoga revelries at Rajpath, New Delhi in 2015, the Capitol Complex, Chandigarh in 2016 and the Ramabai Ambedkar Sabha Sthal, Lucknow in 2017.

Talking on the importance of Yoga, PM Modi said that Yoga is not just a set of few workouts that maintains the body fit, however, Yoga promises check and balance, it promises calmness, focus and even promises hope, strength and courage.

More about the day's celebration

- 8 events were held in New Delhi along with the main event at Rajpath. The New Delhi Municipal Council held events at Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, Talkatora Garden and Rajpath.
- Approximately, 50000 yoga enthusiasts from various Central Armed Police Forces including Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, CISF took part in yoga programme at Red Fort held by Brahma Kumaris.
- Yoga guru Ramdev organised a yoga session in Kota, Rajasthan at RC Ground.
- ITBP force completed yoga in cold desert of Ladakh at a height of 18000 feet.
- Eastern naval command staff also did yoga on board INS Jyothi in Bay of Bengal off Visakhapatnam. Eastern Naval Command's submarine staff also took part during the celebrations of the day.
- Worldwide, the day was observed in over 150 nations, with Indian missions collaborating activities in landmark places.

Canada legalises recreational use of marijuana nationwide in - Cannabis Act

The Canadian Parliament has approved Cannabis Act, which is a landmark law that legalizes frivolous usage of marijuana around the nation. It makes Canada the first G7 nation to legalise the drug's recreational usage and the 2nd to have a nationwide, legal marijuana market, after Uruguay which got permission in December 2013.

Key Facts

- The law controls and regulates the utilisation, production, sale and distribution of the drug.
- It permits adults to possess about 30 gms of dried cannabis in public, but least legal age to buy and devour the drug has been set nationwide at 18.
- It makes illegal to possess above 30 gms of cannabis in public, grow above 4 plants per house and to purchase from non-licensed dealer.
- It issues rigorous penalty of jail about fourteen years if someone caught selling drug to minors. With the approval of the bill, Canadians will be enable to buy and devour marijuana legally as early as September 2018.

Marijuana

Marijuana is greenish-grey mixture of dried leaves, stems, seeds and flowers of Cannabis plant. It is utilised as painkiller for medical problems including cancer, nervous system diseases, glaucoma, migraines and many more and also utilised to treat nausea and improve appetites for people with AIDS and other chronic diseases.

Did you know?

Cannabis is permitted for medicinal use in fourteen European nations, Argentina, Israel, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama, Turkey, Zambia



and Zimbabwe. In the United States, its medicinal purpose is legal in 29 states and 9 states have permitted both medical and personal use.

World Music Day 2018 celebrated on - 21st June 2018

As music brings the world nearer, because these are not just words, there are notes, songs, and tunes to express every feeling. To mark its importance, music lovers worldwide celebrates World Music Day on June 21st every year. The day is also called as "Fete de la Musique" after a music festival that

began in France in 1982.

It is famous that the French cultural minister Jack Lang perceived the idea of music through this

festival and since then, it has been observed as the World Music Day. However, another theory also

explains that American musician Joel Cohen planned the idea of a whole night music festivity in

France for the starting of the summer solstice in 1976 and since then, the whole world observes this day.

Importance

- The day highlights the significance of music and how it benefits people connect across borders.
- Various musicians perform free music and showcase the energy of music on this day. It has gradually become a part of pop culture and this day is observed in above 32 nations as one of the most important summer programmes.

Celebrations

- To celebrate the day, around 150 artists from more than 16 nations, including France, United States, Nepal, Spain, Italy, Thailand and India, will be accomplishing at multiple locations across the city of Udaipur this year. The line-up aptitudes to be an enthralling one.
- From Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy to Txarango, a Catalan fusion band, playing at the festival, the programme promises to bring a bouquet of culturally varied music on a single platter.

Draft on cross- border insolvency resolution released by - The Ministry of Corporate Affairs

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has published policy on cross-border insolvency to fortify Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. It will assist banks access external assets of firm undergoing resolution. In the same way, Indian establishments will also be needed to unite with overseas creditors to domestic firm. Need

The present Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code offers for 2 Sections 234 and 235 relating to cross-border

insolvency but these are not sufficient to efficiently deal with default cases of domestic business debtor having assets and actions outside India. In many of continuing cases under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, various firms have assets and operations outside India, for which permissible outline is needed to deal foreign assets. Current provisions only permit Central government to enter into MoU with overseas nation for enforcing provisions of Code. 2nd, the government can release a request letter to nation outside India looking forward data. The draft standards have now been released to plug these dodges and have any effective



determination process in place for cross-border insolvency.

Key Facts

- The policy on cross-border insolvency favours adoption of United Nations Commission on International Trade Laws Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997.
- Under it, central government after inflowing into contract with other nations may carry foreign asset of domestic business borrower into contemplation of insolvency resolution in India.
- Originally, cross-border insolvency framework will be applicable only to corporate borrowers, however, it will be stretched to cases of personal insolvency resolution also.

PM Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone of Vanijya Bhawan at Delhi's Akbar road on - 22nd June 2018

PM Narendra Modi laid the footing stone of Vanijya Bhawan, on June 22nd, 2018, which a new office compound for the Government of India Commerce Department, in New Delhi. The Department of Commerce is presently working in Udyog Bhawan. **More about the Infrastructure of the new building**

- It is being manufactured on 4.33 acres, at the intersection of Akbar and Man Singh Roads.
- It has a land of 19233.75 square meters. It will house approximately 1000 majors and staff.
- It will be a totally paperless workplace with state of the art amenities including Smart Access Control, Centrally AC, Video Conferencing, and entirely networked systems.
- Above 56 percent of the 214 trees on the plot are either being left untouched or are being replanted.

- About 70 percent of the big trees have been saved. 230 fresh trees are also being imbedded on the same plot.

Objectives of the new building

- New tasks including ILSD- Integrated Logistics Sector Development to its previously variety of collection consisting the preparation, employment, monitoring and evaluation of the nation's Foreign Trade Policy.

Modi inaugurates nature center in New York on - 22nd June 2018

PM Narendra Modi initiated a nature centre on June 22nd, 2018, on the occasion of 4th "International

Yoga Day" at New York City.

More about the Centre

- The centre is known as "YO1 Nature Cure Centre". YO1, that means Youthful in Sanskrit and it is the 1st of its kind of Nature Cure Centre in USA. It is located in Catskills area of New York.
- A state-of-art provision and will be a wellness terminus that will proposal therapies grounded on ancient Indian Yoga and Pranayam.
- It has been started by the centre, originated by Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha and Essel Group Chairman Subhash Chandra.
- It will deliver employment to minimum 500 persons and indirect jobs to over 1500 people.

HDFC Bank featured in BrandZ ranking on - 22nd June 2018

HDFC Bank has been highlighted at 60th rank in the BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands ranking, on June 22nd, 2018. The total brand value of HDFC Bank at \$20.9 billion, above 22 percent.



Google and Apple reserved the number1 st and2 ndpositions in the grades, followed by Amazon,

which moved into the 3rd place ahead of Microsoft.

More about other rankings by BrandZ

- The report has also positioned India as 2 nd in the “Best Mover Countries” ranking afterwardsUnited Arab Emirates.
- Singapore wasplaced 3rd in the list.
- As per to BrandZ’s‘Cars top ten, 2018’,Toyotawas positioned 1 stshadowed byMercedes-Benzat 2 nd andBMW at 3 rdandMaruti Suzukifinished itsdebuton the top 10 list atposition 9.

More About BrandZ

- BrandZ Top100Most Valuable Global Brands position is approved by WPP’s marketing and brand consultancyKantar Millward Brownsince pastthirteenyears.
- This ranking, positions the nations, which have latent to augment more brands in the ‘Top 100’ in forthcoming years.

MoU signed between India and Cuba on - 22nd June 2018

India, Cuba signed MoU to increase co-operation in the field of Biotechnology, medicine & homoeopathy on June 22nd, 2018. These MoUs were signed after the delegation-level talks between President Ram Nath Kovind and his counterpart Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel from Cuba at Revolution Palace in Havana, Cuba. The delegation including Minister of state for steel Vishnu Deo Sai and two other Members of parliament were present there alongwith President.

Important Highlights

- The health ministries of both the countries agreed towards the enhanced cooperation in

biotechnology, renewable energy and traditional medicine.

- Cuba and India signed an MOU to improve cooperation in traditional medicine and homeopathy.

Meanwhile, envoys from the Ministry of Science and Technology of both the sides agreed on an

- MOU to deepen collaboration on biotechnology.
- A Letter of Intent was signed between BioCubaFarma and India's Kalam Institute of the Health Technology.
- Cuba reaffirmed its support to India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

India-Cuba Relations

- India shares a strong, cordial and friendly relations with Cuba.
- India and Cuba have historic ties since 1959 when famous guerrilla fighter Ernesto Guevara visited New Delhi.
- Both the countries are founding members of Non-Aligned Movement and have stood for South-South solidarity and also collaborated very closely in United Nations and other forums.

Did you know?

President Ram Nath Kovind is on a three-nation visit to Greece, Suriname and Cuba. Mr. Kovind Ramnath, Indian president visited Suriname and Greece and discussed issues of bilateral concerns with the concerned dignitaries of respective countries, before visiting to Cuba.

PM Modi inaugurated AIIB Annual Meeting 2018 on - June 25th - 26th 2018

The Department of AIIB (Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) made announcement on on June 22nd 2018 to



jointly host the third Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on June 25th-26th, 2018 in Mumbai, India. AIIB Annual Meeting 2018 theme is 'Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration'.

Important Highlights of the AIIB Annual Meeting 2018

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the third Annual Meeting of AIIB on June 26th, 2018.
- The nodal Department is the Industries Department of the Maharashtra Government and nodal agency is the MIDC (Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation) is the nodal agency.
- The CII (Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the pco (Professional Conference Organiser); Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) is the knowledge partner for the 3rd Annual Meeting of AIIB.
- This year meeting will be seeing the leaders from varied organizations and levels of government to share ideas and experiences to create a sustainable future through sound infrastructure investment.
- The inaugural Asian Infrastructure Forum will be launched, that will be gathering infrastructure practitioners in a practical and project-driven discourse, focused towards matching innovative finance for critical infrastructure needs.
- The two-day meeting will going to witness the presence of top policy makers, Ministers from AIIB members, participants from partner institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations.
- The leading experts from a range of fields will also be present to give discussions and share their insights while addressing Asia's

infrastructure gap in an environmental and social friendly way.

• 24 degrees celsius as default setting for air conditioners to be made by - The Union Ministry of Power

The Union Ministry of Power is planning to make 24 degrees Celsius as compulsory default temperature and labelling of ACs within few months. This has been outlined after 6 months drive was initiated to promote energy efficiency in the area of air-conditioning.

Key Points

- The drive was initiated on voluntary grounds to spread awareness and inspire users to accept the rules.
- It will outcome in substantial energy savings and also decrease Greenhouse Gas Emission. Every single degrees rise in temperature of ACs consequences in protection of 6 percent of electricity utilised.
- After 6 months of mindfulness campaign, Ministry of Power will take into the consideration of the proposal of making labelling of ideal temperatures in Air-Conditioners obligatory.
- Labelling of ideal temperature by AC producers will advantage users, both from the economic and health point of view. It will also outcome in savings of 20 billion units of power every year.

Scientific reasons

- The normal human body temperature is about 37 degrees Celsius.
- Lesser temperature approximately 18-21 degrees measured by ACs especially in huge number of marketable firms including hotels and offices is not only scratchy but is also insalubrious.



- Setting lower temperature in the range of 18-21 degrees forces people to wear warm clothing consequential in wastage of energy.

Day of the Seafarer 2018 observed by IMO on - 25th June 2018

Day of the Seafarer 2016 was celebrated worldwide on 25th June, 2018 by the International Maritime Organisation to acknowledge the seafarers for their role to the economy and civil society of the world.

The day also highlights risks and personal costs tolerated by them while being in their occupations.

The Day of the Seafarer was recognized in a resolution accepted by the Diplomatic Conference 2010 in Manila to assume the reviewed STCW Convention. It explained the significance to celebrate the unique role made by the seafarers towards international seaborne trade, the world economy and the civil society as a whole. The 1st edition of the Day of the Seafarers was celebrated by International Maritime Organisation in 2011.

International Maritime Organisation

- In 1948, an international conference in Geneva accepted a convention formally starting International Maritime Organisation as 'Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization', however, its name was altered in 1982 to International Maritime Organisation.
- International Maritime Organisation is the UN's special intervention with accountability for the security and safety of shipping and inhibition of maritime pollution by boats.

Cabinet nod to set up private industrial park as DTA to be built

by TATA Steels in - Ganjam District, Odisha

The cabinet of Odisha has sanctioned a proposal to use land in its Ganjam district as a DTA to initiate a Private Industrial Park by Tata Steel company.

More about the Private Industrial Park

- The Private Industrial Park will be under the Odisha Industrial Infrastructural Development Corporation.
- Out of the planned 2970 acres land at Gopalpur in Ganjam district, 1235 acres to be used by TATA Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd and residual 1735 acres would be used by the TATA Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd for form a Private Industrial Park as DTA.

Other Projects approved by the Odisha cabinet

The government land calculating 881.75 acres of 172 villages of Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonapur and Balangir districts will be estranged for building up Daspalla-Bolangir segment of Khurda-Bolangir New Broad Gauge Railway line. Numerous rural twittered water supply plans were also sanctioned.

PM inaugurated 11.2km long Delhi Metro's Mundka-Bahadurgarh section on - 24th June 2018

PM Modi initiated the Delhi Metro's Mundka-Bahadurgarh section, on June 24th, 2018.

Key points

- In a video conference PM Modi highlighted the reputation of Metros in urban development.
- The 11.2 kilometres long completely elevated Mundka-Bahadurgarh passage is part of the Delhi Metro's Green Line.



- The Mundka-Bahadurgarh metro line, would be an continuation and elongation of the present Green Line from Inderlok to Mundka.
- After the initiation of this rail line, the whole Inderlok-Bahadurgarh area would become 26.33 kilometres long.
- With this, The Delhi Metro network will now increase to 288 kilometres with 208 stations.
- This is the 3rd line of connection to the neighbouring state of Haryana. Metro services are even now operational in Gurgaon and Faridabad.
- The stations will be Mundka Industrial Area, Ghevra, Tikri Kalan and Tikri Border, while in Haryana, it will be Modern Industrial Estate, Bus Stand and City Park.

• Indian navy agreed to to institute Coordinated Patrol with navy of which country – Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh have decided to organize Coordinated Patrol as an annual exercise among navies of both neighbouring nations. The 1st edition of Coordinated Patrol among both navies was initiated by Indian Navy's Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba during his official visit to Bangladesh. The objective of the Navy Chief's visit was to combine bilateral defence relationships among India and Bangladesh and to discover new paths for naval teamwork.

Key Points

The 1st edition of combined patrol exercise was organised under military collaboration of both nations. It witnessed participation of 4 maritime patrol aircraft, 2 from Bangladesh Navy and 2 from Indian navy, and 4 frigates, again 2 from Bangladesh Navy and rest 2 from Indian navy. During the combined patrol, naval forces of both the nations shared data via naval announcement and understanding.

The warships and Patrol Aircraft mutually patrolled from Bangladesh's sea territory and sailed towards the Indian territory in Bay.

Significance

The institution of Coordinated Patrol-CORPAT among India and Bangladesh is measured as major step towards improved operational collaboration between both naval forces. The combine patrol will assist to control maritime crimes and will restrict various sea smuggling and piracy in Bay of Bengal. Presently, both navies are patrolling their appreciated water territories 24-hour on individual bases.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed on – 26th June

By resolution 42/112 of 7th December 1987, the UN General Assembly finalised to celebrate 26th June as the "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" as an appearance of its willpower to reinforce action and collaboration to attain the goal of a drug abused free intercontinental society.

Reinforced every year by individuals, societies and various NGOs worldwide, this international celebration focuses to spread awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.

Theme for 2018- Listen First

Building on the achievement of past year, the subject for 2018 is- "Listen First" because by listening to children and youth is the 1st step to benefit them grow healthy and protected. It is an ingenuity to raise support for prevention of drug usage that is an actual investment in the well-being of children, youth, their families and their societies.

The United Nations General Assembly organised a Special Session on drugs in April 2016. This Special Session highlighted an imperative milestone in attaining the goals



set-up in the policy papers of 2009 "Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem", which demarcated action to be taken by member states and objectives to be attained by 2019.

Saudi ARAMCO, ADNOC sign MoU for participating in - Ratnagiri Refinery project of Maharashtra

Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company inked a MoU on June 25th, 2018, to mutually develop and shape a combined refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

The Memorandum of Understanding was inked by Amin H. Nasser, Saudi Aramco President and CEO and Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and ADNOC Group CEO.

Importance

The project will be executed by Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. which is encouraged by an association of India firms IOCL, BPCL and HPCL will now will have Saudi Aramco & ADNOC as foreign strategic associates.

The project will be formed as a 50:50 combine partnership among the association from India and Saudi Aramco and ADNOC. This will be single major foreign investment in the Indian refining sector.

The strategic partnership brings close together crude supply, possessions, technologies, experience and specialists of these numerous oil establishments with a recognized profitable presence worldwide.

Ratnagiri Refinery project

The Ratnagiri refinery will have capacity of dispensing 1.2 million barrels of crude oil every day.

It will generate a variety of refined petroleum outcoms, including petrol and diesel, thus, meeting BS-VI fuel efficiency guidelines.

Saudi Arabia lifts ban on - Female drivers

In a first historic drive, females across Saudi Arabia were lawfully permitted to drive for the 1st time since 1957 on June 24th, 2018. Thus, it ends the world's last restriction on female drivers which was recognised as a symbol of female's repression in the strongly conservative Muslim kingdom.

After the removal of restrictions, females in Saudi Arabia started their engines and measured the roads, marking the moment they had waited since the issuance of the royal decree by King Salman on September 26th, 2017 to remove the driving prohibition on females.

Following the royal decree, driving schools for females were started in the Saudi Arabia. Female driving instructors, who got driving licences abroad were presented with the teaching posts. As approximated, three million females are believed to drive in the nation by 2020.

Royal Decree ending the driving ban on females
Saudi Arabia King Salman on September 16th, 2017 ordered a royal decree that permits females to drive cars. The end of the restriction was ordered as part of the reforms forced by King's young son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Royal Decree ordered the set-up of a



ministerial group to advise within 30 days and then execute the order by June 24th, 2018.

The Royal Decree finished an old-fashioned tradition perceived by rights activists as an insignia of the Islamic kingdom's repression of females.

India, Seychelles sign 6 MoUs for cooperation in various fields on - 25th June 2018

India and Seychelles inked 6 MoUs on June 25th, 2018 to further increase bilateral relations among the 2 nations in various fields. These include areas of naval cooperation for sharing White Shipping Information among the Indian Naval Forces and the National Information Sharing and Coordination Center Seychelles, in cybersecurity between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and the Department of ICT Seychelles on collaboration in this area, culture Agreement for planning a Cultural Exchange Programme between the India and Seychelles for the years 2018-2022, development Memorandums of Understanding between India and Seychelles regarding Indian Grant Assistance for implementation of small development projects via native bodies, educational and vocational institutions projects among others. The Memorandums of Understanding inked were witnessed by PM Narendra Modi and Seychelles

President Danny Antoine Rollen Faure after the both leaders organised bilateral talks in Hyderabad House, New Delhi.

Line of Credit for Seychelles' Defence Sector

- On the same eve, Prime Minister Modi proclaimed a line of credit worth USD 100 million for Seychelles for acquisition of defence hardware.

- The PM also presented Dornier Aircraft to President of Seychelles, which is marked as a significant step towards India's pledge to expand Seychelles defence assets and capability.
- Both the sides would also work to strengthen collaboration to carry out hydrographical trainings of the naval region and acknowledged exchange of essential oceanic maps between two sides.
- India also settled to finance 3 civilian infrastructure plans in Seychelles under Special Grant. These are Government House, New Police Headquarters and the Office of the Attorney General.

Suryashakti Kisan Yojana launched by - Gujarat Government

The government of Gujrat has initiated Suryashakti Kisan Yojana, which is a solar-power plan for farmers making them capable to produce electricity for their confined consumption and trade extra power to grid and produce extra money. It is 1st such scheme in the nation, where farmer will generate his electricity and will trade extra power to State power utility. The pilot project of the scheme will start from July 2018 and approximately 137 feeders will be formed. It will cover about 12,400 farmers from 33 different districts. The estimated cost of the project is approximately Rupees 870 crores and it will produce 175 megawatts electricity.

More about Suryashakti Kisan Yojana

- The scheme intentions at empowering farmers of state to produce their own electricity with the help of solar energy and benefit replication of their income.
- Under it, farmers of state having present electricity connection will be issued solar panels according to their consumption needs.



It envisions formation of distinct feeders for agricultural solar energy utilisation.

- The State and Central governments will issue 60 percent funding on cost of project. The farmer is needed to take 5 percent cost, while 35 percent will be issued to him as inexpensive loan with rate of interest 4.5 to 6 percent.
- This is a 25 years plan, which is fragmented between 7 years period and 18 years' time period. For first 7-year, farmers will get per unit proportion of Rupees 7. For the succeeding 18 years they will get amount of Rs 3.5 for each unit traded.

World Food Prize 2018 awarded to - Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro

The World Food Prize-2018 was bestowed to Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro for their distinct but harmonizing Global leadership in elevating maternal and child malnutrition within food safety. The World Food Prize is maximum protruding global award for persons whose innovation achievements ease hunger and encourage global food security. Present year's \$250,000 award will be equally distributed among both recipients.

Key Facts

- Lawrence Haddad is British Economist and Food Policy scholar and Dr. David Nabarro has served the WHO and UN on health and hunger matters.
- Both have devoted their occupations for reducing hunger and malnutrition. Their work has excavated understanding of nutritional impression on person's health, therefore, captivating world leaders to participate in evidence-based results.
- Their work has caused in decreasing number of stunted children worldwide by ten million between 2012 to 2017.

World Food Prize

- The award identifies achievements of persons who have innovative human development by civilizing the quality, and quantity of food in the world. It was perceived in 1986 by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug.
- Since its creation, seven Indians have won this award. These Indian winners are Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in 1987, Dr. Verghese Kurien in 1989, Dr. Gurdev Khush in 1996, Dr. B.R. Barwale in 1998, Dr. Surinder K. Vasal in 2000, Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta in 2005 and Dr. Sanjaya Rajaram in 2014.

Ministry of Women and Child Development to organise - POSHAN Abhiyaan TECH-THON

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development on June 25, 2018 announced to organise a day-long Seminar on Technology Partnerships 'TECH-THON' for steering POSHAN Abhiyaan on June 28, 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.

The POSHAN Abhiyaan or the National Nutrition Mission is PM Narendra Modi's initiative for holistic nourishment.

POSHAN Abhiyaan TECH-THON

The forthcoming "POSHAN Abhiyaan TECH-THON" is intended at civilizing the nutrition results via effective monitoring and time bounded intercession. The Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog will initiate the Seminar and release the Jan Andolan Guidelines of POSHAN Abhiyaan.

It will display and familiarise the individuals towards the creativity, interchange ideas to reconnoitre avenues of collaboration and enterprises for technological support, and



reach-out to the effective and actual recipients 'Jan Andolan' towards Nutrition.

The Seminar will have the presence of Ministers, highest policy makers, representatives from UNICEF, World Bank, World Health Organisation, WFP, Tata Trust, BMGF and many more and Civil Society Establishments. Leading specialists from various fields will be there to lead panel debates and exchange insights on addressing pathways of assistance and enterprises for technology support.

A demonstration will also be held, showcasing the technology and other materials of POSHAN Abhiyaan in the corridor of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra. About 300 contestants are anticipated to elegance the Seminar.

BSE to launch new platform next month to list – Startups

BSE is planning to initiate platform to make stock market citation attractive for start-ups. It will be started at its Small and Medium Enterprise segment.

Key benefits of the Platform

It will simplify the citation of corporations in sectors including Information and Technologies, Bio-technology, 3D printing, Space Technology and e-Commerce. It will help in citation of firms from automated defence, drones, Nano-technologies, Artificial Intelligence, e-Gaming, Robotics, Genetic Engineering amongst other sectors.

Eligibility of the company

A corporation requires to have a pre-issue paid-up fairness share capital of at least Rupees one crore. It should be in presence for a lowest period of 3 years on the date of filing the draft prospectus with BSE with a positive net value. The firm looking forward to incline on the

platform should not have been denoted to National Company Law Tribunal under IBC.

Anant Barua appointed as whole-time member of SEBI by - The Union Government

The Union Government has nominated Anant Barua as whole-time member of the SEBI. He has been designated to position for 3 years on the salary as admissible to additional secretary to the central government.

More about Anant Barua

- Anant Barua is presently executive director in Securities and Exchange Board of India. He had accepted position as executive director of market regulator in May 2010.
- Earlier to this, he was legal adviser, Legal Affairs Department, Securities and Exchange Board of India. He had been serving Legal Affairs Department since 1992.
- He was on deputation to Central Bank of Bahrain as legal adviser and he has also had served NFL, IFCI and DCM Ltd.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India**
- Securities and Exchange Board of India is statutory controller for securities market in India, which was recognized in 1988. It was given constitutional powers via tSEBI Act, 1992. It is HQ in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India is responsive to requirements of 3 groups, which establish market, issuers of securities, investors and market mediators.
- It has 3 functions quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial and quasi-executive.

S Ramesh appointed as Chairman of CBIC by - The Union Government

The Union Government has nominated senior administrator S Ramesh as chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs,



which is the top policyforming body for indirect taxes. He has been designated as chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs as special secretary to the central government. He will succeed Vanaja N Sarna who retired on June 30th, 2018. S Ramesh is 1981 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise). Earlier to this employment he was member in Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, mandated with accountability of executing the Goods and Services Tax. **More about Central Board of Excise and Customs**

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is the nodal national agency accountable for administering Customs, Goods and Services Tax, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India. It is HQ in New Delhi.
- It was retitled to current name from CBEC in March 2017. It is one of the primogenital government departments of India which was recognized in 1855 by the then British Governor General of India, for executing customs laws in India and gathering import duties and land revenue).
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs transacts with responsibilities of preparation of policy concerning levy and collection of customs and central excise duty and service taxes, inhibition of smuggling and execution of matters concerning customs, central excise, service tax and narcotics.

FSSAI proposes life imprisonment, Rs10 lakh fine for food adulteration on - 26th June 2018

The FSSAI on June 26th, 2018 suggested stringent punishment for those contaminating food products after the Supreme Court order. Now, those contaminating food products

could have life imprisonment and penalty of about Rupees ten lakh. The commendations are the part of amendments projected by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Key amendments to the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

- The controller has projected a sum of 100 modifications to the Act and has sought public remarks by July 2nd, 2018.
- The policy suggestion recommends insertion of Section 59 in the Act that explains the penalty for the food adulterers with penalty of seven years or life imprisonment besides a fine of Rupees ten lakh.
- It suggested formation of the state food safety authorities to impose the law in letter and spirit.
- It suggested rise in the penalty for obstructing, impersonating, intimidating and threatening and assaulting a food safety officer. It suggested custody of not less than six months and about 2 years, besides penalty of up to Rupees five lakh. Presently, the custody in such cases is up to three months and fine is about Rupees one lakh.
- The other modifications include regulation of exported food products under the FSS Act. Currently, it covers only sale of food items in domestic market and also imported food items.

Draft Act to replace UGC with Higher Education Commission proposed by - Government

The Union Ministry of HRD projected a draft bill on June 27th, 2018 to revoke the UGC and form the Higher Education Commission of India, with an initiative that goals to improve higher education in India. The Act entitled "Higher Education



Commission of India Act, 2018 renovates UGC Act, 1951 and its parent legislation entirely. The Higher Education Commission of India Act, 2018 is projected to be announced in Parliament in the forthcoming monsoon session.

Provisions of the Higher Education Commission of India Act, 2018

- In continuation with the Narendra Modi government's Minimum Government, Maximum Governance policy, the Act foresees HECI to aims exclusively on academic matters.
- The major emphasis will be on academic quality with focus on enlighten learning results, academic performance assessment by institutions, mentoring of institutions, teachers training and use of technology and many more.
- The Higher Education Commission of India will be supported with penal powers to order closing of institutes that violate norms and impose penalties where required.
- The Higher Education Commission of India will not incorporate the AICTE and NCTE. The legislation's governing All India Council for Technical Education and National Council for Teacher Education will be revised to take changes, if required.
- The important emphasis of the NCTE will be on justifying the over governance of institutions and bring-in revelation grounded regulatory command.
- This fresh commission will establish norms for opening and closing of institutes, deliver better flexibility and will set standard selection norms for critical leadership posts at institutions across ranges.

Oxytocin formulations ban to come into effect from -1st July 2018

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has banned the production of Oxytocin compositions for domestic usage and public area only from July 1st , 2018.

Oxytocin formulations ban from 1st July 2018

- The import of Oxytocin and its compositions is also restricted. From July 1 st 2018, private producers will not be permitted to produce Oxytocin for domestic usage.
- Only Public-Sector firm, Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd, will produce Oxytocin for domestic use from July 2018 onwards.
- Oxytocin compositions for domestic usage will be delivered by Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd to the authorised hospitals and clinics in public and private sector on direct basis.
- Oxytocin in any form will not be permitted to be trade by retail Chemists all the panelled hospitals and clinics in public and private sector in India are asked to contact only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd for their orders.

Financial Action Task Force puts Pakistan on 'grey list' on - 27th June 2018

The Financial Action Task Force on June 27th , 2018 entered Pakistan to its "Grey List" of nations that are indulged in delivering financial aid to terrorism and concerned activities. The conclusion was accepted during Financial Action Task Force meeting on Money Laundering in Paris. At the Financial Action Task Force discussions in Paris, a delegation guided by Dr.Shamshad Akhtar, Interim Minister for Finance and Planning, Pakistan described the Financial Action Task Force of actions taken by Pakistan to control terror financing and money laundering, imploring exclusion of name of Pakistan from Financial Action Task Force grey list.



Pakistan had previously been involved in the 'grey list' from 2012-2015.

Case Details

- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, reached Paris on June 24th, 2018 along with delegates of the financial monitoring team to fight the nation's case and requested the Financial Action Task Force to exclude Pakistan from its grey list.
- In compliance with the Financial Action Task Force's references, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, on June 20th, 2018 supplied the Anti Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Regulations, 2018.
- Previously, on June 8th, 2018, the National Security Committee- Pakistan had reiterated its promise to collaborate with Financial Action Task Force in attaining common objectives and shared goals.

Decision taken during FATF Plenary meeting in February 2018

- Financial Action Task Force had previously taken the decision to place Pakistan on its "Grey List" during a plenary meeting in February 2018.
- At that time, China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, heading the 6 countries Gulf Cooperation Council that votes as single bloc, were against Pakistan for placing in the grey list.
- According to Financial Action Task Force guidelines, 3 votes from the Financial Action Task Force's associates are desirable for not putting a nation in the grey list.

Emergency declared in Papua New Guinea over - Polio outbreak

A public health emergency has been acknowledged in 3 Papua New Guinea provinces as the nation responds to its 1st polio epidemic in 18 years when it was stated free of the disease. According to the Health Ministry

report, minimum 3 provinces Morobe, Madang and the Eastern Highlands inveterate the outbreak of the possibly deadly virus. According to the WHO, the virus was sensed in a 6 years old boy in April present year. Later, it was diagnosed that the similar virus has been recognized in other healthy children in the similar location and communal.

As per to the World Health Organisation, Polio has no cure and can result into irretrievable paralysis. Polio primarily affects children under age group of 5. It can only be cured by giving a multiple vaccine dosages to children.

The public health emergency will continue in place for minimum one year, according to the Minister for Health Puka Temu. Papua New Guinea was specialized as polio-free in 2000 sideways with the rest of the World Health Organisation Western Pacific Region as it has not had a case of wild polio-virus since 1996.

Required Actions

To restrict the epidemic of the extremely infectious disease proximately, the government requires to fortify the surveillance systems to sense it in early stages and a significant immunisation movements. The World Health Organisation has turn up with few specialists and \$500,000, while the PNG government had form sideways \$2 million for the response.

France's EDF and GE sign deal to build 6 nuclear reactors by - Jaitapur nuclear plant

French state-run energy utility EDF and American multinational GE have inked strategic collaboration agreement with State operated NPCIL for



building of Six European Pressurized Reactors type nuclear reactors with a capacity 1,650 MW each at Jaitapur nuclear plant in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

Key Points

- This strategic collaboration agreement is for long duration cooperation for building conventional island on each of Six reactor plants of Jaitapur nuclear plant.
- GE Power will outline conventional island for the plant with delivery its main machineries. EDF will supply EPR-technology and will be accountable for constructing and managing industrial partners for this project.

Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant

- It is planned 9900 megawatts nuclear power project to work at Madban village of Ratnagiri district Maharashtra. State operated NPCIL is builder and machinist of this unit. It will be constructed under Indo-France Civil Nuclear Deal inked in December 2010.
- It will have six EPR outlined and developed by Areva of France, each with capacity of 1650 megawatts, thus sum of 9900 megawatts.
- EPR is 3rd generation Pressurised Water Reactors. The predictable cost of this project was approximately US \$15 billion.
- The layout of nuclear power plant comprises two major parts including nuclear island and turbine island.
- The nuclear island is core of nuclear power plant, while turbine island keeps important element which abstracts thermal energy from pressurized steam and translates it into electrical power.

• NITI Aayog's WEP signs five SoIs with financial institutions and social organisations on - 27th June 2018

The Women Entrepreneurs Platform of the NITI Aayog, on June 27th, 2018 inked 5 distinct Statements of Intent with financial institutions and social organizations. The Women Entrepreneurs Platform is an initiative under the NITI Aayog which was inaugurated on March 8th, 2018 on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

Highlights of the SoIs

- The Statements of Intent inked with financial institutions such as the Shri Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank, Indiabulls Housing Finance and SREI Infrastructure Finance will be involved under the Women Entrepreneurs Platform-Finance vertical.
- These Statements of Intent will deliver financial help to female entrepreneurs.
- Statements of Intent's association with the Sreemanta Sankar Mission, Guwahati goals to strengthen recognized and wishful Female entrepreneurs in North-East India through Women Entrepreneurs Platform North-East Chapter and will Assist to feminise Women Entrepreneurs Platform in North-East.
- The Statements of Intent with the Self Employed Women's Association, comprises promises to mobilise femae entrepreneurs in rural areas and encourage them in Livelihood Entrepreneurship.
- The Women Entrepreneurs Platform website, with commercial initiatives and ropes programmes, would direct about plans, initiatives and products according to the needs.

Women Entrepreneurs Platform

- The main idea behind the Platform was 1st proposed by CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, who broadcasted the formation of a Women Entrepreneurship Platform in NITI Aayog at the decision of the 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit organised in Hyderabad in 2017.



- The WEP was formed to upsurge the number of women entrepreneurs who will create and empower a dynamic New India.
- It also objects to highlight knowledge breaks, promote Partner Connects and upsurge the outreach of partner programmes.

President launches Solar Charkha Mission on - 27th June 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind initiated "Solar Charkha Mission" on June 27 th , 2018, under which government will allocate funding of Rupees 550 crores to number of craftsperson for creating employment in countryside areas. It was released during the eve of Udyam Sangam on the event of World MSME Day which is celebrated on 27th June.

Key Facts

- Under this mission, Ministry of MSME will shelter 50 clusters across the nation including in the North-East and each cluster will hire 400 to 2,000 artisans. Its eventual objective is to create employment in rural areas and contribute to the green economy. It also goals at connecting 5 crore females across the nation to the initiative.
- The initiative is believed to generate 1 lakh jobs during the initial 2 years.

Establishment Strategic Petroleum Reserves at Chandikhol and Padur approved by - Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned formation of extra 6.5 MMT Strategic Petroleum Reserves accommodations at Chandikhol, Odisha and Padur, Karnataka. It also sanctioned building of steadfast Single Point Mooring for the 2 Strategic Petroleum Reserves. This conclusion is in the continuation with the Government's declaration of forming of 2 extra Strategic

Petroleum Reserves during 2017-18 budget.

Key Facts

- The Strategic Petroleum Reserves facilities at Chandikhol and Padur will be subversive rock-caverns with total capacities of four million metric tonnes and 2.5 million metric tonnes separately.
- These amenities will deliver an added supply of approximately 12 days of petroleum reserves and is believed to expand India's energy security.
- They will be constructed under Public Private Partnership to decrease budgetary support of Government of India.
- The terms and conditions of these Public Private Partnership models will be determined by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in discussion with Ministry of Finance.

Did you know?

Central Government under phase-I of Strategic Petroleum Reserve programme has constructed 3 underground crude oil storage reserves with full capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes capacity at Vishakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur, Kerala to provide energy security of ten days of consumption according to external supply interruptions. They are wholly preserved subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

US postpones 2+2 dialogue with India from - July 6th 2018 to still unknown one

US has adjourned its introductory 2+2 dialogue with India which was planned to be happen on July 6 th , 2018 in Washington DC, highlighting 'unavoidable reasons'. Both nations are now recognizing new mutually suitable dates to organise dialogue as soon as possible. This is 3rd time that 2+2 dialogue



has been suspended in the past 6 months.

More about India-US 2+2 Dialogue

- India and US 2+2 Dialogue format was decided among 2 nations during visit of PM Narendra Modi to United States in June, 2017. It was intended at replacing previous India-United States Strategic and Commercial Dialogue.
- It is expected to enhance strategic harmonization among both nations and maintaining peace and stability.
- It puts strategic, defence and security ties among the both nations at the front and centre stage.
- It protects India-US strategic association from disputes over business concerns and strongly division on economic mixing policies as business and salable issues that collided with strategic ties between both nations debated in Strategic and Commercial Dialogue previously. It is analogous to India-Japan 2+2 dialogue format among foreign and defence secretaries of the both nations.

OPCW given powers to identify those behind chemicals arms attacks in - Syria

The world's leading chemical weapons regulator, an Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as approved itself new powers to assist identify those answerable for chemical attacks in Syria. 82 associates of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons voted in flow of this suggestion presented by UK at special session of Conference of States Parties in The Hague. 24 nations including Russia, Iran and Syria cast votes against it. With improved powers, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons now can have placed in-place preparations to classify the committers of practice of chemical

weapons in Syria.
Did you know?

Till date, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was only intelligent to say whether chemical weapons were castoff. It had inadequate power to only direct teams to unproven chemical weapons attack, gather samples and lure their assumptions. They were having only imperfect power of defining whether attack is chemical weapons or not. But whatever indication they turned up, they were not having authorities to point at specific nation or non-state actor as the culprit for the attack.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is a diplomatic group that promotes, manages and confirms the devotion to the Convention on Prohibition of Development, Manufacture, Storing and Usage of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. This convention outlaw's manufacturing, storing, and usage of chemical weapons and their forerunners. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was recognized April 1997 and it is HQ in Hague, Netherlands. It was bestowed Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 for supervising global endeavour for perpetual and demonstrable removal of chemical weapons.

National Statistics Day observed globally on - 29th June 2018

The National Statistics Day is observed every year on June 29th in India to generate public awareness about the significance of statistics in socio-economic preparation and policy formulation. The day also admits distinguished contribution of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the arenas of statistics, statistical system and economic planning. The 2018 subject is 'Quality Assurance in Official Statistics'. It



underlines position of compliance with indispensable parameters of quality in statistical systems and products.

More about PC Mahalanobis

- PC Mahalanobis was born on 29th June 1893 in Kolkata and passed away on 28th June 1972 in Kolkata.
- He was the 1st Indian statistician to get world recognition. In year 1933, he published the 1st Indian statistical periodical 'Sankhya'. He had initiated the Indian Statistical Institute and donated to the design of large-scale sample surveys.
- He also made ground-breaking research in anthropometry in India. He is also best known for the statistical measure Mahalanobis distance. The 2nd 5-year Plan had based on Mahalanobis's mathematical explanation of Indian economy.
- This plan had stimulated the development of heavy industry in India and well along known as Nehru-Mahalanobis model of economic development.

Did you know?

The Union Government had elected June 29th as National Statistics Day in 2007 in gratitude of notable contributions made by Late Professor PC Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics. Every year Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and ISI selects specific subject for the day grounded on present national importance for attentive discussions and efforts throughout year to bring developments in designated area.