



India, Pakistan for first time to participate together in SCO counter-terror exercise for - Peace Mission

For first time, arch competitors India and Pakistan are participating in Peace Mission, a multi-country counter-terror workout in Russia to be organised in September 2018. The military exercise is going to complete under the outline of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. India's participation at exercise was assured by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting organised in Beijing, China in April 2018.

Peace Mission

- Peace Mission anti-terror military exercise will be organised in the Ural Mountains of Russia and almost all Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member nations are participating in it. Its main objective is to improve counter-terror collaboration among the 8 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member nations.
- It will be for 1st time since Independence that India and Pakistan both will participate in military programme, though forces of both nations have worked together in United Nations diplomacy missions.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is political and safety grouping HQ in Beijing. It was originated in 2001.
- The full members of group are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan.
- They represent more than 40 per cent of humanity and about 20 per cent of the global GDP.

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is successor of grouping known as Shanghai Five, originated by China in 1996. It encompassed Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
- In 2001 Uzbekistan was requested to join it and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was formally born and has come out as a regional security organization

India and Nepal agree to review bilateral trade treaty by - July 2018

India and Nepal decided to review their bilateral trade treaty by July 2018, in last week of April 2018. The provision was grated during a meeting of India-Nepal Inter-Government Committee on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Business in Kathmandu.

Both nations decided to start a wide-ranging review of the agreement by July 2018. The agreement was previously reviewed in 2009.

Other decisions

- Both the nations also deliberated amendments to the bilateral Agreement of Transit signed in 1999 to further facilitate movement of Nepal's business with third nations.
- The 2 nations also decided on synchronising development of border business infrastructure to make sure appropriate usage of investment in border infrastructure between India and Nepal.
- In order to improve the trade volume, both the nations also focused on to the requirement for harmonisation of standards and expediting development on agreements between the related agencies including BIS and FSSAI from the Indian side.



- The two nations also decided to work towards communal recognition of each other's testing and certifications.
- In order to make sure regular inputs from trade and investors, both the countries decided to form India-Nepal Joint Business Forum containing of industry senates from the both sides that will act as an institutional B2B mechanism.
- By 1868 senate and 6 states approved an 8-hour legislation. In 1884 the National Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Assemblies decided to have an over-all strike on May 1 st , 1886, to impose demands for employers to observe the 8-hour day.
- In 1947, amidst the anti-Communist Cold War hysteria, the United States Veterans of Foreign Wars retitled May 1st as 'Loyalty Day' and a combine session of senates later made the statement authorized.

World Labor Day celebrated on - 1st May 2018

May Day ceremonies that stem from the traditional centuries-old May Day civilizations are observed throughout the world. In Hawaii, May Day is called as “Lei Day” to observe the island’s ethos.

In the UK, May Day is still observed in many towns with the crowning of the May Queen. Maypoles can still be seen in few towns and May Day civilizations may have hobby horses and native people dressed-up in costumes. Labor Day shoots from the efforts of the labor union drive to observe the economic and social attainments of workers. In Mexico, it is mentioned to as “Primero de Mayo” and having a nationwide holiday honouring all the labors. Few groups held parades to promote and protect workers' rights.

More about May Day/Labor Day

- Conventionally, May Day is characterized by the congregation of flowers and the fertility rite of dancing around the maypole.
- In current few years, May Day has become a labor festival honoring the military and industrial actions of the nation precisely in socialist and Communist nations.
- The 8-hour movement to decrease the working day from ten to 8 hours started after the Civil War.
- It was a mega focus of the National Labor Union, whose 1st meeting was held in 1866.

- In many nations, the May 1st holiday was obtained by trade unions backed by socialist parties. In the UK, a May Day Bank Holiday was introduced in 1978 for trade workers to observe same but was organised on the 1st Monday in May to diminish the business damage.
- In China, Labor Day was stretched to three days during the 1990s. The Chinese government made it a 7 days holiday by moving the previous and upcoming weekends collectively with these 3 days. This holiday permitted Chinese people to enjoy travels during this time period.
- The Chinese government decreased this holiday time period less to single day in 2008, while concurrently stimulating 3 traditional Chinese holidays i.e. The Dragon Boat Festival, Tomb-Sweeping Day and the Mid-Autumn Festival.

India's longest-serving Chief Minister - Sikkim's Pawan Chamling

68 years Sikkim's Pawan Chamling formed history by becoming lengthiest-serving CM in India. He has accomplished 23 years, 4 months and seventeen days of continuous service in office. He exceeded earlier record captured by Jyoti Basu, five-term West Bengal Chief Minister



who grabbed office position for 23 years. Basu was in office from June 21st, 1977-November 6th, 2000.

Important Highlights

- Pawan Chamling Pawan Chamling was born on September 22nd, 1950, at Yangang, South Sikkim.
- After completing his matriculation, he had dropped out of school. He took his drop into politics at an age of twenty-two during the time when discussions were under path for union of the kingdom of Sikkim with India. He began his political career at age of 32.
- He was selected as President of Yangang Gram Panchayat in 1982.
- In 1985, he was nominated to the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the 1st time. He had worked as Minister for Industries, Information and Public Relations from 1989-1992 in Nar Bahadur Bhandari cabinet in the state.
- Following a sequence of political disturbances in Sikkim, he shaped Sikkim Democratic Front in 1993.
- He took oath as CM of Sikkim for the 1st time on December 12th, 1994 and now has been in office for 5th successive term.

Pilot scheme Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW for 3 years launched by - Government

Ministry of Power has initiated Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 megawatts

on competitive basis for three years. The chief motive of scheme is to recover commissioned power

plants which are not able to trade electricity in nonappearance of valid power purchase agreements.

Key Points

- Under this scheme, these stations will be permitted to bid for electricity supply. Under it, electricity will be obtained from generators with commissioned projects under medium-term but without Power Purchase Agreement.
- Power Finance Corporation Consulting Limited has been designated as Nodal Agency and PTC India Limited as aggregator.
- PTC India will ink 3-year Agreement for power procurement with positive bidders and Power Supply Agreement with Discoms. In pilot scheme, a solitary entity can be fixed extreme capacity of 600 megawatts.
- The scheme will make sure least off-take of 55 per cent contracted volume.
- The Tariff will be immovable for three years without any appreciation. This plan is believed to revive power need which has affected producers not having Power Purchase Agreements.

Significance

- The scheme will assist about 12 Giga-Watt commissioned thermal power plants obtain medium-term power purchase agreement which is pre-requisite for obtaining coal associations.
- Currently out of 40 Giga-Watts worried coal-based electricity generation capacity, 28 power-plants of 24 Giga-Watts worth Rupees 1.44 lakh crore are commissioned.
- Approximately half of these capacities do not have coal associations due to no Power Purchase Agreements.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi in - January 2019

The 15 th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be organised in holly city of Varanasi in UP from January 21 st - January 23rd, 2019. Its subject will be 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India'. The



jumbo

programme will be held by Ministry of External Affairs in connotation with UP government. It will be initiated by PM Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth.

More about Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is observed annually in India on 9th January. The day also honours return of father of nation Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in Mumbai on January 9th, 1915.
- The day is observed to spot contribution of foreign Indian community to the progress of India.
- The day was officially recognized in 2003. Celebrations of this day are supported by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry.
- The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was organised in Bengaluru with theme of “Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora”.

Kavinder Gupta sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on - 29th April 2018

Kavinder Gupta, who resigned as the Speaker of J&K Assembly on April 29th, 2018, took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, taking place of Bhartiya Janta Party colleague Nirmal Singh. The sworn-in of office and secrecy was directed to Kavinder Gupta by Governor N.N.Vohra.

Bigger reshuffle in J&K's PDP-BJP government

- This alteration in post was a part of a bigger reshuffle in Jammu and Kashmir's PDP-BJP government led by Mehbooba Mufti.
- The reshuffle also noticed the introduction of 4 fresh faces- Satpal Sharma from Kathua and Sambha MLAs Rajiv Jasrotia and Devinder Kumar Manyal and Shakti Raj Parihar as State Unit Chief.
- Moreover, Bhartiya Janta Party raised Minister of State for Transport Sunil Sharma to the position of a Cabinet minister.
- The Bhartiya Janta Party also take out 3 ministers - Nirmal Singh, Bali Bhagat and Priya Sethi.
- On the flip side, the PDP released its Law and Rural Development Minister Abdul Haq Khan from the cabinet.
- While, Pulwama MLA Mohd Khalil Band and Sonwar MLA Mohd Ashraf Mir took oath in as cabinet ministers.

NASA to launch its first mission to study deep interior of Mars on - 5th May 2018

NASA will launch its first-ever mission InSight- Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, to observe the deep-interior of Mars on May 5th, 2018. It will be released from Space Launch Complex-3 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California Atlas V rocket. The space-rocket will also release 2 small-spacecraft called Mars Cube One which is NASA's technology experiment.

InSight Mission

- InSight is motionless lander that will be 1st NASA's mission since Apollo moon piers to place



seismometer, which is an instrument that calculates quakes on soil of another planet.

- It has been imagined as part of NASA's Discovery Program mission that focuses to place stationary lander fitted with seismometer and heat-transfer probe on Mars surface to observe red planet's early geographical evolution.
- InSight is earthy planet explorer that will address one of most fundamental matters of planetary and solar system science. It will benefit in understanding procedures that designed rocky planets of inner solar system over 4 billion years ago.
- The robotic lander will achieve a radio science experiment to observe inner structure of Mars by positioning seismometer and a burrowing heat probe.
- It will calculate Mar's energetic signals such as pulse seismology, heat flow probe and precision tracking. It will allow researchers understand how its crust, mantle and core are different from Earth.

GOBAR-DHAN Scheme launched to promote wealth and energy from waste by - The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has released Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources

– GOBAR DHAN plan at National Dairy Research Institute Karnal. It was released under Swachh Bharat Mission by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Uma Bharti.

Key Points

- The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources-DHAN Plan focuses to positively impact

village cleanliness and produce wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.

- It also focuses at forming new rural livelihood options and attractive income for farmers and various rural people.
- Under it, villagers will be prepared to create self-help groups and imaginative societies that will assist in clean energy and green jobs initiative.
- The plan focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to valuable compost, biogas and bio-CNG, therefore, keeping villages clean, raising income of rural households and production of energy from cattle dung. The plan imagines application of 700 bio-gas units in various states of the nation in 2018-19.
- It will be enormously helpful for nation as India is home to highest cattle population in world which generates about three million tonnes of dung.
- It will provide various benefits to countryside people by maintaining villages clean and sanitized, cultivating livestock health and growing farm yields.
- Under it, biogas production will help to upsurge self-reliance in energy usage for cooking and lighting.
- It will enlarge income of farmers and cattle herders. It will form new options for jobs related to waste collection, transportation, biogas sales and many more.
- It will also deliver stable fuel supply in market for oil organizations and available credit in market through government plans and banks for businesspersons.

World Asthma Day celebrated globally on - 1st May 2018



GINA (Global Initiative for Asthma) celebrated World Asthma Day on 1st May 2018 with the theme 'Never too early , never too late. It's always the right time to address airways diseases.

Asthma is a big prevalent problem in both developing and developed countries as per WHO.

Important Highlights

- It's a chronic lung disorder caused due to air inflammation.
- Airways become narrower and filled with mucus, henceforth block the airflow.
- If attack comes from Asthma isn't controlled on time, person may die.
- Certain medications can control this non-communicable disease.

14 Indian cities figure in World's 20 most polluted cities list by - WHO

According to the information released by the WHO, fourteen Indian cities figure in a list of world's 20 most polluted cities for particulate matter 2.5 levels in 2016. The particulate matter PM_{2.5} consists of pollutants like sulphate, nitrate and carbon, and these all pose the higher risk to human health. The World Health Organisation Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database ranked Kanpur as the maximum polluted city among 4300 world cities which were observed for their air pollution levels in the year 2016. The additional Indian cities that listed very peak levels of PM_{2.5} pollutants were Faridabad, Varanasi, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Patiala.

WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database

- The information highlighted that nine out of ten people in the world breathe highly polluted air.
- About seven million people pass away every year from exposure to polluted air that chokes the lungs and cardiovascular system, resulting in stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, COPD and respiratory infections.
- Air pollution is also a serious risk factor for noncommunicable diseases, causing 24% of all adult deaths from heart disease, 25% from stroke, 43% from COPD and 29% from lung cancer.
- Ambient air pollution caused around 4.2 million deaths in 2016, whereas household air pollution from cooking with polluting fuels triggered more than 3.8 million deaths in 2016.
- The maximum ambient air pollution levels are in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and in South-East Asia, followed by Africa and the Western Pacific.
- World Health Organisation has called upon associated nations in its Southeast Asia Areas to address the double load of household and ambient air pollution as the region, which comprises India, results into 34% premature deaths globally yearly.

Union Government releases draft of new Telecom policy on - 1st May 2018

The Union Government published the draft of a new Telecom policy- National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, on May 1st, 2018. The policy focuses to deliver broadband coverage with 50Mbps speed to every resident, attract USD 100 billion investment in the telecom sector and generate 40 lakh new jobs by 2022.

Important Highlights



- Policy Goals The fresh telecom policy draft focuses to make sure universal broadband coverage at 50Mbps to every resident.
- It proposes to provide One Gbps speed to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps speed by 2022.
- It also suggests to address the woes of the Telecom sector by rereading licence fees, spectrum usage charges, and universal service obligation fund charge for enhancing ease of performing trade in the sector.
- It also suggests aim to fascinate investments worth USD 100 billion in the digital com sector by 2022.
- Further, the policy understands the reputation of continued improvement in the regulatory framework for attracting investments and making sure fair-minded competition, to serve the requirements of the people.
- It focuses to attract long-duration, high-quality and sustainable funds, given the sector's capital-intensive nature.

In-flight mobile connectivity in Indian airspace approved by - Telecom Commission

The high-powered inter-ministerial Telecom Commission, led by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan, passed in-flight mobile connectivity in Indian aeroplanes on May 1st, 2018, therefore, permitting people to make phone calls and practice internet services in flights over Indian airspace. Telecom Commission's sanction comes months after the telecom regulator TRAI suggested for in-flight mobile telephony and internet services.

In-Flight Connectivity

- The Internet and Mobile Communication on Aircraft service will be allowed as In-Flight Connectivity in the Indian airspace.
- The Mobile Communication on Aircraft facilities will be allowable with atleast height

limit of 3000m in Indian airspace for its compatibility with earthly mobile networks.

- Now, the government will work for generating the license for a special class of service providers known as 'In-flight connectivity provider'.

Significance

- The implementation of this action will improve the passenger experience, with passengers being capable to order products from their smartphones and laptops and having them transported to their homes on arrival at their destination.
- Through in-flight mobile connectivity, cabin crews will be able to assist travelers to alter their onward transit plans to lodge changes to their flight, while they are still in flight.

South Western Command conducts Exercise Vijay Prahar in - Rajasthan

South Western Command of Indian Army is directing 'Vijay Prahar' workout in Mahajan area close to Suratgarh, Rajasthan. In this workout, more than 20,000 troops are taking part with fighting apparatus for couple of weeks fine-tune joint efforts with the Indian Air Force.

Key Points

- The month duration workout is focused to orchestrate wide spectrum of threats which are deliberate to be undertaken through high tempo joint air and land procedure.
- It consists of hundreds of aircrafts, thousands of war-tanks and weaponry pieces supported by real time intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and logistic sustenance.
- The workout is being taken out to rehearsal troops in penetrative manoeuvres around the difficulty



ridden terrain under a nuclear parasol. In it, formations of South Western Command will be rehearsal and operationalising certain ground-breaking concepts of operating in network centric ecosystem.

- It will also organize integrated employment of modern sensors with weapon platforms, engagement of attacking helicopters in air-cavalry role and brave offensive of application of the Special Forces.
- The developments will refine their drills and processes for fighting in nuclear environment during course of the workout.

South Western Command

- The South Western Command of the Indian Army was founded in April 2005 and became completely operational on 15th August 2005. The command's operational components include I Corps, formerly under Central Command, and X Corps transferred from Western Command.

Hockey India appoints Harendra Singh as men's coach, Marijne to return to women's side on - 1st May 2018

Hockey India designated Harendra Singh as the chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team, on May 1st, 2018, replacing Sjoerd Marijne who will come back to his accountability as coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team.

Under Singh's leadership, the Indian women's team finished an impressive 4th at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. The Indian men's hockey team, however, had an unacceptable run at Commonwealth Games 2018, as the team lost to England in the bronze medal playoff match, ending without a medal for the 1st time since Commonwealth Games 2006.

More about Harendra Singh

- Harendra Singh characterized India during 1985 to 1991, playing 43 games before retiring at the age of 26.
- He joined to coaching in 1998 and has trained approximately 400 matches till date.
- Harendra Singh trained the Indian men's hockey side earlier from 2009-2011. He, however, resigned from the post following the poor performance of the team during the Azlan Shah Cup in 2011 where they ended 6th.
- In 2014, he was designated as the coach of Indian junior men's hockey team and had commanded the team to clinch the Junior World Cup in 2016.
- The junior team had also secured gold in the Asia Cup, the Eurasia Cup and the 4-Nation contest prior to the World Cup.
- Overall, under Singh's leadership, the senior and junior men's team collected 8 gold medals, 5 silvers and 9 bronzes in various international games.
- In 2012, Singh was commemorated with the highest sports coaching honour in the nation, Dronacharya Award.
- In November 2017, he was appointed as the chief coach of the women's hockey team after Marijne was named as the men's coach, replacing the sacked Roelant Oltmans.
- Under his training, the women's side that ended 12th at the Rio Olympics secured its 9th Asia Cup title in Japan, in 2017.

9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue held in - New Delhi

The ninth India Japan Energy Dialogue was organised in New Delhi. Both nations issued Joint Statement at final day of the meeting, approving to work together for energy security, energy access and climate change matters. The meeting was headed by Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and



Industry Hiroshige Sekosigned.

Key Highlights of Joint Statement

- Both nations decide to implement Nationally Determined Contributions under guidance of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- They documented reputation of development and deployment of next-generation technologies including hydrogen to understand de-carbonization.
- Both nations decided to work together for energy security, energy access and climate change concerns.
- They further established their commitment to work together to encourage transparent and diversified LNG market through lessening of destination clause.
- They also decided to start debate on Electric Vehicles and commit to work organized in promoting well-functioning energy markets.

President to preside over PM-headed panel on - Gandhi 150th birth Anniversary

President Ram Nath Kovind will control over 1st meeting of National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019. The committee is led by PM Narendra Modi and has 114 memberships on board including Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, former PMs and Chief Justice of India, Lok Sabha Speaker, members of union cabinet, political party leaders, CMs, Gandhians, spiritual gurus and social workers among others.

Key Points

- The 114 members committee will deliberate policies, plans and preparatory activities for memorial of birthday.

○ Its references will be considered for implementation by government.

○ The Ministry of Culture will be nodal ministry for festivities. CMs of different states, leaders of various political parties, Gandhians, spiritual leaders and social workers are believed to witness the meeting.

Did you know?

The birthday of father of the nation will be honoured from 2 October, 2019 - 2 October, 2020. Many programmes are designed to organised at both national and international level to spread message of Mahatma Gandhi. In 2018-19 budget suggestions, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had reserved Rupees 150 crore for the celebrations.

India, US hold round 3 of Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa on - 30th April and 1st May 2018

India and USA organised the 3rd round of the India-United States Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa from April 30th -May 1st , 2018 focussing on collaboration and progress in the Indo-Pacific region

Key Points

- During the 3rd round of dialogue, both sides deliberated progresses in maritime domain in Indo-Pacific Region and interchanged opinions on ways to further fortify bilateral maritime security collaboration.
- They also studied implementation of decisions booked during the earlier Maritime Security Dialogues.
- The next round of the dialogue will be organised in the United States on mutually convenient dates.

Did you know?



- United States has been forcing for broader role by India in strategically significant Indo-Pacific region.
- United States President Donald Trump had laid out his South Asia policy informing serious part of it was to further advance United States' strategic partnership with India. In June 2016, United States had elected India Major Defence Partner intending to raise defence trade and technology sharing with India to level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.
- India, United States and several other world powers counting have been talking about necessity to ensure free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.
- In November 2017, United States, India, Australia and Japan had specified shape to long pending Quadrilateral alliance to advance new strategy to retain the critical sea routes in Indo-Pacific free of Chinese influence.
- The regulation will replace Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Bill which is awaited in Parliament.
- It will carry down specified charge of commercial dispute to Rupees three lakh from the current Rupees one crore. It also focuses to bring down time taken from the current 1,445 days in resolution of commercial disputes of minor value.
- The modifications through ordinance delivers for founding of commercial courts at district judge level for grounds over which High Courts Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and HP have ordinary original civil authority.
- The regulation will be providing potential effect so that specialist of the judicial forum currently adjudicating profitable disputes is not affected.

Ordinance to amend law for speedy disposal of commercial disputes approved by - Cabinet

The Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi has sanctioned promulgation of Ordinance amend a law for fast disposal of commercial disputes. This decision focuses to advance India's position in World Bank's comfort of doing business directory. The directory takes into consideration argument resolution environment in nation, which simplifies investors in deciding for setting-up of and operation of a business.

Key Points

Cabinet approved setting up of 20 AIIMS in - Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

The Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi has sanctioned plan to form 20 AIIMS around the nation and advancement of 73 medical colleges. The decisions are part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, which has been prolonged by 2 years till 2020 with monetary outlay of Rupees 14,832 crores.

Key Points

- The decision to spread Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana is focused at fulfilling shortcomings in healthcare professionals and accommodations across the nation.
- Forming new AIIMS in various states under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana will renovate health education and training and



also assist to address shortcoming of healthcare professionals.

- It will result into employment generation for about 3,000 people in various faculty and non-faculty positions in each of AIIMS. 6 of 20 AIIMS have already been Formed.
 - The creation of new AIIMS will be completely funded by Central government and it will also tolerate operations and maintenance expenses of these facilities.
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana was declared in 2003. Its aims are correcting regional imbalances in availability of cheap and trusted tertiary healthcare services and expand facilities for quality medical education in the nation.
 - It is sponsored from various centrally supported schemes concerned to creating healthcare infrastructure.

• Cabinet doubles investment limit for senior citizens under which plan – PMVVY

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned doubling of investment edge from Rupees 7.5 lakh to Rupees fifteen lakhs under PMVVY. It also stretched time limits for subscription from May 2018-March, 2020.

These decisions were granted as part of Government promise to financial inclusion and social security. It will enhance social security creativities for senior citizens and enable them up to Rupees 10,000 monthly pension.

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana focuses to provide social security during old age and safeguard elderly persons aged 60 years and more than that against a future fall in their interest income due to indefinite market conditions. It is applied through LIC. The

intended beneficiaries of the plan are elderly persons aged 60 years and more than that.

The plan provides a confirmed pension grounded on a guaranteed rate of return of 8 per cent annually for 10 years, with a choice to choose for pension on monthly, quarterly or half yearly and annual basis. The differential return of return produced by Life Insurance Corporation of India and confirmed return of 8 per cent annually is borne by Government as subsidy on annual basis.

Restructuring of Indian Bureau of Mines approved by – Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned restructuring of Indian Bureau of Mines by upgradation, formation and abolition of certain positions of Joint Secretary-level and above than that. Decision in this regard was directed at Union Cabinet Meeting led by PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Background

The Union Ministry of Mines had established Committee for comprehensive 'Review and Restructuring of Functions and Role of Indian Bureau of Mines' in the light of 'National Mineral Policy' 2008. The Committee presented its report in 2012 which was recognized by the Ministry.

Key Points

The restructuring will assist Indian Bureau of Mines to effectively release its function to benefit reform and transform the regulation of the mineral sector. It will enable Indian Bureau of Mines to adopt IT and space technology Indian Bureau of Mines to upgrade its effectiveness in mineral regulation and progress. Further, it will involve great deal of decision-making and responsibility in functioning of Indian Bureau of Mines. The upgraded and enhanced performance of Indian Bureau of Mines through restructuring will benefit the mining sector.



Indian Bureau of Mines

Indian Bureau of Mines was formed by Central Government in March, 1948 under Ministry of Works, Mines and Power. It is multi-disciplinary government unit involved in promotion of conservation, scientific progress of mineral resources and defence of environment in mines other than coal, atomic minerals, petroleum & natural gas and minor minerals. It is HD located at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Cabinet approves accession to WHO protocol to eliminate illicit trade in - Tobacco products

The Union Cabinet has approved the consent to Protocol under World Health Organization Framework Convention on tobacco control to remove illicit trade in tobacco goods.

It will be appropriate to both smoking and chewing as negotiated and accepted under Article 15 of World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. India is a party to World Health Organization FCTC.

Features of Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products :

It lays down responsibilities on parties and spells-out supply chain control measures that must be accepted by parties while licensing producers of tobacco products and machinery for production of tobacco items. It mainly handles those who are engaged in manufacturing, tracking and outlining regime, record keeping and security. It also spells-out actions to be taken by those involved in e-commerce, production in free-trade zones and duty-free sales. It publishes offences, enforcement measures, for instance, seizures and discarding seized products. It calls for international coordination in information

sharing, maintaining, training, technical help and coordination in scientific and technical and technological issues.

Importance :

The protocol is path-breaking creativity in fortifying global action against tobacco. It is also new legal tool in public health. It is wide-ranging tool to counter and ultimately remove illegal business in tobacco products and fortifying legal dimensions for international health assistance.

View Pension Passbook Service on Umang App launched by - EPFO

Retirement fund body EPFO has initiated View Pension Passbook Service for pensioners on Umang

Application. This facility was initiated part of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's plan to proceed paperless by August this year and deliver all services online. It will permit pensioners view their pension passbook on mobiles with the assistance of Umang application. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is already giving various e-services for its shareholders via Umang. Umang app

Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance-

- UMANG app goals to develop common, unified platform and mobile phone app to ease single point of access for government services through mobile phone. It is multi-utility application and integrates with other main government services of Aadhaar, Rapid Assessment System, DigiLocker and Bharat Bill Payment System and many more and supports thirteen Indian languages.
- It has been established by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and



National e-Governance Division. It had secured Best m-Government Service Award for Accessible Government Category at World Government Summit 2018.

Employee Provident Fund Organisation

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is Union Government's constitutional body that works under the guidance of Ministry of Labour and Employment. It is HQ in New Delhi.
- It is one of largest social security organisations in India in terms volume of financial transactions undertaken and number of enclosed beneficiaries. It orders compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and Insurance Scheme (1976).

Warning of another dust storm in UP, Rajasthan issued by - Meteorological Department

Indian Meteorological Department has released warning of another dust-storm and thunder-storm in parts of UP and Rajasthan. The satellite pictures have revealed wind pressure developing in 2 states leading to thunder-storms, gusty winds and heavy rain. It also has predicted thunderstorm along with squall is also more likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha. The new warning comes after 2 north Indian states were previous hit severe dust storm, which took lives of over 100 people and left trail of destruction.

Reasons for formation of rainstorms and duststorms

- Thunderstorms and dust-storms produced from similar meteorological conditions.

- They are almost always headed and caused by spell of forceful heat. Thunder-storms occur when atmosphere has moisture and dust-storms occurs when moisture is absent. Such events take place due to local instability arising out of deviation from simple temperature difference between upper and lower atmosphere.
- In recent time rainstorms and dust-storms cases in UP and Rajasthan, moist easterly winds from Bay of Bengal stretched up to Himachal Pradesh colluded with dry winds from north-westerly direction.
- The two systems destabilised equilibrium temperature difference between upper and lower layers of atmosphere, leading to conducive conditions for thunderstorm and dust-storms. The final start, however, is development of largescale air-circulation system.
- Many parts of India witness build-up of surface heat during present time of year. The places that were hit by current storms had seen heat-wave like conditions.

200th Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreement inked by - CBDT

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has entered into 200th Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreement after it inked one in April 2018. With the inking of this, Central Board of Direct Taxes has achieved another milestone of having signed its 200th UAPA. The total number of Advance Pricing Agreements entered into by Central Board of Direct Taxes so far has gone up to 220, which include 20 Bilateral APAs. The UAPA entered in April, 2018 pertains to provision of sourcing support services.

Advance Pricing Agreement



- Advance Pricing Agreement scheme released by Government endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in domain of transfer pricing by stipulating methods of pricing and setting prices of international transactions in advance. Its distribution was introduced in Income-tax Act, 1961 in 2012 and Rollback provisions to it were introduced in 2014.
- The scheme gives certainty to MNCs that decide on certain principles in valuation of their cross-border transactions.
- It also facilitated them with substitute dispute resolution mechanism with respect to transfer pricing.
- It benefits in determining length price of international transactions in advance for max period of five coming years.
- The scheme focuses fortify Government's resolution of fostering non-adversarial tax regime.
- It has meaningfully contributed towards refining ease of doing business in India and has been treasured nationally and internationally for being capable to address complex transfer pricing matters in a fair and transparent way.

• Simplified return filing process approved by - GST Council

One monthly Return allow all taxpayers to file single monthly return. Tax Return filing dates will be blowout over a period of time, grounded on the turnover of the recorded person. The configuration dealers having zero transaction will have to file quarterly return. Unidirectional Flow of invoices will require seller to upload one directional flow of invoices anytime in the month. This would be observed as the valid document to enjoy input tax credit by the buyer. Buyer would be able to check the uploaded invoices uninterruptedly

during the month. Simple Return design and easy IT interface where the B2B dealers will need to file invoice-wise particulars of the outward supply accomplished by them, based on which, the system will inevitably analyze his tax liability. Taxpayer will also be issued with user-friendly IT interface and offline IT instrument to upload the invoices. No automatic reversal of credit of input tax credit from buyers on non-payment of tax by the vender. In case of default in payment of tax by the vender, retrieval will be accomplished from the seller. Due process for recovery and reversal of tax will be done via a due process of releasing notice and order. There will be a 3-stage transition in the fresh system. Stage-1 will be the current system of filing of return GSTR 3B and GSTR 1. GSTR 2 and GSTR 3 shall endure to be suspended. In stage-2, the fresh return will have the provision to upload invoice-wise information and also provision for claiming input tax credit on self-declaration base.

India ranked 11th by - FDI Confidence Index 2018

India was ranked at 11th place in the FDI Confidence Index 2018 published by global consultancy firm A T Kearney. It has dropped down by 3 notches in 2018 as it was positioned 8th in 2017 and 9th in 2016. This is 1st time India fell out of the top ten since 2015.

Key Points

- Top ten nations in FDI Confidence Index 2018 are US at 1st, Canada at 2nd, Germany at 3rd, UK at 4th, China at 5th, Japan at 6th, France at 7th, Australia at 8th, Switzerland at 9th and Italy at 10 th place.
- United States has topped position for the 6th year in a continuation mainly due to similar confidence result of its large market, robust



and sustained economic development and recent commercial tax cuts.

- Switzerland and Italy have come in the top ten positions for the 1st time in over decade.
- Asia Pacific region: Investor preference for the region outlook to have decreased slightly with only 7 Asian nations give the impression on 2018 FDI Confidence Index.
- Emerging markets: This year marks an all-time low for the portion of emerging markets on index. Just 4 emerging markets have give the impression among top 25 nations like China, India, Mexico, and Brazil.
- This proposes that self-assurance in investing in specific emerging markets has decreased.

India: The fall in India's rank may be due few policies such as trials faced in implementation 2017

countrywide GST and 2016 demonetisation actions which disturbed business movement and weighed on economic development which has discouraged investors sentiments in short-term.

FDI Confidence Index

The FDI index is an annual examination of how political, economic, and regulatory alterations will likely affect FDI inflows into nations in forthcoming years. It is built using primary information from proprietary survey administered to older executives of world's leading companies. Corporations taking part in survey have yearly revenues of \$500 million or above.

World Press Freedom Day celebrated on - 3rd May 2018

May 3rd was observed as World Press Freedom Day on year basis to observe fundamental principles of press freedom and to assess freedom of press across the world. It works as event to defend media from attacks on their independence and to pay

honour to journalists who had lost their lives during their profession.

The theme for year 2018 was 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law'. It lime-lights reputation of enabling legal environment for press freedom and delivers special care to role of independent judiciary in guaranteeing legal assurances for freedom of press and prosecution of criminalities against journalists. It also addresses role of media in supportable development, during elections for encouraging transparency, responsibility and law rule. It also explores legislative breaks with regard to freedom of express and data online, and dangers of regulating online speech.

More about World Press Freedom Day

- UNs General Assembly in December 1993 announced the World Press Freedom Day, after the endorsement accepted at 26-Session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991.
- This endorsement was an answer to a call given by African journalists who in 1991 shaped landmark Windhoek Declaration on media pluralism and freedom.
- Since that date 3rd May, is celebrated as anniversary of Declaration of Windhoek and is celebrated internationally as World Press Freedom Day.
- Celebration of day delivers option to observe fundamental principles of press freedom; defend media from outbreaks on their freedom; evaluate state of press freedom all over the world and pay honor to journalists who died in line of duty.

Online professional development



programme for faculty launched by - HRD Ministry

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has initiated a chief and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher-education staff using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM. In the 1st phase of the initiative, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres have been recognized. As per to an official Ministry announcement, centres under the Ministry's Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching situated in Central Universities, IITs, NITs, State Universities, University Grant Commission's Human Resource Development Centres, NITTT, IIITs, Open Universities and other institutions have been notified as National Resource Centres.

Key Highlights

- The National Resource Centres have been provided task with designing online training material with main focus on current progresses in the discipline, new and emerging inclinations, pedagogical developments and methods for transacting reviewed curriculum.
- The centres will cover wide disciplines including social sciences, sciences, engineering and technology, design and manufacturing, humanities, language learning, commerce and management, education planning and administration and public policy.
- The initiative will advantage the faculty, as it would be extremely elastic and can be done at one's own speed and time.
- Under the initiative, all working teachers, keeping apart their subject and seniority, will have the chance to be modernized with the latest growths in their disciplines through the online refresher course.
- The National Resource Centres will advance the Refresher Module which will have the

current trends in their earmarked discipline by June 15th every year.

NITI Aayog, IBM sign SoI to develop crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence on - 4th May 2018

NITI Aayog and IBM inked a Statement of Intent on May 4th, 2018 to advance a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence to deliver real-time advisory to agriculturalists in aspirational districts. The Statement of Intent was inked in the presence of CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant and Karan Bajwa, MD IBM India. Talking on the progress, Amitabh Kant informed that bringing in future technologies including Artificial Intelligence into real-world usage will have wonderful advantages for the agriculture practice in the nation, refining efficiency in resource-use, crop productions and scientific farming. The 10 ambitious districts selected will be revitalized with cutting-edge technological support to the leap-frog progress of agriculture-based economies.

Main

Objective

The main objective of the contract is to enable collaboration in the usage of technology to provide insights to farmers to advance crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the predominant goal of improving farmers' profits.

Key Highlights

- The 1st phase of the project will aim on emerging the model for ten ambitious districts across the states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and UP.
- The possibility of the project is to announce and make available climate aware of reasoning



farming techniques and classifying systems of crop monitoring.

- It also has weather advisory development, rich satellite and improved weather forecast data along with IT and mobile apps with a aim on refining the crop outcome and price savings through better farm management.

Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme to be organised by - Social Justice Ministry

DEPwD(The deptt. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities which is the part of Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organised a 'Cochlear Implant Awareness Programme' on 6th May 2018 at HUDA Convention Centre in Faridabad, Haryana.

More about Cochlear Implant

- It is surgically implanted electronic device providing sound to even severely deaf people.
- It is expected to be a great help who are deaf and because of that they can't even speak.
- With the help of this device , children will be able to speak normally and hear things normally.

GST Council approves conversion of GST Network into government holding on - 4th May 2018

The GST Council permitted the ownership change of Goods and Services Tax Network structure into a government holding on 4 th May, 2018. The GST council permitted changing of the IT backbone providing company to the GST into a government-retained entity from being a private company. The conclusion was taken at the end of the 27th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax council when Finance Minister

Arun Jaitley declared that the government would be taking over the stakes held in Goods and Services Tax Network by private entities.

Key Highlights

- Till date, 24.5% of Goods and Services Tax Network was retained by the central government and a same fraction was detained by the state governments collectively.
- The remaining 51% was retained by 5-private financial institutions including HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd, National Stock Exchange Strategic Investment Co and Life Insurance Corporation Housing Finance Ltd.
- The council has settled to a suggestion of buying out the stake of private articles to make Goods and Services Tax Network a government-retained entity.
- After the move, the central government will own 50% stake of Goods and Services Tax Network and the balance 50% would be collectively detained by the state governments.
- The collective share of state governments will be pro-rata, separated among states according to their Goods and Services Tax ratios.
- However, the GSTN board shall be permitted to continue the present staff at current terms and conditions for a time period up to 5 years and shall have the elasticity of hiring people on contractual basis as similar to those utilised by GST Network till date while hiring regular employees.

First organised census of Indus Dolphins has begun - in Punjab

Punjab government along World Wildlife Fund- India are directing 1st organised census of Indus Dolphins, one of the world's fewest mammals found only in India and Pakistan. The planned census focuses at conservation of the species.

Key Points

- The 1st planned census will be held over period of 5 days in 185 kilometres area between Talwara



and Harike Barrage in Beas River in Punjab were riverine fresh water Indus Dolphins are kept.

- It will be led 2 joint teams of Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab and World Wildlife Fund-India.
- Its chief focus is to begin accurate population of dolphins in order to plan out their conservation.

Indus Dolphin

- Indus Dolphin is subspecies of freshwater river dolphin present in Indus river and its Beas and Sutlej tributaries, flowing through India and Pakistan.
- It is national mammal of Pakistan. It is an important indicator species of river’s health.
- Its occurrence is considered as healthy river. Indus dolphin like Ganges River dolphin is functionally blind and depends up on echolocation to navigate, communicate and hunt prey in muddy-river water.
- Only 1,816 Indus dolphins are described to remain presently in lower parts of Indus River.
- They are patchily spread in 5 small, sub-populations that are detached by irrigation barrages across course of Indus river.
- Their numbers have decreased intensely after construction of irrigation system. It is registered by the IUCN as scarce on its Red List of Threatened Species.
- Indus Dolphin was also found in Sutlej years back, but due to pollution in river its existence is on extinction in the river.

China launched communication satellite : APSTAR-6C

China effectively released “APSTAR-6C”, a new communication satellite into orbit. It was released onboard of Long March-3B transporter rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center. This was total 273rd mission of Long March rocket sequence. Both satellite and rocket were established by China Aerospace Science and Technology

Corporation.

More about APSTAR-6C

- The operator of APSTAR-6C satellite is Hong Kong grounded APT Satellite Co. Ltd. With its effective launch, it joins fleet of 4 fully operational satellites be in the right place to APT Satellite Co. It will replace the in-orbit Apstar-6 satellite.
- The Apstar-6C satellite is founded on DFH-4 platform. It is loaded with forty-five transponders in C, Ku, and Ka bands, with calculated service life of fifteen years.
- The satellite will deliver TV transmission, Internet, communication and multimedia services to users across Asia-Pacific region.
- It will also deliver extreme-power transponder services for video circulation, broadband Internet Access and Mobile phone backhaul.

InSight Spacecraft launched by - NASA

NASA launched the Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) Spacecraft to study the Mars’ deep interior on 5th May 2018. The InSight Spacecraft was launched on the Atlas V rocket of the United Launch Alliance (ULA) from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, USA.

After this launch it has been marked as NASA’s first interplanetary launch from the US West Coast.

Border Roads Organisation celebrated 58th Raising Day on - 7th May 2018

BRO observed its 58th Raising Day on 7th May 2018. Border Roads Organisation is leading government organisation in ground of infrastructural development in the border areas of the nation. Since its beginning in 1960, it has expanded from two to nineteen projects. The works performed by it have



guaranteed territorial integrity and socio-economic rise in of most unreachable areas of nation.

More about Border Roads Organisation

- o Border Roads Organisation plays important role in construction, maintenance and upgradation of strategic infrastructure in far and remote border areas of India.
- o It also advances and maintains road-networks in friendly neighbouring nations. It works under Defence Ministry and it was recognized on 7th May 1960 and is HQ in New Delhi.
- o Officers from Border Roads Engineering Service and staffs from General Reserve Engineer Force form parent cadre of Border Roads Organisation.
- o It is also operated by generals and troops drawn from Indian Army’s Engineers Corps, Army Service Corps, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and army workers on extra regimental employment.

India to host 15th Asia Media Summit from - May 10 to 12th 2018

India is going to organise 15th Asia Media Summit- AMS 2018 in New Delhi from May 10th-12th, 2018.

The summit is being hosted by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development in partnership with its partners and worldwide organisations.

Key Points

- o The subject of the yearly summit is ‘Telling our Stories- Asia and More’.
- o It focuses to deliver unique options for broadcasters in Asia to portion their thoughts on broadcasting and information.
- o It will be witnessed by media specialists, scholars, policy-makers and shareholders of news and programming from Asia, Pacific, Africa, Europe, Middle-East and North America will take part in the annual conference.

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

- o Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development is regional inter-governmental organisation servicing nations of UNs Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the area of electronic media development.
- o It was recognized in 1977 under sponsorships of UNESCO.
- o It is presented by Government of Malaysia and its secretariat is situated in Kuala Lumpur.
- o The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development is mandated to attain vibrant and cohesive electronic media environment in Asia-Pacific area via policy and resource progress.
- o Presently, it consists of 26 full members nations, represented by 34 associations and 67 Affiliate Members and more than 50 associates in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa and North America.

Hidden reserves of water ice discovered under surface of moon by - Tohoku University

Researchers from Tohoku University, Japan have discovered mineral known as moganite in lunar meteorite that indicates to occurrence of plentiful hidden reserves of water-ice beneath the surface of the moon. The mineral found in a desert in north-west Africa could be potentially beneficial for future human exploration of moon.

Key Points

- o Moganite is a crystal of silicon dioxide. It is recognized to form on earth in specific situations in sedimentary settings from alkaline fluids. It was, till date, never spotted in samples of lunar rock.



- Scientists trust that mineral designed on surface of moon in area called Procellarum Terrane due to the originally present water in lunar dirt that had evaporated due to acquaintance to strong sunlight.
- But in the subsurface, plenty of water remains in the form of ice.

Key peptide to develop a vaccine for leptospirosis identified by - Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre

Scientists from Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Gandhinagar have effectively identified key peptide that can be utilised to produce a new preventive vaccine against leptospirosis. In their observation, scientists had recognized peptide sequences that could stick to vaccine for long-lasting immune response.

Key Points

- The scientists had utilised bioinformatics approach to study complete protein pattern of bacteria
- Leptospira inter organs important peptide and tapering search to single effective immunogenic protein.
- This protein was located to be present in almost all serovars of bacteria and can be effective vaccine candidate in contradiction to most other serovars.
- They had forecasted the ability to sticking to antibody present on T cells and B cells for inducing immune response.
- Among these proteins, they had further found to identify outer membrane proteins which play crucial roles in interaction between bacteria and their host. Then they searched for sites on human T-cells and B-cells where antigen could bind. The proof of identity of

target sites is important step in vaccine design.

Leptospirosis

- Leptospirosis is an emerging tropical infectious bacterial illness that affects humans and animals.
- It caused by bacteria known as Leptospira. It results into almost 60,000 deaths yearly, globally.
- The bacteria can be communicated via exposure to contaminated water, soil, direct contact with reservoirs hosts like wild or domestic animals.
- In humans, it can result into a wide range of symptoms including simple headaches, muscle pains, and fevers to severe with bleeding from the lungs or meningitis.
- Presently there is no preventive vaccination for humans that are available in market.

Vladimir Putin sworn in as Russian President for fourth time on - 7th May 2018

Vladimir Putin took oath as the President of Russia for 4th time in the Grand Kremlin Palace, Moscow on May 7th, 2018. With this, Putin will now be working in the office of President for another 6 years. However, the Russian constitution bars him from running once again for the elections after the conclusion of his new term in 2024. Now, Putin has the right to nominate his preferred candidate for the position of Prime Minister.

Russian Presidential Elections 2018

Important Highlights

- Putin's 4th term comes after he earned the presidential elections in March 2018 with 76% of the votes to his name.
- He defeated Communist Party candidate Pavel Grudinin, who got 11.8% votes.



- Other names in the presidential race were Vladimir Zhirinovsky of the LDPR who got 5.66% votes,
- TV presenter Ksenia Sobchak who received 1.67% votes and Grigory Yavlinsky who got just over one% votes.
- Vladimir Putin's political career Putin was a previous agent for the Russian spy agency KGB, who came out as Russia's PM in 1999 and he became temporary President of Russia in December 1999.
- He took over the presidency at the age of 47 in March 2000 and continue to secure his second term victory in 2004.
- After working the 2nd term, Putin was banded from running for a 3rd successive term by the Russian constitution, but as an alternative he became the PM and he assisted from 2008-2012.
- If his stint as PM during 2008 to 2012 is counted, he is Russia's longest ever ruling leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, who was in ruling for 31 years.
- He completed his graduate from the International Law branch of the Law Department of the Leningrad State University.

Android Things for IoT platform launched by - Google

Alphabet Inc's giant Google released Android Things, which is a variant of Android operating system for Internet of Things gadgets including smart home appliances and other smart machines. Its objective is to enable Internet of Things machines designers to be made faster, inexpensive and more secure.

More about Android Things

- It is Android-based embedded operating system platform established by Google.

- It is intended to be used with less-power and memory constrained Internet of Things gadgets, which are usually built from different microcontroller unit platforms.
- Android Things as an Internet of Things Operating System it is intended to work as low as 32-64 megabytes of RAM.
- It will support Bluetooth Low Energy and WiFi. Google also presented Weave protocol along with Android Things, which will be utilised by these gadgets, will utilise to communicate with others.
- Every Android gadget can robotically recognize any Weave API grounded device.
- Subscribers can select a device, form it and utilise it immediately.

3rd edition of UNPCAP held in New Delhi from - 7th May - 25th May 2018

The 3rd edition of UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners was organised in New Delhi from May 7 th -25th, 2018. The course was directed by Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India in corporation with USA.

Key Points

- UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners-03 was focused at building and enhancing capacity of the African Troop Contributing Countries to United Nations and to further train instructors from these nations.
- The students who took part in this 2-week course included officers who are currently employed in their individual peacekeeping training centres.
- These African military majors will in turn train troops in their individual nations. The 1st and



2nd editions of the course were organised in New Delhi in 2016 and 2017.

- These courses are being seen as milestone in many ways at international forum, which also reflect India.

India and UN Peacekeeping

- India is the biggest troop contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions that are authorized to preserve stability and exchange peace settlement in turbulent areas worldwide.
- So far India has delivered almost 200,000 troops in nearly 50 of 71 United Nations peacekeeping missions over last 6 decades, including 13 of present 16 missions.

Atomic clock for indigenous navigation satellites developed by - ISRO

The ISRO has advanced an atomic clock that will be utilised in navigation satellites to measure precise location information. Till date, the space agency has been importing the atomic clocks for its navigation satellites from the European aerospace producer Astrium. All 7 navigation satellites, which have been released earlier as part of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, have 3 imported Rubidium atomic clocks each.

Highlights of ISRO's atomic clock

- The atomic clock has been advanced by Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre and is presently undergoing a series of qualification tests.
- Once tested effectively, the atomic clock will be utilised in an experimental navigation satellite to check its accuracy and durability in space.
- With the progress of the atomic clock, Indian Space Research Organisation has become one of the few space organisations in the world that are capable to develop this highly cultured

technology.

Key Objective

- Navigation satellite is secure with 3 atomic clocks. Besides atomic clocks, a navigation satellite also contains crystal clocks but they are not as much as accurate as atomic clocks.
- The time difference among the atomic clocks of various satellites located at various orbits is utilised to calculate the exact positioning of a navigation receiver on the Earth.
- As nine of the 21 atomic clocks utilised in already released 7 navigation satellites are reflecting error, therefore, Indian Space Research Organisation deliberated to release 4 backup navigation satellites to retain the NaVIC effective.
- These backup satellites, will enhance buffer to the nation's GPS system.

Packaged food labels to display if they contain GM ingredients by - FSSAI

The FSSAI projected on May 8 th , 2018 that all packaged food products containing Genetically Modified contents should clearly mention it on their labels. In its 42 pages draft notification subjected 'Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018', Food Safety and Standards Authority of India announced for making it compulsory to label food items as 'Ingredients derived from GMO', if the items contain 5% and above Genetically Modified ingredients. The authority will officially notify the necessities for implementation after carefully analysing the shareholders' views on the issue.

Highlights of the draft notification

- The food regulator also recommended for mandatory announcement by packaged food producers about nutritional information including calories, total fat, trans fats, sugar



and salt per serving on the front side of the pack.

- The draft terrains for a colour code, suggests that the high fats, sugar, salt and trans-fats content should be coloured as 'red' if the value of energy from them is above 10% of the total energy in the 100gms or 100ml of the product.
- It will ease consumers to know about the nutritional value of food products and will assist them in making choices according to their needs.

India to host 15th Asia Media Summit in - New Delhi

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in partnership with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, would be presenting the 15th Asia Media Summit in New Delhi from May 10th-12th, 2018. The Union Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani would be governing over the introductory ceremony of the summit as the Chief Guest on May 10th.

Key Highlights

- The summit would be planned in 2 parts pre-summit workshop 8th-9th and summit from 10th-12th.
- It is believed to witness participants from ministries responsible for information and broadcasting in the Asian region, international organizations including UNESCO, FAO, United Nations, radio and television broadcasting firms and broadcast equipment producers.
- It goals to inspire regional and bilateral talks and association to respond to tasks to the broadcasting sector in the region.
- It would deliver a unique option for broadcasters in the Asian sector to share their

thoughts on software and hardware aspects of Broadcasting.

- It would also deliver openings for networking, facilities for business to business meetings and potential conversion of these conferences into employment and economic relations after the summit.

Agenda

- The agenda of the summit would have plenary sessions on media regulation policies: ethics, rules and laws and our exciting tales.
- Similar sessions would be organised on Asian values as broadcasting subjects.
- In the final session, World Television Awards 2018 would be given by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.
- The concluding ceremony would see the handing over of the stick for hosting the upcoming summit to Philippines.

SoI inked with Google to help grow AI ecosystem in India by - NITI Aayog

The NITI Aayog has inked SoI with search engine giant Google to work collectively to boost growth for India's nascent artificial intelligence and machine learning ecosystem,

Key Points

- Under the guidance of this program, Google will train and incubate Indian Artificial Intelligence start-ups in accelerator program.
- These start-ups will be mentored and taught by Google and its affiliates to enable them to healthier leverage Artificial Intelligence in their individual business models.
- Moreover, Indian scientists, scholars and university faculty will be sponsored to assist bolster research ecosystem for conducting Artificial Intelligence-based research.



- Further, Google will also come with its online training programmes on Artificial Intelligence to students, graduates and engineers to various cities across India.
- Google will also organise hands-on training programmes to sensitise representatives and technical experts in governments about applicable Artificial Intelligence tools, and to utilise them for streamlining governance.
- Under this partnership, NITI Aayog and Google will equally organize AI-hackathon that will be attentive on solving important challenges within healthcare, education, agriculture, financial, transportation and mobility etc.

Did you know?

- NITI Aayog has been commended to form national programme to organise Research and Development in frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.
- NITI Aayog has been progressing India's national strategy on Artificial Intelligence along with National Data and Analytics Portal to enable wide deployment and usage of Artificial Intelligence.

UN Chief Antonio Guterres announces to hold climate summit in - September 2019

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres proclaimed on May 8th, 2018 to celebrate a climate summit in September 2019 in New York, for the reevaluation of the promises of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The declaration was made at the inaugural ceremony of the 37th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Seeing that the effects of climate change

remain spreading around the world, the United Nations Chief pressed for the requirement to adopt collective actions to deal with it. He also stressed that the fresh plans must be grounded on investing in resilient progress with less carbon emissions.

In March 2018, Guterres selected former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action who was provided task to support the UN in its climate strategy and in holding the 2019 summit.

US withdrawal from Paris Agreement on Climate Change

- President Donald Trump on June 1st, 2017 declared to withdraw the US from the landmark 2015 Paris agreement to fight climate change.
- Donald Trump supposed that the Paris agreement would weaken the United States economy, United States jobs cost and weaken the American national authority.
- The USA was one among 195 countries that had decided to sign the agreement in December 2015.

RED CROSS DAY celebrated globally on - 8th May 2018

World Red Cross day is celebrated every year as the birthday of originator of the Red Cross on 8 th of May. Henry Dunant was the originator of the Red Cross and the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross, born in the Geneva in the year 1828. He was very famous personality and also received first Nobel Peace Prize. World Red Cross Day is a yearly programme, observing the principles of "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement". It is observed annually to pay honour to the volunteers that took part in the event and welcome their priceless input for helping people in necessity.



World Red Cross Day is observed by all the segments of the Red Cross administrations to assist people by keeping in front it's all essential principles including humanity, independence, neutrality, universality, charitable and unity. It is celebrated to give relief and peace to the injured people to during any kind of the disasters.

WORLD RED CROSS DAY HISTORY

- Red Cross was announced as a major contribution to the peace after the World War-I by an international directive at 14th International Meeting of the Red Cross.
- The philosophies of the Red Cross Truce were accessible and agreed on 15 th International Conference at Tokyo in the year 1934.
- The likelihood of its yearly observation was asked to the League of the Red Cross Societies by the International Federation of the Red Cross Societies General Assembly and just two-years later the suggestion of observing this day yearly was accepted and was 1st observed as the Red Cross Day on 8 th of May in 1948.
- It benefits in initiating active efforts around the world to decrease casual death rate due to epidemic illnesses and battlefields.
- It permits its members, civil societies and other local communities to issue instant response to the health disasters in the vulnerable situations.
- Geneva agreements assist in monitoring the compliance of warring parties and it benefits in the treatment for war-prisoners and assist in finding the missing persons during war.
- It also benefits protection and nursing care to the people in civil populations.

Global retail mega Walmart formally inked a definitive contract to acquire 77% share in Flipkart with an investment of approximate USD 16 billion, on May 9th , 2018. The deal will worth Flipkart at around USD 20.8 billion, increase from its earlier evaluation of USD 12 billion. Of the final deal amount of USD 16 billion, USD two billion will be fresh equity funding, while the balance will be used to buy share from present investors including Softbank, Naspers and co-founder Sachin Bansal.

Important Highlights

- With this deal, Walmart focuses to transform Flipkart into a publicly-listed and major retained subsidiary in the future.
 - The Walmart and Flipkart deal is possibly the biggest in the e-commerce space and is expected to effect the complete segment, be it the participants or the consumers.
 - The deal has created a worried with the small vendors, who terror of being wiped off from the market.
 - Walmart has a status of finishing small businesses with its most-low prices.
 - If Walmart brings in its own private labels on Flipkart, it might make it difficult for rest of the vendors to operate. This major concern was shared by the All India Online Vendors Association, which has 3500 vendors on large platforms like Flipkart and Amazon.
- ### **Positive side of the deal**
- Walmart's investment will profit India in terms of quality and reasonable goods for customers, creation of new jobs and fresh options for small vendors, farmers and women entrepreneurs.
 - Walmart's investment in Flipkart will give an edge to Flipkart to contend with sellers like Amazon.
 - Moreover, Walmart's extensive experience in retailing, logistics and distribution chain

Walmart buys 77 percent stake in Flipkart for USD 16 billion on - 9th May 2018



management will assist Flipkart grow its business without any problem.

- For competition, the deal is supposed to intensify the battle between Amazon and Flipkart. On one side, this war could slash the marketplace for small sellers, while, on the flip side, this war between Flipkart and Amazon could result into a vast supply chain and large number of jobs production.

President Ram Nath Kovind approved Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Act, 2017 on - 4th May 2018

The Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Act, 2017 was formally notified on May 4th, 2018 following the endorsement of the Bill by President Ram Nath Kovind on April 26th, 2018.

This fresh legislation amends the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and was approved by the Delhi Assembly on August 10th, 2017. The bill was 1st tabled in 2015.

Provisions of the Bill

- According to the amendment, the companies violating labour rules in Delhi will now have fine ranging from Rupees 20000 to 50000 and jail term of 1-3 years.
- The employer will upload the company information on web portal in the manner as arranged.
- The court will need to arrange it off within a month from the date of filing.
- The rate of payment for overtime work will be not less than 2 times of the normal wages fixed under the Act or under any law of the appropriate government, whichever is on higher side.
- The modified law will act powerfully against the employers who do not pay complete minimum wages. The Department of Law, Justice and Legislative Affairs of the Delhi

also released a notification, making it mandatory for employers to pay salary either electronically or through cheques, except in few special cases.

Modern animal-free testing for drugs approved by - Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has in its 2018 edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia passed modern, animal-free tests for drug producers. It will spare animals from suffering due to medicinal experiments.

2018 Indian Pharmacopoeia. It provides strategies on tests for medicines produced and marketed in India. It substitutes pyrogen test carried-out on rabbits and abnormal-toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be accomplish in test tubes. These rules will come into effect from July 1st, 2018. The pyrogen test will be substituted by bacterial endotoxin test which can be done in test tubes. For abnormal toxicity test, Vaccine producers can apply for waiver by receiving compliance certificate from National Control Laboratory.

Did you know?

- PETA India was pushing for removing away with cruel methods of testing on animals for the last many years. It had written to Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission in 2015 with various proposals. These proposals were deliberated in a meeting of expert committee on vaccine standards that was organised in 2016 and few of them have finally sanctioned by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission.



- Pyrogen test is done to detect impurity or side-effects causing substances. For the test, drug is administered into rabbit and animal is closely studied for feverish symptoms. The abnormal toxicity test is done to see the dangerous biological contamination in injection preparations. This batch test is done before product is permitted for marketing. In this, guinea pigs are inserted with vaccine. The scientists detect if there is death of any animal.

India's first Integrated Control and Command Centre for its smart cities launched by - Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. has introduced India's 1st cloud-based Common Integrated Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre and Integrated Control and Command Centre. It is powered by Hewlett Packard Enterprise's Universal Internet of Things Platform.

Key Points

- Integrated Control and Command Centre will facilitate MP State administration to monitor and administer multiple city civic conveniences and citizen-services across 7 smart cities in state through central cloud.
- These 7 cities are Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore, Ujjain, Satna, and Sagar.
- It will also facilitate state-wide monitoring of these cities from central command view and result in noteworthy cost savings in comparison to organizing full-fledged information and disaster recovery centre along with command control centres in every of these 7 cities.
- Hewlett Packard has delivered an end-to-end solution for Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. that syndicates its Universal

Internet of Things platform, industry leading servers, Edge compute systems, HP-Pointnext services and wide-ranging ecosystem of associates.

- Hewlett Packard Universal Internet of Things platform is critical to Integrated Control and Command Commission, as it acclimatizes and assimilates thousands of discrete sensors and submissions on platform.
- It will facilitate state government to manage and control various citizen services remotely via single platform.
- These services consist of Smart Parking, Lighting, Traffic, Transport, Smart Waste Management and Smart Water systems.

India ranks fourth in Asia-Pacific region in - Asia Power Index

India was positioned 4th out of 25 countries in Asia-Pacific region in the opening Asia Power Index published by Australian think tank Lowy Institute.

More about Asia Power Index

It calculates overall power of nations and territories in Asia-Pacific region. A nation's complete power is its weighted average across eight measures of power – economic resources, military capability, diplomatic influence, economic relationships, resilience, future trends, defence networks and social influence.

Key Points

- 3 of the world's 4 largest economies are in Asia and USA is Pacific power.
- By 2025, 2/3 rd of world's population will live in Asia, in comparison to just more than a 10th



in the West. As per this, United States remained to be renowned power in Asia, while China, an evolving world-power is quickly approaching to USA.

- It positioned Russia, South Korea, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, New Zealand, Vietnam, Taiwan, Pakistan, Philippines and North Korea as middle-powers, while Bangladesh, Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Laos and Nepal as inconsequential powers.
- The index organised that Japan and India are nations that share key power symbols. It branded Japan as smart-power and called India giant of future. India was positioned 4th on parameters of economic resources, military capability and diplomatic influence.
- It was positioned 5th on resilience. However, on the limits of cultural influence and future trends, India recorded well by positioned 3rd in both.

Nepal granted license to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd to generate power for project-Arun-3 Hydropower

Nepal Government has approved power production licence to Indian government-maintained subsidiary Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd from a 900 MW Arun-3 Hydropower Project situated in eastern Nepal. The license was arranged in line with the conclusion of meeting of Investment Board Nepal board of directors led by PM KP Sharma Oli.

Key Points

- IBN also has sanctioned various extensions for monetary closure of the project. It consists local share and free energy to inhabitants of affected area.
- Nepal government will also get advantages worth Rupees, in Nepali currency, 348 billion

from project as royalty, income-tax, customs tariff and free energy in franchise period of twenty-five years.

- The project will also deliver 21.9 percent of the produced energy without any cost to Nepal.
- Did you know?**
- Arun-3 Project is biggest capacity project in history of hydro-electricity of Nepal. It is planned to be manufactured within coming 5 years on Arun river. It is an export-focused project and it will trade the electricity to India. Indian government has sanctioned investment of Rupees 57.24 billion projected by SJVN in Arun-3.
 - The project was believed to be built under support of World Bank Group few 2 decades back. However, protests in contradiction of reservoir projects back then enforced World Bank to drop the project.
 - The project was thereafter granted to the Indian organisation via competitive bidding for ten years ago.

India, Panama signed two agreements in presence of Vice President M.Venkaiah Naidu

India and Panama have inked 2 contracts on exemption of Visas for Diplomatic and Official Passports bearers and in the field of Agriculture. These contracts were inked in the presence of cand President of Panama Juan Carlos Varela Rodrigues in Panama City. It was 2nd leg of Vice President M.Venkaiah Naidu's his 1st formal foreign visit to 3 nations Guatemala, Panama and Peru to strengthen India's ties with them.

Key Points

- India and Panama always had pleasant relations. These relations are grounded on our



common values and shared promises to democracy, diversity, multi-culturalism, and the rule of law.

- During Vice President M.Venkaiah Naidu's visit, both nations determined to fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- India will form 2 centres for Biodiversity and Innovation in Panama worth US \$10 million and US \$15 million for each.
- Both nations have decided to increase collaboration in important areas by solidifying collaboration in tax information, economic assistance, air facilities, traditional medicines, philosophy and space.

President Donald Trump withdraws US from Iran nuclear deal on - 8th May 2018

US President Donald Trump separately withdrew United States from historic 2015 Iran nuclear deal inked between Iran and P5+1 nations. It also reimposes authorizations on Iran that were raised by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. President Trump management cited that it cannot avert Iran

nuclear bomb and nuclear deal is defective at its essential as it does not target Iran's ballistic missile

programme, its nuclear actions beyond 2025, and its role in fights in Yemen and Syria. However other parties to the deal China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, Germany and European Union are still favouring it, thus evading complete collapse of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

- It is casually known as 'Iran nuclear deal'. It is multi-lateral nuclear deal inked between Iran and

permanent members of UN Security Council viz. United States, China, France, Russia, and United

Kingdom, in addition to Germany and EU, in Vienna in July 2015.

- The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is intended at avoiding Iran from building nuclear weapon, complicated lifting of international authorizations in return for Tehran curbing its nuclear programme.
- This strategy made sure that Iran will drastically decrease its uranium enriching capacity and levels, enriched supplies and extractors and will permit for stringent inspection and monitoring by international agencies including International Atomic Energy Agency.
- In exchange for Iran compliance to contract, economic approvals that had kept Iran away from international banking and the global oil trade were raised.
- It permitted Iran to have business deals and also relaxed billions of dollars Iran had foreign before multilateral permissions were forced on Iran over its nuclear programme.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY 2018 celebrated on - 11th May 2018

National Technology Day is celebrated every year on 11th May in India, as a prompt of the anniversary of Shakti. Shakti is the Pokhran nuclear test which was organised on 11 May, 1998. The day lime-lights the significant role of Science in our daily lives and inspires students to embrace Science as a career option. Various programmes are held in different technical institutes and engineering colleges to celebrate the day. Competitions, quizzes, lectures, interactive sessions and presentations



of various aspects of Science are held worldwide. The day is vital for engineers, planners, scientists and others who are involved in nation building and governance.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY

- National Technology Day is celebrated to memorialize the nuclear test which was organised in Pokhran on 11th May, 1998. This was a prideful event for all the residents of India.
- The day also admires the significance of Science in our day to day lives. It was on the 11 as well as the 13th of May in 1998 when India directed 5 nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- The initial 5 tests were directed on 11 th May when 3 nuclear bombs were exploded while recording an earthquake of 5.3 Richter scale in the close seismic stations. Balance of the 2 tests were accomplished on 13 May, since then National Technology Day is observed in India.
- President of India delivers National Technology Award to persons as well as organisations for their immense contribution to science.
- On this day, students of India also plan their visits to various laboratories to grab information about the recent developments in the areas of pharmacy, science and research work.

PM Modi ranked 9th in the World's - Most Powerful People list 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ranked among the 10 most powerful people in the 2018 World's Most Powerful People list in the world where Chinese President Xi Jinping stood first. As per the World's Most Powerful People list released on 8th May, 2018, Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman Mukesh

Ambani is the only Indian businessman to feature in the list of 75 most powerful people across the globe.

Important Highlights

- Mukesh Ambani ranked 32nd on the Forbes's World's Most Powerful People list.
- With the launch of 4G phone service Jio in 2016, Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited gained momentum in India, while PM Modi emerged as a key figure on international front to tackle climate change.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping is on the top of the list for the first time, replacing Russian President Vladimir Putin, who slipped to 2nd place after being named as the most powerful person in the world for four consecutive years.
- US President Donald Trump is ranked third.
- British Prime Minister Theresa May took 14th place.

Naval Commander's Conference concluded on - 11th May 2018

The first biannual Naval Commander's Conference of 2018 concluded on May 11th, 2018 after four days of intense deliberations. The conference was by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the conference.

Sitharaman also assured the Naval Commanders that their endeavours to bridge critical capability gaps in fleet support ships, ship-borne helicopters, and submarines would be progressed by the Government. The Minister also extended support to the long-term capability acquisition plans of the navy that have been precisely formulated with a strategic view of the Indo-Pacific region.

Important Highlights



- There were deliberations upon the imperative need for approval of the second indigenous aircraft carrier for the navy during the conference.
- This project along with the other shipbuilding projects already started or in the pipeline including MCMVs (Mine Counter Measure Vessels),LPD(Landing Platform Dock), Anti-Submarine Shallow Water Craft, Diving Support Vessels and Survey Vessels are expected to boost the 'Make-in-India' initiative of the Union Government.
- The major shipbuilding projects in Indian shipyards that include both private and public result in the jobs creation. These also provide encouragement to MSMEs to develop indigenous technologies and to manufacture units in support of them.
- The next edition of the Naval Commander's Conference will be taking place at the end of 2018 probably in October or November.
- Doing away with 6 percent goods and services tax within 100 days of taking office.
- In 2015, the taxes were introduced and this thing was widely blamed by the citizens as it affected their rising living cost.
- To reintroduce gasoline subsidies, which could turn out be a bonus for consumption.
- To increase petroleum royalties to oil-producing states and raising minimum wages.

Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal quits after Walmart deal on - 9th May 2018

Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal announced his exit from the company on May 9th, 2018, hours after the news of American retailer Walmart acquiring Flipkart broke nationally. He stated in a post on social media that it was time for him to hand over the baton and move on.

"Flipkart truly upheld audacity and customer centricity and I got to work with the best people.

We took on some of the biggest challenges and solved many complex problems for India," he said.

He further added saying, "sadly my work here is done and after 10 years, it's time to hand over the baton and move on from Flipkart but I'll be watching and cheering from the outside — Flipsters, you better continue to do a good job!"

Looking ahead, Sachin is planning to take time off to finish personal projects, catching up on gaming and brushing up on his coding skills. Binny Bansal, on the other hand, will retain his 5.5 percent stake in the company and remain Flipkart Group CEO. Kalyan Krishnamurthy will also be continuing as CEO of Flipkart.com.

More about Sachin Bansal

Former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad returned to power on - 10th May 2018

Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as the seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia on May 10th, 2018 making a stunning comeback to politics 15 years after his retirement. Mohamad claimed election victory in the country's General Elections 2018 and after this he becomes the world's oldest Prime Minister at the age of 92.

Mahathir's coalition, Pakatan Harapan has won 121 out of 222 seats. Mahathir's coalition defeated the governing BN(Barisan Nasional) coalition led by Prime Minister Najib Razak, which has been in power for over 60 years. BN coalition managed to win 79 seats only.

Mahathir's policy pledges



- Born on August 5th, 1981, Bansal is an Indian Software engineer and Internet entrepreneur.
- He along with Binny Bansal, both IIT graduates founded India's largest e-commerce platform Flipkart as an online bookstore back in 2007.
- Though they share the same surname but both are are not related.
- Before starting Flipkart, both Sachin and Binny worked with Amazon India as software engineers but they decided to leave within a short span of time to start something of their own.
- Though initially they thought to start a comparison search engine, but they realised that the market for e-commerce in India was very small.
- So they launched Flipkart from an apartment with 4, 00,000 rupees cash in Bangalore.
- During the initial days of Flipkart, Sachin and Bansal used to deliver books across Bengaluru on their scooters.
- Based on performance ground, in August 2016 Sachin was removed as a CEO of Flipkart.

More about Flipkart's Acquisition

- Walmart, one of the world's largest multinational retailers acquired Indian e-commerce platform Flipkart in a \$16 billion deal on May 9th, 2018.
- The US-based company, Walmart bought 77 percent stake in Flipkart from the existing shareholders including Japan's Softbank Group.
- So far, the deal is the biggest merger and acquisition in India and marked the entry of Walmart into the Indian retail business.
- With 77 percent stakes, Walmart will be having the controlling rights in Flipkart.
- As a part of Walmart's condition that it could accommodate only one of the Flipkart founders in the board, Sachin Bansal has resigned,

selling his 5.5 percent stake for a little for about \$1 billion.

- The other co-founder, Binny Bansal, however, would be staying back and will be a board member along with Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

National Technology Day of India celebrated on - 11th May 2018

The National Technology Day was observed across India on May 11th, 2018 to celebrate the anniversary of Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998. The day is also marked India's technological advancements and scientific prowess.

Important Information

- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology celebrates National Technology Day on May 11th every year.
- This day is considered as a pursuit symbol for scientific inquiry, technological creativity and the conversion of that pursuit in the integration of society, industry and science.
- On the same occasion, various events are being organized in technical institutions and engineering colleges as well.
- Interactive sessions, lectures, presentations, quizzes, and competitions are also held to mark the day.
- The Indian president also presented National Technology Award on this day to individuals and companies for their strong contribution towards science.
- Technology and science ministers have also come forward to celebrate this day by organizing various kinds of events for science development in the country.

SpaceX launches most powerful Falcon 9 rocket on - 11th May 2018



The California-based aerospace company SpaceX launched its most powerful rocket yet 'Falcon 9' on May 11th, 2018, which is expected to carry human beings to space later this year.

The rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida USA with an aim to propel Bangladesh's first high-orbit communications satellite, namely, Bangabandhu Satellite-1. It was initially expected to launch it on May 10th, 2018, but due to triggering of the automatic abort switch, the launch was postponed in the last minute.

Important Highlights

- Named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Bangladesh who was assassinated in 1975, the spacecraft will be providing data services during a 15-year mission.
- The satellite will also be offering video and communications coverage over Bangladesh and its territorial waters in the Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bay of Bengal, India, the Philippines, and Indonesia.
- It will also be providing broadband connectivity to rural areas throughout the country.
- The satellite was built by Thales Alenia Space of Cannes in France.
- The Block 5 Falcon 9 rocket is, ultimately, meant to carry astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) around December 2018.
- If things happen as planned, it will be the first time that a rocket will carry people to space since the end of the US space shuttle program in 2011.
- The rocket is built to re-fly up to 10 times with minimal refurbishment aiming to bring down the cost of spaceflight.
- The Falcon 9 Block 5's avionics are multi-fault tolerant, that means this rocket can still reach orbit after multiple system failures.

• Indian and Malaysian Armies concluded Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018 on - 11th May 2018

Indian and Malaysian Armies concluded the Exercise Harimau Shakti 2018 on May 11th, 2018 at the tropical rainforests of Hulu Langat, Malaysia. The grand finale of the Exercise was a tactical operation on conduct of attack at the enemy camp.

During the exercise, both the contingents showcased extremely high standards of their professional acumen, battle drills, operational abilities and physical endurance, an appropriate reflection of the level of interoperability achieved by them during the Exercise.

This was the first time when the exercise was organised on the Malaysian land. Its title takes its name from 'Harimau', the Malay word that stands for 'tiger'.

Highlights of the HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018

- As a part of the exercise, both the nations shared the expertise of each other's contingents while conducting counter insurgency operations in the jungle terrain of Malaysia.
- 4 GRENADIERS represented by Indian contingent, one of the oldest infantry battalions that have rich operational experience in conventional and counter insurgency warfare.
- While, the Malaysian contingent was represented by soldiers from 1 Royal Ranjer Regiment and the Royal Malay Regiment; both are known for their experience in Jungle Warfare.
- The exercise involved a cross training phase followed by a field training phase of a week in the Hulu Langat jungles wherein both armies jointly planned and executed a series of training activities.



- The focus of the entire exercise was on tactical operations in jungle warfare.

• NASA's carbon monitoring project cancelled by - United States

United States President Donald Trump's administration has negated NASA's Carbon Monitoring System programme quoting reasons of budget constraints and higher priorities within science budget. It was also in streak with Donald Trump's modern broad attack on climate science.

Carbon Monitoring System Programme

- NASA's Carbon Monitoring System Programme costing \$10 million annually was intended to track key greenhouse gases, carbon and methane, that results into global warming.
- It also pursued sources and sinks for carbon and finished high-resolution models of planet's flows of carbon. It was intended to make important assistances in characterizing, quantifying, understanding and forecasting evolution of global carbon sources and sinks via upgraded monitoring of carbon stocks and fluxes.
- The System utilises complete range of NASA satellite observations, modelling and investigation capabilities to create accuracy, quantitative uncertainties and usefulness of products for supporting national and international policy, regulatory and management actions.
- Carbon Monitoring System also preserves global emphasis while delivering finer scale regional data, using space and surface-based information. It had started production and circulation of products both for operator

evaluation and to inform near-term policy progress and development.

Government to expand Buddhist tourism circuit to 21 more states under - Swadesh Darshan Scheme

Ministry of Tourism has finalised to expand Buddhist tourism Journey under Swadesh Darshan Scheme to 21 extra states to make it India's 1st trans-national tourist Journey. Previously, it was imagined only to 7 major Buddhist pilgrimage sites in UP and Bihar.

Key Points

- Now, Ministry of Tourism has recognized stupas and viharas in these 21 states, around which small intra-state Buddhist zones will be established. The states are MP, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Goa, Gujarat and J&K.
 - The expansion of Buddhist tourism Journey focuses to attract new-age Buddhist tourists from the West, besides those from traditional markets in South-East Asia.
 - The ministry is in talks with World Bank and Japanese government for capital support for the infrastructure projects linked with Buddhist tourism Journey.
 - It also aims to include the private sector in building tourism infrastructure relating to the Journey.
- ### More about Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- The Union Ministry of Tourism had released the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15 with an objective to advance theme-based tourist journeys in the nation. These tourist journeys will be established on principles of high tourist value, attractiveness and sustainability in a combined manner.
 - They will be established by synergizing efforts to attention on anxieties and requirements of



all shareholders to enrich tourist experience and augment employment options.

- Under this plan, 13 thematic journeys have been recognized for progress.
- They are Buddhist Journey, North-East India Journey, Coastal Journey, Himalayan Journey, Krishna Journey, Desert Journey, Eco Journey, Wildlife Journey, Tribal Journey, Rural Journey, Spiritual Journey, Ramayana Journey and Heritage Journey.

Women can file domestic violence complaint even after divorce by - Supreme Court

The Indian Supreme Court has ruled that a woman can file a complaint under the domestic violence law against the cruel acts accomplished by her ex-husband even after their divorce. The ruling was sanctioned by a 3-judge bench consisting Justices Ranjan Gogoi, R.Banumathi and Navin Sinha. The ruling came on an application that challenged an order by the Rajasthan High Court.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

- The act focuses to deliver ample effective protection of the women's rights definite under the Constitution who are violence victims of any type, happening within the family.
- It was carried into force by the Indian government from October 26, 2006. The act 1st time delivers a definition of 'domestic violence' in Indian law, with this definition being wide-ranging and including not only physical violence, but also other types of violence including emotional, verbal, sexual and economic violence.
- The act spreads throughout the India except for the state of J&K, which has its own law- Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Women

from Domestic Violence Act, 2010.

Key features of the Act:

- The act looks forward to cover those women who are in a relationship with the violence where both parties have lived together in a common household and are related by marriage or any relationship in the nature of marriage, and adoption.
- Even those women who are sisters, widows, mothers, single-females, or living with them are permitted to get legal protection under the proposed Act.
- Domestic violence consists of actual violence or the threat of violence that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic.
- Annoyance by way of illegal dowry anxieties to the woman or to her family members would also be encompassed under this act.
- The act also delivers for the woman's right to live in the marital/shared house, whether or not she has any rights in the house premises.

UNDP to set up skill development centre in - Hyderabad

The UNDP would shortly be forming a skill development centre at Bharosa which would be a joined support centre for upset women and children in Hyderabad, Telangana. The centre would be focused at authorizing vulnerable and marginalised females by imparting skills training.

Key Highlights

- Bharosa, is a state-of-the-art centre formed by the Hyderabad City Police to take care of females and children who are victims of abuse.
- Since its establishment in 2016, a sum of 3,560 fatalities have approached the centre with a variety of issues.



- Among these, more than 2,600 victims have sought assistance with regard to domestic abuse.
- The United Nations Development Programme has suggested to form a skill development centre completely for the clients of Bharosa.
- The essential arrangements for designing of the centre are already ongoing and it would initiate in the next 2-3 months.
- The discussions with agencies that provide training are also under process. The training period will differ on the basis of the nature of skill imparted.
- A huge number of victims who contacted Bharosa centre are not much educated.
- Hence, the skill trainings would be providing based on the educational qualification of the victims.

200 more mandis to eNAM to be linked by - Union Government

Union Government is going to connect extra 200 wholesale mandis to online trading platform electronic National Agriculture Market- eNAM, this fiscal year and also inspire inter-mandi transactions. Presently, 585 regulated mandis in fourteen states are connected with the eNAM. Till date, 73.50 lakh farmers, 53,163 commission mediators and more than one lakh dealers are registered on it from these fourteen states. Government is guaranteeing that all wholesale agri-mandis adopt online sale and gradually permit trading among mandis in state and ultimately between mandis outside states, thus forming single national agriculture market for the profit of farmers. eNAM electronic National Agriculture Market is pan-India electronic trading web portal for farm produce which focuses to form unified

national market for agricultural commodities by integrating present Agriculture Produce Market Committee markets. It delivers single window service for all Agriculture Produce Market Committee related services and data, for instance commodity arrivals and prices, provision for replying to trade offers among other services. It was released in April 2016. It is being executed in different phases to integrate 585 regulated markets across nation with common e-market platform by March 2018. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium is the principal promoter of electronic National Agriculture Market. On this platform, farmers can exhibit their produce online from their nearby market and dealers can quote price from anywhere. It focuses to foster superior competition between buyers and also make sure open price discovery and healthier returns to farmers.

India, Nepal flag-off Janakpur-Ayodhya bus service under Ramayan Circuit on - 11th May 2018

Indian PM Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K.P.Sharma Oli mutually flagged-off a direct bus service between the 2 sacred cities Janakpur and Ayodhya, as part of the 'Ramayan Circuit' on May 11th, 2018. The bus service was released during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal during May 11th -12th , 2018. This was the 3rd visit of Prime Minister Modi to Nepal and the 1st high-level visit from India since the establishment of the new Government in Nepal in 2018.

Religious tourism in Nepal and India

- The bus service looks forward to promote religious tourism in Nepal and India.



- According to the mythological story 'Ramayana', Ayodhya is Lord Rama's homeland, while, Janakpur is the homeland of Goddess Sita.
- Janakpur is known for the Janaki temple of Janakpur, which was constructed in memory of Sita in 1910.
- The bus service will deliver Janakpur-Ayodhya- Janakpur carriage facility to pilgrims.

Ramayana Circuit

- The Ramayana Circuit is among the 13 thematic circuits recognized for progress under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Union Ministry of Tourism.
- Under the Ramayana Circuit, fifteen terminuses have been recognized for progress.

Chinese state-run bank ICBC launches India-dedicated investment fund on - 14th May 2018

Chinese state operated bank ICBC started the nation's 1st India-dedicated publicly accessible investment fund, known as the 'ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund' on May 14th, 2018. This noteworthy move came just after the 1st ever casual summit between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping which was organised in April 2018 at Wuhan.

Highlights of the ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund

- It is the China's 1st publicly accessible fund for investing in India and it will participate in exchange-traded funds registered on above twenty exchanges in Europe and in the USA that are grounded on the Indian market.
- It will invest in the future of the Indian economy and record the distribution of the industrial structure across the Indian market.
- The capital will aim on different sectors including the financial industry, IT, alternative

consumption,

energy, essential consumption, raw materials, medicine, healthcare and various other industries.

- The deposit will also be valuable for the huge investors, it will add a low-relevant asset to the distribution tool that can successfully progress the effective frontier of the investor's asset distribution and benefit the investor to better spread hazards and obtain a much steady revenue.

Three public welfare schemes launched in - Rajasthan

President Ram Nath Kovind released 3 public welfare schemes during his maiden 2 days visit as head of the state to Rajasthan on May 13th, 2018. The President released Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana and loan and interest waiver scheme for SCs, STs, OBCs, sanitation workers, and the physically challenged at a function organised at the Birla Auditorium in Jaipur. The schemes were publicized by the Rajasthan state government during its 2018-19 budget presentation.

Schemes

Announced

1- Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana

Under the scheme, the government will issue loans of equal to Rupees 50000 to members of economically backward classes from about 50,000 families at 4% rate of interest. This scheme will benefit poor sections of the society to produce self-employment.

2- Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana

Under the scheme, the state government would issue loans equal to Rupees 50000 at 4% rate of interest approximate 50,000 families from the SCs and STs and OBCs for self-employment.



3- Loan waiver scheme

Under the scheme, the Rajasthan state government would be issuing Rupees two lakh worth interest-free loans to people belonging to Schedule Cast/Schedule Tribes community and OBCs for the purpose of skill development and to create employment resources. Apart from this, the President presented cheques to a few beneficiaries under the 3 fresh schemes.

Rajasthan government's other major welfare schemes

The state government in its 2018-19 budget presentation declared the distribution of free-scooters to the 200 meritorious girl children who got 85% or above marks in 10 and 10+2 class.

The government also declared pre and post metric scholarship with a total amount of Rupees 273.50 crores under EBC scheme.

Nepal to host 2018 BIMSTEC summit announced by - Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli

Nepal is planning to organise 2018 BIMSTEC-Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation summit. It was declared by Nepal's PM K.P.Sharma Oli during his meeting with Indian PM Narendra Modi in Kathmandu.

More about BIMSTEC

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is the sub-regional group of 7 nations in South-Asia and South-East Asia situated in the littoral and adjoined areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional consensus.
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation nations are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri

Lanka from South-Asia and Myanmar, Thailand from South-East Asia.

- They are jointly home to approximately 1.5 billion inhabitants which form around 22 per cent of global population.
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation was recognized on 6th June 1997 via the Bangkok Declaration. Its HQ is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Its chief aim includes technological and economic collaboration between south Asian and south-East Asian nations along the Bay of Bengal coast.
- It is sector-driven supportive organization, starting with 6 sector consisting business, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries.
- In 2008, it was extended to hold 8 additional sectors including agriculture, Public Health, Poverty mitigation, combat terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change.

Indian Army finalises Rs. 15000 crore indigenous ammunition project that is - Made-In-India

Indian Army has finalised Rupees 15,000 crores Made-in- India ammunition project under which variety of ammunition for its serious weapons and tanks will be developed in India. It is demanded to be biggest ever initiative for Made in India ammunition. It focuses to overwhelmed prolong interruptions in imports and address issues of dwindling stockpile.

Key Points

- The instant objective of this project is to form an inventory for all big weapons to enable forces to fight 30 days war while long-term aim is to slash necessity on imports. For this,



eleven private firms will be intricate and its application will be monitored by the top brass of Indian Army and Defence Ministry.

- The whole cost of project has been attached at Rupees 15,000 crores. Indian Army has form specific target for coming ten years in terms of volume of ammunition to be developed.
- Initially, rocket ammunition, air-defence system, weaponry guns, Grenade launchers and various different field weapons will be manufactured under stringent timelines.
- The manufacturing aims will be revised based on result of 1st phase of project implementation
- The project seeks as 1st serious attempt by Government to address increasing worries voiced over last many years by Indian Army over fast decreasing stockpile of important ammunition considering the developing security threats in the region and a at time when China is knowingly ramping up its military capability.

Environment-friendly propellant being developed by - ISRO

Researchers at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre are working on environment-friendly propellant blend grounded on hydroxylammonium nitrate to energise satellites and spacecraft. It looks forward to take place of conventional hydrazine fuel for future missions.

Key Points

- Hydroxylammonium nitrate-based monopropellant formulation consists of hydroxylammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate, methanol and water.
- The methanol was supplemented to decrease combustion instability and hydroxylammonium

nitrate was utilised for its capacity to control combustion rate and lower freezing point of propellant.

- The propellant preparation was tested for compatibility with 4 metal samples over period of 6 months.
- Moreover, different variety of tests to study its characteristics, including thermal and catalytic decomposition and compatibility was assumed with various materials.
- Hydroxylammonium nitrate-based monopropellant will substitute conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, which is a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with greener propellant for future projects. It will also make sure cost effective re-usable, recoverable, restart and reliable space launches of Indian Space Research Organisation.
- Due to its better-performance characteristics, hydrazine has subjugated space industry as choice of propellant for more than 6 decades despite hazards.

4th meeting of SAWEN held in Kolkata, India from - 8th May - 10th May 2018

The 4th meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network, which is an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement body was organised in Kolkata, West Bengal from May 8th -10th , 2018. It was 1st meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network to be organised in India since its inception in 2011.

Key Results

- The 2-day meeting was witnessed by representatives of 7 out of 8-member nations excluding Pakistan.
- 6 proposals, including tracking of wildlife smuggling route, review of present laws and



structure for the organisation were listed during the conference.

- Participating nations also accepted various resolutions to control wildlife crime in the region. They decided on having operational framework for fortifying the regional body to fight against wildlife crime.

South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network

- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network is regional inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support agency of South Asian Nations.
- It was released in January, 2011 in Paro, Bhutan during the 2nd meeting of the South Asia Expert Group on Illegitimate Wildlife Trade.
- Its secretariat is in Kathmandu. Its local network consists of 8 South Asia nations i.e. Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Mandate

- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network focuses at working jointly as a powerful regional inter-governmental agency to fight against wildlife corruption by attaining common mutual aims and methods for fighting against unlawful trade in the region.
- It also looks forward to control trans-boundary wildlife corruption through communication, management, partnership, capacity building and assistance in the region.

First all-woman Post Office Passport Seva Kendra starts operations in Phagwara, Punjab

The Post Office Passport Seva Kendra operated by a whole-woman team started its working at Phagwara, Punjab. It was initiated by Union Minister Vijay Sampla in the local head Post

Office of Phagwara.

Key Points

- This kendra was 192 nd Post Office Passport Seva Kendra in the nation and 1st one to be functioned by a whole-woman team. It was released as part of Central Government's initiative for females' empowerment.
- It will supply requirements of people from Kapurthala, Nawandhar and Jalandhar rural districts.
- It will advantage people immensely in this area as town is Non-Resident Indian hub of Doaba region of Punjab. It will permit people of the region to avail all facilities related to applying and dispensation of passport submissions.

Post Office Passport Seva Kendra

- Post Office Passport Seva Kendra is Government initiative ruled by Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Posts, where Head Post Offices and post offices are being used for delivery of passport concerned services to inhabitants.
- It focuses to deliver passport concerned services on large scale and to make sure wider area coverage for streamlining process to overseas traveling.
- The 1st Post Office Passport Seva Kendra was initiated at the Mysuru Head Post office in Karnataka on January 25 th , 2017.

DoT approved merger of Bharti Airtel and Telenor India on - 14th May 2018

The Department of Telecommunications permitted Bharti Airtel's procurement of Telenor India, on May 14 th , 2018. The department has relocated all licences related to the Indian unit of Norway-grounded Telenor to Bharti Airtel. With this sanction, Bharti Airtel will buy Telenor India in a no-cash contract



and will take over its outstanding spectrum payments of Rupees 1650 crores.

Significance

- The Bharti Airtel and Telenor India union will enhance the 4G-spectrum holdings of Bharti Airtel group, which has been contending against Mukesh Ambani operated Reliance Jio Infocomm.
- The Telenor acquisition will enhance Bharti Airtel's adjusted gross income by approximately Rupees 1400 crores yearly, which in return, will suggestively withstand its operating revenue.
- The contract will also strengthen Bharti Airtel's network capacity. It will increase 43.4 units of 4G-spectrum from Telenor India across AP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh-East, Uttar Pradesh-West and Assam.
- The company will also increase Telenor's operational contracts, tower leases and about 39 million users.
- The contract will assist the organisation in combining its market leading position with more than 330 million subscribers.

Telenor India: A Financially Stressed Telecom

- Telenor India, has been seeking for a long-term explanation for its Indian business, which has been trailing Rupees four crores per day with a subscriber base that has been decrease gradually.
- Telenor India is presently loaded with almost Rupees 6000 crores of loss; however, this loss is supposed to be borne by Telenor itself. Airtel will only capture Telenor India's outstanding spectrum payments.

Indian Army flags of Women Officers' Mountaineering Expedition to - Mt. Bhagirathi-II

Indian Army has given green signal to Women Officers' Mountaineering Expedition to Mt. Bhagirathi-II

to discover maximum potential of women officers in the area of adventure sports. Mt. Bhagirathi-II is located in the Garhwal Himalayas in Gangotri National Park with a height of 6512 m. The peak grows right above the Gangotri glacier.

Key Points

- The excursion focuses at inspiring women in the field of adventure where dauntless courage, will-power and strong fortitude of women officers is tested.
- It will check their technical judgement in mountaineering, mental forte and physical courage.
- The excursion team consists of 9 female officers.
- They are preparing to set new world record of performing and practising Yoga at 21000 ft on the eve of Yoga Day 2018.

NALCO signs MoU with Union Ministry of Mines for setting revenue target of FY 2018-19 on - 14th May 2018

Aluminium major 'Navratna' firm National Aluminium Company Limited inked a Memorandum of Understanding on May 14th, 2018, with the Union Ministry of Mines, setting highest ever target of generation of Rs 9350 crore revenue from the operations of FY 2018-19. The Memorandum of Understanding was inked between Anil Gopishankar Mukim, Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Dr Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD National Aluminium Company Limited in New Delhi. The returns target fixed for financial year



2018-19 is 15% greater than that of 2017.

Highlights of the MoU

- The Memorandum of Understanding has formed an aim of 2.1 million tons for generation of Alumina with 100% capacity usage and an ideal Aluminium production target of 4.15 lakh tonnes.
- It forms an aim of decrease in net carbon consumption as part of improvement in production efficiency.
- It delivers push to commercialisation of fresh research and development products.
- National Aluminium Company Limited has also formed a challenging CAPEX aim of Rupees 1100 crores for the year 2018-19.
- The company has also formed an aim for assessment of employees through People Capability Maturity Model and execution of online HR management system.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was designed according to the strategies of the Department of Public Enterprise and was concluded post talks with the Inter-Ministerial Committee and with Union Ministry of Mines.

Sulabh International founder Dr Bindeshwar Pathak honoured with - Nikkei Asia Prize

The founder of Sulabh International, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak was honoured with the Nikkei Asia Prize in Japan for his involvement to Asia's development. Dr. Pathak was detailed as Indian social reformer handling 2 of his nation's biggest challenges including poor hygiene and discrimination. He was among 3 who were deliberated with this award.

More about Nikkei Asia Prize

Nikkei Inc. is one of the biggest media corporations in Japan. It has been awarding

Nikkei Asia Prize since 1996 to regard people in Asia who have done important involvements in one of the 3 areas consisting of Economic and Business Innovation, Science, Technology and Environment and Culture and Community.

Dr Bindeshwar Pathak

He had created Sulabh International in 1970. It is a Non-Governmental Organisation that works towards promoting human rights, environmental sanitation among various social services. It has built Sulabh flush toilets throughout India, causative to better sanitation, safety for rural women and freedom from manual labour of removing human waste.

REPLACE campaign to eliminate trans-fat in foods launched by - WHO

WHO has released comprehensive plan "REPLACE" to eradicate industrially-produced man-made trans-fats from global food supply by 2023. The eradication of trans-fats is significant to safeguard health and saving lives. REPLACE is shortened in 6 strategic actions as- Review, Promote, Legislate, Assess, Create Awareness and Enforce.

Key Points

- The movement provides step-wise guidance in 6 strategic actions of "REPLACE" bundle to make sure prompt, comprehensive, and constant eradication of industrially manufactured trans-fats from global food supply.
- Executing 6 strategic actions will assist attain eradication of trans-fat and signify major triumph in the global fight against various cardiovascular diseases.

Six areas of action include:



- Review of nutritional sources of industrially manufactured trans-fats and landscape for needed policy alterations.
- Promotereplacement of industrially manufactured trans-fats with healthier eatable fats and oils. Legislate or endorse regulatory actions to eradicate industrially manufactured trans-fats.
- Assessand check trans-fats particles in the food supply and alterations in trans-fats consumption in the population.
- Create awareness regarding the bad health effects of trans-fats among policy makers, manufacturers, suppliers and the population.
- Enforce amenability with policies and regulations.

Aadhaar linkage not mandatory for getting pension by- Union Government

The Union Government has clarified that the Aadhaar card is not compulsory for central government workers to receive their pension. The news was shared by the Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh during the 30th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies. The Minister informed that Aadhaar card is an extra facility to permit the utilisation of technology for submission of life certificate without the requirement for visiting banks. The minister explained that Aadhaar Card has not been made compulsory for receiving pension for government workers.

Important Highlights

The declaration is of importance as there were reports of few retired workers facing struggle in getting the pension in the absence of Aadhaar card linking with their bank accounts.

Did you know?

There are approximately 48.41 lakh central government workers and 61.17 lakh pensioners

in the nation. Aadhaar is the 12-digit unique identity number and is the world's biggest biometric ID system. It was released by the UIDAI, which is a statutory authority recognized in January 2009 by the Union Government of India.

The constitutional validity of the biometric ID system is presently being challenged in the Supreme Court, as people believe that compulsory linking of Aadhaar number with their bank accounts, mobile phones and government plans is a desecration of their fundamental right to privacy.

WHO publishes its first Essential Diagnostics List on - 15th May 2018

The World Health Organisation issued its first Essential Diagnostics List, on May 15th , 2018, which is a catalogue of tests required to detect the most common conditions along with variety of global important diseases. The list focuses to address people's non-ability to access diagnostic facilities, which results in them failing to get the right treatment.

Importance

- The list delivers an indispensable package that can form the basis for screening and management of patients.
- According to World Health Organisation, an approximated 46% of adults with Type-2 diabetes around the world were undiagnosed, risking fatal health complications and higher healthcare costs.

World Health Organisation informed that late diagnosis of infectious diseases including AIDS/HIV and TB upsurges the risk of their spread and more difficult to treat.

Key Features of the list

- The vital diagnostics list focuses on in-vitro tests including blood and urine tests. It consists



of 58 tests for finding and analysis of a variety of common situations.

- It also consists of 55 tests for the finding, diagnosis and monitoring of priority; diseases including for AIDS/HIV, TB, malaria, Hepatitis-B and C, human papillomavirus and syphilis.
- Few of the tests are mainly suitable for primary health care services, where laboratory facilities are poorly resourced.
- For each class of test, the list requires the type of test and proposed usage, format and if suitable for primary health care with labs.
- The list also delivers associations to World Health Organisation guidelines and to pre-qualified products.

India emerges third largest solar market in the world in 2017 reported by - Mercom Communications

As per to freshly issued report by Mercom Communications, India developed as 3rd largest solar market worldwide in 2017 after China and United States of America. Mercom Communications India is branch of global clean energy consulting firm Mercom Capital Group.

Key Highlights

- India has established fresh record with 9.6 gigawatt of solar installations in 2017, which was above twofold the 4.3 gigawatt mounted in 2016.
- In 2017, India's solar market had grown up at Compound Annual Growth Rate of about 170 percent since 2010. The vigorous progress boosted India's whole solar installed volume to 19.6 gigawatt as of December 2017.
- As of 2017 ending, mega solar project development calculated for 92 percent of the all-time cumulative solar fittings in India

with 19.6 gigawatt and 2017 alone made up 90 percent of such fittings with 8.6 gigawatt.

International Day of Families celebrated on - 15th May 2018

The International Day of Families is celebrated every year on 15 th of May worldwide to encourage

awareness of issues concerning to families and expanding knowledge of social, economic and demographic progression that hampers families which are the basic unit of society. The subject for

present year is "Families and inclusive societies".

It explores role of families and family policies in proceeding Sustainable Development Goal 16 in terms of encouraging peaceful and inclusive societies for supportable progress. The day was declared by United Nations General Assembly in 1993 by accepting resolution A/RES/47/237 and shows the **Significance**

international community connects to families. Every year, United Nations secretary-general develops to the specific valid motto attention.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day observed on - 17th May 2018

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was celebrated worldwide on May 17th , 2018. The subject of World Telecommunication and Information Society for 2018 was "Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All".

Important Highlights

- The day focuses to increase awareness of the likelihoods that the usage of the Internet and other information and communication technologies can bring to societies and



economies, along with the ways to link the digital divide.

- The 2018 theme will aim on the potential of Artificial Intelligence to fast-track the UNs Sustainable Development Goals.
- The World Telecommunication Day is observed yearly on May 17th since 1969, marking the establishment of Information and Communication Technologies and the inking of Information and Communication Technologies in 1865.
- It was introduced by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.
- The World Summit on the Information Society called upon the United Nations General Assembly in November 2005 to announce May 17th as World Information Society Day to aim on the significance of ICT and the variety of issues concerned to the information society raised up by World Summit on the Information Society.

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 approved by - The Union Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has passed National Policy on Biofuels– 2018 in order to encourage biofuels in the nation. Biofuels in India are of calculated importance as it augers very well with constant initiatives of Government including Make-in-India, Skill Development and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It also proposals excessive prospect to assimilate with determined targets of double-folding of import reduction, farmers' income, employment creation, waste to wealth Creation.

Main features of Policy

The policy classifies of biofuels to capable allowance of suitable financial and fiscal incentives under each class.

- Basic Biofuels: 1st Generation bioethanol and biodiesel.
- Advanced Biofuels: 2nd Generation ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste to drop-in fuels, 3rd Generation biofuels, bio-Compressed Natural Gas and many more.
- Expansion scope of raw-material for ethanol production permits usage of sugarcane juice, sugar comprising materials like sweet sorghum, sugar beet, and starch comprising materials like corn, cassava, and spoiled food-grains consisting broken rice, wheat, fowl potatoes, non-suitable for human consumption for ethanol manufacturing.
- Usage of excess food grains policy permits the usage of excess food grains for generation of ethanol for blending with petrol with endorsement of National Biofuel Coordination Committee. This will make sure that farmers receive suitable amount for their produce during the excess production phase.
- Incentives to advanced biofuel, practicality gap funding scheme designated for 2nd Generation ethanol Bio refineries of Rupees 5000 crores in six years for delivering special stress to advanced biofuels. It also suggests extra tax incentives, developed purchase price as compared to 1st Generation biofuels.
- Supply chain mechanisms inspires forming of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel manufacturing from non-edible oil-seeds, cast-off cooking oil, short gestation crops. Synergising efforts already defines the characters and everyday tasks of all the anxious Ministries and Government Departments in concern to biofuels to synergise efforts.

Enhancement of budget Network for Spectrum Project



for Defence Services approved by - CCEA

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has sanctioned enhancement of budget by Rupees 11,330

crores for Network For Spectrum project. This is more than Rupees 13,334 crores already sanctioned by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in July, 2012. With this, entire budget for the network for Defence services has now reached about Rupees 24,664 crores.

Network For Spectrum project

- The Network For Spectrum project focuses at placing alternative communication network for Defence Services.
- Network For Spectrum project will improve the communication capabilities of Defence Forces.
- In maximum way, it will lead towards improved national operational preparedness.
- It will also have onward linkages to other concerned industries such as telecom equipment engineering and other telecommunication concerned services.
- The project is being executed by BSNL and will be accomplished in two years of time period.

Did you know?

The Union Defence Ministry and Department of Telecommunication, the maximum decision-making body in Telecom Ministry had inked an accord in 2009-10 to form high-class defence network for its communication services. Under it, Department of Telecommunication had settled to evacuate 25 MHz of 3rd Generation spectrum and 20 MHz of 2nd Generation spectrum in phases solely for defence communication determinations.

First Indian stock exchange to get US SEC's DOSM recognition - BSE

BSE Ltd became 1st Indian exchange to be selected as Designated Offshore Securities Market by USA Securities and Exchange Commission.

Key Points

- Designated Offshore Securities Market status will permit sale of securities to United States investors through trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with US Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - This will comfort businesses by United States investors in India and also improve attractiveness of Indian Depository Receipts between United States investors.
 - The fresh status is also believed to mainly advantage securities issued in United States private placements to institutional investors.
 - Moreover, it will deliver liquid resale market which will excused offerings by Bombay Stock Exchange enlisted organisations, making them more striking to United States investors.
 - Designated Offshore Securities Market status will also issue extra advantages to organisations whose securities are operated both in United States and on Bombay Stock Exchange.
 - It will permit certain directors and officers of dual organisations to sell again their securities on Bombay Stock Exchange, without any limitations that may spread under United States securities laws.
- ### Bombay Stock Exchange
- Bombay Stock Exchange is Indian stock exchange situated at Dalal Street, Mumbai.
 - It was recognized in 1875, making it Asia's 1st stock exchange.
 - It was 1st Indian stock exchange to be documented by Government under the Securities Contracts Regulation Act in 1957.



- It has recognized India's 1st international exchange India INX in December 2016 in GIFT city, Gujarat.

BS Yeddyurappa took oath as Karnataka CM on - 17th May 2018

B.S.Yeddyurappa, Karnataka's BJP President, took oath as Karnataka's new CM on May 17th, 2018, ending hours on uncertainty. After single full day of speculation, Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala asked the the majority seats winner party BJP, to form the new government in the state and invited the 75 years old Yeddyurappa to take over the CM's position. The Governor has issued the party fifteen days' time period to demonstrate their majority in the legislative assembly.

Key Developments

- The oath was directed to 2-time former CM BS Yeddyurappa by Governor Vajubhai Vala at Raj Bhawan.
- The Congress and the JD(Secular) joint had filed a late-night petition in the Supreme Court on May 16th to stopover the swearing in of B.S.Yeddyurappa.
- However, the apex court declined to order a stay on the Governor's decision and stopover the oath-taking ceremony in a rare late-night hearing.
- This is the 3rd time that B.S.Yeddyurappa has become Karnataka's CM. His 1st term was from November 12th, 2007 to November 19th, 2007, while the 2nd was from May 30th, 2008-July 31st, 2011.
- Yeddyurappa was the single one to take the sworn, no other ministers were sworn-in by the Governor.

Verdict of Supreme Court -Key Highlights

- The Supreme Court rejected to stay the swearing-in of BJP's B.S.Yeddyurappa, on May 16th, 2018.

The conclusion was considered by a special 3-judge bench consisting Justices A.K.Sikri, S.A.Bobde and Ashok Bhushan.

- The Top court was hearing a petition filed by Congress and JD(S) thought-provoking the governor's decision to call Yeddyurappa to form a new government in the state.
- In the petition, the 2 parties had sought to hold the swearing-in of Yeddyurappa.
- The Apex court while hearing the case, instructed the Centre to place before it 2 communications, sent by BJP to Governor Vajubhai Vala in which it had betted claim to form the government.

Department of Commerce notifies creation of Directorate General of Trade Remedies on - 17th May 2018

The Department of Commerce released notification for creation of the DG Trade Remedies in the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on May 17th, 2018. The sanction for the creation of Directorate General Trade Remedies was issued by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu after the amendment carried out by the Union Government to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 on May 7th, 2018 in this regard.

The office of Directorate General of Trade Remedies has been formed with an objective to dispose-off the cases concerned to unfair trade practices and to deliver a level playing field to the local industry.

Directorate General of Trade Remedies

- The DGTR will be the top National Authority that will be handling all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and precaution measures.
- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies will bring the Directorate General of Anti-



dumping and Allied duties, the Directorate General of Safeguards; and the Safeguards functions of DGFT under

- Its name by assimilating them into single national entity.
- Directorate General of Trade Remedies will have an over-all asset of 112 positions which will be drawn from Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties of Department of Commerce and Directorate General of Safeguards of CBEC.
- It will deliver trade defence sustenance to local industries and exporters to pact with the trade remedy investigations introduced against them by other nations.

Indore, Bhopal & Chandigarh are Top 3 cleanest cities of India in - Swachh Surveskshan 2018

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Puri published the results of the Swachh Surveskshan 2018, on May 16th, 2018. Indore has appeared as the cleanest city again in India for 2nd year in a continuation. Indore and Bhopal have accomplished to retain their positions as the top two cleanest cities, as that of previous year.

Key highlights

- Chandigarh was ranked as the 3rd cleanest city, moving up from Rank 11 in 2017.
- UP's Ghaziabad was named as the quickest moving big city of the Swachh Surveskshan 2018, moving to the Position 36 from the earlier 351 in 2017.
- Jharkhand was announced as the best performing state, trailed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- In terms of sanitation coverage, approximately 2133 cities and urban local bodies have been certified as ODF and 2679 cities have self-

declared themselves as ODF and await certification.

- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 was planned by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the guidance of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) with an objective to approximate levels of cleanliness around cities in the nation.

RBI tweaks norms for setting up of - IFSC Banking Units

The RBI has altered norms for invention of IFSC Banking Units by banks in International Financial Services Centres. In April 2015, Reserve Bank of India had framed plan for invention of IFSC Banking Units by banks in International Financial Services Centres.

Key Points :

The alteration makes mandatory for parent bank to deliver and preserve at all times lowest capital of US \$20 million in any overseas currency to its IFSC Banking Units. However, lowest given regulatory capital, including for exposures of IFSC Banking Unit, should be preserved on on-going basis at parent level.

Moreover, parent bank will be also needed to issue Letter of Comfort for extending financial assistance, as and when needed, in the form of capital or liquidity support to IFSC Banking Units. The norms are applicable to IBUs set up in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) and in other International Financial Services Centres which may be form in India.

The alteration was done based on proposals from shareholders to consider lowest given regulatory capital at parent level rather than at IBU level. The government has formed an International Financial Services Centres in Gujarat namely Gujarat International Finance Tec-City in Gandhinagar.



NASA Satellites reveal major shifts in - Global freshwater

In a 1st, researchers have found that the Earth's wet land areas are turning wetter and dry areas are turning drier due to different reasons, including human water management, climate change and natural cycles. The study was issued on May 16th, 2018 in the journal Nature.

Key

Freshwater is found in lakes, rivers, soil, snow and ice. On land, freshwater is one of the necessary Earth's resources for drinking water and agriculture purposes.

Though the water loss in some regions like the melting ice-sheets and alpine glaciers is evidently driven by global warming, however, it may take extra time and information to determine the driving forces behind other patterns of fresh-water alterations.

Freshwater Trends witnessed in various regions

In California, pumping groundwater for agricultural purposes is considered as a significant contributor to depletion in freshwater levels, however, one should not forget that groundwater levels are also delicate to cycles of determined drought or rainy conditions.

This was the reason of the noteworthy groundwater depletion seen in California's Central Valley from 2007-2015. A gigaton of water would fill 400,000 Olympic swimming pools.

Freshwater levels decrease was also seen in Saudi Arabia, that indicating the agricultural compressions. From 2002-2016, the region vanished 6.1 gigatons annually of stored

groundwater.

In Africa's western Zambezi basin and Okavango Delta, the team also acknowledged large inclinations in terrestrial freshwater storage that do not appear to be straight related to human activities, but the result of the natural cycles of high/low rainfall.

In Xinjiang province in north-western China, a mixture of natural and human pressures resulted into compound scenarios in the Xinjiang province of north-western China. During the 1st decades of this century, water deteriorations occurred in Xinjiang, which vanished 5.5 gigatons of terrestrial water storage yearly.

Who has been appointed as Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi ?- Uttam Pacharne

Uttam Pacharne was designated as the regular Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi, on May 17th, 2018. His designation was sanctioned by the President Ram Nath Kovind. Uttam Pacharne is a renowned artist and sculptor.

Uttam Pacharne succeeds M.L.Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies), Union Ministry of Culture, who was nominated as Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi in March 2018, due to the awaiting nomination of a regular Chairman.

Uttam Pacharne will join office for a 3 years term from the date of assuming the charge of the office.

More about Uttam Pacharne

- Presently, Uttam Pacharne is a Member of Advisory Committee of Kala Academy, Goa and a Member of the Advisory Committee at P.L. Deshpande State Lalit Kala Academy.



- He is also working as the Director of Janseva Sahakari Bank Borivali.
- He received the National Lalit Kala Award in 1985, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraska in 1985, Junior National Award in 1986 and Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar in 2017 from Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation.

Gujarat Government to launch free treatment scheme for - Road accident victims

The state government of Gujarat would be releasing free treatment plan for the road accident victims on May 18th, 2018. The declaration for the same was done past week by Gujarat's Deputy CM Nitin Patel, who also handles Health selection.

Key Provisions

- Under the plan, the state government will tolerate medical expenses of about 50,000 Rupees for each victim of a road accident in the state for the 1st 48 hours.
- The government would compensate the amount to the hospital concerned upon submission of bills.
- The free treatment facility will contain wounds dressings, X-ray, blood transfusion, ICU treatments, MRI and all other treatment presented in the hospital.
- In an instance where a hospital refers the patient to another hospital within 2 days, both the hospitals will be entitled for the compensation of their joint bills of Rupees 50,000.
- The initiative is focused at issuing in-timely and better treatment, that in-turn would be minimising the loss of life due to road accidents.

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NASA Satellites revealed major shifts in global freshwater on - 16th May 2018

In a 1st, researchers have found that the Earth's wet land areas are turning wetter and dry areas are turning drier due to different reasons, including human water management, climate



change and natural cycles. The study was issued on May 16th, 2018 in the journal Nature.

Key Findings

- Freshwater is found in lakes, rivers, soil, snow and ice. On land, freshwater is one of the necessary Earth's resources for drinking water and agriculture purposes.
- Though the water loss in some regions like the melting ice-sheets and alpine glaciers is evidently driven by global warming, however, it may take extra time and information to determine the driving forces behind other patterns of fresh-water alterations.

Freshwater Trends witnessed in various regions

- In California, pumping groundwater for agricultural purposes is considered as a significant contributor to depletion in freshwater levels, however, one should not forget that groundwater levels are also delicate to cycles of determined drought or rainy conditions.
- This was the reason of the noteworthy groundwater depletion seen in California's Central Valley from 2007-2015. A gigaton of water would fill 400,000 Olympic swimming pools.
- Freshwater levels decrease was also seen in Saudi Arabia, that indicating the agricultural compressions. From 2002-2016, the region vanished 6.1 gigatons annually of stored groundwater.
- In Africa's western Zambezi basin and Okavango Delta, the team also acknowledged large inclinations in terrestrial freshwater storage that do not appear to be straight related to human activities, but the result of the natural cycles of high/low rainfall.
- In Xinjiang province in north-western China, a mixture of natural and human pressures

resulted into compound scenarios in the Xinjiang province of north-western China.

- During the 1st decades of this century, water deteriorations occurred in Xinjiang, which vanished 5.5 gigatons of terrestrial water storage yearly.

Uttam Pacharne appointed as Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi on - 17th May 2018

Uttam Pacharne was designated as the regular Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi, on May 17th, 2018. His designation was sanctioned by the President Ram Nath Kovind. Uttam Pacharne is a renowned artist and sculptor. Uttam Pacharne succeeds M.L.Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies), Union Ministry of Culture, who was nominated as Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi in March 2018, due to the awaiting nomination of a regular Chairman.

Uttam Pacharne will join office for a 3 years term from the date of assuming the charge of the office.

Uttam Pacharne Presently, Uttam Pacharne is a Member of Advisory Committee of Kala Academy, Goa and a Member of the Advisory Committee at P.L. Deshpande State Lalit Kala Academy.

He is also working as the Director of Janseva Sahakari Bank Borivali. He received the National Lalit Kala Award in 1985, Maharashtra Gaurav Puraska in 1985, Junior National Award in 1986 and Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar in 2017 from Prafulla Dahanukar Foundation.

Gujarat Government to launch free treatment scheme for road accident victims on - 18th May 2018

The state government of Gujarat would be releasing free treatment plan for the road



accident victims on May 18th , 2018. The declaration for the same was done past week by Gujarat's Deputy CM Nitin Patel, who also handles Health selection.

Key Provisions

- Under the plan, the state government will tolerate medical expenses of about 50,000 Rupees for each victim of a road accident in the state for the 1st 48 hours.
- The government would compensate the amount to the hospital concerned upon submission of bills.
- The free treatment facility will contain wounds dressings, X-ray, blood transfusion, ICU treatments, MRI and all other treatment presented in the hospital.
- In an instance where a hospital refers the patient to another hospital within 2 days, both the hospitals will be entitled for the compensation of their joint bills of Rupees 50,000.
- The initiative is focused at issuing in-timely and better treatment, that in-turn would be minimising the loss of life due to road accidents.

Plan Benefit

- Apart from covering the people of Gujarat, the plan would cover people related to other states and also inhabitants from other nations.
- As per to a Government Resolution released by the state's Health and Family Welfare department on May 17th , even individuals addressing from other states or other nations will receive free treatment, if they suffer with a road accident and then admitted to a government or a private hospital in Gujarat, irrespective of their income.

The Indian Supreme Court sanctioned the Centre's draft Cauvery Management Scheme, on May 18th , 2018 for the even distribution of Cauvery river water among the southern states. The ruling was approved by a 3-judge bench consisting Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M.Khanwilkar and D.Y.Chandrachud. The bench refused the recommendations of Karnataka and Kerala governments over the scheme, terming them as devoid of merits. The court also refused Tamil Nadu's plea seeking initiation of disapproval against the Centre for non-finalisation of Cauvery scheme.

Supreme Court's February 16 verdict

- The Supreme Court of India on February 16 th , 2018 decreased Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water by 14.75 tmcft water yearly, relaxing the same to Karnataka.
- The judgement was made by a bench consisting Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar.
- The court informed that the provision to upsurge the water share of Karnataka was taken due to the ten tmcft groundwater and 4.75 tmcft drinking water needed for Bengaluru inhabitants.
- With the decision, while Tamil Nadu's share was reduced to 177 tmcft, Karnataka's share was upsurged to 284.75 tmcft and Kerala's whereas, the Puducherry's share remained the same.
- The court, offered recompense by permitting Tamil Nadu to draw an extra ten tmcft groundwater from a sum of twenty tmcft beneath the Cauvery basin.
- The court in its decision had also instructed the Centre to frame the Cauvery management scheme, including the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board, for the issue of the River's water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

SC approves Centre's draft Cauvery management scheme on - 18th May 2018



Gina Haspel confirmed as first female director of CIA on - 17th May 2018

The United States Senate assured Gina Haspel as the 1st female director of Central Intelligence Agency- CIA on May 17th , 2018. Gina Haspel's appointment was assured in a 54-45 vote, succeeding a difficult nomination procedure that reopened an emotional discussion about brutal interrogation techniques in one of the darkest chapters of Central Intelligence Agency's history. The vote divided both parties, with 6 Democrats linking most Republicans in the Central Intelligence Agency veteran's support.

More about Gina Haspel

- Gina Haspel joined the Central Intelligence Agency in January 1985 as a reports officer. She apprehended various undercover foreign posts, most of them as station chief.
- Previously, she was working as Deputy Director under former Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo in the starting of Trump's administration.
- Gina Haspel became Acting Director succeeding Pompeo's resignation to become US Secretary of State and was appointed by President Donald Trump to turn out to be the official Central Intelligence Agency Director.
- On May 17th , 2018, she was assured as the Central Intelligence Agency Director, making her the 1st woman to grab the post on a full-time basis.
- Gian Haspel was the 2nd female Deputy Director in history. From 2004-2005, Haspel was Deputy Chief of the National Resources Division.

More about CIA

- Central Intelligence Agency is a foreign intelligence service of the US government, which is tasked with collecting, processing,

and analysing national security data from worldwide, mainly through the utilisation of human intelligence.

- The Central Intelligence Agency has no law enforcement function, Unlike the domestic security service FBI and is chiefly focused on foreign intelligence assembly, with only limited domestic intelligence gathering.
- The Central Intelligence Agency is also the only agency approved by the law to carry out and oversee covert action at the behest of the President.
- The Central Intelligence Agency has gradually expanded its role in the present scenario, including conducting covert revolutionary operations.

Russia unveils world's first floating nuclear power plant - Akademik Lomonosov

Russia revealed world's 1st floating nuclear power plant at port city of Murmansk. It will be equipped with nuclear fuel at Murmansk and will be dragged to port of Pevek in autonomous Chukotka area in Russia's far northeast in Arctic Circle area.

More about Akademik Lomonosov

- Akademik Lomonosov was built by Russian state nuclear power corporation Rosatom. It has length of 144m and width of 30m. It has supplanting of 21,500 tonnes and crew of 69 persons.
- For power generation, it has been loaded with 2 modified KLT-40 naval propulsion nuclear reactors, together providing about 70 megawatts of electricity and 300 megawatts of heat. It is termed after Russian Academician Mikhail Lomonosov.
- It has modern security systems and is measured as one of safest nuclear installations in the world.



However, environmentalists have named it as 'nuclear Titanic'. It will be mainly utilised to power oil rigs in remote areas of Arctic region where Russia is assertive to drill for oil and gas.

Significance

- The low-capacity, floating nuclear power station can generate sufficient electricity to power town of 200,000 inhabitants residing in Russia's far-flung northernmost Arctic region.
- Here large percentage of electricity is not needed' and building of conventional power plant grounded on coal, gas and diesel is difficult and expensive.
- It can save about 50,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.
- The project is part of Russia's greater goals to secure rich sums of oil and gas in North Pole region in Arctic.
- Due to climate changes, fresh shipping-routes are opening in Russia's north and as a result, it is solidifying its military position in the region.

India's first advisory centre for energy in - IIT Kanpur

IIT-Kanpur has formed India's 1st Centre for Energy Regulation with the assistance of Government of UK. The 1st of its kind centre in India goals at delivering independent advisory on policy and regulatory

issues in the power and energy sector.

Centre for Energy Regulation

- It is initiative of Department of Industrial and Management Engineering of Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur to improve regulatory research and networking in Indian power segment.
- Centre for Energy Regulation and identified activities under it are sponsored by Department for International Development, Government of UK.

- Centre for Energy Regulation aims on requirement for India specific forward seeking research in teamwork of regulatory institutions and relevant shareholders to deliver solutions to matters including growth of Indian economy, rising energy needs, energy efficiency, security and electricity access.
- It inspires interaction between regulatory and academic institutions. It focuses for suggestion research in developing areas of power sector regulation and policy.
- Its core research segments consist of regulatory and policy alterations in power and energy segment, energy finance, energy sector modelling and operative planning in energy markets and many more.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Zojila tunnel project in Leh on - 19th May 2018

PM Narendra Modi revealed a plaque to spot the commencement of work on the Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Leh district on May 19th, 2018. This project, value Rupees 6,809 crores, will be India's longest and Asia's longest and strategic two-directional tunnel, which will deliver all-weather connections among J&K's Srinagar, Kargil and Leh districts. It will be completed within 5 years. Talking on the occasion, the PM Modi said that he has asked the related Ministry to find out the ways to decrease the time for the completion of the project.

Key Features of Zojila Tunnel

- The tunnel goals to deliver safe, quick and cost-effective connectivity. It will decrease the time of travelling among Srinagar and Leh to fifteen minutes from the present 3.5 hours.
- It will deliver all-weather connectivity to the area. The project has strategic and socio-economic significance and shall be a tool for



the development of the economically backward districts in J&K.

- It will be the longest two-directional tunnel in Asia and the edifice of the tunnel will take about 5 years due to the difficult topography, because in few areas the temperature drops to -45 degree Celsius.
- The project goals at building 14.15 kilometres long bi-lane two-directional single tube tunnel with a parallel 14.2 kilometres long tunnel without tactics between Baltal and Minamarg in the state.
- It is being executed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

India drags US to WTO over - Imposition of duties

India has pushed US to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of World Trade Organisation over obligation

of import duties on steel and aluminium. India informed that provision will of obligation of import duties impact its exports of steel and aluminium products to United States and is not in compliance with global trade guidelines.

Key Points

- India has sought consultations with United States as 1st step of disagreement settlement process under the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement process.
- If the 2 countries are not capable to reach mutually settled solution through consultation, India may appeal for World Trade Organisation dispute settlement panel to review the issue.

Did you know?

- In March 2018, United States President Donald Trump had levied heavy import duties on imported steel and aluminium products, an

initiative that has sparked fears of global trade war. He had inked 2 announcements that imposed 25 per cent duties on steel and 10 per cent duty on aluminium imported from all nations excluding Canada and Mexico. India had sought exclusions from the heavy duties.

- United States conclusion had not only impacted India's export of these goods but also affected global business.
- India's exports of steel and aluminium products to United States was about US \$1.5 billion per year. India and United States are already complicated in disputes at World Trade Organisation, which is a global trade organisation.
- The disagreements are in the areas of poultry, solar and steel. United States freshly had expressed disagreements against India on export incentives measures damage its workers by creating an uneven playing field.

Home Minister to commission anti-Naxal Bastariya battalion on - 21st May 2018

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh will commission into service the Bastariya battalion of the CRPF, in Raipur, on May 21st, 2018. The anti-Naxal battalion, formed for the 1st-time with above 534 tribal youth from Chhattisgarh, has 33% depiction of women combatants with 189 women constables. The Passing out Parade will be organised at a training centre at Ambikapur, a city in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh.

Key Highlights

- The localised battalion of the young fighters will be instantly deployed for anti-Naxal actions in few of the wickedest Naxal affected areas including Sukma, Dantewada and Bijapur.



- The battalion was known as Bastariya, as its associates were recruited from Sukma, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Bijapur districts of non-divided Bastar region in southern Chhattisgarh, bordering AP, Odisha and Telangana.
- The fresh recruits were proficient for approximate 44 weeks in forest warfare, weapons firing, map reading, police laws and unarmed combat.
- The troops will be issued their ranks of constables and engage in arms against the Naxals, like steady security forces staffs.
- Rajnath Singh would be bestowing the best performers of the fresh unit after they bestowed him with a guard of honour and a military parade.

Deployment

The final strength of the Bastariya battalion will be 743 personnel, as it will have some of the young and regular combat personnel apart from officers to make sure a blend of both young troops and experience. These new personnel will be positioned as small hit teams, along with regular Central Reserve Police Force and CoBRA battalions, for procedures and other duties in south Bastar.

India ranked 6th wealthiest country by- The AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review

The AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review positioned India as the sixth wealthiest nation in the world with an entire wealth of \$8,230 billion, while the USA was positioned as the wealthiest with an entire wealth of \$62,584 billion.

The evaluation placed China with an entire wealth of \$24,803 billion in the 2nd place and

Japan with \$19,522 billion at the 3rd position.

Total wealth

- Total wealth denotes the private wealth detained by all the individuals living in each nation.
- It contains all their assets consisting property, cash, equities and trade interests without any liabilities.
- The figures, however, do not contain government funds.
- Here, the mega nations have a noteworthy benefit due to higher populations.
- As per to the report, the features that will ease in wealth creation in India are large number of businesspersons, a good educational system, healthy outlook for IT, business procedures outsourcing, estate and healthcare which will outcome in a 200% rise in 10 years wealth growth estimate.
- Wealth Forecast As per to the report, China is supposed to witness an increase in entire wealth to \$69,449 billion by 2027, while the wealth of the United States is believed to increase to approximate \$75,101 billion during the same time.
- Australia is also believed to witness an important rise in its entire wealth, which will assist it overtake Canada and advantage a lot of ground on Germany and the United Kingdom.
- India, on the flip side, is supposed to overtake Germany and the United Kingdom to become the fourth largest wealth market around the world by 2027.
- Worldwide, the total wealth is supposed to increase by 50% over the coming decade, reaching \$321 trillion by 2027. The fastest growing wealth markets are supposed to be Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam, China and Mauritius.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro re-elected on - 20th May 2018



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro secured another 6 years of term on May 20th, 2018 in an election that has been known as a sham by the opposition and other nations including the USA.

As per to the electoral authorities, Maduro secured 68% of the votes cast, while his contiguous contender Henri Falcon won 21% of the votes and Javier Bertucci won 11% of the votes.

The vote came amongst opposition calls for a boycott. As per to the election commission, the concluding turnout was predictable to be 48%. When Maduro had 1st won office in 2013, there was an 80% voter turnout.

A win despite massive opposition!

- Maduro managed to hold a victory from the largely controversial elections, in spite there being a massive wave of dissent against him among the public.
- The president's victory was closed with the maximum empty polling stations around the nation. However, the voting booths in government strangleholds remained open even hours after their programmed closing time.
- While Maduro's administration tried to get people to come to vote, the opposition was largely out of the race, as participating in the elections meant issuing authentication to the fraud elections.
- Madura had 1st called for the snap elections in January 2018 and the movement was opposed by the opposition given that it came at a time when many of his main rivals were jailed and exiled.
- The Venezuelan Diaspora organised anti-government rallies in dozens of cities worldwide on May 20 th .
- The disaster in the Latin American nation stems from wide-scale corruption and severe misconduct.

- Oil sales are 50 percent of Venezuela's gross domestic product and 95 per cent of its export income, however, in spite the biggest oil reserves in the world, the country has been hardly making any money.

Nipah Virus (NiV) Infection sensed in - Kerala

Kerala was on high alert as rarest and deadly Nipah Virus- NiV infection which was sensed for the 1st time in the state. Its remains were found in blood and body fluid samples of 2 infected persons who died of viral fever in Kerala's coastal Kozhikode area. It was assured by laboratory results from National

Institute of Virology, Pune.

More about Nipah Virus (NiV) Infection

- Nipah virus infection is zoonotic disease that reasons severe disease in both animals and humans. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae Family, are natural host of the virus.
- It was 1st identified during outbreak of disease in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.
- Transmission of the virus blowout fast and is mostly fatal. Infected bats shelter virus in their excretion and secretion. The virus is communicated via direct contact with infected bats, pigs.
- However, Human to Human transmission from another NiV-infected person is also reported.
- Symptoms of NiV infection can include acute respiratory syndrome, breathing trouble, brain inflammation, fever, headache, drowsiness and delirium. Patient can also suffer enter coma within 48 hours.
- The mortality rate of patients infected with it is 70 per cent. It is enable of causing diseases in domestic animals too.
- Treatment include no vaccine for disease either for humans or animals. The main treatment for those infected is concentrated supportive care



and supportive medicines. In disease infected areas, fruits strewn on the ground should not be eaten.

26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers held in - Durban

The 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers was organised in Durban, South Africa. The grouping is a bloc of 4 nations including Brazil, South Africa, India and China. It was witnessed by from BASIC nations and Michal Kurtyka of Poland, next president of Conference of Parties under UNs Framework Convention on Climate Change. India was represented by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Key Results

- BASIC nations decided to safeguard integrity of historic 2015 Paris Agreement, including values of common but differentiated tasks and equity.
- They organised that world is at critical stage in fighting against climate change and answer of developed countries to handle the inadequate issue.
- They repeated that developed countries should take lead in justification and providing means of implementation to developing nations.
- They should similarly give importance to determination of developing nations by providing them reinforced and continued, predictable and adequate finance, technology and capacity full support.
- Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan recapped his appeal for combined efforts to form societal movement in fighting against climate alteration through Green Good gasses.

More about BASIC
BASIC nations are bloc of 4 large newly industrialized countries and are dedicated to

act combinedly at Copenhagen climate summit, including conceivable joint walk-out if their common least position was not fulfilled by the developed countries during climate debates.

Which satellite China launched to explore dark side of Moon ? - Queqiao satellite

China released relay satellite known as Queqiao to start communication link between earth and its planned Chang'e-4 lunar probe that will discover the dark side of moon. It was released as part of Chinese Lunar Exploration Program onboard of Long March-4C rocket from Xichang launch centre.

Queqiao (Magpie Bridge)

- Queqiao that mean bridge of magpies, satellite will work as communications relay for future Chang'e-4 rover that will discover in South Pole-Aitken Basin in moon's far side.
- It will be located in Earth-moon Lagrange point L2, which is a gravitationally steady point situated 64,000 kms beyond moon far side.
- It will be world's 1st communication satellite operating in this position. It will benefit China to realise its goal of being 1st nation to send probe to soft-land on and rove far side of the moon.

Need for relay Satellite

- Moon is tidally protected to Earth, meaning it always shows same side to Earth.
 - Consequently, communicate connection is essential to join with spacecraft on far side, which will then have to send their signals through moon's rock-strewn majority.
- Chang'e program**
- Chinese Lunar Exploration Program also known as Chang'e program after Chinese



moon goddess Chang'e, is ongoing series of robotic Moon missions by considered by China National Space Administration.

- The program includes lunar orbiters, landers, travellers and sample return spacecraft, launched using Long March rockets.
- The Chang'e 3 mission is in process to put lander and traveller on moons near side. China is also scheduling to launch Chang'e 5 T1, that will be a mission to send sample-return container around moon and back to Earth to validate technology required to survive fiery atmospheric entry.

Government earns Rs.1,400 crore in - e-Visa Scheme

As per to Ministry of Home Affairs, Government has received Rupees 1,400 crores as revenue from highly successful e-Visa scheme since its initiation in 2014. 19 lakh tourists utilised e-Visa scheme in 2017 and charges are divided into 4 slabs of zero, \$25, \$50 and \$75, which were fixed on mutuality and depending on nationality.

More about e-Visa scheme

- e-Visa scheme delivers pre-authorization of visa to immigrants prior to travel to India. The system is implemented by immigrant's division of Ministry of Home Affairs to upgrade efficiency and transparency of numerous services being delivered to overseas nationals.
- The provision is now available for inhabitants of 163 nations for entry into India via 25 international airports and 5 sea-ports.
- Under the plan, an applicant, while give in to online application, obtains an e-mail authorising him/her to travel to India after sanction.

- The tourist can travel with printout of this authorisation for thirty days.
- It also covers business and medical classes.

International Day for Biological Diversity celebrated on - 22nd May 2018

While there is a rising gratitude that biological diversity is a worldwide asset of tremendous value to current and future generations, the number of species is being knowingly decreased by certain human actions. The "Convention on Biological Diversity" is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity. The supportable usage of its mechanisms and the fair and equitable sharing of the welfares arising out of the use of genetic resources" that has been approved by 196 countries.

Given the principle of public education and awareness for the implementation of the Convention, the General Assembly announced 22 May, as the International Day for Biological Diversity by its resolution on 20 th December 2000.

Theme for 2018: Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity

- 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the entrance into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Since inflowing into force, the Convention has been applied through the vision and leadership exhibited by nations, NGO's and inter-governmental organizations, Indian residents, local communities and the scientific community.
- The results are considerable. The progress of scientific guidance for the conservation and sustainable usage of biodiversity for biomes worldwide, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair-minded



and Reasonable Sharing of Aids Arising from their Application and the creation and execution of national biodiversity policies and action plans.

- Afterward adopting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Parties have done noteworthy headway in the accomplishment of a number of its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- The Strategic Plan is including a shared vision, a mission, planned goals and 20 determined yet achievable goals, the Aichi Targets.
- The scheme works as an elastic framework for the formation of national and regional goals and it encourages the coherent and effective employment of the aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

• First commercial flight of Arunachal Pradesh lands at Pasighat under scheme - UDAN

The 1st 42-seater ATR aircraft of the Alliance Airlines commercial flight of Arunachal Pradesh under UDAN scheme landed at Pasighat airport in East Siang district. This historic moment sets border state on the aviation map of the nation.

Key Points

- Alliance Air, will manage flight services on Kolkata-Guwahati-Pasighat pathway three-times in a week, including Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- Pasighat airport is on advance landing ground, meant to support operations of small airplanes and few military aeroplanes.
- This commercial flight connectivity initiates fresh vistas of economic development in the district and also deliver abundant openings for tourism industry of the state.

More about UDAN Scheme

UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme was initiated in October 2016 to advance the regional aviation marketplace.

It is dynamic component of the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016. Its objectives are to make aviation inexpensive by providing connectivity to non-served and less-served airports of nation via revival of present airports so that inhabitants in regional towns can enjoy economic flights.

Did you know ?

Arunachal Pradesh already has 120 heliports and 10 Advanced-landing parklands, which are constructed for military and civil procedures. Under UDAN scheme, 8 locations in border state have been carefully chosen by bidders. Out of which Pasighat and Tezu have been identified for fixed wing. Ziro, Daporijo, Itanagar, Tuting, Wallong and Yingkiong have been identified for helicopter services.

UAE launches 10-year residency visa programme for exceptional talents on - 20th May 2018

The UAE adopted a new system of entry visas, on May 20th, 2018, according to which it would be dispensing long-term residency visas for up to ten years to international investors and 'exceptional talents' including professionals and students. The declaration was announced by the country's Cabinet during a high-level meeting led by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Dubai.

Talking on the occasion, the PM of United Arab Emirates stated that the Gulf Nation will continue a global incubator for excellent talents and an enduring destination for international investors. United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Economy



has been instructed to implement the resolution in synchronization with the related parties and follow up on its progresses and present a detailed investigation in the 3rd quarter of 2018.

Key Highlights :

- The fresh system will expand the chances of fascinating investors and competencies, cumulative the nation and economic competitiveness worldwide.
- The system will permit 10 years residency visas for experts in medical, scientific, research and technical fields, as well as for all researchers and innovators.
- While 5 years residency visas will be issued to the students studying in the United Arab Emirates, the ten years visas will be issued to brilliant students.
- UAE will also permit overseas corporations to own 100% of their business in the country. The new system is believed to provide an enormous boost to the Indians and Indian trades in United
- Arab Emirates, as with a population of 2.8 million individuals, Indians are the chief emigrant community in the United Arab Emirates.

Sony to buy EMI Music Publishing in USD 1.9 billion deal on - May 22nd, 2018

Sony Corporation proclaimed to obtain EMI Music Publishing which is one of the world's largest music producing companies, in a US 1.9 billion dollars deal, on May 22nd , 2018.

EMI is the 2 nd largest music producing company by income and grips the rights to 2.1 million pieces of music together with classics by the likes of Queen, Sam Smith, Pharrell Williams and Drake. The deal enhances a catalogue of above two million songs to Sony's

mega list, which already retains 2.3 million copyrights, including the Beatles directory.

This achievement is Sony's 1st major deal under its new-fangled CEO Kenichiro Yoshida. Previously this month, Sony's music also inked US 185 million dollars deal to purchase shares in the Peanuts company.

More about EMI Music Publishing

- EMI Music Publishing is an international music publishing company HQ in London. It is maintained by a consortium headed by Sony/ATV Music Publishing.
- EMI is the 2 nd largest music producing corporation by revenue and owns copyrights of more than two million music pieces.
- Present song-writers under EMI music corporation include Kanye West, Alicia Keys, Drake, Pink, Fetty Wap and Hozier.

AB de Villiers announces retirement from all forms of cricket on - 23rd May 2018

Star South Africa batsman AB de Villiers announced his decision to retire from all forms of cricket with immediate effect on May 23rd, 2018.

He made the announcement through a video message, where he said that he had "run out of gas." The 34-year-old batsman said that the time was right for him to hang up his boots, and to bring a close to his exceptional 14-year career.

Important Highlights

- He has played a total of 228 ODIs, 114 Test matches and 78 T20 Internationals.
- He signed off his career with a staggering 20,014 international runs that too include 8765 in Tests, 9577 in ODIs and 1672 in T20Is and a batting average of more than 50 in both Tests and ODIs.
- He would, however, continue to be available for the Titans in domestic cricket.



- He is regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all the time.
 - AB de Villiers holds the record for most Test innings that too without registering a duck .
 - AB de Villiers was also a three-time ICC ODI player of the year, who won the award in 2010, 2014 and 2015.
- Did you know?**
He played for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League.

HD Kumaraswamy sworn in as Karnataka Chief Minister on - 23rd May 2018

JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Karnataka on May 23rd, 2018. The ceremony of swearing ceremony was conducted at 4.30 pm on the steps of the state secretariat, Vidhana Soudha. Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala administered the oath of office and secrecy.

Important Highlights

- Karnataka Congress leader G Parameshwara has been sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- Among Karnataka's 34 ministries, 22 would be going to the Congress and the remaining 12, including the post of the Chief Minister, will be held by the JD(S).
- However, expected to be held on May 25th, 2018, will decide the seats.
- The post of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker would also be evenly divided. While the Speaker will be from the Congress, his deputy will be from the Janata Dal Secular.
- The JDS leader has sworn in as the Karnataka Chief Minister for the second time in 12 years.

Did you know?

- Kumaraswamy was invited by Vajubhai Vala to form government in Karnataka after B S Yeddyurappa stepped down from the post on May 19th 2018 just before the floor test, citing

the reason to be lack of required numbers in order to form a majority government.

Measures to simplify Defence Procurement Procedure approved by - DAC

The Defence Acquisition Council led by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has sanctioned

numerous measures to simplify Defence Procurement Procedure. Defence Acquisition Council is Defence Ministry's highest decision-forming body on capital procurement of Indian Armed Forces.

Key Points

- These measures will be united in Defence Procurement Procedure-16, which is the manual governing defence procurement procedure.
- The alterations consist devolution of powers within Ministry of Defence and Service HQs, removal of repetitive procedures, simultaneous operating acquisition procedure in its place of sequential stage clearance, bring into line of numerous documents with revised financial guidelines, between others.
- These modifications form part of continuing Business Process Re-engineering in Defence Capital procurements of armed forces.
- It is in line with persistence of Defence Ministry's efforts to modernize Defence Procurement Procedures and decrease timelines to make sure with in time supply of equipment to Armed Forces.
- These actions will also obviate excessive technical delays and accelerate activities besides reduction procurement timelines.

Did you know?

The Union Government till date has cleared applications worth Rupees four lakh crore of



military procurement concerning close to 135 applications as part of its efforts to modernise armed forces. But much of these applications are yet to be executed due to practical delays hindering speed of modernisation of armed forces.

App to help voters to share malpractice proof to be launched by - Election Commission

Election Commission of India is releasing multi-lingual mobile app known as Model Code of Conduct Violation Reporting Application ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The application focuses at

strengthening people around the nation to share evidence of mismanagement by political parties, their contenders and activists directly with Election Commission of India.

Key Points

- Through this mobile application, Election Commission of India aims to cheer larger public contribution in checking immoral practices in elections and make sure fair election procedure.
- The application will be released around the nation as part of steps taken by Election Commission of India to avoid abuse of money and muscle power.
- The application permits sharing of photos and short audio/video clips linked to electoral malpractices from spot itself. It also records location of described incidents and the bureaucrats concerned will proximately obtain the alerts. This will make sure an effective response.
- The app was available for 1st time in Bengaluru, in run-up to freshly concluded state assembly elections.

- It had recorded total of 780 downloads and criticisms were received from subscribers. Accordingly, administrators concerned in all the cases had taken actions.

Election Commission of India

- Election Commission of India is permanent and self-governing constitutional body recognized directly by Constitution of India to make sure fair elections in the nation. It is multi-fellow body and at present has 3 members consisting Chief Election Commissioner chosen by President of India.

US diplomats in response to Trump's sanctions expelled by - Venezuela

The freshly re-designated President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro well-ordered the dismissal of 2 top United States ambassadors in Caracas in retaliation to the new round of United States authorizations forced over Venezuela's widely-convicted elections on May 22nd, 2018. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro earned another 6 years of term on May 20th in an election that was known as a sham by the opposition and other nations including the USA.

United States President Donald Trump replied to the election outcomes on May 21st by releasing an executive order restricting Venezuela's ability to sell state assets.

Key Highlights

- Venezuelan President Maduro replied to Trump's approvals by ordering United States charge d'affaires Todd Robinson to vacant the cuntry after condemning him of being involved in a military collusion.
- Maduro also enforced another senior diplomat, Brian Naranjo, to vacant the country. Both the



ambassadors have provided 48 hours to make the displacement.

- The United States State Department refused Maduro's accusations against the both ambassadors.

Robinson expected the role of charge d'affaires in December 2017.

Impact of Sanctions

- The modern round of United States approvals is probable to have a serious influence on Venezuela's financial system.
- The earlier approvals had been inadequate to the assets connected to individual Maduro administration members.
- The new executive order will ban United States inhabitants from being involved in the sales of Venezuela's pending invoices linked to oil and other assets.
- The Trump administration has also tried to influence China and Russia to halt releasing new credit to Venezuela.
- The two nations have issued billions of dollars in funding to Venezuela in recent years.

No cancellation fee for flights cancelled within 24 hours of booking by - Draft Passenger Charter

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation alerted the Draft Passenger Charter defining rights for air passengers for public consultation, on May 22nd, 2018.

The Draft Passenger Charter issues the benefits that the passengers will be eligible to enjoy the benefits, if the airline is found to be at fault. The charter will make sure a hassle-free air travel experience.

Draft Passenger Charter

- If the flight is projected to be delayed for over four hours from the planned time of departure/ revised departure time that is informed 24 hours prior to planned departure

time, then the airlines will issue an option of full reimbursement of ticket to the passenger.

- When delay is above 24 hrs from planned time of departure and results flight to fly on the next day, passenger will then be eligible for a free-of-charge hotel stay including transfers.
- If the flight is positioned on the pitch for above 60 minutes, then adequate and free-of-charge hot snacks and drinks will be provided to the passengers.
- If passenger are informed about the flight cancellation less than 2 weeks before, the airline must issue an alternate flight permitting the passenger to depart within 2 hours of the booked scheduled time or reimbursement the ticket, as acceptable to the passenger.
- In case the passenger is not communicated about the flight cancellation up to 24 hours of the planned departure time, the airlines must reimbursement the full value of the air ticket.
- Cancellation of tickets Airline shall not impose any extra charge for correction in name of the person, if name correction is needed up to 3 characters only and the mistake in the name spelling is pointed out by the passenger within 24 hours of making a reservation.
- Cancellation amount must be published on the ticket itself in a lowest font size of 12 and not as a fine print. This data should also be issued as part of the reservation documentation.
- Passengers can cancel or alter the ticket without any extra charges within 24 hours of booking the ticket.

NITI Aayog, ABB India signed Statement of Intent on - 23rd May 2018

NITI Aayog and ABB India inked a Statement of Intent on May 23 rd , 2018 to backing the Indian government realise its vision of 'Make in India' via advanced industrial technologies that integrate the latest progresses in robotics



and artificial intelligence. The contract was inked by Adviser (Industry) Anna Roy, NITI Aayog and MD, ABB India, Sanjeev Sharma, in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and ABB CEO Dr.Ulrich Spiesshofer.

Key Highlights

- Mutually, NITI Aayog and ABB will work with government ministries, looking forward response for areas critical to them and discourse solutions using industrial automation and digitalisation technologies.
- NITI Aayog will simplify the participation of representatives and government ministries in workshops and training programmes held by ABB India.
- The training programmes are believed to feature subject matter specialists and will goal to sensitise representatives and officials about relevant AI abilities and explore ways they can be utilised for revolutionising industrial productivity.
- The association will consist of a across sectoral consideration of digitalisation at ABB's world-class centres.
- The 1st workshop under this teamwork would be held for senior government administrators in June, 2018 at ABB Ability Innovation Centre, Bengaluru.
- The senior bureaucrats will be selected from central, state governments and autonomous bodies.
- Given the significance of the food processing sector, the workshop will aim on digital and automation technologies in the segment.

India-Nepal militaries to conduct joint battalion level exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII from - 30th May 2018 onwards

Joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII will be held in between India and Nepal at

Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from May 30th to June 12th, 2018.

This will be the 13 th edition of the military exercise among India and Nepal.

More about SURYA KIRAN-XIII

- The joint military exercise will improve the level of defence collaboration which will further fortify the bilateral relations among the two countries.
- The military exercise will consist of training on forest warfare, anti-terrorism fight as well as disaster management activities.
- More than 300 soldiers from both Indian and Nepal Army will be taking part in the exercise.
- These soldiers will be sharing the experiences expanded during the conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past.
- Exercise SURYA KIRAN Exercise SURYA KIRAN is a six-monthly exercise which is held alternatively in Nepal and India.
- Notably, it is Exercise SURYA KIRAN with Nepal which is the major in terms of troop involvement, among all the military training exercises inaugurated by India with various nations.
- The objective of this exercise is to comportsment battalion level joint training with stress on counter terrorism operations in hilly terrain.
- The joint military exercise will improve the level of defence assistance which will further fortify the bilateral ties between the both countries.

Pakistan hosted SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure meeting in - Islamabad

Pakistan organised its 1st ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure legal specialists meeting in Islamabad. This



was the 1st-ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting being organised in Pakistan since it became a everlasting member of the organisation along with India in June 2017.

Key Points

- The three days meeting witnessed the participation of legal consultants from 8 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states including China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan and senates of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure executive board.
- The main program of the meeting was to debate issues related to terrorist fears in the region and how to overawed them.
- They debated terrorist threats being tackled by region and ways and means to enhance regional collaboration in combat terrorism, drug trading and organised crime between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states.

SCO-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure

- The RATS is a permanent organ of SCO. It works to encourage collaboration of member states against 3 evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. It is HQ in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- The Head of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is designated to 3-year term. Each member state also guides permanent member to Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.

INSV Tarini team conferred Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 on - 24th May 2018

The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi offered the respected Nari Shakti Puraskar-2017 to the

INSV Tarini team members in New Delhi on May 24 th , 2018. The whole women team consisted of 6 members including Lt.Commander Vartika Joshi, Lt.Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lt.Commander Swathi Patarpalli, Lt.Aishwarya Bodapatti, Lt.SH.Vijaya Devi and Lt.Payal Gupta. The Nari Shakti Puraskar was presented to the beneficiaries by President Ram Nath Kovind on March 8th , 2018, on the International Women's Day. However, the award could not be given to the INSV Tarini team, because they were sailing at that time.

More about INSV Voyage

- The 6-member crew headed by Lt.Commander Vartika Joshi move around and handled the whole operation on their own.
- It is the first ever go-around the sphere by a whole-women Indian team.
- The voyage lasted for 254 days, which consisted of 199 days at ocean, covering a total of 21600 nautical miles of distance.
- In total, the team made five port calls consisting Fremantle in Australia, Lyttelton in New Zealand, Port Stanley in Falkland Islands, Cape Town in South Africa and finally Mauritius before coming back to home base to Goa.
- The ship faced rough seas, high storm situations and extremely cold temperatures, making the voyage an extremely challenging.
- All the 6-members onboard had undergone proper training for a period of 3 years prior to undertaking the massive operation.
- The exercise was conducted under Captain Dilip Donde, who was the 1st Indian to effectively carry out solo-go-around to the globe between 2009-2010.

Prakash Javadekar launched Samagra Shiksha scheme for



school education on - 24th May 2018

The Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar released Samagra Shiksha scheme for school education from pre-school to senior secondary levels, on May 24th, 2018.

Key Objective

- The scheme will primarily aim on cultivating quality of education, attractive the learning outcomes and using technology to strengthen children and teachers.
- The scheme will be aimed on digital education and it will improve usage of digital technology in education via smart classroom and digital boards.

Significance

- The scheme will deliver holistic education for holistic development.
- It would assist advance the quality of education by emphasising on teachers and technology.
- Yearly grant of Rupees 5000-20,000 will be issued for solidification of libraries in the schools.

India's first National Sports University in Manipur by - Union Cabinet approves ordinance

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned an ordinance to form the nation's 1st National Sports University in Imphal, Manipur. The regulation is on the lines of National Sports University Bill, 2017 which is pending in Parliament and was introduced in Lok Sabha in August, 2017.

Key Points

- The specialised university will be the 1st of its kind in the nation and accept best international performs.

- Manipur government has already assigned land for the planned university. The application to set up national sports university in Manipur was primarily declared by PM Narendra Modi.
- Then it was sanctioned in 2014-15 budget with Rupees 100 crores distribution.
- The planned university is anticipated to bridge gap in sports environment of nation in different areas including sports science, sports technology, intense performance training.

National Sports University Bill, 2017

- The Bill set up National Sports University in Manipur. It is instructed to promote sports education in areas of sports sciences, sports technology and sports coaching.
- It will work as National Training Centre for excellent sports disciplines.
- It also authorizes the University to endowment degrees, diplomas and certificates. It also permits Government to set up campuses and study centres in other parts of the nation.

Objectives of National Sports University

- Research, progress and distribution of knowledge in physical education and sports sciences.
- Firming up physical education and sports training programmes.
- Producing knowledge abilities, skills and fitness at various levels.
- Training brilliant athletes to support them to evolve into international level athletes.

Nepal becomes first country in south-east Asia to eliminate Trachoma by - WHO

WHO has authenticated Nepal for having eradicated trachoma, which is a transmittable bacterial infection of the eyes. It declares Nepal 1st



nation in World Health Organization’s South-East Asia Region to conquest trachoma, as its world’s foremost infectious cause of blindness. The eyes disease was 2nd foremost cause of unnecessary blindness in Nepal in 1980s. Its pervasiveness in Nepal has decreased by 40 percent after execution of sustained control activities consisting National Trachoma Programme which delivered incentives to homegrown communities and districts to shape and maintain latrines, measures that were vital to progress sanitation and diminish disease carrying flies.

World Health Organization Criteria utilised to evaluate nation’s claim for eradicated trachoma as a public health problem-Less than 5 per cent of children aged 1–9 years have symptoms of active trachoma. Less than 0.2 percent of people for the age group of 15 years and older have trachomatous trichiasis.

Health system which can classify and accomplish fresh cases of trachomatous trichiasis.

More about Trachoma

- It is an eye disease triggered by infection with bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis. Eye infection is chiefly common in young children.
- It results inflamed granulation on inner side of eye-lids. It blowouts through contact with infective eye/nose discharges. Eye/nasal discharge can be communicated directly from person to person and arbitrated by flies which have been in contact with eyes/noses discharge of infected person.
- Trachoma communication is linked with poor sanitation and hygiene, which upsurge accessibility of eye discharges and boost flies breeding. It can be cured with antibiotics in case of children.

- Aged people infected with this infection need eyelid surgery for its cure.

Cabinet approves USOF scheme for Meghalaya under - CTDP

Union Cabinet has sanctioned implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan Project for North Eastern Region in Meghalaya to advance mobile services. The project has facility of 2G as well as 4G mobile network coverage in recognized non-coverage areas of Meghalaya and unified mobile network along National Highways in the state. It will be sponsored by Universal Service Obligation Fund. Cabinet also permitted enhanced cost of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan Project for North-Eastern Region for Rupees 8,120.81 crores. It already has sanctioned Rupees 5,336.18 crores on September 2014 for the project.

Advantages

- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan focuses to firming up of telecom network that will outcome in upsurge of mobile connectivity in Meghalaya.
- It will deliver inexpensive and equitable access of communication and governance to individuals.
- Connecting unreached individuals of Meghalaya via public mobile network will authorize citizens with advantages of ICTs for furthering socio-economic expansions.
- It will also upsurge ground-breaking skill of un-exposed areas of the state via broadband and internet admittance.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

- Universal Service Obligation Fund was designed by Central Government to aid fund projects to enhance connectivity in rural areas.



- The money support for this trust comes via 'Universal Access Levy,' which is gathered from telecom operators as percentage of various licenses fees being compensated by them.

Who has been appointed as Chairman of Press Council of India ? - Former SC judge CK Prasad

Government has selected former Supreme Court Judge C.K.Prasad as Chairman of Press Council of India for second term. His suggestion was sanctioned by 3-member committee led by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. He was previously selected to position in November 2014 after Justice Markanday Katju stepped down.

Press Council of India

- Press Council of India is a constitutional body with mandate to work as watchdog to supervise conduct of the print media. It originates its mandate from Press Council Act, 1978.
- It involves Chairman, who has by convention, been a retired judge of Supreme Court and 28 other members of whom twenty represent press, 5 are designated from both the Houses of Parliament and 3 represent cultural, literary and legal areas.
- It is constitutional body working as watchdog of press. It arbitrates complaints against and by the press for violation of morals and for violation of the freedom of the press correspondingly.

Online degree, diploma courses from upcoming academic session approved by - UGC

The UGC sanctioned new guidelines for online courses by universities on May 24th, 2018. The commission finalised that the higher

educational institutions and universities will be talented to propose graduate, Post-Graduate and Diploma courses online from the forthcoming academic session.

Key Information

- The Institutions can propose online courses in those guidelines in which they are already presenting the similar programmes in regular/open and distance learnings.
- The Institutions will be talented to propose online degrees in all areas, except that need practical or laboratory classes consisting Engineering, Medicine, Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, Architecture and Physiotherapy.
- The tests would be conducted in proctored mode and in conformism with any standards for such papers specified by the commission.
- The online learning shall have least 4 quadrants, Video lectures, e-content, personal-assessment and a debate forum to clarify queries.

Congress-JD(S) coalition wins floor test in Karnataka assembly on - 25th May 2018

The Janata Dal-Secular- Congress alliance led by H.D.Kumaraswamy secured the floor test in the Karnataka assembly on May 25th, 2018, winding-up the ten days political drama. The motion communicating assurance in the Kumaraswamy government was accepted via a voice vote. Overall, 117 MLAs voted in side of the alliance government. The Bhartiya Janta Party MLAs headed by former Chief Minister Yeddyurappa performed a walkout over the farm loan sacrifice concerns just before the trust vote.

Key highlights

- The elections for the position of Speaker led for the vote of confidence. Senior Congress leader Ramesh Kumar was selected unanimously to the position by the



policymakers after Bhartiya Janta Party contender Suresh Kumar removed his nomination.

- The victory for the position-poll coalition came 2 days following Kumaraswamy took oath in as the new CM of the state.
- Kumaraswamy had appealed the support of 117 representatives including single BSP and single independent member.
- BJP with 104 members was 8 short of being the mega party in the House that has the asset of 222 associates.
- With the final result out in the open, Bhartiya Janta Party would be the only opposition in the House and B.S.Yeddyurappa was nominated to be the leader of Opposition.

Did you know?

With the Karnataka Assembly polls ensuing in a hung judgement, the 2nd largest party, Congress and Janata Dal-Secular finalised to come together to stake rights to form the government in the state. With the power with the Governor Vajubhai Vala, BJP as single largest party in the state was asked to set up the government and the party's state leader B.S.Yeddyurappa took oath as the CM of the state. However, in the unexpected floor test well-ordered by the Supreme Court, the BJP was unsuccessful to collect the needed numbers and Yeddyurappa declared his letter of resignation from the position just before the trust vote.

Data visualisation app on education scenario in India launched by - UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund- UNICEF released Data Visualisation Application to deliver operator-friendly visual symbol of complex analytics of education situation in India. It was

established with technical inputs from the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, in partnership

with National Council for Educational Research and Training and National Institute of Education Planning and Administration.

Key Points

- The application utilises Unified District Information System for Education, National Assessment survey and demographic information.
- It can be utilised as visual instrument by policy-formers, academic world, senior government administrators, and scientists to address breaks and monitor programmes in field of education.

Shiksha Mela Education Open Day

- United Nations Children's Emergency Fund India in corporation with Ministry of Human Resource Development organised Shiksha Mela Education Open Day to validate case stories demonstrating complete and reasonable quality education attained via convergent programming around 17 states.

Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve won - India Biodiversity Award 2018

Arunachal Pradesh-based Non-Government Organisation "Singchung Bugun Community Reserve"

secured the India Biodiversity Award 2018 in the "Conservation of wildlife species" class. It was

bestowed for its hard work to conserve erratic critically endangered bird Bugun Liocichla.

India Biodiversity Award

The prize is combined initiative of Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate



Change, National Biodiversity Authority and United Nations Development programme. It recognises involvement of a range of shareholders towards the protection of biodiversity. It is given in 4 categories including Conservation of Threatened Species, Sustainable utilisation of biological sources, Successful replicas for access and advantage sharing and Biodiversity Management Committees.

Singchung Bugun Community Reserve

- o Singchung Bugun Community Reserve is seventeen sq km biodiversity hotspot in Arunachal Pradesh.
- o It was introduced under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It is homebased to censoriously endangered bird species Bugun Liocichla, which is not found anywhere else in world.
- o It is situated right next to Eaglesnest Wildlife sanctuary, which is also homeplace to the bird species Bugun Liocichla.
- o The bird was recognized as a new species in 2006 and is supposedly only new bird species to have been revealed in India since 1947. It has been named after Bugun tribe because of their protection efforts.
- o International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified Liocichla as Critically Endangered.
- o There are only about 20-24 duos which live in the area.

recommendations of Punchhi Commission on 25th May 2017 by under the supervision of Home Minister Rajnath Singh. During the 13th meeting of the Standing Committee of the ISC they have made this announcement.

More about 13th meeting of the Standing Committee of the ISC

- o This meeting deliberated the VI and VII volumes of the report containing total of 88 recommendations.
- o Recommendations VI are related to environment, natural resources and infra structure.
- o Whereas for volume VII , these are related to socio economic development, public policy and governance.

Rustom-2 drone to be delivered to armed forces by 2020 by - DRDO

According to a contract Made in India Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle by DRDO will be provided to armed forces by 2020. Presently, its basic system is being finalized and attempts are performing to enhance its flight altitude. Its engineering will be done by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Bharat Electronics Ltd.

More about Rustom-II

- Rustom-II is part of Rustom line of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles which are made in India, outlined and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation that includes Rustom-I, Rustom-H and Rustom-C.
- It is being established for utilisation of all 3 services of Indian Armed Forces, chiefly for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance actions.
- It is a long-fortitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle that has twenty hours estimated flight time. Its medium-altitude prototype can fly at estimated 22,000 feet. It is drove by 2 three-

Delibrations on Punchhi Commission report completed by - Inter State Council Standing Committee

Inter State Council Standing Committee has completed the delibration on all the 273



bladed NPO saturn engines in which each engine produces more than 450 kilograms force energy.

- It stands 2.4 meters tall with wing area of 20.6 metres and length of 9.5 metres. It can fly at about 280 kilometres per hour.
- Various critical systems and machineries of Rustom-II, including its airframe, flight control, landing gear and many more, have been developed in India and some in association with private constructors.
- Rustom-II can transport variety of cargos like Long Range Electro Optic, Medium Range Electro Optic, Synthetic Aperture Radar, Electronic Intelligence- ELINT and Situational Awareness Payloads that assist in accomplishment of missions during the night also.

Man Booker International Prize 2018 won by - Olga Tokarczuk

Polish author Olga Tokarczuk bestowed Man Booker International Prize 2018. It makes her 1st writer from Poland to secure this prestigious English-language literary Prize. She earned prize with English

translation of her novel "Flights". It was 1st printed in Polish language in 2007 and was translated into English in 2017 by Jennifer Croft.

More about Olga Tokarczuk

- Olga Tokarczuk is one of most unsympathetically acclaimed and successful Polish writers of her generation.
- She is mainly noted for hallmark legendary tone of her writing. She is proficient as psychologist at University of Warsaw.
- She has printed variety of poems, novels and other books with shorter prose works. Her 1st novel was 'The Journey Of The People Of The Book' which was published in 1993.

- Her literary work has secured various national and international awards including Poland's most significant 'Nike Literary Award' twice. She also has co-written script for Polish crime film Spoor, which earned the Alfred Bauer Prize at the Berlin film festival in 2017.

- It was also nominated as Poland's entry for best overseas language film at 2018 Oscars.

Man Booker International Prize

- Man Booker International Prize is complement to Man Booker Prize for English-language novels offered by the Man Group.
- It is free to books in any language that have been interpreted into English. It has monetary award of £50,000 which is divided evenly between writer and interpreter.
- The authors are finalised by judges from a wide range of guidelines and all with passion for excellence fiction.

Sushant Singh Rajput signed Sol to promote Women Entrepreneurship Platform with - NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog has inked Statement of Intent with renowned actor and entrepreneur Sushant Singh Rajput

Rajput to cooperate and support its flagship Women Entrepreneurship Platform initiative. In his new role, actor transformed into entrepreneur will backing NITI's initiative for women entrepreneurs, enabling commercial ecosystem for women of the nation. He will also encourage Bharat Interface for Money digital payments application for cashless economy by give the idea in various video, print and social media operations of NITI Aayog. He will also support NITI Aayog in encouraging Women Transforming

India Awards 2018 with theme 'Women and



Entrepreneurship’.

Women Entrepreneurship Platform

NITI Aayog had released Women Entrepreneurship Platform in March 2018 on the eve of the International Women’s Day.

Key Objectives

- Create environment for females in India to escalate their commercial aspirations, increase innovative activities and chalk-out supportable, long lasting strategies for their trades.
- Power vibrant commercial ecosystem over enabling network of industry associations, corporations, mentors and peer-to-peer link.
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform benefits aspiring women businesspersons in 3 different ways which is demonstrated as its 3 pillars. They are-“Ichha Shakti” is for motivating ambitious entrepreneurs to initiate their business.
- “Gyaan Shakti” is for providing information and environment support to women businesspersons to assist them foster business.
- “Karma Shakti” is for providing practical assistance to businesspersons in initiating and scaling up businesses.

Germany to host first edition of Global Wind Summit by - September 25th 2018

The 1st edition of the Global Wind Summit will be accommodated by Germany from September 25th -28th , 2018 at Hamburg.

Highlights of the first Global Wind Summit

- The Global Wind Summit 2018 will be the mega meeting point for trade, networking and data for the whole of the wind industry including onshore and offshore.

- The summit associates 2 conferences ‘WindEnergy Hamburg’ and ‘WindEurope’.
- WindEurope, in corporation with WindEnergy Hamburg, will accommodate the Global Wind Summit 2018 in the Hamburg Messe.
- More than 1400 exhibitors will come together for WindEnergy Hamburg, with an objective to network, do trade and expands visibility prior to a truly global listeners.
- More than 50 meeting sessions by 250 specialists of WindEurope will witness the vanguard of every aspect of the wind industry in 2018.
- The event will observe involvement from more than 100 nations including India, China, USA, Spain and Denmark.
- The conferences will debate on the ways to progress new markets, make competitive produce in auctions and use wind power for all energy apps.

India’s participation in the summit

A variety of Indian firms would be taking part in the global event. India is 4th major nation in terms of wind energy installation with a volume around 33 GW after China, USA and Germany. Indian government has formed an aim of achieving 60 GW by 2022.

US delegation is in North Korea to arrange Singapore Summit by - Donald Trump

- United States President Donald Trump broadcasted that a United States entrustment is in North Korea to make arrangements for the Singapore Summit, on May 27 th , 2018, which a clear-cut signal of the summit among Donald Trump and North Korea front-runner Kim Jong Un is back on pathway. The delegation consists of United States Ambassador to the Philippines, Sung Kim; the Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, Randall G. Schriver;



and Director for Korea on the White House's National Security Council, Allison Hooker.

On the other side, Kim Jong Un met Choe Son Hui, a knowledgeable North Korean ambassador who experte in the nation's ties with Washington, in concern to the preparations of the summit. The meeting is planned to be accommodated on June 12th , 2018, will spot the 1st face-to-face meeting between a sitting United States President and a North Korean leader.

Revival of Singapore Summit

- The statement comes afterward Donald Trump specified on May 25 th , 2018 that he leftovers open to accommodate the Singapore Summit with Kim Jong Un.
- The communication between the US and North Korea regarding restoring the June 12 summit, regenerated afterward Donald Trump suddenly negated the summit succeeding the harsh statements from North Korea in which they warned not to be present at the summit.

Singapore Summit earlier cancelled by Donald Trump

United States President Donald Trump negated the historic Singapore Summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, on May 24 th , 2018, condemning North Korea of 'tremendous anger and open hostility'.

NATO as global partner is joined by - Colombia

Colombia has officially linked NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organization as global partner. It makes it 1st Latin American to join North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The declaration came later Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development sanctioned Colombia as a fresh member.

Key Points

- As a worldwide partner with North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Colombia will not essentially have to participate in active military activities of North Atlantic Treaty Organization but will be completely accredited to 29 countries' military association.
 - It will collaborate on worldwide security areas including cyber and nautical security, terrorism and organized crime.
 - Other worldwide associates of North Atlantic Treaty Organization are Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan.
- ### North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a diplomatic military association among 29 North American and European nations grounded on the North Atlantic Treaty that was inked on 4th April 1949.
 - It is HQ in Brussels, Belgium, while HQs of its Allied Command Operations is in Belgium.

Did you know?

North Atlantic Treaty Organization association had touched partnership contract with Colombia back in May 2017, following the Latin American inked peace contract with communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, finishing the long civil battle in Latin America. The peace contract had earned Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

Agreement signed between BCCI and UN Environment to promote - Green Cricket in India

The BCCI has inked Letter of Intent with United Nations Environment to promote green' cricket in India. The corporation goals to spread greater awareness about crucial



environmental challenges that India is facing and limelight alternate and additional sustainable solutions.

Key Points

- Through this Letter of Intent, Board of Control for Cricket in India will encourage to decrease its environmental influence by greening its operations and appealing cricketers and followers in green initiatives.
- Partnering with United Nations Environment will benefit to make cricket green and sensitise audiences towards diminishing waste production during matches.
- It will also aim on pushing out single-utilised plastic around stadiums in the nation.

Green Cricket Initiatives

- Movies with messages from skippers of numerous franchises will be telecasted in stadiums lime-lighting threats of plastic pollution during the game of IPL.
- At the 4 matches played at Holkar Stadium in MP, a Green Protocol grounded on idea of 3 Rupees to decrease, reuse and reprocess was applied.
- M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka substituted plastic cups and bottles with environment-welcoming replacements for more than 32,000 followers.

UN Environment

United Nations Environment is foremost worldwide environmental authority that forms worldwide environmental agenda, assists as commanding advocate for worldwide environment. It was recognized in June 1972. It is HQ in Nairobi, Kenya.

IMD to team up with BSNL for sending - Extreme weather warnings

The India Meteorological Department has tied-up with state-operated BSNL to transmit

extreme weather alerts to individuals. The warnings will be about looming extreme weather conditions including rainstorms and heatwave.

Key Points

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Indian Meteorological Department will broadcast area specified warnings to subscribers if they happen to be at place likely in extreme weather conditions.
- The workout is being carried out in an investigational stage, and if effective, Ministry of Earth Sciences devices to rope in other weather interventions also.

Did you know?

The initiative comes after Indian Meteorological Department came under disapproval from several quarters, for not broadcasting specific warnings. Government weather forecasting companies have limitations in broadcasting information, especially for thunderstorms where issues disclose very quickly. Since these weather forecasting companies cannot reach every person, there must a midway agency that could pass on the forecast to individuals. Prime Minister's Office had recently asked Indian Meteorological Department to broadcast weather advisories to people.

India launched its second IT corridor in China on - May 27th 2018

India releases its 2nd IT corridor in China to advantage from the nation's growing software market, on May 27th ,2018. The Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza platform, IT corridor, was recognized in China's Guiyang city by the NASSCOM.

Key Highlights



- During the launch of the corridor, MoUs worth about 6 million US Dollars were inked among Indian service providers and Chinese clientele by China's Guiyang Municipal government and the National Association of Software and Services Companies.
- The pilot projects released on the SIDCOP platform would be performed during 2019.
- National Association of Software and Services Companies had recognized its 1st SIDCOP platform in the Chinese port city of Dalian in December 2017.
- While the focus of Dalian corridor was on Internet of Things, the Guiyang corridor will aim on Big Information.
- The release ceremony witnessed the participation of above 350 delegates from Indian and Chinese firms.

Did you know?

India's top IT companies have a large presence in China, which is supposed to deliver a doorway for the Indian IT-small and medium-sized initiatives. India has been asking China to deliver market access to Indian IT and pharmaceutical companies for several years to decrease the bilateral business deficit. The 2 corridors started in partnership with China's provincial governments are believed to deliver the ample required mega opening for Indian IT companies.

Ireland ends abortion ban as quiet revolution transforms country on - 26th May 2018

Ireland voted to finish the abortion ban, an initiative greeted as the culmination of "a quiet revolution" in one of the Europe's most socially traditional nations, on May 26 th , 2018. A quiet revolution has been happening in Ireland over the past couple of decades. Voters selected to liberalise the much preventive abortion laws by 2-to-1, thus,

permitting the government to bring in the new legislation by the end of the year. The poll follows a sensitive movement. More than 3.2 million people recorded to vote in the referendum.

In favour of the vote

- The Chairwoman of the Termination for Medical Reasons, Siobhan Donohue explained the result as "hugely significant"
- Donohue was one who had to travel to neighbouring Britain to undergo an abortion, when her baby TJ was detected with a foetal anomaly.

Against the vote

- Orla Halpenny, a doctor and representative for the anti-abortion group 'Doctors for Life', labelled the result as disappointing Halpenny is now worried that doctors will not have the right to reject to refer patients for termination services.

EU's new data protection rules came into effect on- 25th May 2018

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation was brought into complete effect on May 25th , 2018. The new data privacy rules elucidate personal rights to the personal data collected by firms worldwide for focused advertising and other determinations.

Key Highlights

- The General Data Protection Regulation forms fresh rules for how firms manage and share personal information.
- Though the rules apply only to the inhabitants of the EU, the worldwide nature of the internet means that approximately every online service will be affected.
- While the guideline mainly builds on the guidelines formed by earlier European Union privacy measures, it enlarges on those



measures in 2 crucial ways:

1. The General Data Protection Regulation forms a higher bar for gaining personal information on the internet, higher than ever seen earlier.

2. So, any time a firm will need to gather personal information of any European Union inhabitant, it will need explicit and informed permission from the concerned individual. The rule explicitly extends to firms based outside the EU.

A. The companies will have to simplify how long they hold information.

B. The rules will also pressurise firms that suffer information breaks to disclose them within 72 hours.

- The fresh rules will apply to all users in the European Union, regardless of where the companies collecting, analysing and using their data are located.
- Hence the rules will affect social networking giants such as Facebook and Google, as they have millions of users in Europe.
- Further, the companies based in the EU will have to offer the privacy protection rules to all their users, not just EU residents.

China officially sets civilisation age at 5800 years on - 28th May 2018

The Chinese researchers declared on May 28th, 2018 that the Chinese civilization was originated 5800 years ago and was matured 3800 years ago. The declaration was made at a State Council press meeting by the Deputy Director of State Administration for Cultural Heritage, Guan Qiang. The conclusions were completed after fifteen years of state subsidized work.

Key Findings

- Guan Qiang elucidated that the 1st signals of civilisation developed in areas around the

Yellow, Yangtze and Western Liao rivers. Other parts of China established equally advanced cultures around 5300 years ago.

- Some 3800 years ago, a much mature civilisation appeared in the central plains of the nation and started to culturally inspiring the surrounding regions.

15 years of Study

- The studies are the outcome of a programme that was released by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology in 2001 and finished in 2016.
- The investigation was directed by specialists from the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Peking University with foremost archaeologists.
- China is measured to be the oldest in the world courting back from ancient times to modern times. Till date, it had been broadly expected that the Chinese civilisation had above 5000 years of history.

Gaj Yatra launched in Garo Hills of Meghalaya by - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change rolled out 'Gaj Yatra', to safeguard elephants from Tura in Garo Hills of Meghalaya. It was planned by the Wildlife Trust of India in partnership with the State Forest Department.

In this campaign, an elephant mascot will be taken around regions frequented by jumbo masses for creating awareness among the people. It was released to recognized good sign of villagers from Garo Hills who had form aside part of their community possessed land to form village standby forests for



human-elephant

agreement.

utilising ultra-thin sheets to force ferromagnetic phase.

More about Gaj Yatra

- Gaj Yatra is 18 months long national campaign focused to safeguard elephants which is India's national heritage animal in twelve elephant range states.
- It was released in August 2017 by Environment and Forest Minister Harsh Vardhan on the eve of World Elephant Day 2017 celebrated on August 12th .
- The campaign is being directed by Wildlife Trust of India. It goals to involve individuals from all spheres of life in preservation of elephants.
- In this campaign, Wildlife Trust of India is safeguarding 101 elephant corridors around in twelve elephant range states via its Right to Passage project, in corporation with Union government's Project Elephant, state forest subdivisions and different Non-Governmental Organisations.
- The objective of this project is to assimilate people affected by man-elephant fight in corridor areas while making sure never-ending movement of elephants among significant habitats.

Fourth element showing magnetism at room temperature discovered, is - Ruthenium (Ru)

Researchers from University of Minnesota have found that chemical element Ruthenium is 4th element having unique ferromagnetic properties at room temperature. Till date, only 3 periodic table elements Iron, Cobalt, and Nickel have exhibited ferromagnetic properties at room temperature.

Key Points

- Scientists displayed that Ruthenium can be 4th single element ferromagnetic material by

- It took them about 2 years to discover correct way to cultivate this material and authenticate it. The finding will assist to advance sensors, devices in computer memory and logic industry utilising magnetic things.

- From an application point of view, Ruthenium is resistant to oxidation and additionally has high thermal stability, which is a vigorous necessity for scaling magnetic memories.

More about Ruthenium

- Ruthenium is chemical element with atomic number 44. It is infrequent transition metal have its place to platinum group of periodic table.
- Ruthenium is inert to most other chemicals. It was discovered in 1844 by Russian originated scientist Karl Ernst. Ruthenium is typically found as negligible component of platinum ores. It is utilised in wear-unaffected electrical contacts and thick film resistors.
- It is also used in platinum alloys and as a chemistry catalyst.

Who has been appointed President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ? - R K Agrawal

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has sanctioned former Supreme Court Judge Justice

R.K.Agrawal as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. He will succeed Justice D.K.Jain, who finished his term. Justice Agrawal was judge of Supreme Court from February 2014 to May 2018 and had assisted on bench of the Supreme court for 4 years.

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission



- National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission is commission formed under Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- It addresses complaints of aggrieved consumer for goods and services having value more than Rupees one crore.
- It was recognized in 1988 and is HQ in New Delhi. The commission is led by retired judge of Apex Court of India.

More about Statutory Provisions

- Section 21 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 suggests that National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission shall have authority to handle complaint valued above Rupees one crore and also have appellate and revisional authority from orders of state commissions.
- Section 23 of Act delivers that any person distressed by order of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, may put application against such order to Supreme Court within time period of thirty days.

Sudha Balakrishnan as its first Chief Financial Officer appointed by - RBI

RBI has chosen Sudha Balakrishnan as the 1st Chief Financial Officer. She will be the twelfth executive director of the Reserve Bank of India and will have term period of 3 years. Sudha Balakrishnan is CA by profession. Previously, she was executive VP of National Securities Depository Limited, India's 1st and largest depository.

Key Points

- The new Chief Financial Officer will be in-charge of Reserve Bank of India's balance-sheet to make sure accounting policies and processes comply with guidelines.

- She will be in-charge of government and bank account department, which progressions government transactions and income collections.
- She will also supervise Reserve Bank of India's investments in India and overseas.
- She will also be in-charge of dividend Reserve Bank of India pays to government, which is vital in final budgetary calculations.
- Under Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Reserve Bank of India is needed to pay government its excess after assembling provisions for bad and doubtful arrears, devaluation in assets and involvement to staff and retirement fund among others.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2018 observed globally on - 29th May 2018

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was celebrated worldwide on May 29 th , 2018 with an objective to honour above 3700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving the UN since 1948, as well as 129 who passed away in 2017.

Celebrations of the Day

- On the eve of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, the United Nations Secretary-General supervises over a wreath-laying ceremony at the United Nations HQ in New York to bestow all peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving under the United Nations flagship.
 - In addition, the Dag Hammarskjold Medal is presented retrospectively to the peacekeepers who have collapsed while working in the cause of peace during the preceding year.
- More about UN Peacekeepers Day**
- The International Day of UN Peacekeepers was announced by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 57/129 on December 11 th , 2002. The day was 1st observed in 2003.



- The UN finalised to announce the day after getting a formal request of the Ukrainian Peacekeepers Association and the Ukraine Government.
- The day, May 29 th , marks the anniversary of the creation of the UN Truce Supervision Organization in 1948 to watch the ceasefire after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and it was the 1st ever United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali ties up with BSNL with - Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali has tied-up with state possessed BSNL, to release Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards. With this, India's furthestmost trusted FMCG brand has arrived in to telecom sector after getting popularity in the consumer goods market.

Key Realities

- Swadeshi Samridhhi SIM cards can be recharged for Rupees 144, for which subscribers will get unlimited calls across nation, 2GB internet data and 100 SMS free.
- Primarily, only Patanjali staffs and office bearers will receive the advantages of SIM card. After wide-ranging rollout of SIM cards, clienteles will receive a 10 percent discount on Patanjali goods.
- The SIM card also covers medical insurance and life insurance benefits.
- The medical insurance benefit is for Rupees 2.5 lakhs, while life insurance advantages for Rupees five lakh.
- These benefits can only be availed in case of road accidents only.

Ex-Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk named as - caretaker PM of Pakistan

Pakistan's former Chief Justice Nasirul Mulk was termed as nation's caretaker PM for 2

months period ahead of general elections to be organised in July 2018. The work profile of caretaker PM is to maintain nation running among termination of parliament and fresh government being under oath. The current ruling government will finish tenure in May 2018 and caretaker government will continue in office until new government is formed via elections. The provisional caretaker administration usually does not form any chief decisions until new government is designated, though it may act to shore up economy in case of deteriorating macro-economic outlook.

More about Nasirul Mulk

- Nasirul Mulk took birth on August 17 th , 1950 in Mingora, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area.
- He had served as lawyer and judge for numerous years before becoming 22nd-Chief Justice of Pakistan from July 2014-August 2015.
- Previously, he worked as acting Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan from November 2013-July 2014.

WHO adopts Resolution on Digital Health initiated by India: - JP Nadda

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P.Nadda broadcasted on May 29 th , 2018, that the WHO has accepted the resolution on Digital Health, brought out by India, during the 71st World Health Assembly. The 71st World Health Assembly was organised in Geneva and was witnessed by representatives from all World Health Organisation member states.

Resolution on Digital Health



- The resolution recognises that Digital health technology has enormous potential for supportive Universal Health Coverage and enlightening accessibility, quality and affordability of health services.
- The resolution impulses Member States to prioritise the progress and better utilisation of digital technologies in health as a means of advancing the Sustainable Development Aims.
- It is the 1st step towards mainstreaming digital technologies in health including deep machine learning, artificial intelligence, internet of things and genomics.
- It overlays the way for the World Health Organisation to create a global strategy on digital health and involve member states to maximise their health systems in synchronisation with the global digital health programme.
- It also requests Member States to categorize priority areas in which they would be profited from World Health Organisation help including implementation, assessment and scaling up of digital health services and apps, data security, ethical and permissible concerns.

Who has been appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor ? - Senior diplomat Pankaj Saran

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has designated Senior Diplomat Pankaj Saran as Deputy National Security Advisor. He will have tenancy of 2 years, on deputation. In his fresh role, he will support National Security Advisor Ajit Doval along with Rajinder Khanna who was selected as Deputy National Security Advisor in January 2018

More about Pankaj Saran

- He is IFS officer of 1982 batch. He had detained various posts in India and overseas

including the nation's High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

- He also worked as the Joint Secretary in the PM's Office between 2007-2012. Earlier to his appointment as Deputy National Security Advisor, he was working as India's Ambassador to Russia from November 2015.
- His wife Preeti Saran is Secretary (East) in Ministry of External Affairs.

Who is National Security Advisor?

- The National Security Advisor is the chief executive of National Security Council and main advisor to PM on national and worldwide security and oversees strategic matters.
- It is National Security Advisor to whom intelligence agencies including RAW and Intelligence Bureau report, rather than straight to PM.
- Due to such bestowed powers, National Security Advisor is prominent and influential office in the administration. National Security Advisor is aided by a Deputy National Security Advisor. The position was formed in November 1998 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government.
- Brajesh Mishra was the 1st to be nominated National Security Advisor of India. Since then, all National Security Advisors selected belong to IFS except M.K.Narayanan and obligatory, Ajit Doval, who belong to IPS.

PRAAPTI App and Web portal launched to bring transparency in electricity payments to Generators by - The Union Ministry of Power

The Union Ministry of Power has released web portal-www.praapti.in and application known as Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators-PRAAPTI. The web



portal and app focus to convey transparency in power acquisition transactions between Generators and Discoms. Key Features

The PRAAPTI application and web Portal will catch invoicing and payment information for different long-term Power Purchasing Agreements from power generation organisations. This will assist shareholders in receiving month-wise and legacy information on outstanding amounts of Discoms against power purchase.

The PRAAPTI application will also permit subscribers to get the details of payments and time of payments accomplished by Discoms to power generators. It will also facilitate clients to estimate

financial performance of their Discoms in terms of payments paid to generators. The PRAAPTI web portal will also assist DISCOMs and GENCOs to settle their outstanding dues. It will help relative calculation of different State DISCOMs on comfort of completing payments to different generators and will also assist doing businesses in power Sector clearer.

Use of blockchain technology to curb spam calls, texts proposed by - TRAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in its draft Telecom Commercial Communication Customer

Preference Regulation, 2018 has projected usage of blockchain technology to check threat of Unsolicited Commercial Communication, spam calls and messages. This will be for 1st time, that any nation will arrange blockchain technology to cross-check unwanted calls.

Key Points

- The blockchain technology-based standards to check threat of Unsolicited Commercial Communication will record all message between users and entities, seizing customer consent for data and authorised telemarketing agencies.
 - It will make sure 2 things, i.e. non- repudiate and privacy.
 - It will be protecting personal data of the customers for better eye on UCC. Only those permitted to use details will be able to permit user details and only when they required to provide the service.
 - The draft proposes to check misappropriation of frequent Unsolicited Commercial Communication being done even to those users who have given permission.
 - The user will be now able to cancel permission given to entities via Telecom Regulatory Authority of India app and other process that will be delivered under guideline.
- ### Advantages
- Using blockchain technology, all data can be recorded and more choices can be provided to clienteles regarding commercial communications.
 - The tele-callers will not have permission to database of telecom subscribers and they can only reach out to those, who have selected to accept communication.
 - Moreover, any spam who practices normal ten digits number to communicate with people, can be traced instantly after few people report to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as information can be coordinated.

World No Tobacco Day observed globally on - 31st May 2018

World No Tobacco Day is celebrated worldwide on May 31st , 2018. WHO along with its associates mark the day each year by



lime-lighting the health and other dangers related with tobacco usage and encouraging for effective policies to diminish tobacco consumption.

Key Highlights

- The World No Tobacco Day 2018 accords with a variety of global initiatives and options that are focused at addressing the tobacco epidemic and its ill-effects of public health, particularly in causing the cancer, death and suffering of millions of people worldwide.
- The actions include the World Health Organisation supported Global Hearts and RESOLVE initiatives, which goals to reduce cardiovascular disease and improve care and the 3rd UNs General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, being organised in 2018.
- Tobacco utilisation is an imperative risk factor for the growth of cardiovascular disease, stroke and peripheral vascular disease.
- Presently, cardiovascular diseases are known to kill more people around the world than any other cause and tobacco usage and exposure to passive smoking causes around 17 percent of all heart disease deaths.
- Tobacco habit is the 2nd leading cause of cardiovascular diseases, after high BP.
- Universally, tobacco consumption results into the lives of above seven million people every year, of which approximately 900 000 are non-smokers dying from exposure to passive smoke.
- Moreover, close to 80% of from one billion smokers across the world live in less or middle-income nations, where the burden of tobacco-related diseases and death is on higher side.

Scientists create world's first 3D-printed human corneas in -

Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Researchers from Newcastle University, United Kingdom have produced world's 1st 3D printed human corneas that could solve problem of scarcity of available eye donors and benefit millions of blind people gain sight again.

Cornea is the outermost layer of the human eye. Its important function is to focus visualization. It also blockades eyes against harmful dirt particles and bacteria. Any damage to cornea from injury and infection can falsify vision and even results to blindness.

Key Points

- The 3D printed human corneas were created using bio-ink solution comprising of healthy corneal stem diversified together with alginate and collagen.
- The amalgamation of alginate gel derivative from seaweeds and collagen supports to keep corneal stem cells alive and creates material of essential dimensions which is rigid enough to embrace its shape and soft enough to be enfolded out nozzle of 3D printer.

Andhra Pradesh gets separate state symbols post split declared on - May 30th , 2018

Andhra Pradesh has informed its distinct state symbols after separation and formation of Telangana

in 2014. The declaration of the fresh symbols was done by the state department of environment, forest,

science and technology on May 30 th , 2018. The initiative comes 4 years after unified Andhra Pradesh

was divided into 2 states- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in June, 2014.

Elucidation the reasons for proclaiming the new symbols, the department informed that



the government of Andhra Pradesh felt that it is essential to have a distinct set of symbols for the state of Andhra Pradesh after divergence of the joint state.

Significance

The most distinguished change was in the symbol of the state bird. However, the state bird of unbroken Andhra Pradesh was Indian Roller or Palapitta, the separated Andhra Pradesh changed it to Rama Chiluka. Palapitta is now the state bird of Telangana, Odisha and Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh has reserved undivided Andhra Pradesh's symbol of state animal as blackbuck in the form of its state animal. Telangana had dropped it to adopt spotted deer as their state animal.

The state tree Neem of combined Andhra Pradesh was also reserved by separated Andhra Pradesh,

while Telangana accepted Jammi Chettu, due to its cultural significance in the region. Another distinguished change was in the state flower, as though unbroken Andhra Pradesh had

water Lilly as the state flower, both divided Andhra Pradesh and Telangana dropped it.

Kailash Satyarthi, AS Kiran Kumar conferred with Santokbaa Humanitarian Award on - 30th May 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind offered the 'Santokbaa Humanitarian Award' to Child rights activist and Noble Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and to space scientist A.S.Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of ISRO, on May 30th, 2018.

The award was given during President's visit to Surat, Gujarat in the presence of the Gujarat Governor O.P.Kohli and CM Vijay Rupani. After getting the award, Kailash

Satyarthi acknowledged that he would donate the award money to Surakshit Bachpan Fund for the prosperity of children. While, A.S.Kiran Kumar publicised to dedicate the award money to further R&D work in space science and technology.

Santokbaa Humanitarian Award

- The Santokbaa Humanitarian Award was introduced by Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation and headed by diamond baron Govind Dholakia.
- The award consists of a trophy and award money of Rupees one crore.
- Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation deliberates the prize every year for humanitarian assistances by entities whose life and work are categorized by their selfless and inspiring service.
- The award was 1st given in 2007 and since then, the award has grateful various renowned personalities including Ratan Tata, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Bhikhu Parekh, Dr.Verghese Kurien, Gandhian Narayan Desai and Sam Pitroda.