



Shipping Ministry signs new wage agreement to benefit over one lakh port workers, pensioners on - 30th August 2018

The Shipping Ministry on 30th August 2018 signed a new wage settlement agreement for Group C & D category of Port and Dock Workers in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The move will be benefitting around one lakh 35 thousand port and dock workers and pensioners in 12 major ports across the nation.

Shipping Ministry, port officials and workers federation in the presence of the Union Minister for Shipping, Nitin Gadkari signed this MoU.

Important Highlights

- The new agreement will be providing 10.6 percent wage hike to workers and pensioners.
- The lowest grade of workers would be getting a pay-scale of Rs 20900-43600 and the highest grade worker would be getting a pay-scale of Rs 36500-88700.
- The workers and pensioners will also be getting this benefit for a period of five years starting in January 2017.
- The total financial implication of the settlement for all the major ports to serve and pensioners is expected to be around Rs 560 crore annually.
- Over 32,000 Port and Dock workers and 1, 05,000 Group C and D pensioners across all major ports will going to be benefitted from of this settlement.

GAIL India sign MoU signed for use of Natural Gas in railway workshops and production units between Indian Railways and - GAIL

Indian Railways signed a MoU with GAIL (India) Limited to provide infrastructure facilities to supply of Natural Gas to Indian Railways Workshops, Production Units and Depots on 30th August 2018. The MoU was signed by Chetram, CAO of the Indian Railway Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF) on and Gajendra Singh, Director (Marketing) of GAIL (India) Limited.

Key Highlights

- It is an in-principle agreement between GAIL and Indian Railways to create infrastructure and supply of CNG, LNG and PNG for both industrial as well as domestic purposes.
- The MoU is aiming to replace industrial gases like LPG, BMCG, Dissolved Acetylene, and Furnace Oil, High Speed Diesel (HSD) oil with environment friendly Natural Gas.
- Among 54 workshops and production units, 23 workshops have been identified in the first phase to replace Industrial Gases with Natural Gas.
- All 23 workshops will be starting to use Natural Gas by 31st December 2018, and all 54 workshops and production units will also be covered by 30th June 2019.
- All railway establishments, including base kitchens of IRCTC, all guest houses and hostels and Railway divisions will start using Natural Gas by June 30, 2019.
- In domestic segment, approximately 1100 houses have been provided with D-PNG supply in Railway colony of Bhubaneswar.

India Post Payments Bank launched by - Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Stadium in New Delhion 1st September 2018 at Talkatora. This initiative is seeking to



leverage the expansive network of the postal department to ensure financial inclusion for the masses.

In addition to that, simultaneous launch events were held for the IPPBs at 650 branches and 3,250 access points.

Important Highlights

- The payments bank, where the Indian government is holding 100 percent equity, will be giving leverage to the vast network of the Department of Posts (DoP) that has over three lakh postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks.

- All the 1.55 lakh post offices in the country will going to be linked to the IPPB system by 31st December 2018.

- The IPPBs will also be offering a range of products such as savings and current accounts, direct benefit transfers, money transfer, bill and utility payments, and enterprise and merchant payments.

- These products and related services will be offered across multiple channels which are counter services, micro-ATM, mobile banking app, SMS and IVR by using the state-of-the-art technology platform of the banks.

Indian women's hockey team settles for silver - Asian Games 2018

India clinched three medals in sailing on 13th Day of the 18th Asian Games with Varsha Gautham and Sweta Shervegar winning silver in the 49er FX women's event, Harshita Tomar bagged bronze in the Open Laser 4.7 event and Varun Thakkar Ashok and Chengappa Ganapathy Kelapanda settling for bronze the 49er men's event.

However, the Indian women hockey team's dream to reclaim the gold at the Asian Games after 36 years still remained unfulfilled after they lost 1-2 to Japan to while settling for

the silver medal. To start with, the Indians were the favourites to win the title as they are ranked five places above Japan at the ninth position in the world rankings. A day prior to that Indian men's hockey team also lost to Malaysia in penalty shootouts in their semifinal match.

Indian boxer Vikas Krishan will also be having to settle for bronze after he was declared medically unfit to fight his semifinal about in men's 75kg event due to a cut on his left eyelid, which he sustained before in the event. The 26-year-old was to take on Kazakhstan's Amankul Abilkhan in his last-four clash but was forced due to the injury.

On the other hand, the Indian women's squash team assured India of a medal after they knocked out by defending champion Malaysia to enter the finals of the 18th Asian Games. The Indian team, comprising Joshana Chinappa, Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Sunayna Kuruvilla and Tanvi Khanna, defeated Malaysia 2-0 to assure itself at least for a silver medal.

Home for widows 'Krishna Kutir' inaugurated in UP's Vrindavan on - 31st August 2018

Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the widows' home 'Krishna Kutir' at Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh on 31st August 2018. Krishna Kutir is a special home for 1000 widows and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by a government organisation.

Key Details

- The Vrindavan home will be offering shelter and protection to the large number of helpless widows.



An area of 4 acres has been allocated near the home by the district administration which will be developed into a park and which can be used by the widows of the home.

- Widows will be a part of various committees which will be formed to manage the widows' home.

- The Home for Widows, Krishna Kutir has been constructed on 1.4 hectare of land through National Building Construction Corporation at a cost of Rs 57.48 Crores.

- It has capacity to house inmates and has beautifully made 100 dormitories.

- The Home design is prepared in consultation with 'Helpage India' and is old age friendly as well.

- It consists of ground plus three floors with the facilities of ramp, lifts, supply of adequate electricity, water and other amenities for senior citizens and people with special challenges.

- It is also equipped with a large modern kitchen and alongwith a skill cum training centre.

- It has two dispensaries and physiotherapy facility and the inmates will be provided with regular medical checkups.

- The construction of the home was funded by Central Government and Uttar Pradesh Government will be managing it.

India, Nepal signed MoU on preliminary survey of railway line between Raxaul, Kathmandu on - 31st August 2018

India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on conducting a preliminary survey of a railway line connecting Indian border town Raxaul to Nepal's capital Kathmandu on 31st August 2018.

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri and Nepal's Secretary of Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, Madhusudan Adhikari in Kathmandu in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli signed the agreement together.

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the 4th summit of the Bay of BIMSTEC that concluded in Kathmandu.

Indian boxer Amit Panghal won gold in - Asian Games 2018

India's medal tally stood at its highest-ever at the end of the 14th Day of the 18th Asian Games at Jakarta, Indonesia with a total medal haul of 69 medals, including 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze. The previous highest medal tally for India was in Guangzhou, China at the 2010 edition where they India finished sixth with 14 gold, 17 silver and 34 bronze.

The day started with boxer Amit Panghal stunning the reigning Olympic champion to bag gold. Amit beat Hasanboy Dusmatov from Uzbekistan to finish at the top in the men's Light Fly of 49kg finals. This one is the first gold medal in boxing for India in this edition of the Asian Games. Bridge team comprising Pranab Bardhan and Shibhnath Sarkar won the 15th gold medal.

The two golds were followed by a silver medal from the women's squash team, who lost 0-2 against Hong Kong and the men's hockey team, which won bronze medal in the match against Pakistan.

India, Pakistan agree to undertake Treaty mandated



tours on both sides - Indus Waters Treaty

The 115th meeting of the India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held in Lahore, Pakistan between 29th and 30th August 2018. The Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters led the Indian delegation.

Important Highlights

- During the meeting, technical discussions were held to implement various hydroelectric projects under the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty 1960 including Pakal Dul (1000 MW) and Lower Kalnai (48 MW) projects in J&K.

- Both the countries agreed to undertake the Treaty mandated tours of both the Indus Commissioners in Indus basin from both sides respectively.

- They deliberated to further strengthening the role of the Permanent Indus Commission for the matters under the Treaty.

- Both the sides have agreed to hold the next meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission in India on mutually convenient dates for now.

Vodafone-Idea merger completed on - 31st August 2018

The merger of Vodafone India and Idea Cellular completed on 31st August 2018, leading towards the creation of India's biggest telecom service provider with more than 408 million subscribers. After this, Aditya Birla Group led Idea Cellular has been renamed as the Vodafone Idea Limited. Both Vodafone and Idea brands will be continuing to operate.

Important Points

- The new company holds Revenue Market Share (AGR) of 32.2 percent and number one position in 9 circles pan India.

- Subscriber base of more than 408 million as on June 2018
- Encompasses more than 340,000 broadband sites, covering 840 million Indians
- More than 200000 enterprise customers
- Covers largest voice network of more than 200000 unique GSM sites to cover over 1.2 billion
- Indians (92 percent population coverage)
- 1850 MHz spectrum portfolio
- Having enough number of broadband carriers to provide superior consumer experience across 2G, 3G and 4G platforms
- Widest distribution to reach with more than 1.7 million retailers and approximately 15000 branded stores to service customers

Draft rules on sale of drugs by e-pharmacies released by - Health Ministry

The Union Health Ministry released draft rules on sale of drugs by e-pharmacies on 1st September 2018 to regulate online sale of medicines across the nation. The draft rules on "sale of drugs by e-pharmacy" state that no person will be distributing or selling or stocking or exhibiting or offering for sale of drugs through e-pharmacy portal unless registered.

This draft has been issued with an aim to provide patients access to genuine drugs from authentic online portals.

Important Highlights

- The rules state that any person intending to conduct the business of e-pharmacy has to apply for the registration grant to the Central



Licensing Authority through the online portal of the Central Government.

- Registration of e-pharmacy application will have to be accompanied by a sum of Rs 50,000.
- The e-pharmacy holder also need adhere to provisions of the Information Technology Act.
- The rules also propose that those who want to do online pharmacy will have to register with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, the India's apex drug regulator and central licensing authority.
- The rules also stated that the premises from where the e-pharmacy business is conducted shall be inspected, every two years, by a team of officers authorised by the Central Licensing Authority, with or without the experts in the relevant field or the officers authorised by the concerned State Licensing Authority.
- The rules also stated that the registration issued to any person for e-pharmacy will be valid for a period of three years only from the date of its issuance and a renewal of registration will have to be done in case they want to continue further.

Detailed Indian clothing records best-ever performance at - Asian Games 2018

India with a total of 69 medals including 15 gold recorded its best-ever performance in the history of Asian Games in the 2018 edition held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia. India has maintained its top-10 rank overall by finishing eighth yet again. Before this, the previous highest medal tally for India was at the 2010 edition in Guangzhou, China where they had finished 6th with 14 gold, 17 silver and 34 bronze medals.

Important Highlights

- While there were some commendable performances and surprise medals in many sporting categories in the 2018 Asian Games, the athletic contingent stood out the most, as it produced one of its best results as on date.

- Alongwith that the track and field events remained the most productive area for India, as they produced 7 out of the total 15 gold medals.

- The top performers in Athletics included Dutee Chand, Neeraj Chopra, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Swapna Barman, Arpinder Singh, Jinson Johnson and Hima Das.

- The top performers in other sports included Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan and Ankita Raina in tennis, PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal in badminton, men's quadruple sculls team in rowing, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat in wrestling, Rahi Sarnobat, Saurabh Chaudhary and Shardul Vihan in shooting, Fouaad Mirza in equestrian, Amit Panghal in boxing and Pranab Bardhan in bridge event as well.

Coffee Connect app, Coffee KrishiTharanga services for coffee stakeholders launched by - Suresh Prabhu

Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu launched Coffee Connect mobile app on 4th September 2018 and digital mobile extension services 'Coffee KrishiTharanga' for coffee stakeholders.

More about 'Coffee Connect' mobile app

- The 'Coffee Connect' mobile app has been developed to ease the field work functionaries and to improve the work efficiency.

- The application will be providing solution by harnessing the power of mobility comprising the latest technology in easing the



whole process of the field activities like digitisation of Coffee Growers & Estates with Geo Tagging and collecting the Plantation details.

- It will also be helping to boost transparency in the activities of the extension officers and officials, transparency in subsidy disbursement and real time report generation.

International Women Entrepreneurs Summit started in Kathmandu on - 3rd September 2018

The International Women Entrepreneurs Summit 2018 was inaugurated by the Nepal Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun in Kathmand which is the capital of Nepal on 3rd September 2018. Speaking on the occasion, Nepal's Vice President emphasised upon empowering women in all areas including political, social and economic. He also expressed concern towards increasing violence against women and highlighted the need for public efforts to remove it.

The South Asian Women Development Forum will be organising this three day event. It is expected to witness participation from delegates belonging to 27 countries including China and the SAARC, African, ASEAN, EU and Arab countries.

CJI Dipak Misra recommended Justice Ranjan Gogoi as his successor on - 4th September 2018

Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra recommended the name of Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the next Chief Justice of India on 4th September 2018. This recommendation will now be processed and forwarded to the President who will be issueing the warrant of appointment. CJI Misra

retires on 2nd October 2018. He was sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India (CJI) on 28th August 2017.

More about Justice Ranjan Gogoi

- He joined the Bar in 1978.
- In February 2001, he was appointed as Permanent Judge where he practiced mainly in the Gauhati High Court.
- He was transferred to Punjab & Haryana High Court on 9th September 2010 and was elevated as Chief Justice of the High Court on 12th February 2011.
- He was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court on 23rd April 2012.
- Justice Gogoi headed the bench that directed the government to set up special courts to fasttrack cases against politicians.
- He headed another bench which is currently monitoring the case of Assam's National Register of Citizens intending to identify illegal migrants in the state.

International Aviation Summit begins in Delhi on - 4th September 2018

The International Aviation Summit started in New Delhi, India on 4th September 2018. The seminar has been jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association.

While speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu has revealed that the Civil Aviation Ministry is coming up with Vision 2035 under which it plans to build 100 new airports across India in the next 10-15 years with an investment of USD 60 billion and address the major issues concerning aviation industry such as taxation, airport infrastructure and use of technology.

The airports will also be constructed through a public-private partnership Indian



economy is growing to USD 10 trillion by 2035 and aviation sector will also be one of the major contributors to that growth.

Other than this, the Minister along with the Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha congratulated the aviation fraternity to achieve the unique milestone of 50 months of double-digit growth in the Indian Aviation sector.

National Nutrition Month observed across India to fight - Malnutrition

The National Nutrition Month is being celebrated across the nation in September to mark the fight against malnutrition. During this month, the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development will be organising various programs to spread broad awareness on issues related to malnutrition like under-nutrition, anaemia, stunting and low birth weight in children.

Important Focus

- The month will be focussing on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to remove the deficiencies prevailing in the Health sector.
- The WCD ministry is also trying to reach about 11 crore women and children during this month through various grass-root activities with the convergence of different ministries.

.Alastair Cook to retire from International cricket after final Test against India on - 7th September 2018

Alastair Cook, former captain of England's national cricket team has decided to retire from international cricket after the fifth

and final match against India at the Oval, starting from 7th September 2018.

While announcing his retirement, the cricketer said, "Although it is a sad day, I can do so with a big smile on my face knowing I have given everything and there is nothing left in the tank. I have achieved more than I could have ever imagined and feel very privileged to have played for such a long time alongside some of the greats of the English game." He, however, said that he would be missing the dressing room environment.

The 33-year-old is known as one of England's greatest test players. He is also the highest run-scorer for India in tests and stands 6th on the all-time list of Test run-scorers, after Ricky Ponting, Sachin Tendulkar, Jacques Kallis, Rahul Dravid and Kumar Sangakkara.

President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Cyprus on - 3rd September 2018

India and Cyprus signed key agreements in various areas to cement bilateral ties between both the countries following delegation level talks between Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and President Ram Nath Kovind on 3rd September 2018 .

Both the leaders held the discussion on issues of mutual importance for both the countries.

MoUs were signed between Financial Intelligence Unit of India and Unit to Combat Money Laundering of Cyprus on combating money laundering. This agreement would be further strengthening the institutional framework to facilitate investment cross-flows. There was one more MoU was signed for cooperation in the field of environment.

Other than signing of these MoUs, India and Cyprus agreed to expand cooperation in



the fields of IT, shipping, tourism and renewable energy.

Proposal to increase wages of artisans by over 36 percent approved by - Government

The Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises approved a proposal by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the wages of artisans by over 36 percent on 4th September, 2018. The wages will be enhanced from Rs 5.50 per hank previously to Rs 7.50 per hank with this.

This proposal to increase the wages to Khadi spinners, alongwith payment of government subsidy Modified Market Development Assistance, will be implemented with an effect from 15th August 2018.

Important Highlights

- 30 percent of the prime cost is paid to the Khadi institutions as production subsidy under the MMDA program.
- Out of this 30 percent, 40 percent goes to artisans as wage incentives and then remaining 60 percent is taken by the Khadi institutions.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission directly pay these wage incentives to the accounts of the artisans via direct benefits transfer.

Schools cannot deny admission for lack of Aadhaar by - UIDAI

The Unique Identification Authority of India asserted that schools cannot refuse admission to students for lack of Aadhaar Card on 5th September 5, 2018. The authority also asserted that admission denial on such grounds is "invalid" and is not permitted under the law.

Key Highlights

- The UIDAI pressed the schools just to ensure that no children are denied their due benefits or rights just because of Aadhaar.

- It also insisted schools to coordinate with local banks, post offices, State education department and district administration so as to facilitate special camps in their premises to enroll Aadhaar and update it.

- It also clarified that till Aadhaar number is assigned or biometrics are updated for such students, all facilities should be extended through alternate means of identification.

New AI Technology to fight online child sexual abuse announced by - Google

Technology giant Google announced on 3rd September 2018 that it is employing a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to combat online spreading of contents involving child sexual abuse. This tool will be using deep neural networks for image processing to help discovering and detecting child sexual abuse material online.

"Using the Internet as a means to spread content that sexually exploits children is one of the worst abuses imaginable," wrote Google's Engineering Lead Nikola Todorovic and Product Manager Abhi Chaudhuri in the official blog post of Google.

Important Highlights

- The new AI technology will be made available for free to NGOs and other industry partners including other technology companies through a new content safety API service that could be offered upon request.

- The technology is expected to significantly help service providers, NGOs and other tech firms to improve the efficiency of child sexual abuse material detection and to reduce human reviewers' exposure to the content.



- The quick identification of new images will be leading to quicker identification of children, who are being sexually abused and will be helping to protect them from further abuse.

- The system will also be helping a reviewer to find and take action on 700 percent more CSAM content over the same time period.

India, US 2+2 dialogue to be held in Delhi on - 6th September 2018

The first-ever 'two plus two' dialogue between India and the United States will be held in New Delhi on 6th September 2018. The high-level talks are scheduled to be held between the defence ministries and foreign of the two nations.

The Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be hosting the US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and US Secretary of Defense James Mattis for the inaugural dialogue. Both Pompeo and Mattis arrived in Delhi on 5th September to attend the meeting.

The talks were agreed by US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in June 2017. However, since then they were postponed twice, first this year in April this year and then in July only.

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Important Highlights

- The UIDAI pressed the schools by ensuring that no children are denied their due benefits or rights in lieu of Aadhaar.

- It also insisted schools to coordinate with local banks, State education department, post offices and district administration to facilitate special camps in their premises for the Aadhaar enrolment and updation.

- It clarified that till Aadhaar number is assigned or biometrics is updated for such students, all facilities should be extended through alternate means of identification.

Former Indian pacer RP Singh announces retirement from cricket on - 4th September 2018

Former Indian pacer Rudra Pratap Singh on announced his retirement from all forms of cricket through his social media account on 4th September 2018. His international career spanned a period of 6 years and he played 82 matches across all three formats and picked up more than 100 wickets.

While announcing his retirement, Singh wrote on his Twitter account, "13 years ago today, on 4th September 2005 was the first time I donned the Indian jersey."

More about RP Singh

- He played 14 Tests, 58 one-day Internationals and 10 T20 Internationals for India after making his international debut in an ODI against Zimbabwe in Harare exactly 13 years before.

- The 32-year-old left arm bowler took 40 Test wickets with an economy rate of 3.98, averaging 42.05. In 58 ODIs, he got 69 wickets at an economy rate of 5.48 with an average of 33.96.

- He also played 10 T20Is where he picked up 15 wickets.



- He last featured in an international game in an ODI against England in Cardiff on 16th September 2011 and finished his international career with 124 wickets to his name.

- He had taken up TV commentary since the past a few years and has made regular appearances during the IPL broadcasts.

International Day of Charity 2018 observed globally on - 5th September 2018

The International Day of Charity was observed globally on 5th September 2018 with an aim to recognise the role of charity to alleviate human suffering within and among nations and to recognise the efforts of charitable organisations and individuals such as Mother Teresa.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 5th September as International Day of Charity on 17th December 2012 through its resolution A/RES/67/105PDF.

On the very same day, the United Nations invites all states and all international and regional organizations members and civil society to commemorate the Day by encouraging charity, including through education and public awareness-raising activities. This day was first celebrated in the year 2013.

Delhi government raises prize money for Asian Games medal winners on - 4th September 2018

The Delhi Government increased the prize money for the players from the state who won medals for the nation at the recently-concluded 18th Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia on 4th September 2018.

The announcement was made by the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal during the felicitation ceremony organised to honour the 11 sportspersons from the state.

Important Highlights

- The state government has raised the prize money for gold medalists to 1 crore from Rs 20 lakh previously.

- The silver medalists will now be entitling to an amount of Rs 75 lakh instead of earlier Rs 14 lakh.

- The bronze medal winners will get Rs 50 lakh instead of existing Rs 10 lakh worth prize money.

- The government has also doubled cash incentive for trainers of medal winners to Rs 6 lakh from earlier Rs 3 lakh.

- The government is also planning to make employment for the medal winners.

- While speaking further on the occasion, Kejriwal assured the athletes that the government would be working towards providing the players with proper training facilities and other required services.

- The CM also announced two new policies in order to promote sportspersons in the city.

Proposal to increase wages of artisans by over 36 percent approved by - Government

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After this, the wages will be increased from Rs 5.50 per hank previously to Rs 7.50 per hank. This proposal to increase in wages to Khadi spinners, along with payment of government subsidy Modified Market



Development Assistance will be implemented with an effect from 15th August 2018.

PTI's Arif Alvi wins Pakistan Presidential Election 2018 on - 4th September 2018

The ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) candidate, Arif Alvi won the Pakistan Presidential Election 2018, defeating his two rival candidates Fazal-ur-Rehman and Aitzaz Ahsan on 4th September 2018.

Fazal-ur-Rehman is the joint candidate of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and some other opposition groups, while, Aitzaz Ahsan belonging to the Pakistan Peoples Party. Alvi will be replacing incumbent President Mamnoon Hussain as the 13th President of Pakistan. Hussain's five-year term will be ending on 8th September 2018.

Before taking oath as the President of the country, Alvi will be needing to resign from the National Assembly, as per the Pakistan's Constitution.

Resolution to dissolve Legislative Assembly passed by - Telangana Cabinet

The Telangana Cabinet passed a resolution calling for the dissolution of the Telangana Legislative Assembly on 6th September 2018.

The Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao of the state had convened the meeting of his Ministers Council to dissolve the Legislative Assembly and seek fresh elections 6 months ahead of schedule. The Chief Minister submitted a one-line cabinet resolution to dissolve the assembly to the state's Governor ESL Narasimhan immediately after the meeting. He is expected to address a media conference soon.

. Dilbagh Singh appointed as DGP of Jammu & Kashmir on - 6th September 2018

Jammu and Kashmir Government appointed Dilbagh Singh as the Director General of Police (DGP) of the state on 6th September 2018. As per the government order, Director General (Prisons), Dilbagh Singh has been given additional charge of Director General of Police, until further notice. He will be having a regular appointment only after his name is cleared by the UPSC.

Singh replaced Shesh Paul Vaid, who was removed from the post and was appointed as the Transport Commissioner in the State's General Administrative Department. Vaid who is a 1986-batch IPS officer, was appointed as the Director General of Police in December 2016 and is due to retire in October 2019.

More about Dilbagh Singh

- He is an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 1987 batch.
- He was appointed as the Director General (Prisons) in March 2018 after the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Naved Jhatt escape while he was on a routine health check-up in a city hospital in February.
- During his tenure as Director General of Prisons, Singh streamlined many things including removing the dangerous terrorists from Kashmir jails.
- Earlier, he served as Inspector General of Police (IGP) of Jammu.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana to be made open-ended scheme on - 5th August 2018

The Union Government decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme on 5th August



2018 and added more incentives to encourage people towards opening bank accounts.

This scheme was launched in August 2014 for a period of four years. Banking on its successful implementation, the government has now decided to make the scheme open-ended with more incentives.

Objective

The Government has decided to continue the flagship financial inclusion program with the main focus on opening an account from every household to every adult.

Important Highlights

- The overdraft limit for account holders has now been doubled to Rs 10000 under the new incentives.

- The free accident insurance cover for those opening Jan Dhan accounts after 28th August too has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh.

- Further, there will be no conditions attached for over-draft of up to Rs 2,000.

The upper age limit to avail the facility has also been hiked to 65 from the earlier 60 years.

- Other than this, the pipeline of Jandhan-Aadhaar-Mobile will be continued to provide the necessary backbone to cover these activities and thereby speeding up the pace of digitized financially included and insured society.

ISRO unveils space suit, crew model for Gaganyaan Mission on - 6th September 2018

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled the space suit and crew model for Gaganyaan Mission, providing the first sneak peek into its upcoming manned mission

to space at the 6th Bengaluru Space Expo on 6th September 2018.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech announced this Gaganyaan mission. PM Modi announced that this manned space mission will be taking Indian astronauts to space on board 'Gaganyaan' by 2022.

Key Highlights

- The orange-coloured prototype space suit was developed by the ISRO from the past two years at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.

- This suit can also hold one oxygen cylinder, allowing an astronaut to breathe in space for 1 hour.

- ISRO has developed two suits and will be creating one more suit as three astronauts will be part of mission to send Indians into space on an Indian spacecraft by 2022.

India, France sign implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City' on - 6th September 2018

India and France signed an implementation agreement on 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) in New Delhi on 6th September 2018 to support three Indian cities in their efforts to reduce Green House Gas emissions.

The MYC agreement was signed by Mukund Kumar Sinha, OSD & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary in the Urban Affairs Ministry and the Regional Director of Agence Française de Développement (AfD), Nicolas Fornage. It was signed in the presence of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C) and Alexander Ziegler, Ambassador of France in India.

Key Objective

- The MYC is aiming to support three Indian cities on a pilot basis -Kochi, Nagpur



and Ahmedabad - in their efforts to reduce Green House Gas emissions related to urban transport to implement urban mobility plans at the local level and helping India at the national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

- The selected pilot cities will be benefitting from the technical assistance activities initiated under the program.

India's first Global Mobility Summit inaugurated by - PM Narendra Modi

India's first-ever Global Mobility Summit – 'MOVE' inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 7th September 2018. The two-day summit, organised by Niti Aayog, will be deliberating on steps to promote electric vehicles and shared mobility.

This summit is being organised with an intention to make Indian cities pollution free. Union Ministers including Arun Jaitley, Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Ravi Shankar Prasad will be attending the meeting.

Important Highlights

- The summit is expected to witness participation of over 2,200 people across the world including leaders from the industry, government, research organisations, academia, think tanks and civil society.

- The representatives of major companies including Mahindra Electric, Tata Power, Ola, Maruti Suzuki, Honda, Toyota, Hero Cycles, Tata Motors, Bosch and Sun Mobility are also expected to participate in the summit.

- International representation from embassies and the private sector will be including USA, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Austria, Germany, Brazil and more.

- The key components of the summit will be including the core conclave, mobility week

with featured events, digital exhibition and a variety of stakeholder consultations.

- The deliberations will be held on steps to promote more usage of electric vehicles and to bring awareness about various aspects of Mobility.

- In regards to reinvent the public transport system, deliberations will be held on intermodal connectivity and transit planning.

Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to head panel to select new Chief Economic Advisor by - The Union Government

The Union Government has appointed former RBI governor Bimal Jalan as the head of the panel that has been tasked with selecting India's next chief economic advisor.

The other members of the panel are including department of personnel and training C Chandramouli secretary and economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg. The panel will be screening the applications received and conduct interviews. The move came two months after the government sought applications for the post after previous CEA Arvind Subramanian resigned from his office.

Important Highlights

- The government has received around 20 applications but the panel will be shortlisting applications from it and then set up interviews.

- The selection committee also reserves the right to invite and short-list suitable individuals from outside the list of applicants for the posts.

- The process is expected to take a couple of months and the final decision can be expected by December 2018.

- The decision of the selection panel under Bimal Jalan panel will then be examined by the appointments committee of the cabinet.



• The Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give the final stamp of approval for the appointment of the next CEA.

• India, France sign MoU to form working group for Gaganyaan Mission on- 6th September 2018

India and France signed MoU to constitute a working group for Gaganyaan Mission, India's first manned space mission on 6th September 2018. This was announced at the 6th Bengaluru Space Expo by French space agency CNES President, Jean-Yves Le Gall.

Important highlights

- The French space agency CNES and the Indian Space Research Organisation will combine their expertise in fields of space medicine, astronaut health monitoring, radiation protection, life support, space debris protection and personal hygiene systems.
- The cooperation ambit includes ISRO's access to space hospital facilities in France.
- Both sides have decided that infrastructure such as CADMOS center for development of microgravity applications and space operations or the MEDES space clinic will be used for training of future Indian astronauts.
- French-Indian space cooperation is including to monitor climate, with a fleet of joint satellites devoted to research and operational applications.
- Both the countries also have planned to work on Mars, Venus and asteroids.

International Literacy Day 2018 observed globally on - 8th September 2018

The 52nd International Literacy Day was celebrated globally on 8th September 2018 aiming to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and to reflect on the existing literacy challenges.

The day was commemorated by a two-day special event at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. It also witnessed the hosting of the 2018 UNESCO International Literacy Prize awards ceremony.

The Literacy Prizes consisting of five prizes. They are International Reading Association Literacy Award, UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, Noma Literacy Prize, Malcolm Adiseshiah International Literacy Prize and UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy.

PM Narendra Modi to launch Swachhata hi Seva Campaign on - 15th September 2018

The Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018, a Jan Andolan for Swachhata, will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th September, 2018. The campaign will be observed in the run-up to the 4th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October.

The 2018 campaign follows the success of the 2017 campaign and will be culminating with the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from 29th September to 2nd October 2018, which also marks the start of the 150th birth year celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

National Launch by Prime Minister: 15th September

The launch will be done through video conference at over 15 locations across the nation with different sections of the community and eminent public figures.



It will be followed by the launch of shramdaan activities with huge community mobilisation by following grassroots swachhata champions such as swachhagrahi, women sarpanches, students, nigrani samitis, youth organisations, film celebrities and sportspersons, faith leaders, prominent people from corporate organisations and selected Union Ministers and Chief Ministers.

.Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to cover child cancer treatment announced by - The Union Government

The information was shared by NITI Aayog member Vinod Kumar Paul, while speaking at a function in New Delhi on September 9th, 2018 announced that the treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Paul has revealed that child cancer will be treated under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and in this regard the rate is also fixed. He also added that 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres will going to be opened across India by 2022 under the scheme. The centres will also be providing comprehensive health care for diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

More about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- This scheme will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay on 25th September 2018.

- It is the world's largest government-funded program, which will be covering more than 10 crore poor and vulnerable families providing coverage up to

Rs 5 lakh per family every year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

- The healthcare initiative will be having a positive impact on approximately 50 crore Indians, especially those who belonging to BPL and lower-middle-class families.

PM Narendra Modi to unveil Sardar Patel statue on - 31st October

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced on 9th September 2018 that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October 2018. Named as the 'Statue of Unity', this statue is currently under construction on Sadhubet island at Sardar Sarovar Dam near Kevadia Colony, Bharuch district in Gujarat. The statue will be highlighting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel works, popularly known as the 'Iron man of India'. The foundation stone of the Statue of Unity was laid down by then Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel on 31st October 2014 on the occasion of Sardar Patel's 139th birth anniversary. The leading engineering company, Larsen and Toubro is working on this project.

More about Statue of Unity

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project was announced on 31st October 2013 by Narendra Modi, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

- To develop this project, Modi launched a country wide campaign to collect iron to build the Statue of Unity and iron was collected from around seven lakh villages nationwide.

- The statue will be 1.82 km tall, that is double the size of New York's Statue of Liberty (93 metres).



- The project will also be including an exhibition hall and audio-visual presentation on the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

- The main structure will be completed at an expense of Rs 1345 crore, a part of total amount Rs 2979 crore allocated for the project.

- With the remaining cost Rs 83 crore is being spent on the bridge to connect the memorial to the main land, Rs 235 crore is being spent on the construction of exhibition hall and convention centre, Rs 657 crore rupees will be spent to maintain the structure for next 15 years.

- Approximately 75000 cubic meters of concrete, 5700 metric tonne of steel structure, 18500 steel rods and 22500 metric tonne of bronze are being used for this project.

Indo-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2018' to be held in Uttarakhand between - 16th September to 29th September

The joint military training Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 will be conducted between India and the United States in Himalayas at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand between 16th September to 29th September 2018.

As a part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, this joint military exercise would be held under the Headquarter Central Command aegis. This abhyas is a series of one of the longest running joint military training and a major ongoing bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and the United States.

This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both countries. The two-week exercise will be witnessing participation of about 350

personnel of the US Army and similar strength of Garud Division of the Indian Army.

Important Highlights of the Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- This will be providing an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.

- Multiple scenarios will be rehearsed during the joint exercise with a view to understand each-other's organisational structure and their battle procedures.

- The exercise is an ideal platform to learn from each-other's experiences of planning and execution of their respective operations.

- Both the armies will jointly be training, planning and executing a series of well-developed operations to neutralise threats of varied nature.

- The combined exercise will be simulating a scenario where both nations are working together in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in mountainous terrain under UN charter.

- Experts from both the sides will be holding expert academic and military discussions to share each other's experiences on varied topics for mutual benefit.

Fourth World Summit on Accreditation held on - 8th September 2018

The 4th World Summit on Accreditation WOSA-2018 was inaugurated by the Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar on 8th September 2018 in New Delhi.

While speaking on the occasion, the HRD Minister stated that there is a need to cover each and every institution under accreditation



but right now the number of accredited institutions is significantly less, as for now only 15 percent institutions come under accreditation and 85 percent institutions are still not coming for accreditation.

While giving the explanation on the same, Javadekar informed that it may be because of two reasons, first of which is that some institutions do not want to come under accreditation and second that there are some restrictions in our own accreditation mechanism which they may not fulfill.

Therefore, the government wants to increase the strength of the National Board of Accreditation and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council so that increased number of institutions can be accredited with time.

Supreme Court seeks report from trial judge of Lucknow court on - Babri Masjid demolition case

The Supreme Court on 10th September 2018 sought a report from a sessions judge in a Lucknow court on how it is intending to complete the trial in the Babri Masjid demolition case within the April 2019 deadline. The court has asked for the report from the judge in a sealed cover.

A Bench of Justices R.F. Nariman and Indu Malhotra also sought the Uttar Pradesh government's response on a plea of trial court judge SK Yadav, whose promotion was stayed by the Allahabad High Court on the ground that he has been mandated by the Supreme Court to complete its trial.

Participation in first BIMSTEC joint military exercise refused by - Nepal

Nepal has declined to take part in initial joint military exercise of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation nations planned to be organised in Pune, Maharashtra. Nepal's withdrawal comes in awoken of rigorous criticism from ruling and opposition parties in the nation.

Reasons for Nepal's backing out

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation military drill saying it is beyond the agenda of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

- It also goes against nation's history of subsequent policy of maintaining equal distance from its neighbouring nations, without ever part of a regional bloc militarily.

- Specialists believe that non-participation of Nepal in these 'military drill' certainly looks like political call and comes a time when Nepal-China ties are on upward trajectory and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation connectivity seen as counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

BIMSTEC Military Exercise

- The 1st BIMSTEC field training workout will be directed at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra from September 10th and 16th, 2018. Armies of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation members consisting India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and Nepal were to participate in it.

- The aim of exercise includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search. The chief objective of this military exercise is to endorse strategic



alignment among the member-states and to share greatest practices in the area of counter-terrorism.

Novak Djokovic wins men's singles title in - 2018 US Open

Former world number 1 Novak Djokovic from Serbia secured 2018 US Open title of tennis in men's singles group by defeating Argentina's Juan Martín del Potro which is world no three. It was Djokovic's 3rd US Open title and overall fourteenth Grand Slam title. With this victory, he equalled Pete Sampras' haul of fourteen Grand Slams. Further, he became 7th man to secure US Open singles title at least thrice in the Open Era.

2018 US Open Winners

- Women's singles title was secured by Japan's Naomi Osaka by defeating Serena Williams of US with a score of 6-2, 6-4 in the finals.

- Men's Double title was secured by US duo of Mike Bryan and Jack Sock. They defeated Łukasz Kubot of Poland and Marcelo Melo of Brazil with a 6-3, 6-1 score.

- Women's Doubles title was secured by Ashleigh Barty from Australia and CoCo Vandeweghe from United States. They defeated Tímea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic of France duo by 3-6, 7-6(7-2), 7-6(8-6).

- Mixed Doubles title was secured by Jamie Murray from United Kingdom and Bethanie Mattek-Sands of United States. They defeated Alicja Rosolska of Poland and Nikola Pietrangeli of Croatia duo by 2-6, 6-3, [11-9] score.

2018 US Open

- It was the 138th edition of tennis' US Open organised on outdoor hard courts at

USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City.

- It was 4th and final Grand Slam event of the year. Rafael Nadal and Sloane Stephens were previous champions in the men's and women's singles games, but they were ineffective to defend their titles in this edition of tournament.

Aadhaar not mandatory for booking International Parcel on - 10th September 2018

The Department of Posts broadcasted that Aadhaar was not compulsory for booking an International Parcel, on 10th September 2018. The department explained that it is compulsory to present a copy of an ID proof acceptable for crucial

transactions including booking an International parcel (Merchandise) for safety and security motives.

Further, the department explained that all related documents were only needed for office record and were not needed to be stuck on the consignments.

Did you know?

The explanation followed issuing of a news report with the heading 'India Post asks for display of Aadhaar card details on parcels' in one of India's leading newspapers. The department informed that it seems like the confusion was generated by a mistaken message produced from the twitter account of the office of the Chief Postmaster General, Delhi Circle.

Following the episode, instructions have been restated to the post offices to make sure smooth booking of articles taking the convenience and regulatory necessities into account together. In another Aadhaar related issue, the UIDAI had elucidated that schools cannot refuse admission to students for the lack of Aadhaar



Card. The authority had declared that denial of admission on such basis is “invalid” and is not permitted under the law.

India's combat aircraft Tejas successfully completes first-ever mid-air refuelling trial on - 10th September 2018

In a 1st, Tejas, the advanced version of made in India Light Combat Aircraft was positively refuelled mid air by a Russian-origin Ilyushin-78 tanker on September 10th, 2018. The mid-air refuelling was a part of a ‘wet contact’ trial for Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK-1. The Russian-origin tanker refuelled the fighter aircraft, piloted by Wing Commander Siddarth Singh, with 1,900 litres of fuel at an altitude of 20,000 feet. The interchange validates a crucial capability sought by the Indian Air Force.

Key Highlights

- The authentic engagement followed 2 dry tests, which were directed last week when the refuelling systems including probe and drogue were tested without actually transferring fuel.
- On the day of the real test, the Light Combat Aircraft's internal and drop tanks were refuelled while the jet was flying at 270 knots.
- The Indian Air Force provided all necessary support to DRDO including the tanker aircraft for the successful test flight.
- The Indian Air Force has well-ordered 123 Light Combat Aircraft variants at an amount of Rs 70, 000 crores and plans to order 201 additional upgraded models to arrest a sharp decay in its combat capabilities.
- Among the 123 planes on order, 20 apiece are in the initial operational clearance and the more advanced final operational clearance configurations,

while the residual 83 are in the Mk-1A configuration that comes with additional enhancements.

• Three projects inaugurated jointly by India and - Bangladesh

India, Bangladesh jointly inducted 3 projects associated to power supply rehabilitation of present railway section. These projects were jointly initiated by PM Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina via video conference.

Main

Projects

1. Rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazar section of Bangladesh Railways: Under this project, bridge and bridge structure was built, station with platform and shed along with reorganization of level crossing and railway line were also constructed. Mainline of 44.77 kilometres and loop line of 7.77 kilometres were also refurbished.
 2. 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh: It will be relocated through present Bheramara-Baharampur interconnection. With the accomplishment of this project, India will be providing approximately 1.16 GW of power to Bangladesh. This project declared during his Prime Minister Modi's visit to Bangladesh in 2015.
- Akhaura–Agartala Rail Link: This railway project was hypothesized in 2010. Far ahead, both the nations had inked Memorandum of Understanding on this railway project in 2013. It is supposed that railway line will become operational in 2019. The railway project consists of building 15.054 kilometres long railway line. It will provide



another relationship in the cross-border connectivity between the both nations by connecting Akhaura in Bangladesh with Agartala via Nischintapur in Indo-Bangla border. It will assist to develop socio-economic and cultural tie between both neighbouring nations.

United States announces closure of Palestinian mission in Washington by - 10th September 2018

The USA declared the closure of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mission in Washington DC, on September 10th, 2018. Explaining the initiative, the United States state department informed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation leaders had failed to participate with United States efforts to carry about peace with Israel and endeavoured to prompt an investigation of Israel by the International Criminal Court. The initiative is the latest in a series of measures by the Trump administration against the Palestinian leadership. The Palestine Liberation Organisation, the internationally-recognised demonstrative of the Palestinian people, unbolted the mission in 1994.

Crucial Reasons

- The USA State Department informed that the PLO office was unsuccessful to take steps to advance the twitch of direct and meaningful discussions with Israel.
- The PLO leadership has convicted a United States peace plan they have not yet seen and declined to engage with the United States government with respect to peace efforts and otherwise.
- The department further held responsible the Palestinians for being

reluctant to negotiate.

Palestinian Reaction

- Palestinian leaders labelled the United States passage of closing the Palestinian mission in Washington as a war announcement on peace efforts by the President Donald Trump administration.
- Palestine Liberation Organisation Secretary-General Saeb Erekat named the decision as a dangerous escalation. He added that this is yet another confirmation of the Trump administration policy to jointly punish the Palestinian people.
- The Palestinian Authority informed that the initiative would permit Israel to continue their policies against the Palestinian people and land.

India, Mongolia joint exercise held in Ulaanbaatar in - Nomadic Elephant 2018

India, Mongolia's joint exercise Nomadic Elephant 2018 inaugurated at Mongolian Armed Forces Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar which is the capital of Mongolia. Nomadic Elephant is a yearly bilateral military exercise initiated in 2006. It is fabricated to fortify partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.

More about Nomadic Elephant 2018

- Present year, it is 13th edition of exercise focused at evolving mutual understanding and respect between armies of both the nations and simplify in attempting the world-wide phenomenon of terrorism.
- The twelve days long joint exercise will be directed from 10-21st September 2018.



- This exercise will look forward to advance tactical and technical skills in joint counter rebellion and counter terrorist activities in rural and urban scenario between two nations under UN mandate.

- Indian contingent is represented by contingent of 17 PUNJAB Regiment while Mongolian contingent is denoted by Unit 084 of Mongolian Armed Forces.

- During the workout, armies of two nations will jointly train, plan and perform series of well-developed strategic drills for neutralisation of possible threats that may come across in urban warfare scenario.

Haryana Government inks MoU with IOC to stop straw burning by - Ethanol plant

Government of Haryana has inked MoU with Indian Oil Corporation to build ethanol plant at Bohali village in Panipat district with an outlay of more than Rs. 900 crores. The Memorandum of Understanding will be effective for 1 year. This plant will inspire farmers in its 50 kilometres area to manage crop remainder and prevent straw burning and thus, help to fulfil raising requirement of ethanol and also bio-fuels for clients of petroleum product.

Important Facts

- The planned capacity of this ethanol plant will be of producing 100 kilolitres of ethanol/day. It will assist to accomplish crop residue and prevent straw burning before upcoming paddy season.

- Ten cooperative and 3 private sugar mills in the state will deliver raw fuel to this plant.

- There will be regular supply of raw material to this plant as paddy crop remainder will be provided as raw material

after end of paddy season in October and November and after that sugarcane crop remainder will be delivered in cyclic method.

More about Bioethanol

- It is an alcohol derivative by procedure of fermentation typically from carbohydrates of agricultural remainder and feedstocks. It acts as a quasi-renewable energy, which can be easily combined with petrol/diesel, thus making it supportable transport fuel.

- Its long-term use will aid to decrease emissions and dependency on trade-in fossil fuel. It will profit farmers economically, as they will be paid for their agro-based produce to abstract bio-ethanol.

- It would also benefit in avoiding loss of fertility of soil and harm to environment by decreasing air pollution caused by burning of waste agro-based produce.

BARC's Apsara Reactor recommissioned after 9 years

India's oldest research reactor Apsara which earlier was power failure enduringly in 2009 for repair, was recommissioned with a much higher capacity on September 10th, 2018 at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay. The renovated version of the reactor is termed as 'Apsara-upgraded' or Apsara-U.

More about Apsara-U research reactor

- This swimming pool kind off research reactor with much advanced capacity comes under renovation approximately 62 years after Apsara came into presence.

- The reactor is developed in India, which utilises plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched Uranium.

- This reactor will upsurge indigenous production of radio-isotopes for medical application by approximately 50%.



- It would also be widely utilised for research in nuclear physics, material science and radiation shielding.
- The progress re-emphasises the capability of Indian scientists and Engineers to develop complex provisions for healthcare, scientific education and research.

Haryana Assembly passes two Bills to rename universities on - 11th September 2018

On September 11, 2018, the Haryana Assembly approved 2 Bills in their present assembly session.

They are-
1. YMCA University of Science and Technology, Faridabad (Amendment) Bills, 2018

2. The Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University (Amendment) Bills, 2018. The 1st bill was named again as YMCA University to the JC Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad. The 2nd bill was named again as Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University to Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Haryana.

RBI intervenes as rupee hit 72.5 against - US dollar

The rupee broken to 72.5 against a dollar mark and reached an all-time lowest price of 72.67 intraday trade. The present account shortfall widened to 5 years highest in the 1st quarter of the present financial year to \$15.8 billion or 2.4% of the Gross Domestic Production.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley informed that the downfall in rupee is due to global reasons. He further added that apart from the dollar, the rupee has fortified or remained in a range against all other moneys. RBI has intervened as rupee depreciation continued persistent.

• MEA, TCIL inked agreement to provide e-health and education in Africa - e-VBAB Network Project

Union Ministry of External Affairs and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd have inked MoU for implementation of e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project in Africa. The plan is seen as digital bridge of knowledge and health among India and Africa. It is also measured as significant milestone in India's development partnership with Africa.

More about E-VBAB Network Project

- E-VBAB is technological advancement and extension of Pan-African e-Network Project which was executed in 48 partner nations across Africa from 2009 till 2017. The phase 1 of project had effectively imparted tele-education and tele-medicine by connecting educational institutions and hospitals in India with those from contributing nations from Africa.

- e-VBAB Network Project is entirely funded by Government of India for its complete duration. It is open for participation to all India's partner nations in Africa.

- Over its 5 years duration, this project will deliver free tele-education courses to 4000 students every year from African nations. It will also be used for delivering free continuing medical education i.e. 1000 every year doctors, nurses, para-medical staff from Africa.

- Further, Indian doctors, via this project will also deliver free medical consultancy to those African doctors looking for such consultancy.

EC removes NOTA option from Rajya Sabha, Legislative



Council polls on - 11th September 2018

The Election Commission of India on September 11th, 2018 extracted the provision of NOTA- None of the above option from ballot papers of the Rajya Sabha and the state's Legislative Council polls according to the Supreme Court directions. The Election Commission of India, via the notification, directed the returning officers for Rajya Sabha and legislative council to make sure that there is no NOTA column demonstrated in the ballot paper. The NOTA option will be accessible only in Lok Sabha and state's assembly election.

More about NOTA

- The EC has made an plan in the voting system through which it can record the proportion of people who have not considered voting to anyone.
- In the December 2013 assembly elections, the ECI had fixed to provide the option of None of the above buttons in the electronic voting machine.
- The NOTA decision by Apex court was taken on a petition filed by Gujarat Congress leader Shailesh Manubhai Parmar to do away with the 'NOTA' option in Rajya Sabha elections in 2017, in which Congress leader Ahmed Patel was contesting.
- A bench of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and justices A.M.Khanwilkar and D.Y.Chandrachud had form aside the Election Commission's announcement permitting the "None Of The Above" option in the ballot papers for the Rajya Sabha polls.

Did you know?

The Supreme Court on August 21st, 2018 ruled that the NOTA option will not be valid for voting in the Rajya Sabha elections. NOTA could continue to be an option in the direct

elections including the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies.

The Chief Justice of India led bench found that the NOTA option is available only for the general public in direct elections and not for the polls organised by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as in the Rajya Sabha.

100 percent electrification of Broad Gauge Routes of Indian Railways approved by - CCEA

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, led by PM Narendra Modi, on September 12th, 2018 sanctioned the proposal for electrification of balance un-electrified Broad Gauge Routes of Indian Railways. The Broad Gauge Routes consist of 108 sections covering 13675 route kms that will be electrified at an amount of Rupees 12134.50 crore by 2021-22. The major trunk routes on Indian Railways network have already been electrified and are operational.

Importance

- The proposed electrification, which is largely for missing links and last mile connectivity, will enhance the operational efficiency, increase the line capacity, and advance the average speed of trains.
- It will decrease the use of imported fossil fuels, thereby advance energy security of the country.
- After the planned electrification, there would be drop in the usage of high speed diesel oil by about 2.83 billion litres annually and a decrease in Green House Gasses emissions and this will decrease environmental impact of Railways.



Government makes demat mandatory for issue and transfer of shares from - 2nd October 2018

Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has made it compulsory for unlisted public organisations to release new shares or transfer of all shares in dematerialised/demat, which is an electronic form, from October 2nd, 2018. With this, chief advantages of dematerialisation of securities will now be accessible to unlisted Public organisations.

Important Facts

- The Companies Act 2013, provides for government to directive that as in case of registered public organisations' other classes of public organisations should also release securities only in dematerialised form.

- Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs' latest step is observed as measure for further attractive transparency, investor protection and governance in the corporate sector. It also comes at a time when the ministry is fastening down on shell organisations that are alleged of being conduits for illicit fund flows.

- It will aid in removal of risks linked with physical certificates including loss, theft, mutilation, fraud and many more. It will aid in civilizing corporate governance system by growing transparency and preventing mal-practices including unknown stakeholding, back-dated issuance of shares, etc.

- It will also help in transfer, pledge etc. of securities and deliver exemption from payment of stamp duty on transfer.

Unlisted Organisations

As per to Companies Act 2013, a public firm is

designed by 7 persons or more than that, while for private firm this number is 2 and above. If shares of such organisations are not traded on stock exchange, they are known as unlisted organisations.

ASI discovers 254 copper coins of medieval era at - Khirki Mosque

The Archaeological Survey of India unearthed a collection of 254 Copper Coins in the sites of Khirki Mosque during the conservation of the monument. This mosque is situated on the southern periphery of the village Khirki, New Delhi. The mosque was constructed by Khan-I-Jahan Junan Shah, the PM of Firoz Shah Tughluq and is supposed to be one of the seven mosques constructed by him.

Important Highlights

- Following the discovery of coins, instantly, a team of archaeologist, consternation assistant and photographers visited the site and took the hoard of coins under their ownership.

- Few coins got eviscerated by the authorities of Science of Branch of ASI; and on the grounds of initial observation, it was instituted that few of the coins are related to the reign of Shershah Suri and his beneficiaries.

- Previously in the year 2003, a reserve of 63 Coins were found from the similar area during cleaning and conservation.

More about Khirki Mosque

- The Khirki Mosque is double-storeyed constructed with rubble stone.

- The lower floor consists only of a series of basement cells. Untidy bastions inhabit its 4 corners, informing it the look of a fortified building.



- The gateways of 3 sides, except on the west, are edged by narrowed minarets and the main entrance is from the east.
- The pillared courtyard is segmented into 20 - 5 squares, 5 on each side, each square consisting of 9 smaller squares.
- The superior squares, along with the square in the centre of the courtyard, are each sheltered with a cluster of 9 small low domes.

Health Ministry notifies HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 from - 10th September 2018

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released notification for carrying HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 in force from 10th September 2018. The Act protects rights of people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus and exaggarated by Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It also discourages Human Immunodeficiency Virus-related discernment, fortify present programme by bringing in legal accountability and create formal mechanisms for interested into complaints and redressing grievances.

Key Provisions

- The Act looks forward to avoid and control spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, bans discrimination against persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It lists numerous grounds on which discrimination against Human Immunodeficiency Virus positive persons and those living with them is banned.
- These discernment grounds consist of denial, termination, discontinuation

with regard to employment, educational establishments, health care services, standing for public/private office, residing/renting property and facility of insurance.

- It also bans need for Human Immunodeficiency Virus testing as pre-requisite for gaining employment or accessing health care or education. It remarks that every Human Immunodeficiency Virus infected or affected patient less than age of 18 years has right to reside in shared household and enjoy facilities of household.

- It also bans any individual from issuing data or advocating feelings of hatred against Human Immunodeficiency Virus positive persons and those living with them.

- It gives right to each and every person in care and custody of the state to Human Immunodeficiency Virus prevention, testing, treatment and counselling facilities.

.China plans bullet train from Kolkata to its Kunming City on - 12th September 2018

Chinese Consul-General in Kolkata, Ma Zhanwu on 12th September 2018 proclaimed that China is seeking to plan bullet trains from Kolkata to Kunming City of China. However, the Chinese diplomat did not disclose the details of the route. The train is probable to traverse via Myanmar and Bangladesh. The project was mentioned at the Greater Mekong Subregion meet in Kunming in 2015.

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor

- The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor project, is predictable to run via Mandalay in Myanmar,



Chittagong and Dhaka in Bangladesh, terminating in Kolkata.

- China has promised USD 40 billion for this silk route, having a trade latent of USD 132 billion.

- The chief focus of the economic corridor is to simplify trade and connectivity between the undersized southwestern parts of China and the North Eastern region of India.

- The 2800 kms rail route could be a dangerous component for the Bangladesh-China-India Myanmar corridor that looks forward cross border trade and movement of people.

- From Kolkata, the stretch will move towards Benapole, which is a border town in Bangladesh.

- After passing via Dhaka and Sylhet, it will enter again into the Indian Territory near Silchar in Assam.

- From Assam, the stretch will be linked with Imphal and then pass via the India-built Tamu-Kalewa friendship road in Myanmar previously passing via a small stretch in Arunachal Pradesh.

- The Chinese passage extends from Ruili before reaching Kunming via Longling and Dali.

Tamil Nadu bans sale of e-cigarettes from - 12th September 2018

The Health and Family Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu on September 12th, 2018 published a government order restricting with immediate effect for manufacturing, sale, distribution, trade, marketing, import and possession of the Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, which popularly is known as e-

Orders

- The order explains that Although ads of electronic cigarettes entitles they do not cause any damage, tobacco is the only officially available consumer product which kills people when it is utilised entirely as intended.

- E-cigarettes comprises harmful chemicals that can cause lung illnesses and serious complication to pregnant females.

- The usage of e-cigarettes results into adverse health effects due to 2nd-hand exposure to metals like nickel and chromium.

- E-cigarettes are also harmful to children and non-smokers. The product is also seen as a danger as it may tempt youngsters into smoking.

- The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has been instructed to strictly implement the order.

Trump signed new executive order imposing sanctions on foreign meddlers in US elections on - 12th September 2018

United States President Donald Trump inked a fresh executive order on September 12th, 2018 imposing permissions on any nation, individual found trying to interfere in the United States elections. Talking on the occasion, Trump's national security adviser John Bolton informed that the initiative is supposed to be a very broad effort to avoid foreign manipulation of the political procedure. He added that the order defines a process whereby the Departments of State and Treasury will decide on suitable approvals to recommend and to execute on the nations or other actors that have engaged in this interference.

Important Highlights



- The order asks for approvals against any article that authorises, directs or sponsors meddling operations in the American elections.
- The approvals not only cover the interference with the election but also the supply of propaganda and deception.
- It will work to stalk deception campaigns or any effort to manipulate the result of ballots.
- It educates the United States intelligence community to monitor and report on efforts to interrupt election infrastructure and propaganda.
- It also enforces restrictions on those suspected of carrying out the interfering.

National Scholarship Portal Mobile App launched by - Union Government

Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi flung the nation's 1st National Scholarship Portal Mobile App on 13th September 2018.

More about National Scholarship Portal Mobile App

- The National Scholarship Portal Mobile App will make sure a smooth, reachable and hassle-free scholarship system for students from poor and weak sections.
- All the scholarships are being distributed directly into bank accounts of the needy students under **Direct Benefit**
- Transfer mode via the National Scholarship Portal.
- The application make sure that there is no chance for duplication and leakage.
- It will demonstrate valuable for students and will help in solidification of a transparent mechanism for the scholarships.

Benefits for Students

- Students will get all the data regarding various scholarships on this mobile application.
- They will be able to put on for scholarships sitting at their residence.
- Students can upload essential documents on this mobile app.
- Students can crisscross the status of their submission, scholarship disbursement and many more.
- Students from far-flung, hilly areas and North east will be the most profited.

India's first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck launched by - BEML

India's 1st 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck Model BH205-E, designed and established by Bharat Earth Movers Limited was flagged off freshly. The dump truck has been developed for utilising in the project of Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli, MP. It will also assist to address the increasing request for higher capacity equipment in mining industry.

More about BH205E

- BH205E is an electric drive rear dump truck for broad mining operations. It has been designed and developed in India by Mysuru plant of Bharat Earth Movers Limited to strengthen 'Make in India' initiative and tackle increasing request for higher capacity equipment in the mining industry.
- It is powered by Tier-II emission compliant Modular Common Rail Electronic Engine with 2300 Horse Power capacity. It has AC drive system to deliver exceptional haul road performance with low maintenance.



○ The dump truck has ergonomically designed dash board and tilt-able telescopic steering wheel. Its other significant features consist of good visibility in addition to safety with provisions for emergency steering, braking and proximity warning.

More about Bharat Earth Movers Limited

○ Bharat Earth Movers Limited is public sector undertaking under Ministry of Defence.

○ It builds a variety of heavy equipment, which are utilised for earth moving, transport and mining. It was merged in May 1964.

○ It is HQ in Bengaluru. Bharat Earth Movers Limited is Asia's 2nd-largest manufacturer of earth moving equipment, and it controls 70 per cent of India's market in that sector.

MoU between EXIM Bank and BRICS banks for blockchain research approved by - Cabinet

Union Cabinet has agreed Memorandum of Understanding inked between Export-Import Bank of India and member banks under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block chain Technology in framework of development of digital economy.

Crucial Facts

○ Blockchain technology grasps potential for solutions to numerous challenges being tackled in financial sector space of BRICS nations.

○ The Memorandum of Understanding was inked between Exim Bank, Banco Nacional de

Desenvolvimento Economico e Social, of Brazil, China Development Bank, State Corporation Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs, of Russia and Development Bank of Southern Africa.

○ It aims to improve understanding in this field, via joint research efforts to recognize areas within respective business operations where it may have potential for submissions focused at improving operational efficiencies.

Did you know?

○ The Xiamen Declaration inked in September 2017 at 9th BRICS summit in Xiamen, China by BRICS leaders had lime-lighted significance of digital economy and ways BRICS nations can influence its potential for nurturing global economic development and profit everyone.

○ As per to the Memorandum of Understanding on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block chain Technology in the Context of Development of Digital Economy was recommended to be inked by all member banks.

4 New National Institutes Of Design approved by - Cabinet

Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has sanctioned proposal for starter of Bill in Parliament for amendment of National Institutes of Design (NID) Act, 2014 for launching 4 new National Institutes of Designs across the nation.

Four new NIDs are

1. National Institute of Design, Amaravati/Vijayawada, AP.
2. National Institute of Design, Bhopal, MP.
3. National Institute of Design, Jorhat, Assam.
4. National Institute of Design, Kurukshetra, Haryana.

Important Features of Bill



○ The modification will bring these 4 new National Institutes of Designs within ambit NID Act, 2014 and to announce them as Institutions of National Importance at par with NID, Ahmedabad.

○ The projected Bill also brings makes some small modifications to this Act including to embrace consequential modifications considered compulsory to re-name National Institutes of Design Vijayawada as National Institutes of Design Amaravati and nomenclature of Principal Designer equal to Professor.

Importance

○ Formation of new National Institutes of Designs as Institutions of National Importance in different geographical locations of nations will benefit in producing highly skilled designers and workers in design sector which in turn, will assist in creating job openings, both direct and indirect.

○ It will also issue supportable design intrusions for crafts, handloom, rural technology, small, medium as well as large scale enterprises.

Haryana assembly passes State Commission for SC Bill on - 11th September 2018

The Haryana Legislative Assembly approved the Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes Bill, 2018, on September 11th, 2018 for progress and safeguarding the interests of people be in the right place into the community. The bill was approved on the last day of the state assembly's session.

Key

Objective

The Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes Bill, 2018, has been approved to form a commission for SCs in the state for the total

development and welfare of the community and to protection their interests.

Key Duties

• The commission will examine and study the working of different protections provided in the constitution or under any order of the government for the wellbeing and protection of the SCs.

• It will also take part and advise on the planning procedure of the socio-economic progress of the Schedule Castes and appraise the advancement of their development according to the Bill.

Term & Composition

• The commission would involve of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and members who would clutch office for a term of 3 years.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi appointed as 46th Chief Justice of India on - 13th September 2018

The Union government selected Justice Ranjan Gogoi as the 46th Chief Justice of India on 13th September 2018. He will adopt his position on 3rd October. He will be succeeding incumbent Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, who would be retiring a day earlier his swearing in, on 2nd October 2018. Justice Gogoi's name was recommended for the respected position by Justice Misra himself. He is the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court after Chief Justice Misra. His selection was established after President Ramnath Kovind inked the warrant of his appointment.

Important Points

• Justice Gogoi will have a term of more than thirteen months, as he is planned to retire on November 17th, 2019.

• Justice Gogoi will turn out to be the 1st Supreme Court judge from the north-east to be selected as Chief Justice of India.



- Justice Gogoi is the son of former Assam CM, late Keshab Chandra Gogoi.

- He joined the Bar in 1978 and practiced mainly in the Gauhati High Court on constitutional, taxation and company issues.

- In September 2010, he was shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court and was selected as the Chief Justice of the high court in February 2011.

- He was raised to the post of a judge in the Supreme Court in April 2012.

- At the Supreme Court, Justice Gogoi led the bench that focused the government to form special courts to fast-track cases against politicians.

- He is also presently heading the bench that is monitoring the case of Assam's National Register of Citizens that aims to recognize illegal migrants in the state.

Jharkhand government introduces electric cars for official use on - 12th September 2018

The state government of Jharkhand on September 12th, 2018 initiated electric vehicles for official usage. The energy department of the state received 20 such cars for use. The data was shared by the state's CM Raghubar Das. The cars were acquired by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited, which is a joint venture of the PSUs under the Ministry of Power.

Key Highlights

- The electric cars are a part of a consignment of 50 such automobiles that the Energy Efficiency Services Limited will deliver to Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam for its official purposes.

- While the 1st lot of 20 electric automobiles has been delivered, the remaining 30 will reach within the next 2 weeks.

- The state's Chief Minister informed that his government would request to people to purchase such cars and open charging stations.

- Till date, 12 charging stations have been built in Ranchi and more are planned come up soon.

- The initiative will assist the state achieve the centre's e-mobility goal of substituting 30% of government vehicles with electric cars by 2030.

Supreme Court modifies its order on dowry harassment on - 14th September 2018

The Supreme Court of India on 14th September 2018 altered its July 2017 order in dowry harassment case for avoiding misuse of Section 498A of Indian Penal Code. The Section 498A (dowry harassment) of Indian Penal Code safeguards gender justice and rights.

Important Points

- A 3 judges' bench headed by the Chief Justice Dipak Misra extracted the earlier direction distributed in Rajesh Sharma case which stated that criticisms under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code should be scrutinised by Family Welfare Committees before any legal action by police.

- The bench recognized that there was mismanagement of the provision leading to social unrest. The apex court left it to Parliament to make appropriate rules to verify abuse of the law.

- The top court had on April 23rd, 2018 set aside its verdict on a batch of pleas looking for modifications in July 2017 judgement that had condensed the strictness of the anti-dowry law on the crime of subjecting a married woman to cruelty by spouse and in-laws.



- The plea The bench was hearing a appeal filed by an NGO "Nyayadhar" demanding that the previous direction has made the legislation valueless for the women victims.

- The appeal suggested that out of the 3 members in Family Welfare Committees, at least 2 should be women and one should have done Masters in Social Work.

- It recommended recording of facts at the time of counselling and explained the committee should also consider the economic position of the parties.

National Hindi Divas 2018 observed across India on - 14th September 2018

National Hindi Divas/Hindi Day was celebrated across India on September 14th, 2018 to encourage Hindi as mother tongue of India. The day was marked by literary festivals, Hindi poetry sessions, Hindi essay writing competitions, Hindi speech contests and other programs. On this eve, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu offered the "Rajbhasha Awards" to heads of various departments, Ministries and offices for their outstanding performances in promoting the language.

Important Points

- The day symbols the adaptation of Hindi language as the official language of India by the Constituent Assembly of India on 14th September 1949.

- The decision of using Hindi as official language was sanctioned by Indian Constitution via amendment 343 which stated that all government communications will be written in Hindi Script. Currently, there are 2 formal languages- Hindi and English.

- Hindi, written in Devanagari Script, is one of the old languages of India and is spoken by approximately 40% of the Indian population.

- In India, Hindi is used as a mother tongue by approximately 258 million people and is a native language for most people living in Delhi, UP, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, HP, Chandigarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

- According to the 2011 census, 43.63% of Indians speak Hindi as their mother tongue.

- It is also used in many nations of the world including Mauritius, Pakistan, Surinam, Trinidad and some other nations.

- Outside Asia, Hindi is a formal language in Fiji and Constitution of Fiji states three official languages, namely English, Fijian, and Hindi.

- It is known as the fourth largest language of the world.

. Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme launched by - Government

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has initiated Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme with an outlay of Rupees 10881 crores. With this fund, 1st instalment of Rupees 440 crore was issued to National Dairy Development Board.

Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme

- This scheme was sanctioned by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in September 2017 with an objective to improve dairy sector. It is accomplished by National Dairy Development Board and will be executed from 2017-18 to 2028-29.



o Milk unions, multistate milk cooperatives, State Dairy Federations, Milk producer organisations and National Dairy Development Board affiliates can gain loan under this plan after completing all eligibility standards.

o Under this plan, qualified milk companies will be provided financial support as a loan at 6.5 percent interest for the construction of a well-organized milk procurement system and other dairy processing organization.

o This loan will be repaid over time period of ten years. It also has facility of interest subsidy on loans.

o The loan profits will be provided for putting in-place well-organized milk procurement system by forming chilling infrastructure and installation of electronic milk adulteration testing paraphernalia.

o It will be also utilised for formation, modernisation and growth of processing infrastructure and manufacturing abilities for value-added dairy produces.

o The plan will profit 95,00,000 farmers in approximately 50,000 villages. Additionally, it will provide direct and indirect job opportunities to many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

o It will also assist in forming extra milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre every day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT every day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre every day.

thirteen tourism sites in Chhattisgarh under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The circuit connects Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot, and Tirthgarh in Chhattisgarh.

Tribal circuit project

o Chief components authorized under tribal circuit scheme in Chhattisgarh comprises developing eco log huts, craft hats, souvenir shops, open amphitheatre, tribal interpretation centres, workshop centres, tourist facilities centres, viewpoints, nature trails, solar illuminations and many more.

o These mechanisms will advance the present tourist amenities, enhance the overall tourist experience and benefit in getting additional visitors which in return will increase job chances in the area.

Did you know?

o Development of tribes and tribal culture is one of the prime areas of attention for the Tourism Ministry.

o It is carrying out a collection of actions for development and promotion of tourism in the tribal area.

o Under tribal circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Tourism Ministry has endorsed 4 projects to Nagaland, Telangana and Chhattisgarh for Rupees 381.37 crores.

Chhattisgarh was measured for the 1st tribal circuit theme for recognizing sovereignty of tribes and to promote rich and diverse primitive possessions in the state. Tribes forms more than one-third of state population who have reserved their culture and traditions for centuries.

First Tribal Circuit Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme inaugurated in - Chhattisgarh

Union Ministry of Tourism has initiated India's first tribal circuit project linking

International Day of Democracy 2018 observed



globally on - 15th September 2018

The International Day of Democracy was celebrated worldwide on September 15th, 2018. The day delivers an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. The theme of the 2018 International Day of Democracy is 'Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World'. Present year's theme seeks for ways to revive democracy and looks answers to the systemic challenges it faces including tackling economic and political disparities, making democracies much inclusive by carrying the young and marginalised into the political system and responsive to evolving challenges including migration and climate change.

Did you know?

The Day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly via a resolution in 2007 to fortify national programmes enthusiastic to the promotion and merging of democracy. It was celebrated for the 1st time in 2008. Though the word 'Democracy' is nowhere is mentioned in the United Nations Charter of 1945, the United Nations has played an essential role in cultivating Democratic values, practices and institutions.

Indian Coast Guard commissions indigenously built patrol vessel by - Vijaya

Indian Coast Guard has installed developed in India patrol vessel ICGS Vijaya in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is 2nd in the series of 98 meters offshore patrol vessels commissioned by Indian Coast Guard.

More about ICGS Vijaya

- It has been fabricated and constructed indigenously by Larsen & Toubro. It is 98 metres long vessel.

- It can transport single twin engine helicopter and 4 high speed boats, including 2 inflatable boats for boarding.

- It is equipped with advanced technology navigation and advanced technology communication equipment with sensors.

- It is equipped with 30mm gun and will be equipped with 12.7mm gun with fire control system.

- On joining Indian Coast Guard fleet, ICGS Vijaya will be grounded at Paradip, Odisha. It will be operated by 12 officers and 91 men.

Importance

- It will be positioned extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance and other duties as treasured in Coast Guard charter.

- It will also assume search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol actions.

- It will benefit to improve Indian Coast Guard's operational competence to complete its diverse maritime tasks.

- It will also deliver fillip to maritime protection of Eastern seaboard in general and the maritime states of Odisha and West Bengal. It is also talented of carrying limited pollution response apparatus to contain oil spill in sea.

World no 1 Airport in 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum category by - Hyderabad International Airport

Hyderabad International Airport- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, was bestowed Airports Council International Airport Service Quality World Number One airport awarding the 5-15 Million Passengers Per Annum group. This is for the 2nd consecutive year Hyderabad airport has



secured this award. It was announced World no 1 Airport in this group earlier in 2016. The award was conferred in recognition of airport's relentless efforts towards service excellence and customer delight.

More about Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

- It is international airport that aids Hyderabad, capital of Telangana. It is situated in Shamshabad, about 24 kms south of Hyderabad.

- It is functioned by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, a public and private venture.

- It was initiated in March 2008 to substitute Begumpet Airport as primary commercial airport for Hyderabad. It is 6th busiest airport by travellers traffic in India.

Rajasthan's first lion safari inaugurated at - Nahargarh Biological Park

Rajasthan's 1st lion safari was initiated at Nahargarh Biological Park. The park is situated on Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in the Aravalli bases, approximately 12 kms from the pink city Jaipur. It will be ready for visitors from October 2018.

More about Lion safari

- The lion safari plan is situated at biological park, which is spread around 38 hectares.

- The park was initiated by CM Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje in June 2016. Lions in this park were carried from Junagarh, Gujarat under an exchange program. A sum of ten lions will be free in the park in a phased manner.

- The park will assist for breeding lions and also centre of attraction for tourists. It will deliver new territory to lions and also enhance tourism venue to the Pink City Jaipur.

- Visitors will be able to take on an approximately four kms safari in closed bus. Apart from lion, the park also multitudes wolves, jackals, and hyenas.

PM Narendra Modi launched Swachhata hi Seva Campaign on - 15th September 2018

PM Narendra Modi initiated the mega nationwide fortnight-long campaign-Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2018, on September 15th, 2018 through video conferencing. In the extravagant launch event, Prime Minister Modi interrelated with a cross-section of people from eighteen locations countrywide including school-children, jawans, spiritual leaders, members of milk and agricultural cooperatives, media people, local government senates and Swachhagrahis, among others.

The 2018 campaign follows the accomplishment of the 2017 campaign and will conclude with the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention from September 29th to October 2nd, 2018, which also symbolise the initiation of the 150 birth year celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

Key Objective

- The "Swachhata hi Seva" Campaign goals at quickening the impetus of Swachh Bharat in the run-up to its fourth anniversary, lay down the foundation of sustainability, strengthen the concept of "Sanitation as everyone's business" and begin Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth year festivities with a countrywide campaign.

- The initiative goals to produce greater public contribution towards Swachhata.

- The crucial aim of the campaign is to mobilise people and strengthen the public



movement for hygiene to subsidize to Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Clean India.

Two UK satellites aboard PSLV-C42 launched by - ISRO

The ISRO on September 16th, 2018 effectively released its PSLV- C42 carrying 2 earth observation satellites for the UK. The launch vehicle- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle- C42 took-off at 10.08 PM IST from the 1st launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, AP.

Key Highlights

- The 44.4 m launch vehicle assessing 230.4 tons supported 2 earth observing satellites- NovaSAR and S1-4 of Surrey Satellite Technology Limited, United Kingdom. There was no Indian satellite on the flight.

- The satellites were placed into sun synchronous orbit, 583 kilometres from the Earth, just above 17 minutes after the take-off from the first launch pad.

- The 33 hours countdown for the release started at 1.08 PM on September 15th, 2018.

- The mission was a commercial plan between the British company and the commercial wing of Indian Space Research Organisation Antrix Corporation Limited.

- The whole flight up to the release of the satellites was calculated to take place within 17.5 minutes. With the effective launch of the 2 British satellites, the sum number of foreign satellites released by India goes up to 239.

- The release marks PSLV-C42's first completely commercial trip of the year, breaking a 5 months long period, for the ISRO.

- Additional commercial projects are predictable for nano satellites, are anticipated

in the future. Currently, there is an order of Rs. 980 crores for this fiscal and next fiscal.

- Antrix has so far inked more than 280 foreign customer satellites for a fee, among which, most are small experimental spacecraft.

- Indian Space Research Organisation did not make any launch after April 12th, after it put replacement navigation satellite IRNSS-1I to space on PSLV-C41.

India's first underwater robotic drone handed over to NPOL - EyeROV TUNA

India's 1st underwater robotic drone EyeROV TUNA was passed to Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation. This underwater drone will be utilised by Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory for research and development actions which in turn would result in commercial produce for defence activities.

More about EyeROV TUNA

- EyeROV TUNA has been fabricated and developed in India by Kochi-based start-up IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd. It is smart micro-Remotely Operated Vehicle. Its design is equivalent with global standard and has operational abilities to work in harsh and mission-critical underwater environment.

- It is intended to do visual inspection and surveys of underwater structures about to the depth of 100m.

- It can be controlled by laptop or joystick. It is equipped with camera that assists to give live HD video recording of the submarine environment.

- It is also fitted to perform variety of activities, including inspection of ship hulls,



undersea cables moorings, fish farms, dams, port structure and bridge foundations and also in different submerged research operations.

- Its marketable usage will eliminate necessity for costlier and riskier manual inspection by divers.

More about IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd

- IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd is supported by Kerala Start-Up Mission, oil and gas organisation BPCL and Department of Science and Technology. It has been started by Johns T Mathai, an IIT-Delhi alumnus and Kannappa Palaniappan P from IIT-Madras.

- The firm also has mentors and consultants who were previously with Defence Research and Development Organisation, Indian Navy and marine industry.

- It is now hatched at Maker Village, Kochi, which is an enterprise of Union Government and Kerala Government.

Government to convert 1.5 lakh primary health centers into wellness centers on- 15th September 2018

Union Health Minister J.P.Nadda on 15th September 2018 informed that 1.5 lakh Primary Health Centres and sub-centres will be transformed into wellness centres by 2022. Talking at a function in Hyderabad, the Minister informed that the centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat - NHPM will be released on September 23rd, 2018. The wellness centres will simplify screening of every individual aged 30 or more for BP, diabetes, TB, breast cancer and leprosy among others.

Key Highlights

- The Government has finalised to transform all 150,000 sub-centres and PHCs into wellness centres.

- In 2017, the government had transformed 4,000 sub-centres. Present year, the government devices to transform 50,000 centres.

- In the forthcoming years, the government projects to transform 30,000 sub-centres into wellness centres in 2019 and 40,000 centres in 2020.

- Further, while speaking during the launch of Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign, he informed that the CGHs are also launching such fortnight plans and senior officers from the Health Ministry will visit the CGHs to be part of these efforts.

.National AIDS Control Organisation releases HIV Estimations 2017 Report on- 14th September 2018

The National AIDS Control Organisation on September 14th, 2018 published the HIV Estimations 2017 report. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus Estimations 2017 report is 14th in the series of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Estimations released earlier under the National AIDS Control Programme. The first round of Human Immunodeficiency Virus estimation was completed in 1998, while the modern round was accomplished in 2015. National AIDS Control Organisation undertakes Human Immunodeficiency Virus estimations in every 2 years in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Medical Statistics.

Key findings

- The report highpoints the noteworthy achievement of Country's response



on AIDS prevention as well as on treatment initiative.

- It stipulates that there is no place for fulfilment as the nation focuses to achieve the ambitious goal of attaining the 'End of AIDS' by 2030.

- According to the report, India had approximately 21.40 lakh people living with Human Immunodeficiency

- Virus with adult prevalence of 0.22 percent in 2017.

- Approximately, 87.58 thousand new Human Immunodeficiency Virus infections and 69.11 thousand AIDS concerned deaths occurred in 2017.

- More than 22000 mothers needed Antiretroviral Therapy for inhibition of mother to child transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

- The aim of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Estimations is to deliver efficient information on the status of Human Immunodeficiency Virus epidemic in India at national and State and Union Territories level.

- Approximation of adult Human Immunodeficiency Virus prevalence, annual new infections, AIDS-related death and inhibition of mother-to-child transmission requirements are results of Human Immunodeficiency Virus estimations.

- These modelled approximations are required because there is no direct reliable way of gauging these core indicators which are utilised to track the AIDS epidemic and monitor and evaluate the response.

Indo-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2018' begins in Uttarakhand on - 16th September 2018

A joint military workout of Indian and United States armies "Yudh Abhyas 2018", started on September 16th, 2018 at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand. Indian and United States soldiers gave a traditional salute to the 2 seniors most officers of the United States and Indian side rereading the ceremony. The workout will accomplish on September 29th, 2018.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas is a sequence of one of the longest consecutively joint military training and a major continuing bilateral defence collaboration endeavour among India and the United States. This is the 14th edition of the joint military exercise which is accommodated alternately by both the nations. The 2 weeks exercise will eyewitness involvement of about 350 personnel of the United States Army and similar strength of Garud Division of the Indian Army.

Key Highlights

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas will deliver a prospect to the armed forces of both nations to train in a combined manner at Battalion level with joint scheduling at Brigade level.

- Multiple situations will be rehearsed during the joint exercise to understand each-other's organisational structure and battle actions.

- Both the sides will test the modern equipment for surveillance and tracking, specialist weapons for close quarter battle with terrorists, explosive and improvised explosive device detectors, as well as the latest communication equipment.

- The joint exercise will initiate a situation where both countries are working together in counter insurgency and terrorism in mountainous terrain under United Nations charter.

- Experts from both nations will hold expert academic and military negotiations



to share each other's experiences on varied topics for joint advantages.

DRDO conducted first successful test of man portable-anti-tank guided missile on - 15th September 2018

India's DRDO on September 15th, 2018 directed the 1st successful flight test of its new designed and developed in India low weight man-portable anti-tank guided missile at Ahmednagar test range in Maharashtra. The 1st successful test firing was trailed by another test launch on September 16th, which also accomplished at the same test range. The 2 successful missions were directed to test different ranges of the missile, including its maximum range capability. As per to Defence Research and Development Organisation, the 2 launches met all the test purposes.

More about MP-ATGM

- The man-portable anti-tank guided missile is a 3rd-generation anti-tank guided missile, which has been under progress with the Defence Research and Development Organisation in corporation with Indian defence contractor VEM Technologies Ltd. since 2015.

- The missile, equipped with a high-explosive anti-tank warhead, reportedly boasts of a top attack capability and as an extreme engagement range of about 2.5 kms.

- The missile would benefit the Indian army to abolish enemy tanks during a war in the future. The Indian army desires close to 75,000 such missiles for future battles.

Delhi, Seoul signed MoU to tackle air pollution, improve infrastructure on - 14th September 2018

The Delhi government on 14th September 2018 inked a MoU with the Seoul Metropolitan Government to work closely for environment, tourism, waste water and solid waste management, infrastructure and public health. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Friendship and Cooperation Agreement was inked by CM Delhi Arvind Kejriwal and Seoul Mayor Park Won-Soon in Seoul, South Korea. The Delhi Chief Minister mainly sought the city's proficiency in dealing with transport and air pollution. He articulated hope that Delhi will develop on the similar lines of Seoul which helped it emerging as a beautiful city in the last 68 years notwithstanding being emaciated in the Korean War in 1950.

More about Friendship and Cooperation Agreement

- The agreement has listed Eleven areas for interchange of expertise and collaboration including Environment, Tourism, Smart City, Transportation, Education, Science & Technology, MICE Industry, Waste Water and solid waste management, Infrastructure and Public Health.

- It involves the 2 capital cities- New Delhi and Seoul- to form and operationalise a Twinning Cell and a committee to backing the cell for easy sharing of communication and knowledge.

- The cell will be backing activity linked workshops, Conduct Community Participation events and assist preserving documentation.

- The yearly reports of the cell would be forwarded to the Ministry concerned of both the cities including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs.

- The Delhi government will look for the care of its Urban Development



Department and other departments for execution of all the applicable characteristics of the MoU.

- The Twinning Agreement will remain effective till 3 years from September 14th, 2018, and it could be revised by written MoU among the two cities.

- The Principal Secretary- Urban Development, Delhi government and Director General, International Cooperation Bureau, Seoul, will be the nodal incharge for the MoU.

Chiller Star Labelling Program to improve energy efficiency launched by - Union Power Ministry

The Union Ministry of Power on September 14th, 2018 initiated the Chiller Star Labelling Programme, which is a determined programme to inspire the deployment of energy efficient chiller systems in the nation. Primarily, the programme is released on voluntary basis and will be valid up to December 31st, 2020. Chiller Star Labelling Programme .The Chiller Star Labelling Programme foresees providing star rating in terms of its energy performance. The programme has been designed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

Important Points

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency has developed an online registration platform for easy and speedy sanction under this initiative.

- The chillers producers will be able to register online for availing suitable star rating of chiller equipment.

- The star label 1-5 will be awarded, with Five star being the most efficient chillers, grounded on the test certificate from selected agencies and after due verification from Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

- Through the chiller star labelling Programme, it is assessed that above 500 million units of electricity would be saved in 2019 along with Green House Gases downfall of 0.5 million-ton equivalent of CO₂.

- It will also save above Four billion units of electricity by the year 2030 with CO₂ emission reduction of 3.5 million ton.

- The programme will promote advance technology for central Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems and will also simplify energy efficient solutions for the large commercial and industrial purposes.

Pacific Asia Travel Association gold awards won by - Kerala Tourism

Kerala Tourism has secured 2 prestigious Gold Awards of Pacific Asia Travel Association for its innovative marketing operations. These awards were secured by Kerala Tourism's Yalla Kerala print campaign and Live Inspired Posters under Pacific Asia Travel Association's Travel Advertisement Print and Travel Poster groups individually. Both campaign and posters were advanced and designed by Stark Communications which is advertising agency of Kerala Tourism.

Important

Facts

1. **Yalla Kerala:** It was print media travel advertisement operation released in Gulf nations. It highlighted

the state's greenery and backwaters with punch line 'Yalla Kerala'. This operation had stimulated lot of interest for Kerala as tourism destination in Gulf nations.

2. **Live Inspired Posters:** It was established



for 3rd edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which is the biggest fashionable art show in South Asia. It was live-inspired poster that had presented colourful boat and fishermen and could be put up straight as well as upside-down.

Pacific Asia Travel Association awards

- These awards are presented by Pacific Asia Travel Association and are funded by Macau Government Tourism Office.

- Pacific Asia Travel Association Awards are offered for enormous entries in 4 principal categories: Marketing; Education and Training; Environment, and Heritage and Culture.

- These awards are bestowed every year in recognition of the achievements of 25 separate firms and individuals.

- Pacific Asia Travel Association is membership association working to encourage the accountable development of travel and tourism in the Asia Pacific region.

India's first 'smart fence' pilot project inaugurated on - 17th September 2018

India's 1st 'smart fence' pilot project was initiated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along the India-Pakistan International Border in Ploura, J&K on 17th September 2018. The Union Minister initiated the project from the Border Security Force HQs during his single day visit to the state. The initiative has been accepted by the BSF, as part of their wide-ranging united border management system.

Important Highlights

- The pilot project includes deploying of laser-activated fences and technology-capable barricades to plug susceptible gaps along the frontiers.

- The smart fencing utilises variety of devices for investigation, communication and for storage of information.

- The innovative system delivers for round-the-clock scrutiny on the border, even in various weather conditions.

- It also allegedly comprises automated surveillance technology and alarm detection systems.

- The Border Security Force has not revealed its complete features due to security issues.

- The smart fence pilot project is believed to be a massive boon for monitoring security circumstances in border areas.

- It is a technological solution developed to make the security system at the borders tougher and more effective.

- The system will effectively make it impossible for terrorists to penetrate the Indian side of the border.

- As per to Home Minister Rajnath Singh, the inadequacies of the pilot project will be addressed to make the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system fool proof prior to its extension to other areas.

Supreme Court lifts ban on Saridon, 3 other FDCs on - 17th September 2018

The Supreme Court of India on September 17th, 2018 permitted the sale of painkiller Saridon and 3 other barred fixed-dose combinations in medical stores across the nation. The governing was delivered by a bench of judges consisting Justices R.F.Nariman and Indu Malhotra. The bench was hearing a plea thought-provoking the restriction on the drugs after a fresh notification by the Union Health Ministry. The bench also delivered a notice to the centre and sought its reply on the plea filed by some drug



manufacturers and Pharmaceutical associations.

Important Highlights

- The Supreme court has permitted the sale of Piramal Healthcare's Saridon, GSK's Piriton, Juggat Pharma's Dart and other drug, the details of which are unknown.

- The requesters contending the restriction debated that the medicines were mass-produced before 1988 thus should be excused from the restricted list of 328 fixed-dose combination medicines.

- The Pharmaceutical company, claiming for manufacturing and selling of the painkiller medicine- Saridon for more than 11 years, had contended that it has not been provided with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board report.

- However, it opposed that Saridon is Rx for people with painful rheumatic conditions, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.

- The Apex court hasn't, however, arranged any liberation to the other medicines falling in the restriction list of Fixed-Dose Combinations.

Did you know?

The Union Health Ministry released a notice last week barring the manufacture, sale and distribution of 328 FDCs drugs for human usage with immediate effect. The Ministry also barred the manufacture, sale and distribution of 6 Fixed Dose Combinations subject to certain conditions. The action was taken by the Ministry under the powers conferred by section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The Delhi High Court previously had permitted Indian pharma major Wockhardt to sell its "Ace Proxyvon" tablets, which is a mixture of 3 drugs- aceclofenac, PCM and Rabeprazole -a combination that is restricted.

India, Malta sign three MoUs in Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training signed between India and - Malta

India and Malta inked 3 Memorandum of Understandings in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training. These Memorandum of Understandings were inked following delegation level talks among Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and President of Malta, Ms. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. VP Naidu visited Malta in the 2nd phase of his visit to 3 European nations including Serbia, Malta and Romania. It was the 1st senior Indian leader to visit Mediterranean country in past 28 years.

MoUs

- Memorandum of Understandings in the field of Tourism Cooperation.

- Memorandum of Understandings on Mutual Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs and Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta.

- Memorandum of Understandings on Maritime Cooperation inked among India's Ministry of Shipping and Malta's Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects.

. World's first hydrogen-powered train rolled out by - Germany

Germany has turned out world's 1st hydrogen power-driven passenger train. These trains named iLint trains produce zero emissions, making them eco-friendly. This locomotive technology proposes greener and quieter substitute to diesel on non-electrified railway lines. These hydrogen locomotives are produced by French TGV-maker Alstom and



are commercially running on 100 kilometres route between towns and cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany.

More about Hydrogen trains

- Hydrogen locomotives are fitted with fuel cells that generate electricity by merging hydrogen with oxygen.
- This conversion process only releases steam and water, thus resulting and generating zero emissions.
- Additional energy produced in this process is stored in ion-lithium batteries on board train.
- These locomotives also produce very little noise. Moreover, hydrogen fuel cells have benefits over batteries. Instead of recharging, they can easily be re-fuelled like gas and diesel engine.
- It is also easier to figure refuelling infrastructure for these trains at railway stations.
- These locomotives can run for about 1,000 kilometres on a single tank of hydrogen, which is same to the range of diesel trains. These locomotives offer attractive panorama to many cities scrambling to curb air pollution.
- The only drawback of these hydrogen trains is that they are much expensive than fossil fuel-based trains.

Virat Kohli, Mirabai Chanu recommended for - 2018 Khel Ratna Award

India cricket skipper Virat Kohli and World Champion Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were together endorsed for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, which is the nation's uppermost even-handed honour for any sports personality.

This recommendation will seek approval from Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and post sanction Indian Cricket Captain Virat Kohli will become the 3rd cricketer to get the Khel Ratna honour after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar who was bestowed with this award in 1997 and the double World Cup winning Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni in year 2007. Mirabai Chanu was suggested for the prestigious award after her Gold Medal victory in 48 kilogram group at the World Championships past year.

First-ever & dial-FIR scheme to be launched by - Uttar Pradesh Police

UP state police launched its 1st ever "Dial-FIR" scheme in the state to curb the crime incidents in the state. In this scheme, a common public can record regular crimes without approaching to a Police Station, just by dialling the emergency number Uttar Pradesh 100 and file an First Information Report, and that would be a call-based FIR. An e-FIR or dial-FIR scheme is the First Information Report that forms the law into motion and to initiate an investigation. To fight against crime, an online dossier of more than one-lakh small and big criminals in the UP state has also been organized. Uttar Pradesh is the only 2nd state to organise such a localised online criminal database after Punjab state.

Kent RO to set up its second manufacturing plant at - Noida

Kent RO (reverse osmosis) Systems, which is a healthcare products organisation, is going to form its 2nd manufacturing unit at Noida, UP. For this project, the organisation has capitalized above Rupees 150 crores.



Important Highlights

- The provision will be complete in upcoming 4-5 years.
- Previously, Kent RO inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the Uttar Pradesh government to finance Rupees 200 crores. Kent is targeting to surpass rupees 950 crores income during the present fiscal year.
- Notwithstanding its other products including air purifiers, vegetable and fruit purifiers and water softeners above and beyond some of the home appliances, the water purifiers contribute above 85 percent of the total income of the organisation.
- This initiative will also help in generating employment and thus will help in improving financial stability in the state.

India first country in world to develop document on cooling action plan on - World Ozone Day

Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on occasion of World Ozone Day i.e. 17th September, revealed the draft India Cooling Action Plan. It enables India as 1st nation in world to advance such document. The draft was drafted by Ozone Cell of Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. It focuses to deliver maintainable cooling while keeping in view, the prerequisite to protect the ozone layer from substances that can degrade it. It delivers a 20 years perspective, with forecasts for cooling requirements in 2037-38.

India Cooling Action Plan

- India Cooling Action Plan addresses cooling needs across sectors and lists out activities which can benefit decreasing cooling mandate.

- Its thrust is to look for synergies in activities for making secure both environmental and socio-economic advantages.

- India Cooling Action Plan's predominant motive is to deliver sustainable cooling and thermal relief for all whereas securing environmental and socio-economic profits for the society.

Goals suggested in ICAP are-

- Diminish refrigerant mandate by 25 percent to 30 percent by year 2037-38.
- Diminishing cooling mandate across sectors by 20 percent to 25 percent by year 2037-38.
- Diminish cooling energy needs by 25 percent to 40 percent by year 2037-38.
- Train and verify 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, in collaboration with Skill India Mission.
- Identify cooling and concerned areas as areas of research under national science and technology initiative to care development of technological solutions.

Bangladesh to provide India access to key ports by - PM Sheikh Hasina

Bangladesh Cabinet led by PM Sheikh Hasina has sanctioned draft contract permitting India to custom its Chittagong and Mongla ports for transporting cargo to and from its north-eastern states. The draft was designed following both neighbouring nations had inked MoU on the usage of 2 ports during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June, 2015.

Agreement on sea ports for transporting goods



○ Under this contract, India can transport things according to the size of 2 sea ports.

○ Only Bangladeshi automobiles will be utilised for transportation of things within its territory.

○ Indian items can be transported via 4 entry points including Akhaura in Bangladesh and Agartala in Tripura, Tamabil in Bangladesh and Dauki in Meghalaya, Sheola in Sylhet and Sutarkandi in Assam and Bibirbazar in Bangladesh and Srimantapur in Tripura India.

○ Under this, India will have to shadow General Agreement on Tariff and Trade and Bangladeshi guidelines, pay customs duties and buy tax comparable bonds to transport freight.

○ India will also pay fees for utilising Bangladeshi land ports infrastructure. To maintain track of cargo, new modern tracking system will be utilised.

○ The MoU will be effective for 5 years, but it can be renewed for another 5 years itself. However, any nation can withdraw the MoU after giving 6 months' notice and append deal.

○ Standard Operational Procedure will be designed for implementing this MoU. The Standard Operational Procedure will be prepared following consulting with various shareholders.

Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa to be first private passenger on - SpaceX's Lunar BFR Mission

United States private space firm SpaceX on September 17th, 2018 inked the world's first private passenger to fly to the Moon aboard its Big Falcon Rocket launch vehicle. Japanese billionaire and founder of online

fashion giant Zozo, Yusaku Maezawa will be the 1st Moon tourist on SpaceX's Lunar Big Falcon Rocket Mission. Maezawa wants to take 6-8 artists from around the world on the approximately week-long trip to the Moon. However, the organisation failed to reveal the amount Maezawa paid for the mission, but they make sure that he is paying a very noteworthy amount of money.

More about Big Falcon Rocket Mission

○ Earlier in February 2017, the SpaceX had proclaimed that 2 passengers would be flying around the Moon in the Crew Dragon Capsule, released by SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket.

○ However far ahead in the beginning of 2018, Musk explained that SpaceX is bearing in mind using the BFR instead.

○ The Big Falcon Rocket was 1st publicized in 2016, and was advertised as the most powerful rocket in history, much potent than the Saturn V Moon rocket that released the Apollo missions 5 decades ago.

○ The BFR is a massive, 35-story tall rocket fabricated to release and land like SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, but could transport dozens of people on board instead of satellites only.

○ Big Falcon Rocket is the dream mission of SpaceX CEO Elon Musk who released the construction of the vehicle with a dream to create a permanent, self-sustaining human presence on Mars.

○ The mission is anticipated to initiate in 2023.

More about Yusaku Maezawa

○ Yusaku Maezawa is Chief Executive of Japan's principal online fashion mall Zozotown.



- He is the 18th richest person in Japan with a fortune of USD 3 billion, according to the business magazine Forbes.

- In 2017, he proclaimed the acquisition of a Jean-Michel Basquiat masterpiece worth USD 110.5 million.

Government organises All India Pension Adalat for pensioners' welfare on - 18th September 2018

The All India Pension Adalat was initiated on September 18th, 2018 by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh in New Delhi. The Pension Adalat, being initiated by the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, is one of the mega exercises for pensioners' welfare ever undertaken by the Government as part of good governance keen to central government pensioners.

Key Highlights

- On the occasion, all the central government ministries would be leading their respective pension adalats, in which on-the-spot solutions would be delivered across the table to the complaint holder.

- All the concerned shareholders of the pensioner's case counting the department, pay and account officer, bank, along with the pensioner or his representative, will settle the grievance within the outline of existing rules.

- This is a countless reformative portion to get the complaints resolved in the quickest possible way by avoiding pointless recourse by the pensioners to Courts.

- Additionally, the offices of AG would be distinctly addressing the pensioner complaints of all-India service officers, in all the states across the nation.

- The initiative is supposed to determine issues of thousands of pensioners in single day, in a single sitting across the nation.

President launches logo, web portal for commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on - 18th September 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind on September 18th, 2018 initiated the logo and the web portal for tribute of 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

The logo and the web portal were publicized in the presence of Minister of State for Culture Dr Mahesh Sharma and Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Arun Goel.

Web portal on 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

- The web portal "http://gandhi.gov.in" is participating in nature and all the participating firms will be enable to upload their events regarding tribute on the website.

- It has a unique feature known as "Gandhipedia" which will be a storehouse of Gandhian knowledge and will continue to expand with the passage of time.

- Data related to Gandhian literature, philosophy, audios and videos, rare photos are accessible in the web portal.

- The portal will classify visitors from diverse geography and serve them personalised data.

- Firms and individuals can link celebration and upload their work via an easy upload procedure.

150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi



○ The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated in the form of 2-year-long festivities from October 2nd, 2018 to October 2nd, 2020 around the nation and all over the world.

○ A meeting of National Committee led by the President of India was organised in May 2018 to draw out an action plan for the biggest festivity where a sum of 92 proposals were received.

○ Out of those 92, a sum of 33 proposals were sanctioned by the Executive Committee led by the PM to arrange countrywide and around the world remembrance.

○ As per this, all Ministries and all State, Union Territory Governments have initiated actions and these action plans have been uploaded on the web portal.

Government modifies operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana on - 18th September 2018

The Union Government on September 18th, 2018 published the fresh operational rules for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The fresh improved provisions consist of the provision of penalties for states and insurance firms for the interruption in settlement of insurance entitlements under the PMFBY. The new operational rules address the present challenges tackled while applying the plan by putting forth effective solutions.

New operational rules for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

○ The farmers will be paid 12% interest by insurance firms for the interruption in settlement claims beyond 2 months of agreed cut-off date.

○ The State Governments will have to pay 12% interest for the interruption in release of State share of subsidy beyond 3 months of preagreed cut-off date submission by insurance firms.

○ The rules detail a Standard Operating Procedure for assessment of insurance firms and eliminates them from the scheme, if found unsuccessful in providing services.

○ It consists of Perennial horticultural crops on pilot basis under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

○ It comprises cloud burst and natural fire in localised calamities in addition to non-seasonal and cyclonic rainfalls, hailstorm, landslide, and inundation in post-harvest fatalities.

○ It delivers additional coverage for crop loss because of attack by wild animals on pilot basis with the extra financial obligations to be borne by related state government.

○ It includes definition of major crops, unseasonal rainfall and inundation for clarity and sufficient coverage.

○ Aadhaar card number will be compulsarily taken to sidestep duplication of recipients.

○ To make sure that more non-loanee farmers are covered under the scheme, the insurance firms are given a target of enrolling 10% more non-loanee farmers than the preceding corresponding season.

Union Cabinet approves Triple Talaq Ordinance, making triple talaq an offence on - 19th September 2018

The Union Cabinet sanctioned an ordinance on September 19th, 2018 making immediate triple talaq a



punishable offence. The approval by the Union Cabinet takes the bill a step near to becoming a law.

The order has same provisions as stated in original the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017, which was approved by the Lok Sabha in December 2017. However, the bill was stuck in the Rajya Sabha.

It encountered a rigid resistance in the Rajya Sabha where various opposition lawmakers debated over the criminal provisions in the draft law. In view of the increasing opposition, the Government on August 9th, 2018 sanctioned 3 alterations in the instant triple talaq bill, making it permitted for a magistrate to give bail for the offence.

Alterations

- The alteration orders that the magistrate can agree on releasing the husband on bail only after hearing the wife.
- However, the crime remains non-bailable. Under a non-bailable law, bail cannot be approved by police at the police station itself. The government has not struck down the 3-year jail penalty for the husband or the provision that only authorizes a magistrate to set free the accused on bail.
- Another alteration permits only a woman, or a close relative, to file a police complaint against her husband for instant triple talaq.
- The 3rd alteration makes the offence of instant triple talaq compoundable, where a magistrate can utilise his powers to settle down the disagreement between a husband and his wife.
- It permits a wife to withdraw the case, if husband returns to her later and they come to a compromise.

Two Koreas sign agreement on denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula on - 19th September 2018

In a historic initiative, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on September 19th, 2018 inked an accord on denuclearisation, diminishing military tensions and calming crisis on the Korean peninsula. The talks were held by North Korea in its capital city Pyongyang. The South Korea President was welcomed at the Sunan International Airport, for his 3 days visit to the country.

Importance

- It's the 3rd meeting between Moon and Kim but the 1st to take place outside the 'truce village' of Panmunjom, on the border.
- Earlier, 2 different South Korean Presidents were held by Kim's father, the late Kim Jong II for summit sessions at the capital in 2000 and 2007.
- The key agenda of the Moon-Kim meeting was to augment relations between the 2 Koreas for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Important Highlights

- North Korea has decided to forever dismantle engine testing facilities and missile launch pads in the presence of international inspectors.
- The North Korean leader informed that his government is also willing to take extra steps in harmony with the June 12th North Korea-US Joint Declaration, for instance, dismantle the nation's largest nuclear facility in Yongbyon if the US takes corresponding measures.
- The Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Centre is a chief complex and its enduring closure would be a noteworthy



change towards safeguarding that the North gives up its nuclear arsenal.

- Besides this, Kim Jong Un promised to visit Seoul, which would be the 1st visit by a North Korean leader to the South since the Korean War.

- Both the leaders want the United States to ink off on official ending the Korean War, which still technically continues because no peace agreement was inked.

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna launched for unemployed insured persons by - ESI

The ESI has sanctioned a scheme known as “Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna” for Insured Persons under the Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948. The conclusion was taken by the Employee's State Insurance Corporation during its 175th meeting, which was organised in New Delhi on September 18th, 2018, under the Chairmanship of Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment.

During the meeting, the Employee's State Insurance Corporation took few important decisions towards the development of its services and advantages being provided to Insured Persons and their dependents. The conclusions were approved considering the modification in employment pattern and the present scenario of employment in India which has altered from a long-term employment to fixed short-term appointment as contract and temping.

More about Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna

- This plan is a relief payable as cash directly to the bank account of insured persons under ESI in case of unemployment and while they seek for a new job contract.

- The detailed instructions of the scheme counting the entitlement conditions and request format will be released separately.

- The Employee's State Insurance sanctioned the proposal for reimbursement of Rupees 10/ person to the employers to boost the seeding of Aadhar in Employee's State Insurance Corporation’s database of their workers and their family persons. The initiative will limit the multiple registrations of similar Insured Persons and thus permit them to avail the advantages necessitating longer contributory conditions.

- Further, the Employee's State Insurance sanctioned the proposal for upsurging the funeral expenses from present Rupees 10,000 to Rupees 15,000 being paid on the death of Insured Person.

.India and Morocco sign revised Air Services Agreement enabling greater connectivity on - 19th September 2018

India and Morocco on 19th September 2018 inked the reviewed Air Services Agreement permitting greater connectivity among the 2 nations via a modernised agreement. The representatives of the both nations have earlier met thrice and they have worked towards liberalisation of markets among the both nations and towards updating the current Air Services Agreement. The modernized Air Services Agreement was officially inked during the visit of Mohammed Sajid, Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicraft and Social Economy. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inked the contract for the Indian side.

Revised Air Services Agreement



○ The reviewed contract is enabler for greater air connectivity between India and Morocco.

○ It will facilitate the airlines of each side to enter code share with airlines of other party and deliver greater freedom in mounting direct flights.

○ The selected Airline of each party can enter into obliging marketing arrangements with the selected carriers of same party, other party and that of a 3rd party.

○ This contract permits designated airlines of either nations to begin offices in the territory of other nation for the promotion and sale of air services.

○ Indian selected carriers can run any number of services to and from Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakesh, Agadir, Tangier and Fez in Morocco and likewise Morocco can function any number of services to/from New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangaluru and Hyderabad.

National Sports Awards 2018 announced; Mirabai Chanu, Virat Kohli to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna on - 20th September 2018

The National Sports Awards 2018 were declared by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on September 20th, 2018. Indian Cricket skipper Virat Kohli and world weightlifter champion Mirabai Chanu will mutually be conferred with India's highest sporting pride, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2018.

Important Points

○ This year, the Ministry got a large number of proposals for these awards.

○ The proposals were considered by the Selection Committees containing a former Olympian, Arjuna Awardees,

Dronacharya Awardees, Dhyan Chand Awardees, Sport Journalists, Experts and sports superintendents.

○ The Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was led by Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar who was Former Judge of High Court of Delhi High Court.

○ The Selection Committee for Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards was led by Justice Mukul Mudgal who was Former Chief Justice of High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

○ The Selection Committee for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar was led by Rahul Bhatnagar, Secretary (Sports).

○ The Selection Committee for MAKA Trophy was led by Ashok Kumar, former Olympian.

○ The award is named after Rajiv Gandhi, former PM of India who worked from 1984 to 1989.

○ The recipients are nominated by a committee constituted by the Ministry and is obligated for their spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of 4 years" at international level.

○ The award includes a medallion, a citation, and a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh.

BSE, NSE get SEBI approval to launch commodity derivatives segment from - 1st October 2018

The capital markets regulator SEBI has permitted India's top 2 stock exchanges BSE Ltd and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) to issue commodity derivatives trading from 1st October, 2018. This sanction is part of Securities and Exchange Board of India's December 2017 declaration of



Revised Cost Estimate of Dam rehabilitation and Improvement Project approved by - CCEA

having unified exchange regime where stock exchanges will be permitted to offer trading in commodities. By unified exchange regime stock exchanges need not to form different things to offer commodity trading.

Significant Facts

- With this approval, BSE will start trading in commodity offshoots with non-agriculture supplies including metals originally, shadowed by agri-commodities later.
- National Stock Exchange will release its commodity derivatives section trading in non-agriculture supplies in early phase, followed by agriculture commodities, subject to Securities and Exchange Board of India endorsement.

Importance

- Universal interchanges will assist in attaining combination of trading in commodity derivatives market with other sections of securities market at exchange level.
- It will assist in delivering efficient price discovery, reduction in timelines, cost effectiveness, user-friendly, vigorous risk management system and wider market infiltration.
- It will benefit in creating deeper markets with lower spreads across all categories of trading.
- It will suggest greater convenience as traders will be talented to trade all strength categories from single account.
- It may also result to consolidation of cross-holding standards as unions between exchanges of different categories seem striking.
- In long-term, Indian exchanges will feel it easier to contest with their global counterparts and they are existing in multiple segments.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has sanctioned Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation

and Improvement Project. It has been augmented to Rupees 3,466 crores from past Rupees 1968 crores.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also approved 2 years extra time for project from July 2018 to June 2020.

Revised Funding pattern

Out of total revised cost of Rupees 3,466 crores, Rupees 2,628 crores will be donated by World Bank and Rupees 747 crores will be donated by Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project States or Implementing Agencies and balance Rupees 91 crore will be donated by Central Water Commission.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

The project goals to progress safety and operational performance of 198 Dams from 7 states, along with institutional establishment with system wide management tactic. It will also progress safety and operational performance of selected present dams and moderate risks to make sure safety of downstream population and property.

DRIP objectives

Component I: Rehabilitation of Dam and its appurtenant constructions.

Component II: Institutional Establishment.

Component III: Project Management. Primary receivers of this project are both urban as well as rural communities dependent on



reservoir and downstream communities, who are disposed to risk related with dam or operational failure. The institutional consolidation component of this project will augment effectiveness of Dam Safety

Organisations to take the lead to make dams safe from structural and operational point via capacity building of staff and officials. The project envisages comprehensive rehabilitation of 198 existing dam projects located in seven states including Kerala, MP, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and Jharkhand- Damodar Valley Corporation.

India, Russia Air Force joint exercise commences - Aviaindra 18

India and Russia joint air exercise Aviaindra-18 was organised in Lipetsk, Russia from September 17th to 28th, 2018. The 2nd session of Aviaindra-18 will be held in Jodhpur, Rajasthan from December 10th-22nd, 2018 Exercise Aviaindra-18 Exercise Aviaindra is Air Force level exercise among India and Russia. It was held for 1st time in 2014 and since then it is organised twice in a year in both nations. The purpose of this exercise is attentive towards anti-terrorist operations in bi-lateral scenario. It also looks forward to further enhance co-operation and understanding among Air forces of both nations in each other's Concept of Operations. Aviaindra-18 witnessed participation of Indian Air Force including 30 officers from various branches and streams of Indian Air Force with 4 women officers of Flying, Admin and Medical Branch. Indian Air Force's aircraft including Su-30 SM, Mig-29,

Su-25, Mi-8 and An-26 took part in the exercise. Apart from flying activities, formal interactions, debates, exchange of ideas and friendly sports were also organised to boost bonhomie between 2 Air Forces.

Ministry of Home Affairs, ISRO sign MoU to modernise Emergency Response on - 20th September 2018

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the ISRO on September 20th, 2018 inked a MoU for forming the state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response- ICR-ER in Ministry of Home Affairs. The Memorandum of Understanding was inked by Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Sanjeev Kumar Jindal on behalf of Ministry of Home Affairs and Deputy Director, NRSC, ISRO PVN Rao.

Highpoints of the agreement

• Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Indian Space Research Organisation will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response. The project will be performed under overall supervision of the MHA.

• The planned Control Room is likely to be initiate in next one-and-a-half year.

• The Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response will cater to the need of Disaster Management and Internal Security also.

• Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response will address the need of receipt of information on near real-time basis.

• It will also address strategic level monitoring, situation alertness, command and control, preparedness and response in the



miscellaneous internal security situation and disaster related emergencies.

- Hence, it will goal to upsurge the operational effectiveness and will be accommodating in rendering timely response during various emergency situations.

India puts four more nuclear facilities under - IAEA safeguards

India has decided to place 4 extra reactors under IAEA protections. It was proclaimed Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission at 62nd General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency organised in Vienna, Austria. The 4 reactors comprise 2 Russian-designed Pressurised Light Water Reactors and 2 Pressurised Heavy Reactors being constructed with Indian technology. With this, sum of 26 Indian nuclear amenities will be now under International Atomic Energy Agency protections.

More about IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)

- International Atomic Energy Agency is an international group that looks forward to encourage the peaceful usage of nuclear energy, and to constrain its usage for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

- It was recognized as an autonomous organization in 1957 via its own international treaty, the International Atomic Energy Agency Statute.

- Its HQs are in Vienna, Austria. International Atomic Energy Agency serves as international nuclear energy watchdog, autonomous of UNs but reports to both United Nations General Assembly and Security

Council.

IAEA Safeguards

- They are system of inspection and verification of peaceful usages of nuclear constituents as part of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- These protects mainly restates importance to International Atomic Energy Agency in its central role in advancement of atomic energy for nonviolent usage and prosperity of the mankind while preserving its due support in protections.

- International Atomic Energy Agency protections activities are undertaken by Department of Safeguards, a separate department within International Atomic Energy Agency.

Information Circular 66 is an agreement between International Atomic Energy Agency and member states provides for conduct of limited protections within member state. Under it, member states identify amenities that are made available for International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards inspection. Besides, Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1968 needs signatories to become members of International Atomic Energy Agency and non-nuclear weapons states accomplish comprehensive safeguards agreements under INFCIRC 153.

International Day of Peace 2018 observed globally on - 21st September 2018

The International Day of Peace was celebrated worldwide on September 21st, 2018 to observe the efforts of those who have worked hard to finish conflict and encourage peace. The International Day of Peace is also a day of end of hostilities.



2018 Theme: "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70"

Important Highlights

- Present year's theme observes the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is a milestone document in the history of human rights.

- The Announcement was accepted by the UNs General Assembly in Paris on December 10th, 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all countries.

- The Universal Declaration is the most interpreted document worldwide, available in above 500 languages.

- It states in Article 3 that Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and these elements shape the groundwork of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

- The International Day of Peace was recognized in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the UNs General Assembly to accord with the opening session of the assembly, which was organised yearly on the 3rd Tuesday of September.

- The 1st International Day of Peace was celebrated in September 1982.

- In 2001, the General Assembly, by undisputed vote, accepted resolution 55/282, which recognized 21st September as a yearly day of non-violence and cease-fire also.

National Database on Sexual Offenders launched by - Government

Union Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated India's National Database of Sexual Offenders. With this, India became the 9th Country to preserve such thorough database. National Database of Sexual Offenders will not be accessible for general public but only to law enforcement agencies

for effectively tracking and inspecting cases of sexual offences

National Database on Sexual Offenders

- National Database of Sexual Offenders is an initiative under National Mission for Safety of Women aimed at restricting crimes against children and women.

- It will mostly have database of sexual offenders in the nation imprisoned under charges of rape, gang rape, POCSO and eve teasing 2005 onwards.

- It will have database of crucial details of sentenced sexual offenders including their names, residential address, photographs, fingerprints, DNA samples, Aadhaar numbers and PANs details.

- It will be preserved by National Crime Records Bureau for regular monitoring by State Police. Presently, database has 4.4 lakh entries. State Police will regularly upgrade the database from 2005 onwards.

India successfully test fires short-range Prahaar missile on - 20th September 2018

India on September 20th, 2018 fruitfully test-fired the Indian developed surface-to-surface, short-range tactical ballistic missile Prahaar from the Odisha coast. The missile has been produced by the DRDO. It was test-fired from launch pad-3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, near Balasore. It is proficient of filling the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system Pinaka and medium-range ballistic missile Prithvi.

Key Highlights

- The test was effective, as the missile travelled a range of 200 kilometres before zeroing in on the target, attaining all mission objectives.



- The missile is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with an advanced onboard computer.

- It is equipped with an inertial navigation system and is proficient of engaging multiple targets in different directions.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation utilised various tracking radars and electro-optic equipment to track and monitor the trajectory of the missile.

- As a safety measure, 4,494 people residing in 5 villages adjacent to the missile launch site were provisionally shifted by the district administration prior to launch to nearby two shelters with compensation.

- The developed in India Prahaar missile is anticipated to further fortify the defence capabilities of the Indian Army.

Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang passes away on - 21st September 2018

Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang deceased on September 21st, 2018 in a military hospital in Hanoi afterwards a prolonged serious illness. He was 61 years old. Quang decreased despite greatest efforts to treat him by Vietnamese and foreign professors and doctors. The President entered into a coma following admitted to the National Military Hospital on the afternoon of September 20th. Aa per to reports, the Vietnamese leader had been passing through a serious illness since the last few months and had travelled overseas many times for treatment. He was sworn in as the President of the communist nation in 2016, after a stint as public security minister.

More about Tran Dai Quang

- He was born in northern Ninh Binh domain, Tran Dai Quang joined a police college and started his career in the police.

- He joined the Communist Party of Vietnam in July 1980, became a formal party member in July 1981 and gradually rose via the ranks at the powerful Public Security Ministry beforehand being selected as a minister in 2011.

- In 1997 he became a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam and a member of the Central Committee of the party.

- He worked as the Minister of Public Security from 2011-2016, before being nominated as the president in April 2016.

- In between, he also worked as the Vice Head of Committee on HIV/AIDS Prevention from 2011-2014.

- He was designated as the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in January 2016 at the 12th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and his nomination was established in April 2016 by Vietnam's National Assembly.

1st General Assembly of International Solar Alliance to be held on - 2nd October 2018

The 1st General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance will be initiated on October 2nd, 2018 in Delhi. The Ministerial level Assembly will be organised in Greater Noida the following day.

The International Solar Alliance is a major enterprise of PM Narendra Modi in underwriting to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement over the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. The Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance was mutually hosted by PM Narendra Modi



and French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi on March 11th, 2018.

More about International Solar Alliance

- The ISA on 6th December 2017 became a treaty-based international inter-governmental firm after the ratification by Guinea on 6th November 2017.

- The ISA was initiated combinedly by Indian PM Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the 1st day of the COP-21 summit at Paris in 2015.

- The ISA goals to undertake joint efforts needed to decrease the cost of finance and technology and mobilise above USD 1000 billion of investments required by 2030 for enormous placement of solar energy.

- It is India's 1st international and inter-governmental firm of 121 Nations and has HQs in India with UNs as Strategic Partner.

- It goals to develop a collaborative platform for augmented deployment of solar energy technologies to improve energy security and sustainable development.

- International Solar Alliance has currently 4 continuing programmes including Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use, Affordable Finance at Scale, Scaling Solar Mini Grids and Scaling Solar Rooftop catering to the requirements of solar energy in specific areas.

.SEBI eases KYC norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors on - 21st September 2018

The SEBI on September 21st, 2018 comfortable the KYC needs guidelines for the FPIs. The market regulator relaxed the guidelines after considering the interim references of the Securities and Exchange Board of India working group under the Chairmanship of Harun R Khan, a former

deputy governor of the RBI. The market regulator also strained that the valuable ownership criteria in Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005 (PMLA Rules) should be made valid for motive of Know Your Client and not for determining eligibility of Foreign Portfolio Investors.

KYC requirements norms for the Foreign Portfolio Investors

- The norms state that in case of category II and category III Foreign Portfolio Investors from high-risk jurisdictions, the Know Your Client review should be accomplished on an annual basis.

- Category II and III present Foreign Portfolio Investors should provide the list of BOs and applicable Know Your Client documentation within 6 months from the date of this circular i.e. September 21st.

- If a present Foreign Portfolio Investors fails to obey with the appropriate Know Your Client necessities by the given deadline, the disturbed custodian shall not permit such Foreign Portfolio Investors to make fresh purchases till the time Know Your Client necessities are fulfilled with.

- However, such Foreign Portfolio Investors will be permitted to sell the securities already purchased by it.

- Such Foreign Portfolio Investor will be permissible to disinvest its holdings within a period of 180 days from the expiry date.

- In case the Foreign Portfolio Investor remains non-compliant with the needs even after 180 days from the given deadline, its Foreign Portfolio Investor registration will no longer be lawful and it would prerequisite to disinvest its holdings proximately.

- The NRIs, OCIs, and RIs will be permissible to be constituents of Foreign



Portfolio Investor as long as a single NRI, OCI or RI holds with minimum 25% and the aggregate holdings by such entities is less than 50% of the assets under management of the Foreign Portfolio Investor.

- A non-investing Foreign Portfolio Investor may be directly or indirectly completely retained and controlled by an NRI, OCI, or RI. The restriction that NRI, OCI, or RI shall not be in control of Foreign Portfolio Investor does not smear to Foreign Portfolio Investors that are offshore funds for which no-objection certificate has been issued by the board in terms of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

- The limits on suitability conditions are not appropriate to Foreign Portfolio Investors investing solely in mutual funds in India.

Scheme for protection of exotic Neela Kurinji plants announced by - Tamil Nadu Government

Government of Tamil Nadu has broadcasted Scheme for protection of exotic Neela kurinji (*Strobilanthus kunthianus*) plants that bear flower only once in 12 years. This plan comes after complaints that such rare and ecologically unique flowers are being parceled and sold on the commercial purposes.

More about Neelakurinji plant

- Neela kurinji is a tropical plant species. It is native to Shola forests in Western Ghats. It is also found in Shevroys Hills, Anamalai hills and Agali hills in Kerala and Sanduru hills in Karnataka.

- It cultures at height of 30-60 cm on hills slopes at an altitude of 1300-2400m where there is no tree forest.

- The flowers of Neela kurinji are purplish-blue in colour and blossoms once in 12 years. These flowers have no fragrance or any medicinal value but due to these flowers, Nilgiri hills in southern tip of Western Ghats are known as blue mountains. It has been classified as scarce species.

- In ancient Tamil literature, kurinji flowers represent love. Paliyan tribal people living in Tamil Nadu habit this flower bloom as reference to calculate their age.

ISRO setting up third launch pad at Sriharikota for - Gaganyaan mission

Indian Space Research Organisation is forming 3rd launch pad at Sriharikota, AP to undertake Gaganyaan manned space flight programme. Indian Space Research Organisation presently has 2 launch pads which are already full. 3rd launch pad is being formed for the human space flight. It will be ready for use in time for the mission. Additionally, Indian Space Research Organisation is scouting for location on western sea coast near Gujarat to build another launch pad for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles.

More about Small Satellite Launch Vehicles

- Indian Space Research Organisation is developing Small Satellite Launch Vehicles to suggest inexpensive launch options for smaller satellites through ANTRIX.

- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicles is anticipated to decrease launch time and less cost to launch small satellites, which are greater in demand.

- India Space Research Organisation presently piggybacks smaller satellites on Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and



Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle shortened along with bigger satellites.

Gaganyaan Mission

- It will be India's 1st manned space mission. Under it, India is scheduling to send 3 humans as Gaganyatris into space, in low earth orbit by 2022 by 75th Independence Day for period of 5-7 days.

- The mission was proclaimed by PM Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech. Under this mission, team of 3 astronauts will manner experiments on microgravity in space.

- The team will be nominated jointly by Indian Air Force and Indian Space Research Organisation after which they will undergo working out for 2-3 years.

- India will be 4th country in the world after United States, Russia and China to introduce human spaceflight mission.

ISRO's preparation

- Indian Space Research Organisation already has started work on manned mission in 2004.

- It already has authenticated many of the critical technologies needed for human spaceflight via various tests such as Space Capsule Recovery Experiment, Crew Module Atmospheric Re-Entry Experiment and Pad Abort Test.

- Indian Space Research Organisation will utilise its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III launch vehicle which can transport heavier payload of Gaganyaan.

- This launch vehicle will take off from new launch pad of Indian Space Research Organisation.

India's first Coal-gasification fertilizer plant to come up in - Talcher, Odisha

Indian PM Narendra Modi initiated beginning of work for India's 1st Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant with pet-coke amalgamation will come up in Talcher, Odisha. The coal gasification-based fertilizer plant is being established by Talcher Fertilizers Limited.

Important Facts

- The fertilizer plant will be constructed at an assessed investment of Rupees 13,000 crores and is focused to be commissioned by 2022.

- On accomplishment, this fertilizer plant will have capacity of manufacturing 1.27 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum of Neem coated prilled urea using coal and pet-coke as feedstock.

- Neem coated urea decreases leakage of nitrogen into soil and checks diversion of urea from agriculture usages.

- For this fertilizer plant, Talcher Fertilizers Limited has been selected captive coal mine in Talcher area to make sure steady supply of the feedstock for preserving nonstop operations of the plant.

- It will harvest 2.38 million metric standard cubic meter per day natural gas corresponding syngas from coal, that leading to decrease in import bill of Liquefied Natural Gas by above Rupees 1,620 crores annually.

Significance of Coal-gasification based fertilizer plant

- It will utilise gas produced from coal, thus reducing addiction on urea and gas imports.

- It will encourage alternative habit of domestic coal in environment friendly manner, thereby backup India's commitments



under CoP 21 Paris Agreement 2016. Pollutants like CO₂ generated by this fertilizer plant will be reused for generation of Urea and other by-products.

- Further, ash formed by it will be transformed to inert slag which is non-hazardous.

Village Rockstars is nominated for Oscar Awards on - 22nd September 2018

An Assamese language feature movie by National Award-winning moviemaker Rima Das, "Village Rockstars" was nominated as India's formal entry for the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 2019 Academy (Oscar) Awards, on September 22nd, 2018. The declaration was made by S.V.Rajendra Singh Babu, who is the Chairman of the Selection Committee for Oscar Award, FFI.

Important Highlights

- The movie's entry to Oscars 2019 is admirable as it had to contest with 27 other competitors movies including Hichki, Padmaavat, Raazi, Love Sonia, Nude, Pihu, Manto, October, Tumbaad, Halkaa, Kadvi Hawa and Padman.

- Rima Das performances as a one-woman army for the movie; she is the writer, director, cinematographer, editor and the producer of the movie. She took more than three years to script Village Rockstars, which was then shot during a time period of 130 days.

- Village Rockstars explains the story of 10 years old Dhunu, a young girl from a remote village in Assam, who dreams of maintaining a guitar and forming a rock band notwithstanding the terrible financial situation at home.

- The movie was shot in director Das' native village of Chhaygaon and most of

the troupe members are non-actors from the village, counting the leading character Dhunu which is played by Das' niece Bhanita Das.

- Village Rockstars is programmed for a pan-India release on September 28th, 2018.

- The movie had its World premiere at the Toronto International Movie Festival 2017.

- The movie has toured to above 70 movie festivals worldwide.

- At the 65th National Movie Awards former in 2018, the movie secured 4 awards for Best Feature, Best Editing, Best Location Sound Recordist and Best Child Artist.

PM Modi to inaugurated Sikkim's first-ever airport on - 24th September 2018

Sikkim's 1st-ever airport will be initiated by Indian PM Narendra Modi on September 24th, 2018 at Pakyong. The development is a historic occasion for the complete northeast region of India. Talking on the event of the airport's induction, Union Minister for Development of Northeastern Region Jitendra Singh informed that it has been more than 40 years since Sikkim became a part of India, but now the PM will initiate the airport in this hill State and bring it on the air-map of the worldwide. The airport was built by the Airports Authority of India. Until now, Sikkim was the only state in India without a working airport.

Interesting Facts

- The airport is spread over 201 acres and is situated on top of a hill about 2 kilometres above Pakyong village at 4,500 feet overhead sea level.

- This airport has strategic location approximately 60 kilometres from the Indo-



China border and approximately 30 kilometres away from capital city, Gangtok.

- The airport's site makes it strategically relevant from the nation's security point of view.

- The Indian Air Force will find this airport convenient for the landing and taking-off of its aircrafts.

- The runway of the Pakyong airport is 1.75 kilometres with an expenditure projected cost of more than Rupees 605 crores.

- With the new airport, the travelling time to Sikkim will be decreased by approximately five hours because, previously, the nearby airport to which the tourists could approach was Bagdogra in West Bengal.

- This airport has a capacity to handle 50 in-bound and as many out-bound passengers with a huge big improvement to connectivity and tourism in the north-east as it is one of the few airports in the region.

- The airport was impressed from the mountain side using huge geo technical 'cut and fill' engineering works.

- Sikkim has been one of the favourite tourist destinations. Hence, from the tourist point of view, the airport will be a major supporter, as it will benefit advance connectivity and save travel time for the tourists.

Few Other Details

- The airport is not only India's 100th operational airport but also one of the nation's 5 highest airports.

- The 1st commercial flight from Pakyong is planned to start from October 4th, when SpiceJet will initiate its daily Kolkata-Sikkim flights.

- Primarily, the airport will cater only to domestic flights, but in future it will also deliver international flight services connecting Sikkim with other nations

like Paro in Bhutan, Kathmandu in Nepal and Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha inaugurated by - President

President Ram Nath Kovind has initiated centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in New Delhi. Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is an independent body working under the grant from Union Government.

More about Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha

- Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is national integrity that focuses to progress Hindi literacy among non-Hindi speaking people of South India. It is HQ in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- Union Government had recognised it as one of the Institutes of National Importance in 1964. It is fragmented into 4 divisions one each for south states of AP, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

- Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha was found by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi in 1918 with sole objective of prorogating Hindi in South India to bond the northern and southern states of the country in greatest interest of integration of the country.

- Gandhiji was founder president of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha till his death.

International Day of Sign Languages is observed globally on - 23rd September 2018

International Day of Sign Languages was observed yearly worldwide on 23rd September every year



along with International Week of the Deaf. This day purposes to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full understanding of the human rights of people who are deaf. Present year, it was 1st International Day of Sign Languages. Its theme was “With Sign Language: Everyone is Included!”.

Did you know?

International Day of Sign Languages was suggested by World Federation of the Deaf, which is a federation of 135 national associations of deaf people, representing approximately 70 million deaf

people’s human rights around the world. Later, UNs General Assembly introduced this day by implementing resolution A/RES/72/161 in December 2017. The choice of 23rd September commemorates date of founding of World Federation of Deaf in 1951. International Week of the Deaf was 1st observed in September 1958. As per to the World Federation of Deaf, there are about 72 million deaf people around the world. Above 80 percent of them live in developing nations. Collectively, they use above 300 different sign languages.

India conducts successful test of Prithvi Defence Vehicle on - 23rd September 2018

India on September 23rd, 2018 completed an effective test of its Indian designed ballistic missile defence system off the coast of Odisha. With the test, India attained a main milestone in evolving a 2 layers Ballistic Missile Defence system.

The mission, known as Prithvi Defence Vehicle mission, focused to involve targets in

the exo-atmosphere area at an altitude directly above 50 kilometres of the earth's atmosphere. The test was directed from Abdul Kalam Island, previously known as Wheeler Island of the Integrated Test Range.

More about PDV Mission

- The mission decorative test-firing of an inceptor missile of the coast of Odisha to grab an incoming ballistic missile off the Bay of Bengal.

- The test was effective, because both the Prithvi Defence Vehicle interceptor and the target missile were involved efficaciously.

- In the automatic operation, the radar-based finding and tracking system detected and tracked the enemy's ballistic missile.

- The computer network with the benefit of data received from the radars foretold the trajectory of the incoming ballistic missile. The Prithvi Defence Vehicle that was kept fully ready took-off once the computer system gave the command for lift-off.

- The interceptor directed by high-accuracy Inertial Navigation System supported by a Redundant Micro Navigation System encouraged towards the projected point of the interception.

- Once the missile passed through the atmosphere, the heat shield expelled and the IR Seeker dome unlocked to look at the target location as elected by the mission computer.

- All programmes were monitored in real-time by the Telemetry/Range Stations, at different other locations.

Nepal to become world's first country to double its tiger population declared on - 23rd September 2018

Nepal is ready to become the 1st nation in the world to double fold its tiger population as part of the World Wildlife Foundation's Tx2



programme which focuses to double fold the number of tigers worldwide. The government of Nepal declared on September 23rd, 2018, on the eve of National Conservation Day, that there are now an approximated 235 wild tigers in their country, approximately double the number from around 121 in 2009.

Key highlights

- Nepal had directed a National Tiger Survey between November 2017 and April 2018 in the transboundary Terai Arc Landscape, which is a vast area of varied ecosystems shared with India.

- The survey exposed that Nepal's tiger population increased to 235 from 121 in 2009.

- The past tiger survey in 2013 had approximated the tiger population in the country to be around 198.

- With 4 years outstanding earlier to the 2022 deadline, Nepal seeks set to accomplish its goal of double folding the tiger population.

- However, this only emphasizes the continued necessity to make sure protection and improved and adjoining habitats for the long-term survival of the species.

Significance

The achievement of Nepal in doubling tiger numbers has been mostly attributed to the nation's political promise and the adoption of innovative tools and methods towards tiger conservation.

Nepal was the 1st nation to attain global standards in managing tiger conservation areas, which is an endorsement scheme governed by the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards.

Scientists for first time grow miniature human oesophagus in - Lab

Scientists for first time have effectively cultured oesophageal organoids, a functional

variant of human food pipe by means of Pluripotent Stem Cells in laboratory. This bioengineered oesophageal organoids

forms way for new ways to study and test drugs against gut complaints. It may also result into personalised diagnostic methods and attentive in part on evolving regenerative tissue therapies to treat and cure Gastrointestinal disorders. It will assist to study birth defects like oesophageal atresia,

organoids, eosinophilic esophagitis and Barrett's metaplasia. Moreover, bioengineer genetically

harmonized oesophageal tissue can be also transplanted in patients.

More about Oesophagus

- It is long muscular tube part of digestive system that joins mouth to stomach to vigorously pass food.

- It is also known as gastro-intestinal tract. It is approximately 25cm long in adults. After food is swallowed, walls of oesophagus contract and helps food movement down to the stomach. The area where oesophagus connects stomach is known as gastro-oesophageal junction.

Oesophagus contains 4 layers:

- Mucosa which is the inner layer, which assist to food pass smoothly into stomach.

- Submucosa which contains glands that produce mucus, which maintains oesophagus moist.

- Muscularis is a muscle layer, which forces food down to stomach.

- Adventitia is outer layer, which connects oesophagus to nearby parts of the body.

Stem cell

- Stem cell is undifferentiated cell of multi-cellular creature which is capable of



producing indefinitely more cells via mitosis and from which certain other variety of cell may be developed by the cellular differentiation. There are 2 types of stem cells widely used-

1. Embryonic stem cells that come from three to five days old human embryos. They are collected during process called in-vitro fertilization. They are called as pluripotent stem cells. These cells can produce virtually any other type of cell in the body.
2. Induced pluripotent stem cells that can differentiate into all types of specialized cells in body. They can possibly harvest new cells for any organ or tissue.

PM launched world's largest healthcare scheme named - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

PM Narendra Modi initiated determined Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, under Ayushman Bharat parasol at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The scheme goals to deliver yearly health insurance cover of Rupees five lakh to 10.74 crore beneficiary families across India. It is advertised as world's largest healthcare scheme that will assist beneficiary population that equals 27-28 European nations and almost equal to population of Canada, Mexico and United States put together. The scheme will be effective from September 25th, 2018.

More about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is government supported health insurance scheme, that will deliver free coverage of equal to Rupees Five lakh per family every year in

any government and empanelled private hospitals all over India.

- It will protect beneficiaries' families identified on the basis of Socio-Economic Caste Survey 2011 in 444 districts of 30 states and UTs.

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana will be sponsored with 60 percent contribution from Centre and residual from the states.

- NITI Aayog will be working as partner for this scheme for operationalizing robust, modular and interoperable IT platform which will include a paperless and cashless transaction.

Important Features

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is entitlement-based scheme with entitlement finalised on the grounds of deprivation criteria in the Socio-Economic Caste Survey database.

- There will be no cap on the size of family and age under this scheme. The advantages cover under it also comprises pre and post-hospitalisation expenditures.

- It also considers all pre-existing medical conditions and will deliver reimbursement for bed charges and drugs and diagnostics 2 days before, during and fifteen days after hospital admission with transport allowance be also paid.

- The expense for treatment will be paid on package rate which will be well-defined by Government in advance basis. The package rates will consist all costs related with treatment.

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana permits national portability at empanelled hospital anywhere in the nation.

- It will fortify healthcare services in India by aiming poor and vulnerable population of the nation.



ID documentation needed for verifying beneficiary under this scheme may be Aadhaar card/voter card/ration card. Aadhaar card is not compulsory.

- Beneficiaries will have QR codes having applications for authentication via scanning.

Odisha government changed norms in food and procurement policy for - KMS

The Odisha government finalised to help the entry of more small and marginal farmers and sharecroppers into the procurement fold. For this, the standards of Food and Procurement Policy for the Kharif Marketing Season 2018-19 is to be altered. A faltering target to acquire 55 lakh tonnes of paddy from farmers has been finalised which will be approximately 37 lakh tonnes in terms of rice. Previously, the Cabinet permitted the Food and Procurement Policy for Kharif Marketing Season 2019. As per to the policy for Kharif Marketing Season, the paddy or Kharif crop will be acquired between November 2018 and April 2019. The Rabi crop will be acquired from May to June 2019.

The Central government has fixed the Minimum Support Price for the farmers as Rupees 1,750/quintal for the common variety of paddy and Rupees 1,770 for Grade-A variety.

RBI shortlisted 5 IT firms for implementation of Centralised information and Management System Reserve Bank of India shortlisted 5 IT companies for implementation of a Centralised Information and Management System for data collection, on September 23rd, 2018.

Important Points

- The 5 IT companies are Infosys, TCS, Capgemini, IBM, L&T Infotech.
- The Centralised Information and Management System would consist of:
 - Unified data collection, System driven information validation and data review,
 - Data protection and storage, Providing information dissemination platform.
 - Overhauling the Data Warehouse of Reserve Bank of India.
 - Centralised analytics podium to ease creation of Reserve Bank of India Data Sciences Lab.
- This is in-line with Reserve Bank of India's decision of data science lab where the data analysts from various backgrounds including data analytics, statistics, economics, econometrics and finance would work on data collection from approximately 130 banks and entities.

Political candidates cannot be disqualified on basis of criminal charges - Supreme Court

The Supreme Court governed on September 25th, 2018 that political candidates cannot be prohibited from contesting elections just because of offences been mounted against them in a criminal case. The governing was passed by a 5-judge bench of the Supreme Court, which was led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra and encompassed Justices R.F.Nariman, A.M.Khanwilkar, D.Y.Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra.

Important Highlights of the Judgement

- The constitution bench apprehended that candidates cannot be banned just because



offences have been framed against them in a criminal case.

- The bench also governed the legislature to consider framing a law to make sure decriminalisation of politics.

- All candidates looking for to contest elections must announce their past criminal charges.

- Political parties must also show the full details of the criminal offences faced by their candidates on their official website.

- Parliament must make a law to make sure candidates with criminal records don't enter public life or take part in law making.

- The EC also must make sure that candidates obviously specify the details of their pending cases at the time of filing their recommendations in bold letters.

Instagram co-founders Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger resign on - 24th September 2018

The co-founders of the photo-sharing app Instagram, Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger, on September 24th, 2018 publicized to resign from their respective posts in the social media company.

Mike Krieger is the Chief Technical Officer, while Kevin Systrom is the CEO. They initiated the photo-sharing application in 2010 and traded it to Facebook in 2012 for approximately USD One billion. Though they did not remark the reason to leave the organisation, however, informed about their plan to take time off to explore their creativity again.

Important Points

- Systrom and Krieger have known each other since 2010, when they met and altered a software project developed by Systrom into most popular Instagram. Instagram app has

seen tremendous growth since its founding, with an approximated One billion monthly subscribers and Two million promoters.

- Evolution of Instagram and its prevalence Instagram was created in 2010 as a location check-in app called “Burbn”, which was a software project constructed by Systrom.

- Mike Krieger, a passionate handler of Burbn, met Systrom at a Stanford University fellowship programme and they decided to work together.

- Ultimately, Burbn was reconfigured and renamed as the Instagram.

- Systrom and Krieger worked together to make Instagram fame via photo filters and camera lenses. The duet worked out of a small office in the San Francisco.

- Instagram ultimately was notified by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who realised the power of Instagram's photo-sharing network.

- Facebook purchased Instagram for USD One billion in cash and stock. It was Facebook's principal acquisition till date.

- The deal instantly turned Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger into big millionaires.

Supreme Court constitutes committee to look into jail reforms on - 25th September 2018

The Supreme Court on September 25th, 2018 formed a 3 members committee to investigate the problems of jails in India and propose reform measures. The committee led by former Supreme Court judge Justice Amitava Roy will investigate the characteristic of jail reforms around the nation and recommend measures to handle them.

Key Highlights



• The committee, led by Supreme Court judge Amitava Roy, would include 2 officers from the Union Government.

• The committee's duties will comprise investigate the problems of jails around the nation including overloading in prisons, human rights issues of prisoners and issues about female prisoners suffering in jail-cells for years.

• After investigating the problems, the committee would be needed to recommend guidelines to deal with them.

• The Supreme Court had on August 27th kept back its order on the matter of creating a committee to tackle with problems relating to jails and propose reforms for prisons around the nation.

Did you know?

The Supreme Court bench containing Justices M.B.Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta had expressed its annoyance explaining that the government had collected big amount under the orders of the supreme court but the funds were not being used accurately. The court had also previously passed a slew of guidelines over abnormal deaths in jails and on prison reforms across India.

• Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, MP awarded best-performing states in 'Ease of Living Index' 2018 on - 24th September 2018

The state of AP has surpassed the 'Ease of Living Index' grades published by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It was trailed by Odisha and MP. The 3 states were awarded best-performing states at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018, which was organised in Delhi on

September 24th, 2018. The Union Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri articulated self confidence that the index will inspire cities to move towards an 'outcome-based' approach to urban planning management and encourage healthy competition among cities.

Ease of Living Index and SDGs

◦ The Ease of Living calculation standards are strictly connected to the Sustainable Development Goals and goal to deliver a strong motivation to India's effort for systematic tracking progress of Sustainable Development Goals in the urban areas.

◦ Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goal, eight targets are directly connected to India's ease of living assessment framework with Sustainable Development Goal 11.

◦ The Sustainable Development Goal 11 is focused at making our cities and human settlements comprehensive, safe, resilient and sustainable and is calculated via set of 30 indicators.

Did you know?

The 1st round of Ease of Living covered 111 cities. Gurugram was next included in the valuation.

While 4 cities of West Bengal including Howrah, New Town Kolkata, Kolkata and Durgapur did not took part, Naya Raipur of Chhattisgarh and Amravati of AP did not completed the parameters as they are green-field cities.

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins Maldives Presidential Election 2018 on - 24th September 2018



Opposition candidate, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, on September 24th, 2018 secured the Maldives Presidential Election 2018, by defeating binding President Yameen Abdul Gayoom, who will stay till the ends on November 17th, 2018. Ibrahim Mohammad Solih is an agreed candidate of the joint opposition, which includes the Maldivian Democratic Party, the Jumhooree Party, the Adhaalat Party and former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's own faction of the Progressive Party. According to the results declared by Maldives' National Elections Commission, Solih got 58.3% of the votes, compared to 41.5% votes held by Abdul Gayoom of Progressive Party of Maldives. Solih will took oath as President on November 17th, 2018 until 2023. Solih will be only the 6th President in the nation's 5 decades old electoral history.

Crisis in Maldives

- In the nation's 1st free elections, Mohamed Nasheed, supported by a coalition of opposition parties, defeated Gayoom and became the Maldives's 1st freely elected president in 2008.

- However, in 2012, Nasheed was forced to quit from the office after a police mutiny and a political turmoil in the nation better known for its exotic honeymoon resorts.

- It was Yameen Abdul Gayoom's election as President in 2013 that finished the political turmoil.

- Recently in February 2018, Yameen acknowledged a 45 days state of emergency in the nation, ordering security forces into the Supreme Court and resulted former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom under arrest.

- He had pulled Maldives out of the Commonwealth in 2016 and nurtured

closer relations with China and Saudi Arabia over traditional associates India and the UK.

India and Maldives

- Maldives is a home to approximately 22000 Indians and its increasing immediacy with China is a cause of concern for New Delhi.

- Under the rule of Mohamed Nasheed, Maldives nurtured close ties with India. However, India was successfully side-lined under the rule of Yameen Abdul Gayoom.

- Even when Yameen toppled the judicial system by jailing SC judges and his half-brother and previous president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in February 2018, India frolicked a waiting game. Yameen even commanded to cut visas for Indian workers.

BSNL signed MOU with Softbank, NTT to roll out 5G, IoT service on - 24th September 2018

On September 24th, 2018, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited- BSNL has signed an agreement

with Japan's Softbank and NTT Communications to even out 5G and internet of things technology

in India. Under this, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Softbank will effort on satellite constellation which will have

approximately 900 satellites to deliver high speed internet facilities.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India- TRAI has suggested auction of approximately 8,644

MHz of telecom frequencies at an approximated base price of Rupees 4.9 lakh crores.

Other News Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has also signed agreements



with Nokia and Cisco for developing 5G environment.

Did you know?

Freshly, on September 13th, 2018, NITI Aayog and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited signed agreement under DoT for the test trials of 5G. On August 25th, 2018, a 5G forum headed by Prof. A.J.Paulraj submitted its report to DoT for induction of 5G by year 2020.

21st Central Zonal Council meeting held in Lucknow

The 21st Central Zonal Council meeting was organised in the capital of UP, Lucknow. It was led by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. It was joined by CMs of UP, Uttarakhand while officials ministers of MP and Chattisgarh.

Important Points

- The Council deliberated different matters including road transport, Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna, actions to handle Naxal violence, modernization of Police, infrastructure development of airports, Minimum Support Price-MSP, NHM and matters related to primary schools.

- Total 22 matters were deliberated out of which 17 were resolved and on 3 issue directions were given, remaining two issues between the states will also be resolved shortly.

Zonal Council

- Zonal Councils were formed under States Reorganization Act, 1956 to stand-in Inter-State co-operation and coordination among the States.

- The clue of zonal councils arose during discussion on report of States Re-organisation Commission 1956. Initially, 5 councils were formed according to States Reorganization Act 1956 as following:

- Northern Zonal Council: Haryana, HP, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi (UT) and Chandigarh.

- **Central Zonal Council:** Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, UP and MP

- **Eastern Zonal Council:** Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim and WB

- Western Zonal Council: Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra

- and Nagar Haveli Southern Zonal Council: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and UT-Puducherry.

Zonal Councils provide common meeting place for States to promote and simplify coordinated efforts for developing economic and social development. They help regional fora of cooperative endeavour for States connected with each other geographically, economically and ethnically. They are authorized to discuss and make commendations on issues of common interest in field of economic and social planning, philological minorities, border disagreements and inter-State transport.

Indian Culinary Institute inaugurated in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu initiated Indian Culinary Institute in Tirupati, AP. It is encouraged by Union Ministry of Tourism. The Indian Culinary Institute building was outlined by National Building Construction Corporation.

More about Indian Culinary Institute

- The main aim of Indian Culinary Institute is to institutionalize process to sustenance efforts planned to preserve,



document, promote and disseminate Indian Cuisine. It also looks forward to meet sectoral need of specialists specific to Indian Cuisine and encourage cuisine as niche tourism produce.

- It will be centre of excellence that will propose structured regular programs of study specific to culinary arts and culinary management.

- It will also support research and innovation, arrange request driven certificate and diploma courses.

- It will also document and form information specific to Indian cuisine and commission studies and survey on cuisine.

- It will also deliver suitable training platform at par with best “Chef Schools” functioning in various parts of developed world.

Did you know?

Presently in India, there is no official education specific to Indian cuisine, culinary art. Besides, there was no steady credible institutional source at top level for supply of cuisine specialists to sector. There was also no institutional process to document and broadcast knowledge concerned to cuisine and gastronomy. There is also dearth of state-of-the-art training ground to train top-of-the-line chefs of international ethics. Indian Culinary Institute will ease to eradicate all these bottlenecks. Two coastal tourism circuit projects

“Swadesh Darshan Scheme” inaugurated in -Andhra Pradesh

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu initiated 2 coastal tourism circuit projects in AP taken up under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. These projects are intended at boosting beach and coastal tourism by leveraging bountiful coastlines along the

state.

Two coastal tourism projects are

- First coastal circuit consists of beautification of Nellore tank and Pulicat Lake, modernization to Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, construction of restaurant and development of Kotha Koduru, Ubbala

Madugu, Mypadu, Rama Theertham, and Isukapalli project.

- Second coastal circuit is intended at evolving Kakinada port, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Hope Island, construction of cottages and wooden huts at Aduru, Passarlapudi and S Yanam and growth of Kotipalli project.

More about Swadesh Darshan scheme

- It was initiated by Union Tourism Ministry with aim to advance theme-based tourist circuits in the nation.

- These tourist circuits will be advanced on principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in a combined manner.

- Under this scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been acknowledged for development.

- They are Buddhist Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, North-East India Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

- It is 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme for project components undertaken for public funding. The sponsorship of projects under this scheme differs from state to state.

- It is finalised on the grounds of detailed project reports made by Programme Management Consultant which is national level



consultant for executing the scheme. So far, Tourism Ministry has certified 74 projects worth Rupees 5997.47 crores to 31 states and UTs under this scheme.

.Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launches web portal for MSME banking credit space on - 25th September 2018

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley on September 25th, 2018 publicized www.psbloansin59minutes.com web portal, which is a transformative initiative in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises credit space. The portal will permit in principle sanction for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises loans up to Rupees One crore within 59 minutes from Small Industries Development Bank of India and Five Public Sector Banks. It is a strategic initiative of Small Industries Development Bank of India headed Public Sector Banks consortium formed under the guidance of Department of Financial Services, Union Ministry of Finance.

Important features

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises financing will be carried out by Small Industries Development Bank of India and big 5 Public Sector Banks including State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, PNB, Vijaya Bank and Indian Bank.

- It is the first-of-its-kind portal for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises borrowers that let Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to join with multiple banks without visiting their branch.

- It is an advanced digital platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Financing with services driven architecture and highest level of information security.

- It is the only platform in the market with a Banker Interface which shelters the Branch Level integrations in tune with present systems of Public Sector Banks.

- It is also the only platform that permits bankers to create Loan Products in line with the Scoring models and assessment methods within their permitted credit policy.

President Ram Nath Kovind confers National Sports Awards 2018 on - 25th September 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind bestowed the National Sports Awards 2018 on September 25th, 2018, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.

Cricket skipper Virat Kohli and World Champion Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were honored with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2018, which is India's highest sporting honour. The Ministry acknowledged a huge number of recommendations for these awards this year. The

recommendations were considered by the Selection Committees consisting of a former Olympian, Arjuna Awardees, Dronacharya Awardees, Dhyan Chand Awardees, Sport Journalists, Experts and sports managers. Present year's award ceremony was suspended to September 25th from the normal August 29th, which is celebrated as the National Sports Day, due to clash of dates with the Asian Games 2018 which were organised in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Supreme Court allows live streaming of court proceedings on - 26th September 2018

The Supreme Court of India on September 26th, 2018 permitted live streaming and video recording of court proceedings around the nation. The bench consisting Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices AM



Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud questioned the government to design rules in this regard under Article 145 of the Constitution. The Apex court informed that live streaming of court proceedings will bring responsibility and transparency into the judicial system and assist the public interest. The bench informed that the Sunlight is the best disinfectant, let people get 1st-hand information about what is going on in courtroom proceedings. The Supreme court had previously reserved its verdict on the matter on August 24th, saying it wanted to execute the concept of "open court" to decongest the courtrooms.

Important Points

- During the hearing, Attorney General K.K.Venugopal, on behalf of the Centre, informed that live streaming could be initiated as a pilot project in the Chief Justice of India's court on issues of constitutional importance and had also released recommendations on the guidelines for the live streaming.
- K.K.Venugopal informed that the achievement of this project would regulate whether live streaming should be started in other courts of the top court and in courts across the nation.
- He had also recommended that live streaming should be delayed by 70 seconds to permit the Judges to mute the sound in case of misbehaves from lawyers or any sensitive matter, or national security.

DAC approves procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in - T-72 tanks

Defence Acquisition Council has permitted procurement of 1,000 engines of 1,000 brake horse power, for fixture in T-72 tanks of Indian Army. These engines will be acquired under "Buy & Make"

category at an estimated cost of more than Rupees 2,300 crores. Most of these engines will be generated by Ordnance Factories Board. Their fixture will improve mobility, agility and acceleration of T-72 tanks making them more versatile and effective in the battleground.

More about Defence Procurement Procedure-16

- Defence Acquisition Council also permitted several modifications to Defence Procurement Procedure-16, which is manual governing defence procurement.
- The modifications goal to decrease timelines in defence procurements and restructure Defence Procurement Procedures.
- The adjustments limit time period for implementing Repeat Order to 5 years following date of completion of warranty of final delivery in earlier contract. It also protracted repeat order provisions to gaining by other services like Central Armed Police Force and Border Roads Organisation.
- The alterations also consist authorizations to commence with benchmarking of cost for apparatus directly on receipt of trial report in Service HQ, legislating necessities for exchange rate variations when tracking procurement with 'Option Clause'.
- These measures will go long way in removing under procedural delays. It will also speed-up activities by lessening procurement timelines and provide due preference to indigenization.



Air pollution control device WAYU inaugurated in - New Delhi

Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences and Environment Dr. Harsh Vardhan initiated air pollution control device Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit- WAYU for traffic joints at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk, New Delhi. The device goals at undertaking toxicity in air by slurping in particulate matter and release fresh air.

More about Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit

- It has been developed in India by CSIR-NEERI as part of Technology Development Project being sponsored by Department of Science and Technology.

- Its prototype has capacity to purify air in area of 500m square. It uses only half unit of electricity for 10 hours of running and has maintenance cost of only Rupees 1500 each month.

- The device works on 2 principles; mainly wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and active pollutants elimination.

- It has filters for particulate matter removal and activated charcoal and Ultra Violet lamps for the removal of poisonous gases including Volatile organic compounds and Carbon Monoxide.

- It has single fan and filter for slurping and removing Particulate Matter. It also has 2 Ultra Violet lamps and half kilograms of activated charcoal coated with special chemical Titanium Dioxide.

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental

Engineering Research Institute is in the process of developing bigger version of WAYU which can purify air in area of 10,000m square.

- It will also produce designs of future WAYU devices better in aesthetics and which can be installed in bus shelters etc.

4 Northern states and 2 UTs agree to fix uniform tax rates on - Petroleum products

Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, UP, HP and UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh have decided to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum items, amid rising fuel prices. Besides, these states and Union Territories also have settled to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit. This conclusion will result into upsurge in government revenue and at the same time control black marketing. It will also benefit to control diversion of trade.

Important Points

- Decision in this regard was taken at meeting finance ministers of 5 states and officials of Union Territory Chandigarh organised in Chandigarh to discuss on fixing uniform rate of taxes on petrol and diesel.

- The meeting was inventiveness of Haryana Finance and Excise and Taxation Minister Captain Abhimanyu.

- In this meeting it was finalised to bring uniformity in Value Added Tax rates on petrol and diesel in order to deliver relief to customers.

- It was also finalised to have uniform policy for state transport so that there should be no loss of revenue from registration and permit fees due to difference in tax rates.

- The participating states also finalised to form a sub-committee, which would suggest their



recommendation with regard to consistency in tax rates in next 15 days.

○ Committee of administrators has also been formed for excise and transport, which will send report to their respective state governments on the uniformity of rates.

Government launches Financial Inclusion Index in - New Delhi

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley initiated Financial Inclusion Index in New Delhi. It was initiated following his Annual Performance Review Meeting with Chief Executive Officers of Public Sector Banks.

More about Financial Inclusion Index

• The annual Financial Inclusion Index will be published by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

• It will be measure of admission and usage of basket of formal financial products and services that comprises savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension plans.

• The index has 3 measurement dimensions-

- (i) Access to financial facilities
- (ii) Usage of financial facilities and
- (iii) Quality.

• It will work as single composite index that will provide snap shot of level of financial inclusion which will direct Macro Policy perspective.

Significance of index

• Its different components will assist to measure financial services for practice of internal policy making.

• It can be utilised directly as composite measure in development indicators. It will also permit to fulfil G20 Financial Inclusion

Indicators necessities. It will also simplify researchers to study the influence of financial inclusion and other macro-economic variables.

Union Cabinet approves National Digital Communications Policy 2018 on - 26th September 2018

The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, on September 26th, 2018 sanctioned the National Digital Communications Policy 2018, which is the new telecom policy of the nation. The cabinet also gave approval to the re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the "Digital Communications Commission".

Objective

• It will deliver universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every resident.

• It will deliver One Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.

• It will make sure connectivity to all uncovered areas also.

• It will fascinate investments of USD 100 billion in the Digital Communications Sector.

• It will also train One million manpower for building New Age Skill.

• It will ease to increase IoT ecosystem to Five billion connected devices.

• It will develop a comprehensive information protection command for digital communications that protects the privacy, autonomy and choice of persons.

• It will even ease India's effective participation in the global digital economy.

• To enforce answerability through suitable institutional mechanisms.

• It will protect digital communications infrastructure and facilities.

Strategy



- Formation of a National Digital Grid by forming a National Fibre Authority.
- Starting Common Service Ducts and utility passages in all new city and highway road plans.
- Formation of a cooperative institutional process among Centre, States and Local Bodies for common rights of way, standardisation of costs and timelines.
- Enabling expansion of Open Access Next Generation Networks.

Supreme Court upholds constitutional validity of Aadhaar Act; allows Aadhaar-PAN Linking on - 26th September 2018

The 5 judges Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on September 26th, 2018 supported most of the provisions of the Aadhaar Act by 4:1 Majority during the hearing of the appeals challenging the constitutional validity of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other. Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

Of the 5 judges, Chief Justice Dipak Misra, and Justices A.K.Sikri, A.M.Khanwilkar, Ashok Bhushan

authenticated the necessities of the Aadhaar number with few limitations, while Justice D.Y.Chandrachud found that the whole Aadhaar project is unauthorized. The Aadhaar, looks forward to start a database of personal identity of every Indian citizen, by integrating their demographic and biometric data.

Important Points

- Majority of judges supported the validity of Aadhaar, Justice Chandrachud disagreed.

- Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, permitting private units to utilise Aadhaar for verification determinations.
- Aadhaar to PAN Linkage mandatory.
- No necessity of Aadhaar for CBSE, NEET, UGC and school admissions.
- No necessity of Aadhaar for mobile connections and for opening bank accounts. Aadhaar metadata cannot be kept for above 6 months. The Act permitted storage of such information for 5 years.
- Aadhaar number interrupts Informational privacy, data protection. Aadhaar number poses risk on potential violation of leakage of information and leakage from central database will lead for surveillance.

• Mobile phone linking with Aadhaar is not permitted.

• Mobile phones are a storehouse of data about lifestyle, preferences. Service providers shall immediately erase any data collected by them after linking Aadhaar with SIM. Aadhaar programme in its total is unconstitutional.

India, Morocco sign MoU to enhance cooperation in MSME Sector on - 26th September 2018

India and Morocco on September 26th, 2018 inked a MoU for excavating coordination between Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sectors of the both nations. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Ravindra Nath, CMD of National Small Industries Corporation, and Rabri Barrazouka, DG, Maroc PME of Morocco in Rabat, Morocco. The Memorandum of Understanding will facilitate transfer of Indian technologies and goods to Morocco.

The Memorandum of Understanding was inked during the bilateral meeting between



India and Morocco. Alka Arora, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, headed the official delegation along with CMD National Small Industries Corporation to Morocco and organised bilateral meetings with Othman El Ferdaous, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Trade and Digital Economy of Morocco.

More about India-Morocco bilateral relations

- Morocco mainly relies on its exports of minerals and ores and Service sector.

- It has very small Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector in production, whereas India has strong Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector especially in production.

- Over the years, India and Morocco have enjoyed pleasant and friendly ties and bilateral ties have witnessed noteworthy growth.

- India is one of the major markets for Moroccan phosphate and its produces.

- An India-Morocco joint venture in fertilizer segment in Morocco, known as IMACID, was formed in November 1999.

- Presently, the Joint Venture is generating approximately 430000 Metric Tons per annum of phosphoric acid, which almost whole is imported by India.

- Other important items of export to India are metallic ores and metal scrap, semi-finished products and inorganic chemicals.

- The crucial items of India's exports to Morocco are cotton yarn, synthetic fibre, transport apparatus, pharmaceuticals, agricultural implements, chemicals, spices and manufactured metals.

President clears ordinance to set up a board of eminent

personalities to run MCI on - 26th September 2018

President Ram Nath Kovind on September 26th, 2018 contributed his assent to propagate an order that looks forward to form a committee to control the Medical Council of India- MCI, until Parliament passes legislation to substitute the body with a new commission. The presidential acceptance came after the Union Cabinet cleared the ordinance on the same day. The news was shared by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley following the cabinet meeting in New Delhi.

Important Highlights

- A bill to substitute the Council with a National Medical Commission is pending in Parliament. The National Medical Commission is believed to replace the MCI as the leading medical education regulator in the nation.

- In March 2018, the Union Cabinet had made modifications to the National Medical Commission Bill after considering commendations made by a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare.

- The bill suggests a common entrance exam and licentiate exams that all medical graduates will have to clear to get practicing licences.

- The bill was further passed to the Parliamentary Standing Committee after protests by the medical fraternity across the nation on the basis that it would result into more corruption in the medical field.

PM Modi, Cochin International Airport honoured with UN Champions of the Earth on - 26th September 2018

Award 2018 PM Narendra Modi was on September 26th, 2018 bestowed with the prestigious United Nations Champions of the



Earth Award 2018, which is the highest environmental honour of the UNs. The United Nations Environment mutually bestowed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in the Policy Leadership category for their hard work regarding the creation of the International Solar Alliance. Prime Minister Modi was also accredited for his extraordinary pledge to eradicate all single use plastic in India by 2022.

Other awardees

- This year, the Champions of the Earth Award observed 6 of the world's most outstanding environmental changemakers for their grouping of bold, innovative, and tireless efforts to tackle some of the most urgent environmental issues.

Champions of the Earth Award

- The Champions of the Earth award is the United Nation's highest environmental recognition, which was started in 2005.

- The award rejoices exceptional figures from the public, private sectors as well as from civil society, whose activities have had a transformative positive influence on the environment.

- The award also understands the efforts for promoting new areas of levels of assistance on environmental action.

- The past laureates include, Afroz Shah, who headed the world's largest beach cleanup 2016, Rwandan President Paul Kagame 2016, former United States Vice-President Al Gore 2007, Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat 2014, scientist-explorer Bertrand Piccard, and developer of Google Earth Brian McClendon 2013.

adultery law on - 27th September 2018

The Supreme Court of India on September 27th, 2018 hit a 158 years old penal provision in the IPC that made adultery a criminal offence. The conclusion was taken by a 5 judges bench containing Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices R.F.Nariman, A.M.Khanwilkar, D.Y.Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra. The bench consistently detained Section 497 of the IPC, which pacts with the offence of adultery.

Judgement

- The Apex court informed that Adultery can be a civil incorrect and a base for divorce but it cannot be a criminal offence.

- The court informed Section 497 is violative of right to equality and right to equal opportunity to females and disallows them from making their own choices.

- The Apex court marked 4 sets of concurring Judgements to state as unconstitutional the penal provision on adultery and Section 198 of the Code of Criminal Procedure that contracts with prosecution of offences against marriage.

Section 497 of IPC

- The section 497 of IPC explains that whoever has sexual contact with a person whom he knows or has reason to trust to be the wife of another man, without the accord or connivance of that man, such sexual relations not amounting to the offence of rape, is embarrassed of the offence of adultery.

- However, the IPC section 497 excuses from criminal examination a man who has engaged in sexual relation with a married lady if the same emerges with the consent of the said married lady's husband.

- The offence of adultery involved a maximum punishment of 5 years or fine or both of these.

Husband is not the master of wife, says Supreme Court while striking down 158 years old



Government hikes custom duty on 19 items including ACs, refrigerators on - 26th September 2018

The Union Government on September 26th, 2018 increased custom duties 19 goods, consisting Jet fuel, Air conditioners and refrigerators to control imports of non-vital items. The increase of custom duties was put into effect from September 26-27 midnight. The rise in custom duties is targeted at tapering the Current Account Deficit. The restriction of non-essential imports is part of the 5-pronged steps declared by the government to rectify the widening Current Account Deficit and capital outflows.

Key Highlights

- The government double-folded the import duty on Air-conditioners, household refrigerators and washing machines which are less than 10 kgs to 20%.
- The import duty on speakers and radial car tyres was increased from 10% to 15%.
- The import duty obligatory on footwears was raised from 20% to 25%.
- The government has also declared an import duty of 5% on aviation turbine fuel, which was nil earlier.
- The other items, on which the import duty was hiked, include jewellery goods, kitchen and tableware items, certain plastic goods and suitcases.
- The total value of imports of these items in the past fiscal year in 2017-18 was approximately Rupees 86000 crores.

2nd Anniversary of Surgical Strike to be commemorated as Parakram Parv on - 29th September 2018

The 2nd anniversary of the surgical strike will be honored by the Indian Army as the “Parakram Parv” during September 29th to 30th, 2018 to highlight the gallant action of brave Army in the manner of Surgical Strikes on September 29th, 2016. The Day will also be honoured to remember the sacrifice of soldiers during the “Uri incident”.

Events during the commemoration

- Various programmes will be organised at key military stations to honour the 2nd anniversary of Surgical Strikes.
- An exhibition will be organised to display the valour of armed forces; display of ships, submarines, aircraft, arms, equipment models; playing of video clippings on the surgical strike and naval videos and launching of digital /selfie walls.
- Additionally, ships will be uncluttered for visitors and even school and National Cadet Core children visits to ships, submarine, air stations are being prearranged.
- School children are also being fortified to do letter writing and participate in poster making competitions in honour of valiant soldiers.
- A band display and bugle call are prearranged on September 29 to honour the fallen soldiers at the Ballard pier memorial.
- The assorted event is prearranged by the Navy to be apprehended at Mumbai and Goa over a period of 2 days in the Western Naval Command.
- The location for the exhibition of different stalls and video walls is at Ballard pier in naval dockyard. The entrance to cruiser wharf will be via tiger gate.

Online platform for Agmark quality certification launched by - Government



Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released online software for processing apps Agmark quality certification mark for agricultural produces. It was initiated by Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh.

More about Agmark

- Agmark is certification mark that promises conformity to form standards sanctioned by Government agency Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.

- It is legitimately enforced by Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 and amended in 1986.

- The current AGMARK standards shelter quality rules for 205 different commodities straddling variety of cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, essential oils, fruits and vegetables, and semi-processed products alike vermicelli.

- The term AGMARK was coined by combining the words 'Ag' that mean agriculture and 'mark' for authorization mark.

- This term was announced originally in bill presented in Parliament for the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act.

Agmark online system

- It is being executed around the nation to execute quality control purposes. It will be available 24x7.

- It will ease the process of application simple, fast and transparent.

- With this online system, certificate of authorisation (domestic), laboratories permission (domestic), permission of printing press and services concerned to laboratory information management system will be provided online.

- The online system will make processes easy, dependable and cost effective.

- It also has necessities for online receipt of fees from the aspirants because payments can be acknowledged in digital way via

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website.

Directorate of Marketing and Inspection

- Directorate of Marketing and Inspection is a committed Office of Department of Agriculture,

Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

- It was formed in 1935 to device agricultural marketing policies and programmes for combined development of agricultural marketing and other associated products in nation with view to protect interests of farmers and the consumers.

- It preserves close connection between Central and State Governments.

Conversion of GSTN into government entity approved by - Cabinet

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned conversion of Goods and Services Tax Network into government- owned organisation. Government will now own 100 percent of Goods and Services Tax Network which is IT backbone to Goods and Services Tax regime. Majority of Goods and Services Tax processes with registration, filing of returns, payment of taxes, processing of refunds is IT driven and mainly through Goods and Services Tax Network.

Did you know?

Previously in May 2018, Goods and Services Tax Council, led by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising state finance ministers had approved to make Goods and Services Tax Network a government organisation with Centre owning 50 percent share and states together holding the balance

50 percent. More than 1.1 crore businesses are recorded on Goods and Services Tax Network portal.



With improved role of Goods and Services Tax Network from just collecting taxes to data analytics,

Government had realised that it should now be the mainstream owner in the IT backbone provider.

Goods and Services Tax Network

Goods and Services Tax Network was formed as not for profit, non-Government, private limited organisation in 2013. It was recognized primarily to provide Information Technology infrastructure and services to Central and State Governments, tax payers and other shareholders for execution of GST.

Presently, Centre and states collectively embrace 49 percent share with 24.5 percent each in Goods and Services Tax Network. The outstanding 51 percent is preserved by 5 private financial institutions including ICICI Bank, National Stock Exchange, HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank and Life Insurance Corporation Housing Finance Ltd. Its income model after Goods and Services Tax was rollout out involved User Charge to be compensated by shareholders who will utilise the system and developing it self-sustaining company.

Rs 8,606 crore for 60 projects under scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management approved by - Government

The Union Government has sanctioned Rupees 8606 crores for 60 projects being executed under parasol scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management. The projects are being executed in 111 border regions in 17 states having the international borders with

Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. It will ease to meet special development requirements of people living in those areas within 50 kilometres of the international border. India shares borders with Pakistan about 3323 kilometres, China about 3488 kilometres, Nepal about 1751 kilometres, Bhutan about 699 kilometres, Myanmar approximately 1643 kilometres and Bangladesh with 4096 kilometres.

More about Border Infrastructure and Management Scheme

- The BIM scheme includes creation of roads, schools, primary health centres, promotion of rural tourism, border tourism, cleanliness mission, Sports Activities Promotion, drinking water supplies, heritage sites protection, community centres, connectivity and drainage to facilitate sustainable living in border areas.

- It also consists formation of helipads in remote and unreachable hilly areas which do not have connectivity with road, skill development training of farmers for practice of modern and scientific technique in farming, organic farming and few of the other areas where the schemes are being executed.

Government sets up 8-member search committee for - Lokpal

Government has formed 8 members search committee led by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, just to endorse names for positions of Lokpal C.E.O. and members. The selection process of Lokpal is ongoing according to the strategies of Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.



Members of Lokpal Search Committee are Justice Sakha Ram Singh Yadav, earlier State Bank of India Chief Arundhati Bhattacharya, retired Indian Administrative Services officer Ranjit Kumar, former Gujarat Police head Lalit K Panwar, former judge of Allahabad High Court Shabbirhusein S Khandwawala; Prasar Bharati chairperson A Surya Prakash and Indian Space Research Organisation Head AS Kiran Kumar.

More about Committee's Terms of Reference

- The search committee will initiate working soon. It will mention names for Lokpal chairperson and members.

- It can also deliberate names other than those suggested by the search committee.

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

- It was approved in 2013 to constitute statutory body to request into accusations of corruption against public officials.

- Under it, the arrangements to Lokpal is made by high-level selection committee comprising of PM, Chief Justice of India, Lok Sabha Speaker, Leader of Opposition Party and an eminent jurist chosen by them.

Model code of Conduct kick in as soon as House dissolved - Election Commission

Election Commission has publicized that Model Code of Conduct comes into force instantly in states where legislative assemblies have been dissolved impulsively. It also found that following dissolution custodian government and the central government is banded from proclaiming new schemes in particular state from the date of dissolution of

legislative assembly till new House is nominated.

Model Code of Conduct

- Model Code of Conduct is combination of strategies released by EC to control conduct of political parties and their candidates in run up to elections.

- It is intended at guaranteeing free and fair elections.

- The Code doesn't have any constitutional basis and not enforceable by law.

- But it has unquestionable legitimacy and parties across the political spectrum have normally stick to its letter and spirit. It was delivered for 1st time in 1971 before 5th Lok Sabha elections.

- Since that time, it has been dispensed before every central and state election and reviewed from time to time.

- The main aim of Model Code of Conduct is to make sure level playing field for all political parties, avoid struggles among parties, and make sure law and order in heat of election season.

- Its chief purpose is to make sure that ruling party does not mismanage or use government machinery for their benefit for its election campaign purpose.

- It is valid to political parties, their applicants and polling agents, government in power and all government workforces.

Date of enforcement of MCC

- It has grown over years of struggle between Election Commission and government.

- It kicks in day Election Commission declares the poll dates. This is based on agreement among Election Commission and Central government reached on April 16, 2001.

- It was decided that installation of any project will be completed by civil servants so



that Model Code of Conduct does not stand in the way of public interest.

India, United Nations sign Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022 on - 28th September 2018

India and the UNs on September 28th, 2018 inked the Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for the term 2018-2022.

The framework was inked by Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog and UNs Resident Coordinator in India, Yuri Afanasiev. The adoption ceremony was chaired over by NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Dr.Rajiv Kumar, members of NITI Aayog and the heads of United Nation agencies in India.

Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022

- The Framework summaries the work of UNs agencies in India to backing the accomplishment of crucial development products that have been acknowledged in consultation with the government and are associated to the national priorities.

- The NITI Aayog is the National complement for the UN in India for the operationalisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework.

- 19 United Nations agencies have inked on the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022.

Seven priority areas of UNSDF 2018-22

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-22 includes 7 priority areas that outline the work that UN agencies will undertake jointly/individually completely aligned with the significances of the Union Government.

- The 7 priority areas outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework are:

- i. Poverty and Urbanization
- ii. Health, Water, and Sanitation
- iii. Education and Employment
- iv. Nutrition & Food Security
- v. Climate Variation, Clean Energy & Disaster Flexibility
- vi. Skilling, Entrepreneurship & Job Formation
- vii. Gender Equality and Youth Development.

Contribution in State Disaster Response Fund increased by - Union Government

Union Government has improved its involvement in State Disaster Response fund from 75 percent to 90 percent. Now, Central government will pay 90 percent and all States will contribute 10 percent to the State Disaster Response fund. With this development, Central Government's extra contribution in State Disaster Response fund will be Rupees 1690.35 crores for the year 2018-19 and Rupees 1774.67 crore for the financial year 2019-20.

More about State Disaster Response Fund

- Under Disaster Management Act 2005, a financial process has been formed by way of National Disaster Response Fund at National level and SDRF at state level to encounter rescue and relief expenditure during any notified disaster.

- State Disaster Response fund has been founded in each State in which Centre, so far, had been paying 75 percent for General Category States and 90 percent for Special Category States of hilly areas per year.



- State Disaster Response fund is resource accessible to States to meet expenses of relief operations of immediate nature, for variety of specified disasters.

- At any point, State Government has fair amount of funds available under State Disaster Response fund.

- In case of any natural disaster beyond coping capacity of State, added financial support is issued by Central Government from National Disaster Relief Fund according to standards in which 100 percent funding is done by Central Government.

USAID-India End TB Alliance to eliminate TB announced

US and India have set up 'USAID-India End TB Alliance containing leading specialists in public and private segments to fight against the threat of TB. It was proclaimed by USAID administrator Mark Green at programme in New York in presence of Union Health Minister J P Nadda.

More about USAID-India End TB Alliance

- The alliance members consist industry and civil society leaders, researchers, scientists, innovators, investors, and members of the diaspora.

- The specialists in the alliance will suggest innovative approaches to fight against TB in India. It 2 members include Dr.Soumya Swaminathan, Director General of WHO and Blessina Kumar from Global Coalition of Tuberculosis Activists.

- United States Agency for International Development will complete starting US \$30 million commitment, subject to endorsement of the United States Congress.

More about Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis is a disease triggered by bacteria 'Mycobacterium tuberculosis' that mostly affect the lungs.

- It passes from person to person via the air. It commonly infects lungs but can also infect other parts of the body.

- It is the 2nd biggest fatal disease around the world next only to AIDS. India accounts for about a quarter of the global tuberculosis burden.

- Worldwide India is the nation with the highest load of both tuberculosis and Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

- It accounts for 27 percent of the world's tuberculosis cases, with 421,000 deaths every year. In March 2017, Government had initiated objective eradication of tuberculosis in India by 2025.