Civil Service India

AUGUST 2019

PV Sindhu became 1st Indian to win gold in BWF

Pranab Mukherjee receives Bharat Ratna

Russia launches its 1st humanoid robot in space

Ravish Kumar wins 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award

Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand

Editorial

Dear Students,

With the UPSC Main Exam 2019 falling on 20th September 2019, aspirants must have a strong strategies to success the exam. Here are some strategies: 1) Strategy for answer writing practice: You must be aware of the fact that UPSC Mains exam is descriptive type. Students have to write 150-300 words answer for each question. Hence, answer writing practice is a must. So take regular test along with preparing appropriate notes. Using mind maps will help them to link sub-topics and recall points. 2) UPSC Mains Exam Preparation Strategy for Essay : The Essay Paper in the Mains Exam consists of two sections A and B with four topics in each of 125 marks and a total of 250 (125×2) marks. Students must choose the topic wisely. They should think about the topic for a few minutes and write down all the points at the end of a sheet. They should make a structure of the essay. Offer suggestions for reforms and then conclude the writing. 3) UPSC Mains Exam Preparation Strategy for Current Affairs: Questions based on current affairs are often related with history, geography and international relations which every candidate must be aware of the question pattern. Practice alot of sample question papers.

Best of luck

Civilservice India

Essay of the Month

Article 370 and its issues

Article 370 has once again become a nation wide controversy for the past three weeks. Creating a highly militarist approach towards extremism, without asking for public opinion, shunning a political process, the union government made a strong move by removing Article 370 offered to Jammu and Kashmir, which it had enjoyed in the Constitution through a combination of executive and parliamentary measures.

What is Article 370 ?

It is a special status offered to Jammu and Kashmir which has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China in 1947. It allows the state to have a separate constitution, a state flag and autonomy over the internal administration of the state. The Article 370 embodied six special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir: a) It exempted the State from the complete applicability of the Constitution of India. The State was allowed to have its own Constitution. b) Central legislative powers over the State were limited, at the time of framing, to the three subjects of defence, foreign affairs and communications. c) Other constitutional powers of the Central Government could be extended to the

State only with the concurrence of the State Government. d) The 'concurrence' was only provisional. It had to be ratified by the State's Constituent Assembly. e) The State Government's authority to give 'concurrence' lasted only until the State Constituent Assembly was convened. e) Once the State Constituent Assembly finalised the scheme of powers and dispersed, no further extension of powers was possible. f) Article 370 could be abrogated or amended only upon the recommendation of the State's Constituent Assembly.

Rise of political difference

The autonomy offered to Jammu and Kashmir by Article 370 has been an issue for several reasons. Firstly, it was enjoyed by a State that remained divided between India and Pakistan while being ruled by a king. Secondly, the constitutional provision applied to Kashmir which the only Muslim majority State. These two features should have made it all the very important to preserve the assurance maintained in Article 370. But for politcal reason, BJP government felt that uniformity and oneness is very important. As a result, the political manifesto of Bharatiya Janata Party manifesto for the 2014 general election was released, the contentious issue, the party pledged to integrate the state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union of India. When the party won the national election, BJP's parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), called for the abrogation of Article 370. But due to some reasons, BJP didn't take up the issue. While the PDP and BJP formed government in the Jammu

and Kashmir, there was a sharp difference between them on the issue of Article 370. While, the Bharatiya Janata Party has been maintaining its stand that Article 370 should be scrapped. But now, since it won the second time, it decided to implement its promise.

Article 370 and federalism

By abrogating Article 370, bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories, the BJP government has used the power of Constitutions for its gains. Though this is not the first time that the union government has used its powers to bifurcate a state without people's opinion. For example, the creation of Telangana in 2014 is one such. Apart from this, the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh in one way is cited as a response to a long standing demand in this region which has a large Buddhist population. But the current step of the government to transfer the remaining part of J&K State into a Union Territory, is something very different from the past approach which could have a long lasting consequences in Kashmir, and also strong implication on the federal structure of Indian society.

The Judicial Challenge

The Supreme Court's decision to form a high level five-member Constitution Bench to examine the validity of the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir puts an end to unnecessary apprehensions. The top court is aware of the constitutional morality of the rest of the country while deciding the destiny of a State without the consent or participation of its citizens. While there is

strong popular support for the government's decision to declare Article 370 inoperative and to divide the State into two Union Territories, the judiciary is duty-bound to examine the legality of the measures taken by the President and Parliament. The court will give strong legal verdict on the questions of constitutional importance, since it has a far-reaching implications for democracy and federalism.

Conclusion

There are strong arguments against and supporting abrogation of Article 370. While one section argues that Article 370 is the only constitutional link between the state and the rest of India, other feel that it has been 70 year old stumbling block which continues to prevent from becoming an integral part of India. But the truth is that ever since the creation of India and article 370, the kashmiri people are sufferers of the issue.

International News

Saudi Arabia has allowed women above 21 years of age to receive passports

Saudi Arabia has began implementing a landmark reform allowing women over the age of 21 to receive passports and travel abroad without permission from a male guardian. The reform, announced earlier this month, weakens the restrictive guardianship system that has long been a symbol of repression against women. The passport department has started receiving applications for women aged 21 and above to issue or renew passports and to travel outside the kingdom without permission. Women in the kingdom have long required permission from their male guardians -- husband, father and other male relatives -- for these tasks, a restriction that drew international censure. The reform comes after high-profile attempts by women to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite a string of reforms by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, including a landmark decree last year that overturned the world's only ban on women drivers.

United States designates China a 'Currency Manipulator'

US Secretary Steven Mnuchin, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, has determined that China is a 'Currency Manipulator'. US government has described in a statement that China has a long history of facilitating an undervalued currency through protracted, big-scale interference in the foreign exchange market.

Steven Mnuchin will talk to the IMF to eliminate the unfair competitive advantage created by China's latest actions. The United States designate China as a currency manipulator after China allowed its yuan to weaken past the key seven-per-dollar level for the first time in more than a decade. The Chinese government later announced that it would stop buying US agricultural products, inflaming a yearlong trade war with the United States. This sharp 1.4% drop in the Yuan comes few days after when US President Donald Trump stunned financial markets by vowing to impose 10% tariffs on the remaining USD 300 billion of Chinese imports from Sept. 1.US treasury department said in a statement that Chinese authorities had ample control over the Yuan exchange rate. With this move of China, the dollar breaks down and bolstered the price of gold.

Russia launches world's first floating nuclear reactor in Arctic

Russia will launch the world's first floating nuclear reactor and send it on an epic journey across the Arctic on Friday, despite environmentalists warning of serious risks to the region.

Loaded with nuclear fuel, the Akademik Lomonosov will leave the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometre voyage to northeastern Siberia. Nuclear agency Rosatom says the reactor is a simpler alternative to building a conventional plant on ground that is frozen all year round, and it intends to sell such reactors abroad. But environmental groups have long warned of the dangers of the project, dubbing it a potential "Chernobyl on ice" and a "nuclear Titanic." A deadly explosion this month at a military testing site in Russia's far north, causing a radioactive surge, has prompted further concerns.

Iran unveiled its new home-grown air defence system unveiled

Iran has displayed its domestically built long-range, mobile surface-to-air missile system.

The announcement comes at a time of rising tension between Iran and United States. Iran shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone in the Gulf with a surface-to-air missile in June. It says the drone was over its territory, but the United States says it was in international airspace. State television showed President Hassan Rouhani attending an unveiling ceremony for the Bavar-373 system, which Iranian media have described as a competitor to the Russian S-300 missile system. The system's unveiling came on Iran's National Defence Industry Day. Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that have barred it from importing many weapons. Western military analysts say Iran often exaggerates its weapons capabilities, though concerns about its long-range ballistic missile programme contributed to Washington last year leaving the pact that Iran sealed with world powers in 2015 to rein in its nuclear ambitions in exchange for an easing of economic sanctions.

Parliament passes Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019

A bill seeking to provide death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children and greater punishments for other crimes against minors was approved by Parliament, after it was passed by the Lok Sabha.

The Bill, which was already passed by the Rajya Sabha on July 29, defines child pornography, making it punishable. Cutting across party lines, members supported amendments to POCSO Act though some demanded that Bill be referred to the standing committee or select committee as it makes certain offences punishable with death. Seeking passage of the bill in Lok Sabha, Irani said this bill is not related to vote bank politics but to save the future of India. In an apparent reference to Congress MP Ramya Haridas who raised the Unnao rape issue in the House, Irani said this bill should not be looked from the perspective of politics and should not be politicised for personal benefits. Responding to Haridas, Irani said it was very unfortunate that when she was speaking some members

who were supporting her were actually having fun.

Pranab Mukherjee receives Bharat Ratna

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, singer Bhupen Hazarika and Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader Nanaji Deshmukh have been conferred Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India. President Ram Nath Kovind gave the award during an event at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Hazarika and Deshmukh have been given the honour posthumously.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, several Union Cabinet ministers, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal were in audience during the function held at the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan. Hazarika's son Tej Hazarika received the award on behalf of his father, whereas Virendrajeet Singh, Chairman of Deendayal Research Institute, accepted the honour on behalf of Deshmukh. The government announced the decision to confer the Bharat Ratna upon Mukherjee, Deshmukh and Hazarika in January earlier this year. Bharat Ratna has been conferred after a gap of four years. In 2015, the Modi government has given the honour to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Banaras Hindu University founder Madan Mohan Malviya.

Ravish Kumar wins 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award

Indian journalist Ravish Kumar was awarded this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

Kumar, who is NDTV India's senior executive editor is one of India's most influential TV journalists. He is among five individuals who were declared winners of the award. Kumar's "Prime Time" programme "deals with real-life, under-reported problems of ordinary people". The four other winners of the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award are Ko Swe Win from Myanmar, Angkhana Neelapaijit from Thailand, Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab from Philippines and Kim Jong-Ki from South Korea. Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honour

BIS to set up Pashmina testing centre in Leh

Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) would set up a Pashmina testing centre in Leh in partnership with the lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council(LAHDC),Leh.

The pashmina products will also get a code from the Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) certifying their genuineness and quality. Pashmina is a fine type of cashmere wool.Cashmere wool has strong, light,soft and fine texture.Pashmina translates to Soft Gold in Kashmiri. The cashmere wool is obtained from 4 distinct breeds of the Cashmere goat namely (a)Changthangi or Kashmir Pashmina goat from the Kashmir (b)Malra breed from Kargil area of Kashmir (c)Chegu breed from Himachal Pradesh and (d) Chyangra or Nepalese Pashmina breed from Nepal. Kashmir Pashmina has been assigned Geographical indication (GI) tag under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act,1999. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the National Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. BIS was established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act,1986.The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having

administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.

137 mountain peaks opened for foreigners in Mountaineering Visa

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday announced the opening of 137 mountain peaks situated in Jammu and Kashmir Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for mountaineering and trekking. The proposal to open the peaks in the Himalayan states was under consideration of the government. The list of peaks includes Kanchenjunga located at a height of 8,598 metre and Nepal Peak located at the height of 7,168 metre in Sikkim, Garur Parbat (6,504 m) and Purbi Dunagiri (6,489 m) in Uttarakhand, Mount Kailash (6400 m) in Jammu and Kashmir and Mulkila (6,517 m) in Himachal Pradesh. This decision has opened 137 mountain peaks to foreigners desirous of obtaining mountaineering visa for climbing, trekking on these peaks. Speaking to reporters, Minister of Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel said, 'Our long-time demand has been fulfilled finally. I would like to thank our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for this. It is not only a great deal for the country but also for foreigners. People across the world must be celebrating the decision.'

75 new Government Medical Colleges by 2021-22

The government has approved the establishment of 75 new medical colleges in the country.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) said that the medical colleges would be established by 2021-22 and will be attached with existing district and referral hospitals under Phase-3 of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored scheme. As a result it would lead to the creation 15,700 more MBBS seats in India. The government plans to boost the availability of qualified health professionals, improve tertiary care in the government sector and utilise infrastructure of district hospitals and promote affordable medical education in the country with this push. The new medical colleges would be set up in under-served regions with no medical college or ones with at least 200 beds. A notification by PIB said that preference will be given to district hospitals with 300 beds. The government had earlier approved the establishment of 58 new medical colleges in Phase 1 and 24 colleges in Phase 2, apart from the 75 under the Phase 3. Of these, 39 medical colleges under Phase 1 have already become functional, and the rest will be made functional by 2020-21.

India Launches Facial Bio-Metric for Seafarers

India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers.

It was launched and new BSID cards to five Indian seafarers. The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India had made a presentation on this technology at ILO .

India to restore 50 lakh hectare of its degraded land by 2030

India has committed to rejuvenate 50 lakh hectares (5 million) of degraded land between 2021 and 2030.

India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. About 29% or about 96.4 million hectares are considered degraded. This January, India became part of the "Bonn Challenge", a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. At the UNFCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India also joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge and pledged to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020, and an additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia. Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Soil Health Management Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana are seen as prongs to tackle this land degradation. A senior official in the Ministry told that the 5 million hectares were part of the Bonn Challenge commitment. "It's going to be combination of restoring forest land as well as cultivable land.

TN govt has launched its exclusive education TV Channel

The Tamil Nadu government has launched its exclusive education TV channel, aimed at benefiting students of classes I to XII.

An initiative of the School Education Department, 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi' (Education TV) was launched by Chief Minister K Palaniswami. The channel's content will include shows aimed at school children, besides those on jobs and related issues. This channel will be available on TN Arasu Cable TV network (channel no 200). It should be noted that Punjab Education Minister Daljit Singh Cheema made the revelation of launching a dedicated TV channel, Vidya TV, showing educational content. It provides quality content to those preparing for competitive examinations as well as middle school. The channel also provides students with career counselling and programmes on current affairs. Punjab already has an EDUSAT programme, which runs around nine educational programmes with multimedia, and animation during school hours, in its 3400 schools.

Modi Launches 4.2 Million Project At 200-Year-Old Temple

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched the USD 4.2 million redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Lord Sri Krishna temple in the Bahraini capital.

PM Modi, the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the key Gulf nation, offered prayers at the Shreenathji Temple in

Manama, the oldest temple in the region, and also the 'prasad' that he bought with the RuPay card after launching it in the UAE. Prime Minister then unveiled the plaque, thus officially launching the redevelopment project of the iconic temple. "Thank you Bahrain for the warmth and affection. PM @narendramodi concludes his historic visit with prayers at the 200 years old Shreenathji Temple in #Manama, the oldest temple in the region. The temple reflects the pluralism of Bahraini society," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in a tweet. The facelift for the Shreenathji (Shree Krishna) temple in Manama will kick off later this year.

Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology to be set up in Gujarat

Gujarat will get the country's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) at Vatva or Surat.

Describing Gujarat as a hub of the chemical industry, an official said that Vapi, Ankleshwar and Vatva have a significant presence of chemical industries. Gujarat will get the country's first CICET which will be set up either in Vatva or Surat. It will be built on the lines of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET). The aim is to facilitate the chemical industry with research and innovations. It is, however, not known if it is still in planning or implementation stage. The government is planning to set up a plastic waste management institute in Ahmedabad to find solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste. CIPET training institute will be set up in Valsad at the cost of Rs 54 crore which will benefit the tribal students. A skill development centre will also start functioning from this October in Bhavnagar, he added. Besides, CIPET will start a diploma course in Sanand very soon, he said.

Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha launched

Aiming to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha was launched.

This mega drive will be launched at Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Auditorium, Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 in Delhi Cantt. Inspired by Prime Minister's impetus to Jal Sanchay, Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). It is a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach. This concept of water conservation is essential for students so that they can understand the importance of water and how it is shaping their lives meaningfully, thereby enabling them to

participate in water conservation activities in their day to day lives. The Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD has launched the 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' drive to promote water conservation activities for School Students, so that they can become competent, conscientious and committed water citizens of our nation. The department has prepared a detailed outline to implement this programme in all the schools of the country.

Lok Sabha passes transgender protection Bill

The Lok Sabha has passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 by a voice vote.

The Bill provides a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgenders and was passed amid noisy protests by some Opposition parties over congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury not being allowed to speak on his adjournment notice. The protesters came into the well of the House and shouted slogans demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement about the Kashmir issue in the Lower House. Meanwhile replying to suggestions and queries on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019, Minister of State for Social Justice Rattan Lal Kataria said the

Bill makes provision for establishing a national authority for safeguarding rights of transgenders. According to the Bill, a transgender is a person whose gender does not match with the gender assigned to that person at birth and includes trans-man or trans-woman (whether or not such person has undergone sex reassignment surgery or hormone therapy or laser therapy or such other therapy), person with inter-sex variations, gender-queer and person having such socio-cultural identities as 'kinner', 'hijra', 'aravani' and 'jogta'.

Sushma Swaraj passes away at 67

Senior BJP leader and Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, 67, passed away at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after suffering a heart attack in the evening.

The senior BJP leader was brought to AIIMS at 10:15 PM and was straight away taken to the emergency ward. Sushma Swaraj's body has been taken to her home, Dhawan Deep Building, in Connaught Place, New Delhi. Her body was taken to BJP's headquarters and the last rites will be performed at Lodhi Road Electric Crematorium at 3pm. PM Narendra Modi took to twitter to condole her death. He tweeted, "Sushma Ji's demise is a personal loss. She will be remembered fondly for everything that

she's done for India. My thoughts are with her family, supporters and admirers in this very unfortunate hour. Om Shanti."

Arun Jaitley dies at 66

Arun Jaitley, the former finance minister and a stalwart of the Bharatiya Janata Party, passed away at AIIMS hospital in New Delhi. He was 66 years old.

Arun Jaitley was rushed to All India Institute of Medical Sciences on August 9 after he complained of breathlessness and restlessness. He was kept under observation at the Cardio-Neuro-Centre of the hospital, however, his condition kept on deteriorating. Arun Jaitley's last rites will be performed on Sunday afternoon at the Nigambodh Ghat in New Delhi. Jaitley, 66, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stepped down as finance minister in January due to ill health, just months before elections that returned Modi's Hindu nationalists to power. "With the demise of Arun Jaitley Ji, I have lost a valued friend, whom I have had the honour of knowing for decades," PM Modi said on Twitter. "His insight on issues and nuanced understanding of matters had very few parallels."

Indian Economy

CBDT notifies creation of special cell for startups

The CBDT notified a creation of a five-member special cell to address grievances of startups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues.

An order issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the 'startup cell' will be headed by the member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of the board. The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of startup entities with respect to administration of Income-tax Act, 1961. A CBDT spokesperson said, 'Startup entities can approach the cell for speedy resolution of their grievances. This initiative is the latest amongst the recent initiatives taken by the CBDT to further ease the compliance issues pertaining to startups'. The order also gave out an email id -- startupcell.cbdt@gov.in -- and the postal address of the cell. It also provided landline telephone numbers of the members ranging from the member, joint secretary (tax policy and legislation-II), commissioner of I-T (ITA), director (ITA-I) and under secretary (ITA-I).

CVC constitutes Advisory Board for Banking Frauds

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds. The ABBF, formed in consultation with the RBI, would function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector banks (PSBs), CVC said in an order. The four-member board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the PSB in respect of an allegation of a fraud in a borrowal account. Lenders would refer all large fraud cases above Rs 50 crore to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matter.

Banks not to charge for failed transactions, balance enquiry

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks not to count failed transactions at ATMs due to technical reasons as part of free ATM transactions permitted every month. Besides, use of ATMs for balance enquiry and fund transfers too should be not part of the free transactions facility given to a customer.

Banks provide certain number of free transactions at ATMs to their customers and beyond that impose charges. The RBI's clarification in this regard comes after it has come to notice of the central bank that transactions that have failed due to technical reasons, non-availability of currency in ATMs are also included in the number of free ATM transactions. It is hereby clarified that transactions which fail on account of technical reasons like hardware and software issues, non-availability of cash, and any other reason attributable to the bank should not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer. Consequently, no charges therefore shall be levied. Further, non-cash withdrawal transactions (such as balance enquiry, cheque book request, payment of taxes, funds transfer), which constitute 'on-us' transactions (when a card is used at an ATM of the bank which has issued the card) shall also not be part of the number of free ATM transactions.

Defence News

Amazon launches Military Veterans Employment programme

Amazon India has announced the launch of a Military Veterans Employment programme.

The MNC said that it said will create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across Amazon India's Fulfillment Centres, Sort Centres and Delivery Centres in the country. Amazon India is partnering with the Office of the Director General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military families across the country. Amazon relates to and respects the principles and work ethics of those who have served, and believes they have the ability to think big, invent and simplify on behalf of its customers. Over the years Amazon India has hired military veterans into various roles across the company in Transportation, Customer Fulfillment, Facilities Management and Security Operations to name a few.

Defence Ministry approves setting up of human rights cell

Defence Ministry has approved various proposals aimed at restructuring and reorganising the Indian Army Headquarters in New Delhi to make the functioning of the service more efficient.

The proposals include setting up separate bodies for stringent mechanism for human rights and corruption complaints in the armed forces and also moving more than 200 officers from the Army Headquarters to field areas. The approval has been given based on a detailed internal study conducted by the Army Headquarters. With an aim to enhance transparency and put in place a more stringent mechanism to look into corruption and human rights violations in the armed forces, the Ministry of Defence has approved setting up separate bodies to probe allegations of wrongdoings against officials. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has given the go ahead for setting up of these two cells that were part of the military reforms. Vigilance cell that will look into complaints of corruption and impropriety will be directly under the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). An independent vigilance cell will be made functional under the COAS. As per the proposal, additional director general

(ADG), Vigilance, will be placed directly under the COAS for this purpose, who will be a major general rank officer. It will have three colonel-level officers -- one each from the Army, Air Force and Navy -- to have tri-service representation.Presently, the vigilance function for the COAS is through multiple agencies and there is no single point interface, the Ministry of Defence said. Besides, it has given an approval for more than 200 Army officers serving at the Army Headquarters to be moved out to field areas as they are considered combat ready.

All CAPF personnel to retire at 60 years

All Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years.

According to a government order, all personnel of the forces -- the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sashastra Seema Bal -- will superannuate at the age of 60, instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials. The development pertains to a January order of the Delhi High Court where it had called the current policy of different age of superannuation in these four forces as discriminatory and unconstitutional and said it created two classes in the uniformed forces. According

to the existing policy, all personnel in the Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles retire at the age of 60. However, in CRPF, BSF, ITBP and SSB, the personnel from the ranks of constable to commandant retire at the age of 57, while those above them superannuate at the age of 60. The Home Ministry order directed all the forces to comply with the court order and amend provisions of rules.

Commandos security for Indian Railways launched

Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched CORAS (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways and new establishment manual for Railway Protection Force.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal said, 'Today we are committed to develop India as a Clean India, Healthy India, Prosperous and Secure India. Keeping in mind the threat from disruptive forces, induction of CORAS was planned in Railway Protection Force. CORAS team will be provided best, most modern equipment and world class training. Lauding the efforts of RPF soldier Shivcharan Gurjar, who rescued eight lives in flood stricken areas of Gujarat, Goyal appreciated the commendable work of

RPF soldiers. Goyal urged the people to crack down on touts and immediately inform the authorities so the menace of ticket touting may be eliminated permanently.

Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles test fired successfully

India has successfully test-fired a Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) with 30-kilometre range from a test range off the Odisha coast.

The missile successfully engaged its target during the flight test and met all the desired parameters. The missile was successfully flight tested against live aerial targets on August 4, 2019, from ITR, Chandipur. Two missiles have been tested against two live targets meeting complete mission objectives of engaging the targets. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile has a strike range of 25 km to 30 km. It uses solid-fuel propellant and has the capability of engaging multiple targets. The systems have been tested in final configuration with RADAR mounted on a vehicle and missiles on the launcher. The missiles with many states of the art technologies have engaged the targets at different ranges and altitudes. The systems are equipped with indigenously developed phased array radar, Inertial Navigation System, Data Link and RF seeker.

IAF launches 3D mobile game

Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched nation's first 3D mobile game in a bid to attract generation-next youth to pursue a career in the air force.

Launching the 3D mobile game 'Guardians of the Skies' (GOTS), Air Marshal S. Sukumar hailed the event as a significant milestone in encouraging youth to join IAF and also expressed concerns over tapping the best of the human resources from the upcoming generations. It is indeed a significant milestone in our consorted campaign to connect to the best of the boys and the girls among the nation's youth and motivate them to join the air force so as to become great patriotic men and women ready to serve the country in any situation. We are getting the numbers, but we want to attract the best of the boys and the girls to join the Air Force'. GOTS, which is freely available on android, windows and iOS platforms for mobile, has been conceptualised to showcase the might of the air force in a virtual format with users being offered gripping air combat scenarios and realistic graphics.

IAF signs deal with Russia for R-27 air-to-air missiles

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a deal with Russia for buying R-27 air-to-air missiles worth over Rs 1500 crore. The missiles will be fitted on the Su-30MKI fighter planes. The missiles will further strengthen the air-to-air combat capability of the air force.

A contract has been signed with Russia for the acquisition of R-27 air-to-air missile to be fitted on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft fleet of the Indian Air Force. The R-27 missile is designed to destroy air targets in adverse weather conditions at any time of day. The missile has a length of 4m, a body diameter of 0.23m and wingspan of 0.77m. The weight of the missile is 253kg. The R-27 can be launched from an altitude of 25km, up to a range of 60km. The guidance system of the missile includes semi-active radar seeker with command updates. The missiles have been acquired under 10-I projects which mandate the three services to maintain critical weapon systems and spares for a specified minimum period, which is known as War Wastage Reserve (WWR).

India and Neighbours

Pakistan successfully carries out missile Ghaznavi test

Pakistan has successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi, capable of delivering multiple warheads up to 290 kms.

The Pakistan Army amid fresh Indo-Pak tensions after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Pakistan on Wednesday closed three aviation routes of Karachi airspace till August 31, which led to speculation about the possible missile testing. The military's media spokesperson, Major General Asif Ghafoor shared a video of the night-training launch of the short range ballistic missile on Twitter and said Ghaznavi is capable of delivering multiple types of warheads up to 290 kms.

FATF Asia-Pacific Group puts Pakistan in 'enhanced blacklist'

Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering

and Terror Financing has put Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its failure to meet its standards.

The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has also found that Pakistan was non-compliant on 32 of the 40 compliance parameters of terror financing and money laundering. The FATF APG meeting was held in Canberra, Australia and the discussions lasted over seven hours over two days. "The APG has placed Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow-up List (Black List) for failure to meet its standards," a person familiar with the development said. On 11 effectiveness parameters of terror financing and money laundering, Pakistan was adjudged as low on 10. The official said despite its efforts, Pakistan could not convince the 41-member plenary to upgrade it on any parameter.

India suspends Thar Link Express to Pakistan

The railways has cancelled operations of Thar Link Express that connects Jodhpur in India to Karachi in Pakistan.

The officials said, a development that temporarily snaps all rail links between the two countries, as the services of Samjhauta Express have already been suspended. A railway spokesperson said here that the Thar Link Express would not undertake its journey scheduled for early Saturday (1 am) and the administration has initiated the process of cancellation of all the 45 tickets which have been issued so far. The Thar Express has been suspended till further orders. The directions were issued by the railway ministry to the North Western Railway. The weekly train departs from Jodhpur's Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station on Saturdays and reach Munabao, the last station on the Indian side of the border, early morning. At the zero point on the international border with Pakistan, passengers change trains. And a train from Pakistan then takes them to Karachi.

Science and Technology

7 new species of water treaders discovered

Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India have discovered seven species of water treaders, semi-aquatic insects that can walk or run on the surface of water.

The newly described species belong to the genus Mesovelia whose size ranges from 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm and are equipped with hydrophobic setae (bristles) on their legs. The combination of hydrophobic setae and water surface tension prevents them from sinking. The insects are pale green

with silver-white wings with black veins on the basal half which make them stand out over the green mat of aquatic weeds. Among the new discoveries, Mesovelia andamana is from Andaman Islands, M. bispinosa and M. isiasi are from Meghalaya, M. occulta and M. tenuia from Tamil Nadu and M. brevia and M. dilatata live both in Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu.
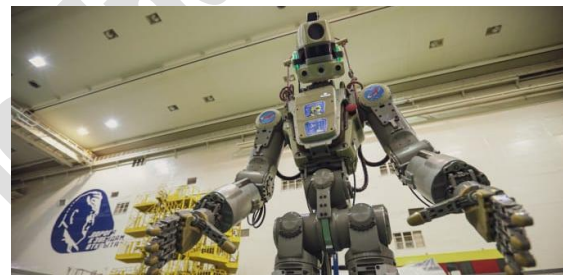
Five new species of fish discovered

Five new species of fish have been discovered from different districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The discovery was made by a fisheries and aquatic ecology research team from the zoology department of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU). The research team was headed by Professor DN Das. The RGU research team published the details of the discovery in various International journals. According to Prof DN Das, the head of the research team, the majority of remote water bodies in the state are still not easily accessible to researchers due to dense rainforests, steep terrains and communication problem. He, however, said that the research team was confident that systematic exploration may result in more discoveries of new Ichthyo species from the state in the future. Following are the five newly discovered fish species: 1. Mystus Prabini: The fish species was

discovered in Sinkin and the Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district. 2. Exostoma Kottelati: The species was discovered in the Ranga River in Lower Subansiri district. 3. Creteuchiloglanis Tawangensis: The species was discovered in the Tawangchu river in Tawang district of the Arunachal Pradesh. 4. Garra Ranganensis: The species was discovered in the Ranga River. 5. Physoschistura Harkishorei: The species was discovered in the Dibang and the Lohit rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district.

Russia launches its 1st humanoid robot in space

Russia launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.

Named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia. Fedor blasted off in a Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft at 6:38 am Moscow time (0338 GMT) from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Soyuz is set to dock with the space station on Saturday and stay till September 7. Soyuz ships are normally manned on such trips, but on Thursday no humans are travelling in order to test a new emergency rescue system. Instead of cosmonauts, Fedor, also known as Skybot

F850, was strapped into a specially adapted pilot's seat, with a small Russian flag in hand. 'Let's go. Let's go,' the robot was heard saying during launch, repeating the famous phrase used by first man in space Yuri Gagarin. The silvery anthropomorphic robot stands 1.80 metres (5 foot 11 inches) tall and weighs 160 kilogrammes (353 pounds). Fedor has Instagram and Twitter accounts with posts saying it is learning new skills such as opening a bottle of water. In the station, it will trial those manual skills in very low gravity.

ISRO to create Space Situational Awareness Control Centre

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) laid the foundation stone for the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru.

The control centre would host a range of activities related to the protection of Indian space assets from inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, near earth asteroids and adverse space weather conditions. It would also assimilate the tracking data of inactive satellites from indigenous observation facilities and generates useful information from bare observations through analysis. Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM) has become an internationally significant area due to the rise of manmade space debris and the increased collision threat with operational spacecraft. ISRO has set up a Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management aimed at protecting high-value space assets from space debris' close approach and collisions.

<div style="text-align:center">**Sports News**</div>

PV Sindhu became 1st Indian to win gold in BWF

P V Sindhu became the first Indian to win badminton World Championships gold.

She beat the familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided final Basel. She won 21-7 21-7 in the summit clash that lasted just 38 minutes. Two years after being robbed off the gold by Okuhara in an epic 110-minute final at Glasgow that went down as one of the greatest battles in badminton history, Sindhu finally exorcised the ghost of that heart-wrenching loss with a completely dominating win over the same opponent. It was Sindhu's fifth World Championships medal -- joint most for a woman singles player with former Olympics and world champion Zhang Ning of China -- to go

with the two successive silvers and a couple of bronze medals. Sindhu has also won an Olympic silver in 2016 Rio Games, a silver at Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, an Asian Games silver at Jakarta and the BWF World Tour Finals last year.

BCCI agrees to come under NADA

After years of opposition BCCI has finally agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
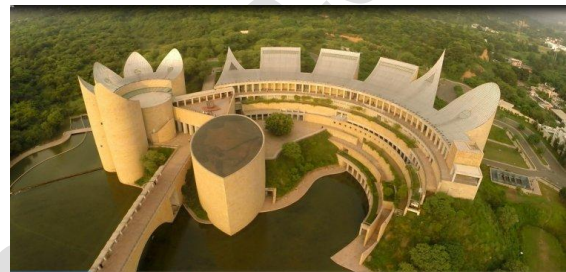
The BCCI stated in writing that it would adhere to NADA's anti-doping policy. The information was shared by Sports Secretary Radheshyam Jhulaniya on August 9 after his meeting with BCCI CEO Rahul Johri. Jhulaniya stated that from henceforth, all cricketers will be tested by NADA. Till now, the BCCI had opposed NADA's doping tests and the cricketers were kept out of it. The BCCI had raised three issues before the Sports Ministry regarding its integration with NADA. The issues are as follows: 1) Quality of the dope testing kits 2) Competence of pathologists 3) Sample collection. The Sports Ministry assured the BCCI that the Ministry would be providing

whatever facilities the BCCI requires but there will be some charge for it. Sports Secretary Radheshyam Jhulaniya said that the BCCI is no different from others. It should be noted that BCCI was earlier strictly against signing up with NADA. The

BCCI claimed that it is an autonomous body and not a National Sports Federation and does not rely on government funding.

Arts and Culture

Virasat e Khalsa set to enter Asia Book of Records

The Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town will be finding its place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day.

The Asia Book of Records has confirmed the record of 'maximum footfall in a museum in a day' in the name of Virasat-e-Khalsa, which will feature in the next edition of the Asia Book of Records. An official said, 'The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20, becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day'. Over 10 million visitors have visited the museum so far in a short span of eight years of its opening. Virasat-e-Khalsa was built to commemorate the rich history and culture of Punjab and Sikhism and was inaugurated in November 2011. Between 5,000-6,000 visitors on an average daily

visit this visual-cum-narrative museum, outnumbering all other museums in terms of popularity and visitor footfall. The museum stands out in terms of popularity, footfall, architecture and in its use of technology.

National Award 2019

The 66th National Film awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the Jury for feature films. Here's the complete list of awards:

Best Rajasthani Film: Turtle

Best Pangchenpa Film: In The Land Of Poison Women

Best Garo Film: Ma'ama

Best Marathi Film: Bhonga

Best Tamil Film: Baaram

Best Hindi Film: Andhadhun

Best Urdu Film: Hamid

Best Bengali Film: Ek Je Chhilo Raja

Best Malayalam Film: Sudani From Nigeria

Best Telugu Film: Mahanati

Best Kannada Film: Nathicharami

Best Konkani Film: Amori

Best Assamese Film: Bulbul Can Sing

Best Punjabi Film: Harjeeta

Best Gujarati Film: Reva

Best Choreography: Kruti Mahesh Midya and Jyothi D Tommaar for Ghoomar, Padmaavat

Best Music Director: Padmaavat

Best Special Effect: Awe, KGF

Best Music Direction: Sanjay Leela Bhasali for Padmaavat

Best Background Music Award: Uri: The Surgical Strike

Best Makeup Artist: Ranjith for Awe

Best Costume Designer: Rajshree Patnaik, Gaurang Shah and Archana Rao for Mahanati

Best Action: KGF: Chapter 1

Best Lyrics: Nathicharami

Best Production Design: Kammara Sambhavam

Best Editing: Nathicharami

Best Audiography: Tendlya, Uri and Rangasthalam

Best Sound Design: Uri

Best Mixed Track: Rangasthalam

Best Original Screenplay: Chi La Sow

Best Adapted Screenplay: Andhadhun

Best Dialogue: Tarikh

Best Cinematography: Olu (Malayalam) to MJ Radhakrishnan

Best Female Playback Singer: Bindu Mani for Mayavi Manave from Nathicharami

Best Male Playback Singer: Arijit Singh for Binte Dil from Padmaavat

Best Film on Social Issues: Pad Man

Best Supporting Actress: Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho

Best Supporting Actor: Swanand Kirkire for Chumbak

Best Actor: Ayushmann Khurrana, Andhadhun, and Vicky Kaushal, Uri

Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati

Best Direction: Aditya Dhar for Uri

Best Feature Film: Hellaro (Gujarati)

Best Children's Film: Sarkari. Hi. Pra. Shale Kasaragodu, Koduge

Best Child Actors: PV Rohith for Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada), Sameep Singh for Harjeeta (Punjabi), Talha Arshad Reshi for Hamid (Urdu), Shrinivas Pokale for Naal (Marathi)

Panchamirtham prasadam granted GI tag

The famous Palani panchamirtham, given as 'prasadam' at the Murugan temple there, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag. The application was filed by the Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer,

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thirukkoil, North Giriveethi, Adivaram, Palani. Chinnaraja G. Naidu, Deputy Registrar of Geographical Indications, confirmed that the GI tag had been given for the panchamirtham. The certificate will be posted on the GI website soon. The panchamirtham is a combination of five natural substances — banana, jaggery, cow ghee, honey and cardamom. Dates and diamond sugar candies are added for flavour. The panchamirtham is an 'abhishega prasadam' (food that is a religious offering), which is served in a semi-solid state. It is sweet in taste and one of the main offerings for Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, situated on Palani Hills.

Tirur Vettila (betel leaf) gets GI tag

Tirur Vettila the betel leaf produced in Tirur and nearby areas of Malappuram district has got Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Tirur Vettila is unique for its significantly high content of total chlorophyll and protein in fresh leaves. Eugenol is the major essential oil in Tirur betel leaf contributing to its pungency. It's shelf period is also more compared to other betel leaves. The antioxidant capacity is more in Tirur betel leaf adding to its

medicinal properties. This betel leaf is more pungent than many other cultivars. It is expected that GI Registration will enhance the demand and marketability of this unique betel leaf. Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and vengara are the Block panchayats famous for cultivation of Tirur betel leaf. Puthukodi and Nadan are the most common betel vine cultivars of the area. It is a joint initiative taken by the IPR cell of the Kerala Agricultural University in association with the State Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare and Tirur Vettila farmers that has reached its final destination. Tirur Vettila Ulpadaka Sangam, Tirur, Malappuram, is the registered proprietor for this GI-product.

Bunker Museum inaugurated in Mumbai

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday inaugurated the underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.

The 15,000 square feet underground bunker museum has virtual reality booths in which visitors can time travel to the 19th century. The bunker was created in the 19th century to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships. Another section depicts the history of Raj Bhavan. The museum will be opened for the general public with an online booking facility later this year. President Kovind was shown around the exhibition and given an audio visual experience of the history of Raj Bhavan at a virtual reality booth. Earlier, he unveiled the foundation stone for the proposed reconstruction of Jal Bhushan, the Governor's office-cum-residential building. Jal Bhushan has a history of nearly 200 years, and the present building has undergone several modifications and renovations.

NOC Online Application Processing System (NOAPS) launched

The Ministry for Culture & Tourism has launched an integrated No Objection Certificate (NOC) online Application Processing System (NOPAS) for National Monuments Authority (NMA) for 517 local bodies of six states.

NOAPS was launched by the NMA in September 2015 but was limited to only five urban local bodies in Delhi and one civic body in Mumbai. Now, the facility has been expanded to six more states: Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Jharkhand and Telangana. The online system automates the process of granting No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for construction-related work in the prohibited and regulated areas of the Archaeological Survey of India

(ASI) protected monuments. NMA considers grant of permissions to applicants for construction-related activity in the prohibited and regulated area. National Monuments Authority (NMA) under the Ministry of Culture, has been set up as per provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains AMASR (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. The applicant needs to fill up a single form which is being sent to the concerned agencies by the Urban Local Body, from whom No Objection Certificate (NOC) is required. The Portal has integration with the Smart 'Smarac' Mobile App of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), through which the applicant traverses his plot and the geo-coordinates of his plot along with the images get uploaded into the NIC portal along with the proximity and the approval status. It became the official residence of British governors in 1885 when the 'Government House' was shifted to Malabar Point from Parel.

Environment News

Uttarakhand to set up Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve

Uttarakhand Government has decided to for Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR). This decision was taken by State Cabinet to create a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Reserve. The Uttarakhand government has decided to form a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve, a move which will help serve as the much needed second layer of protection for the big cat. The decision to set up the force was taken by the State Cabinet on Wednesday. The force will have 85 posts. Chief Wildlife Warden Rajiv Bhartari said, 'The STPF will be effective in checking illegal human intrusion into the reserve through villages located on its fringes and serve as a second layer of protection for tigers at the CTR. Illegal intruders from fringe areas have been behind poaching incidents in the reserve in the past. The need for such a force was felt by wildlife experts and conservationists for a long time.

Peacock Parachute Spider sighted for first time

Researchers have sighted a critically endangered species of tarantula for the first time beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats.

The spider belonging to the genus Poecilotheria, commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula was spotted by a team of researchers of the Puducherry-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district. The team of wildlife researchers was involved in field work in the reserve forests recently when they sighted a Gooty Tarantula (Poecilotheria metallica) resting in a cave. The species was later cross-matched with photographic evidence published by the Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society.

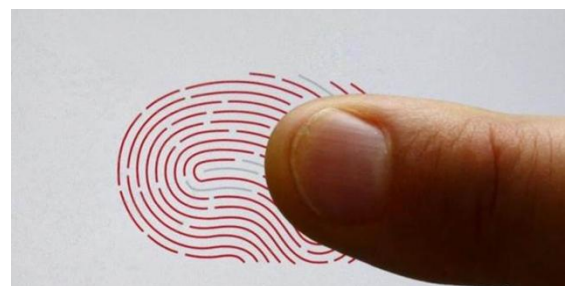## IIP creates plant to turn plastic waste into diesel

Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a plant at the Indian Institute of Petroleum here which can turn plastic waste into diesel.

Congratulated the scientists of IIP for discovering the technology after years of research, the minister said it was a commendable step towards ensuring freedom from plastic. He said, 'By producing diesel out of plastic waste on a large scale, the plant is not just a good step towards freedom from plastic but will also reduce our dependence on other countries for petroleum products'. Terming it a big achievement, Rawat said apart from protecting the environment, the plant will also boost economic growth as it will produce 800 litres of diesel from one tonne of plastic waste which will be collected with the help of NGOs.

Main Supplement

The Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS)

It is new system launched by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. It will be beneficial in storing data of criminals and speed up the investigation in criminal cases. AMBIS will work as a Google search engine for the police in finding the details of the

criminals in a click. This is the first of its kind technology used in the country to capture the criminals.

Importance of the AMBIS System

1. The Automated Multimodal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) has enabled the police to cross-reference to put faces to criminals whose fingerprints have been captured on paper over the decades.

2. AMBIS would act like a digital lab of the criminal records.It will have records like photographs, fingerprints and retinal scans of all criminals.

3. AMBIS is connected to a central server so the police departments of the country and abroad would be able to find the detail of any particular criminal.

4. With the help of AMBIS system the police would be able to trace (with the help of mobile live scanners) on the spot that whether the suspect had any previous criminal record or not. If new data does not match with old data stored in the AMBIS then the criminal is a new comer.

5. So far AMBIS has details of 6.5 lakh criminals. The data stored in the AMBIS have the details like nature of the crime is done by a particular offender.

6. The details of the offenders can be traces in just 0.46 milli seconds.

7. Police will be able to feed the data into the AMBIS direct from the crime site which is connected to the citywide CCTV camera network in Mumbai, as well as the Central government's Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System.

8. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced the project implementation across all 94 police stations in Mumbai and it will cover all 1160 police stations in the state's 42 police districts, 12 police training centers, 10 central jails, 7 police ranges and 4 fingerprint bureaus in the years to come.

So far the cyber police department has digitised more than 6.5 lakh fingerprints recorded on paper from the 1950s onwards. Hence it is expected that in the years to come the operation of the AMBIS will help the Mumbai police in reducing the crime in the city and state.

The draft E-Commerce Guidelines for Consumer Protection 2019

The draft E-Commerce Guidelines for Consumer Protection 2019 are now open for consultation, as the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution looks to finalize on the guidelines that will regulate the e-commerce sector in India. The new guidelines are expected to focus on fraud prevention, clamping down on unfair trade practices and to protect the interests of consumers. The e-commerce players in India including the likes of Amazon, Flipkart and Paytm Mall will have

to adhere to the new guidelines, when they come into effect. It is expected that the once the feedback process finishes on September 16, the Department of Consumer Affairs will then take that into consideration to draft the final regulations for e-commerce in India.

The draft guidelines define an e-commerce entity as "a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 or the Companies Act, 2013 or a foreign company covered under section 2 (42) of the Companies Act, 2013 or an office, branch or agency in India as provided in Section 2 (v) (iii) of FEMA 1999, owned or controlled by a person resident outside India and includes an electronic service provider or a partnership or proprietary firm, whether inventory or market place model or both and conducting the e-Commerce business." This basically means that shopping websites including Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm Mall, Myntra, Jabong, Ajio, Tata Cliq, H&M, Zara, and others will fall under the same definition. And going by this, it is expected that services such as Zomato, Swiggy, and pretty much any food delivery service will also be regulated by the same set of rules. What is not clear at the moment is whether taxi/cab aggregators such as Uber and Ola fall within the same category of e-commerce players or not.

New guidelines for being eligible to operate an e-commerce business in India are a party of the E-Commerce Guidelines for Consumer Protection 2019. First, the business needs to be registered as a legal entity as per the laws of India. There also needs to be a declaration confirming compliance with the guidelines. "The promoter or key management personnel should not have been convicted of any criminal offence punishable with imprisonment in last 5 years by any Court of competent jurisdiction," say the draft guidelines. All e-commerce entities in India will have to comply with the provisions of Information Technology (Intermediaries guidelines) Rules, 2011. All the payments are required to be facilitated by the e-commerce entity while following the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

The CDRI is proposed to be launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, USA on 23rd September 2019. Organized by the UN Secretary General, this event will bring together the largest number of Heads of States to generate commitments for combating the effects of climate change and resulting disasters, and will provide the high-level visibility required for the CDRI.

The approval, inter-alia, is for the following initiatives: A) Establishment of the International 'C.D.R.I.' along with its supporting Secretariat office in New Delhi; B) Establishment of the Secretariat of the CDRI as a Society under The Societies

Registration Act,1860 in New Delhi as 'CDRI Society' or similar name as per availability. The memorandum of association and by-laws of the 'CDRI Society' will be prepared and finalized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in due course; C) In-principle approval for Government of India support of Rs. 480 crore (approx. USD 70 million) to CDRI for a corpus required to fund technical assistance and research projects on an on-going basis, setting up the Secretariat office and covering recurring expenditures over a period of 5 years from 2019-20 to 2023-24; D) The endorsed version of the Charter document that will act as the founding document of the CDRI. The charter will be finalized after taking inputs from potential member countries by the NDMA in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

NISHTHA

The basic objective of this massive training programme 'NISHTHA' is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. The teachers will get awareness and develop their skills on various aspects related to Learning Outcomes, Competency Based Learning and Testing, Learner-centered Pedagogy, School Safety and Security, Personal-social qualities, Inclusive Education, ICT in teaching-learning including Artificial Intelligence, Health and well-being including yoga, Initiatives in School Education including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns, Pre-school, Pre- vocational Education and School Based Assessment in a joyful learning manner. The training programme has been included as one of the two transformative ideas from this Department for the 100 days programme of the Government. This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all Government schools, faculty members of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as Block Resource Coordinators and Cluster Resource Coordinators in all States and UTs. The initiative is first of its kind wherein standardized training modules are developed at national level for all States and UTs. However, States and UTs can contextualize the training modules and use their own material and resource persons also, keeping in view the core topics and expected outcomes of NISHTHA. The training will be conducted directly by 33120 Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and State Resource Persons (SRP) identified by the State and UTs, who will in turn be trained by 120 National Resource Persons identified from National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), KendriyaVidyalayaSangathan

(KVS), NavodayaVidyalayaSamiti (NVS), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Non-Government Organisation

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

In a crackdown on the unauthorized occupants of residential accommodations in public premises, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given a go ahead to introduce "The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019". The amendments will facilitate smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from Government residences, and those vacant residences will be available for allotment to eligible persons on maturity of their turn in the waiting list. This will decrease the waiting time for availing the facility of residential accommodation.

The new bill comes in place of "The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2017". It will be introduced in the ensuing Session of Parliament. The Bill seeks amendments in Section 2, Section 3 and Section 7 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, by inserting clause (fa) before clause (fb) in Section 2, a new section 3B below section 3A of Section 3

and a new sub-section 3A below sub-Section (3) under Section 7 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The proposed amendments would enable the Estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting unauthorised occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation. This Bill result in speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from Government residences and increased availability of residential accommodations for eligible persons.

Quickly and Quickly

Mission Reach Out

It is a mission announced by the Indian Army. in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. A high level "Mission Reach Out" conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station on Saturday, which was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh. The Corps commander lauded the absolute synergy between the

Army, civil administration and other security establishments in maintaining peace, harmony and a conducive environment. It was attended by Jammu Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma, members of the civil administration, representatives of the J&K Police, CRPF, BSF and intelligence agencies.

Bharatcraft

It is an upcoming business portal for MSME to be launched by government of India. Taking inspiration from e-commerce behemoths like Alibaba and Amazon, the Modi government is planning to launch its own desi version of an e-commerce portal. The government has named the portal Bharatcraft, which will provide a platform for MSMEs to markets and sell their products. Union minister for MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari has announced the govt's ambitious plan to launch Bharatcraft portal while speaking at 200th listing of an MSME company 'Wonder Fibromats' on NSE EMERGE. He also added that the Bharatcraft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth Rs10 lakh crore in next 2-3 years. The Bharatcraft portal, which will be on the lines of Alibaba and Amazon, will provide a platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the sector.

Khanij Bidesh India

It is a new company created by government of India to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the domestic market. In a statement from Mines Ministry, a joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) is to be set up with the participation of three central public sector enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd (MECL). Coal and mines minister Pralhad Joshi said the objective of constituting KABIL is to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market. While KABIL would ensure mineral security of the nation, it would also help in realising the overall objective of import substitution. KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals.

Jal Jeevan Mission

It is a new scheme launched by PM Narendra Modi to provide piped water supply (Har Ghar Jal) to all rural and urban households by 2024. It also aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture. Benefits of Jal Jeevan Mission 1) Household pipeline water supply 2) Clean and drinkable water 3) Recharge of ground water level 4) Better local infrastructure 5) Less water-borne diseases 6) Less water wastage. According to the data published in various reports, about half of the country's households don't have access to piped water supply. It is an urgent requirement of water conservation in the country because of the decreasing amount of groundwater level. Therefore, Jal Jeevan Mission will focus on integrated demand and supply management of water at the local level. As per the PM Modi's announcement during his speech, the mission would cost around more than Rs.3.5 lakh crore in coming years. However, both centre and state governments will work together to achieve Jal Jeevan Mission's targets.