

Current Affairs: 12 October 2017

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week From 9 to 14 October

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week from 09th to 14th October 2017.
- It is celebrated in view of the International Girl Child Day on 11th October 2017.
- The theme of the program will be "**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India**".
- During this week the government will aim to create awareness and sensitize community in their respective districts.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme was launched by PM Modi on 22nd January 2015
- The Scheme is being implemented in 161 districts of the Country and has completed two and half years of its implementation on the ground.

World Girl Child Day

- In 2012, United Nations declared October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.
- The day highlights and addresses the needs and challenges girls face while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- Theme of International Day of the Girl Child' 2017 is "EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises".

Nisha Biswal Appointed USIBC President

- Nisha Desai Biswal has been appointed the president of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC).
- USIBC is a forum of U.S. businesses under the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- Nisha is former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia
- She will replace Ajay Banga.

About USIBC

- The U.S.-India Business Council was formed in 1975.
- It works as a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and United States to enhance investment flows.
- It serves as a direct link between business and Government leaders, resulting in increased trade and investment to strengthen ties between the two nations.
- It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. of United States

Japan Launched fourth Michibiki satellite for High-precision GPS

- Japan has launched fourth satellite for a new high-precision global positioning system (GPS).
- It aims to encourage new businesses and help spur economic growth.
- The fourth Michibiki satellite was launched from Japan's southern Tanegashima spaceport
- Japan plans to have seven of the geo-positioning satellites in orbit by 2023.
- The first satellite was put into orbit in 2010
- Third and fourth are expected to be launched by March 2018 to start the service.
- Michibiki, meaning guidance in Japanese
- This satellite is intended for civilian use, with a claimed positioning accuracy down to mere centimetres (inches).

Anupam Kher Appointed Chairman of FTII

- Anupam Kher has been appointed as the new chief of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).
- He will replace Gajendra Chauhan, whose appointment in 2015 triggered massive student protests.
- Kher is a critically acclaimed actor who has worked in more than 500 films.
- Previously, he has headed the censor board and the National School of Drama in the past.

About Film and Television Institute of India

- It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India
- It is located in Pune.
- It was established in 1960.

Cabinet Approves Change of Status for Marine Body IALA

- The government has changed the status of global marine body IALA to inter-government organisation from non-governmental organisation.
- The motive of the move is to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels.
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO) International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) will have equal status now.

About IALA

- IALA was established in 1957 under French law.
- It is headquartered in St Germainen Laye of France
- It is governed by a General Assembly having 83 national members

- IALA council consists of 24 National Members
- India is one of the council members represented through the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL)
- DGLL establishes and maintains 'Aids to Navigation' in general waters along the coast of India, including Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep group of islands, as per Lighthouse Act 1927.

Gurbax Singh Sandhu Got National Senior Citizen Award

- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred national awards to senior citizens, Vayoshreshtha Samman
- The award ceremony was organised by the ministry of social justice and empowerment
- Former boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu was honoured at the event.
- Gurbax Sandhu has the distinction of coaching both the men and women boxers
- He was India's longest-serving men's national coach
- He occupied the position for two decades before he was handed charge of the women campers earlier this year.
- He was the chief coach when India won its maiden Olympic medal in boxing through Vijender Singh in 2008.

PV Reddi Panel to Examine Pay Hike Issue of Lower Court Judges

- The law ministry will approve the formation of a committee that will examine the pay-hike issues of lower court judges. The panel will recommend the new pay structure for the judges.
- Second National Judicial Pay Commission to recommend salary hikes for the 21,000 lower court judges is set to be taken up by the union cabinet very soon.
- The judges and judicial officers got the last pay hike in 2010
- The commission will be headed by former Supreme Court judge PV Reddi.
- The current entry-level salary for a junior civil judge is Rs 45000 while a senior judge gets nearly Rs 80,000.
- The first judicial pay commission was set up in March 1996 and it was headed by Justice Jagannatha Shetty
- The Supreme Court had appointed a one-member committee under Justice E Padmanabhan, who submitted his report in July 2009 recommending the three-fold hike.

IIT Kharagpur and Samsung Join Hands for Digital Academy

- IIT-Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung India.
- According to the MoU signed a digital academy will be set up on the institute's campus.
- Samsung Innovation Lab will be hosted by The Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the institute.

- These labs will train students on the Internet of Things (IoT) through Tizen-based operating systems
- The aim is to make students Job-ready through these labs.
- IoT lab will enable students to have hands-on experience with the Tizen operating system as well as facilitate research and app development on IoT platforms
- IoT is a network of computing devices embedded in objects of everyday use for storage and exchange of information.

Germany to Help India Increase Speed of Trains to 200 kmph

- Ministry of Railways and Germany have signed a Joint Declaration of Intent to carry out of feasibility study on existing Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways
The study which will be carried out by German Railways aims at increasing the speed of passenger trains to 200 kmph on 50.50 percent cost-sharing basis.
- JoD will deepen the cooperation between the two nation.
- The focus will be towards the achievement in the priority area of Semi High-Speed Rail, upgrading of current passenger services to SHS (Semi High Speed) up to 200 kmph on the Chennai-Kazipet corridor

The three phases of the project will take the time period of 22 months

Phase 1: Definition of three demand-based Upgrade scenarios for the corridor

Phase 2: Selection of the preferred Upgrade scenario for SHS on the corridor, based on analysis of respective operations and economic-financial impact.

Phase 3:

- Development of Reference design for technical solution on preferred Upgrade scenario.
- Procurement concept for Construction works and Railway Systems.
- Concept and Requirements for construction Phasing under railway Operations.
- Preparation of technical tender documents for preferred Scenario usable for Design & Build tendering.
- Development of recommendations on the implications for a larger SHS program for India.
- Possible financing options for the implementation of the corridor.

India and Japan Tie Up for Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)".
The MoC will be signed during the forthcoming visit of Minister for Skill Development &

Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan which will take place on October 16-18, 2017 in Tokyo.

- Under this ambitious TITP program, Indian will send three lakh technical interns to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five years.
- These interns will work in the Japanese ecosystem and get employment opportunities there along with accommodation facility,
- MoC will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development.
- The financial cost of the skill training of Indian technical interns will be borne by Japan.
- The selection of the youth will be done in a transparent manner according to Japanese requirements.

