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Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana launched in Jharkhand

- Jharkhand Government has launched the Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana
- The scheme aims at developing villages of freedom fighters.
- The scheme was launched from Ulihatu Village which is the birth place of freedom fighter and Jharkhand's tribal icon, Birsa Munda.
- The programme will provide 136 pucca houses to the dwellers of Ulihatu and a couple of other hamlets around it

Who was Birsa Munda?

- He was a freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero
- He belonged to the Munda tribe from Chhotanagpur area
- He is known for leading Munda rebellion towards end of 19th century against British Raj.
- Munda rebellion began in the year 1895 to revolt against British administration interference in tribal politics and their religious matters
- He was a master at Guerilla Warfare techniques.
- The Britishers were able to arrest Birsa Munda on Mar 3, 1900. He was sentenced to death but he died beforehand inside the jail due to cholera.

SEBI Allow Fundraising Norms for REITs, InvITs

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended norms allowing governing real estate investments trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to raise funds through debt securities and also permitting single-asset REITs in a bid to boost the financial instruments
- Only two InvITs have listed on the stock exchanges—IRB InvIT Fund and Indiagrid Trust over the past three years
- Embassy Office Parks REIT registered with Sebi on 28 July has become the first realty trust in the country to be registered with the markets regulator
- REITs and InvITs listed on national stock exchanges will be allowed to issue debt via debt securities
- Currently the REITs and InvITs are allowed to raise funds via External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) which has certain end-use restrictions

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- Real estate investments trusts are listed entities that mainly invest in leased office and retail properties, allowing developers to raise funds by selling completed buildings to investors.
- SEBI has also allowed REITs with a single asset. As per the current norms, REITs were required to have at least two projects under them.
- Strategic investors such as scheduled commercial banks and non-banking finance companies are allowed to invest in REITs and also permitting REITs to lend to their underlying holding companies.
- SEBI proposed to allow REITs with 50-50% shareholding. The current norm requires a REIT to have a holding company with a 51% stake.

Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017 Approved by Law Ministry

- The law ministry has given its approval to Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill
- The bill will give powers to the government to confiscate property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India, albeit with a new provision
- Law Ministry proposed a "Saving Clause" to be incorporated in the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2017 before its presentation in the Lok Sabha.
- The saving clause provides for certain exception(s) in a statute.
- It enables the repealed law to be in force with respect to some existing rights.

Zannah Mustaph Gets United Nations' Peace Prize

- Zannah Mustaph was awarded one of the United Nations' top prizes.
- He was given the annual Nansen Refugee award for his "crucial mediating" role.
- He is a Nigerian lawyer who helped secure the release of more than 100 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram
- He set up The Future Prowess Islamic Foundation School 10 years ago.
- This foundation is a lifeline for children in conflict-riven and impoverished northeast Nigeria
- Mustaph is a well-known figure in northeast Nigeria having previously represented the family of Mohammed Yusuf, the founder of Boko Haram who died in police custody in 2009.

About Boko Haram

- It is an Islamic extremist terrorist group based in northeastern Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon

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- The name "Boko Haram" is usually translated as "Western education is forbidden".
- was founded as a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist sect, influenced by the Wahhabi movement, advocating a strict form of Sharia law. It developed into a Salafist-jihadi group in 2009.
- Mohammed Yusuf founded the sect that became known as Boko Haram in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of the north-eastern state of Borno. He established a religious complex and school that attracted poor Muslim families from across Nigeria and neighbouring countries. The center had the political goal of creating an Islamic state, and became a recruiting ground for jihadis.

About UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

- It is awarded annually by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to an individual, group, or organization in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.
- It was established in 1954.
- The award is named after the intrepid Norwegian polar explorer, statesman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Fridtjof Nansen. As the first High Commissioner for Refugees at the League of Nations, Nansen's achievements made significant strides in giving a voice to the forcibly displaced. UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award consists of a commemorative medal, the Nansen Medal, and a 100,000 USD monetary prize
- Each year, the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award is presented at a dignified ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, the "world's humanitarian capital"

Mercedes Araoz sworn in as Peru's Prime Minister

- Mercedes Araoz was sworn in as the new head of the Council of Ministers - known as the prime minister
- The council is formed by 13 members of the cabinet

About Araoz

- Araoz was Peru's Second Vice President and an economist.
- She is a Peruvian economist, professor, politician
- She served as Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism
- In April 2016, Aráoz was elected as Congresswoman for 2016–2021.

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- In June 2016, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was elected as President of Peru and Aráoz as the second vice president.

Bandhan Tod App Launched in Bihar

- Gender Alliance Bihar has launched a mobile application to fight the rampant social evil of child marriage in the state.
- The app is called Bandhan Tod.
- The app will try to create awareness on resisting child marriage
- It will provide round-the-clock help to adolescent girls saying no to the practice in the form of an SOS button.
- The app offers innovative features that will give girls the confidence to stand up against marriage before they are 18, the legal marriageable age for girls in
- The app is a part of Gender Alliance's strategy to support the state government's efforts to end child marriage and dowry.

Gender Alliance Bihar

- Gender Alliance Bihar is a collective effort of over 270 civil society organisations backed by the UN Population Fund
- It aims at bringing together civil societies, activists, academicians, researchers, media, and others on a common platform to advocate gender equality.
- The alliance focuses on the dire need and urgency to match this commitment with coordinated strategies, action and resources to end child marriages as well as early marriages in Bihar.
- It has also extended support of the hundreds of civil society organisations, that are part of the initiative, to the state government in its fight against child marriage.

Japan Launched Postage Stamps on Indian Yoga Experts

- Japanese postal department has released postage stamps on four of Bengal's famous personalities of Yoga
- Japan has acknowledging the role played by yoga legend Bishnu Charan Ghosh and his family members in spreading Indian postural yoga in Japan
- The stamps on Bishnu Charan Ghosh, his son Biswanath Ghosh, daughter Karuna Ghosh and Karuna's father in law Asutosh Ghosh, that were released recently in Japan,

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- The stamps were official showcased here by the Japanese Consul General in Kolkata, Masayuki Taga.
- This is the first time Japan has released postal stamps on any yoga experts.

India ranks 128th in Sustainable Development Goals Index

- India ranks 128th in terms of meeting the United Nations' (UN) health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030
- India has scored very low on air pollution, sanitation, hepatitis B and child wasting

Highlights of the report

- It is the first comprehensive analysis of trends from 1990-2014 and projections to 2030 for 188 countries.
- It ranks countries on an overall health-related SDG index
- Singapore, Iceland and Sweden are the three performers.
- Somalia, Central African Republic, and Afghanistan are the worst performers.
- United States is ranked 10.
- India ranked 128th with low scores on air pollution, sanitation, hepatitis B and child wasting. Wasting, also known as wasting syndrome, refers to the process by which a debilitating disease causes muscle and fat tissue to "waste" away.
- Only 7% of countries were projected to meet the target on HIV/AIDS, and no country was projected to reach the SDG target on tuberculosis.

About SDGs

- The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years.
- The SDGs follow and expand on the millennium development goals (MDGs), which were agreed by governments in 2001 and are due to expire at the end of this year.
- The SDGs include 232 individual indicators to monitor 17 goals and 169 targets, ranging from energy, climate change, economic growth, health and education.

17 proposed goals are

- 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

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- 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
- 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
- 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development