

Current Affairs: 5 October 2017

ICSI Golden Jubilee Celebrations At Vigyan Bhawan

- The Institute of Company Secretaries of India is celebrated its golden jubilee
- The celebration was organized at Vigyan Bhawan which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- To mark the occasion, students and alumni of ICSI have also taken to using a special frame for their Facebook profile pictures which proudly announce the golden jubilee year of ICSI.
- At present there are almost 50,000 members of the Institute and more than 4,00,000 students are enrolled with the institute.
- The Institute of Company Secretaries of India is the only recognized professional body in India to develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretaries in India.
- ICSI has its its headquarters at New Delhi, four Regional Offices at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and 69 Chapters across India.

Russia Launched World's Most Powerful Nuclear Icebreaker Ship

- Russia has floated out the world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker ship called Sibir.
- This ship will reinforce Russia's leadership in the Arctic.
- Sibir designed to transport cargo along the Northern Sea Route.
- It was launched into the water at the Baltic Shipyard in St Petersburg.
- It is powered by two nuclear reactors and will be able to break ice fields up to three metres thick, clearing the path for Russian ships delivering gas to Asia.
- Russia plans to build another vessel called The Leader, which will break through ice up to 4.5 metres thick, and keep the Northern Sea Route and Arctic coast open all year round.
- Sibir is the second of three icebreakers of a new class of the biggest nuclear-powered icebreakers ever constructed.
- The first one, called Arktika (the Arctic), was floated out last summer and is set to be completed in 2019.
- It weighs 33,500 tons and is more than 576 feet long.

World Teachers' Day: 5 October 2017

- World Teachers' Day is also known as International Teachers Day
- It is celebrated on October 5 since 1994
- It commemorates teacher organizations worldwide.
- It aims to mobilize support for teachers and to ensure that the needs of future generations will continue to be met by teachers.
- **"Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers"** is the theme of World Teachers' Day 2017.

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will focus on the professors, teachers, researchers and others who otherwise provide educational services to students at institutions of higher learning.

World Space Week: 4- 10 October 2017

- By Resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly proclaimed World Space Week, to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.
- The General Assembly of United Nations declared 4 to 10 October World Space Week.
- This week celebrates at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.
- 4 October 1957 was the date of the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration,
- On 10th of October 1967, Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies came into force.
- **2017 Theme: "Exploring New Worlds in Space"**
- The 2017 World Space Week Theme focuses attention on astrobiology missions like New Horizons (NASA's first mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt); feats of engineering such as Lockheed Martin's Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (NASA's first spacecraft designed to facilitate long-duration, human-rated deep space exploration of new worlds) and efforts of New Space actors such as Space X (revolutionary space technology projects with the ultimate goal of enabling people to inhabit other planets like Mars) and other entities with a vision for exploration and utilization of extraterrestrial resources, such as metals from asteroids, water from the Moon, and unlimited solar energy in the Earth's orbit.

World Animal Day

- World Animal Day is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare celebrated annually on October 4.
- It is the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.
- World Animal Day was originated by Heinrich Zimmermann who was a German writer and publisher of the magazine Mensch und Hund/Man and Dog.
- He organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at the Sports Palace in Berlin, Germany.

The mission of World Animal Day

"To raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe. Building the celebration of World Animal Day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilising it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals. It's celebrated in different ways in every country, irrespective of nationality, religion, faith or political ideology. Through increased awareness

and education we can create a world where animals are always recognised as sentient beings and full regard is always paid to their welfare."

Rajnish Kumar Elected Next SBI Chairman

- The Appointments Committee of the government has named Rajnish Kumar as the new chairman of SBI or the State Bank of India
- He is appointed for a period of three years from October 7
- He is currently one of the four managing directors of the bank
- He joined SBI as a probationary officer in 1980 and has worked in various departments.
- He also headed the merchant banking arm of the bank, SBI Capital Markets, as managing director and CEO.
- He presently heads the retail business at SBI.

Chief Soumya Swaminathan Appointed WHO Deputy Director-General

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed Soumya Swaminathan one of two deputy directors-general
- For first time such a post has been ever created within the organisation.
- The position is also the highest post held by an Indian in the WHO.
- Dr. Swaminathan is currently the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- Dr. Swaminathan has been appointed as Deputy Director General for Programmes
- Ms. Jane Ellison has been appointed as a Deputy Director General for Corporate Operations (DDC).

About Dr. Swaminathan

- She is a paediatrician and a globally-recognised researcher on tuberculosis and HIV
- She has over 30 years of experience in clinical care and research.
- She also served as Coordinator of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) in Geneva.
- She has been a member of several WHO and global advisory bodies, including the WHO Expert Panel to Review Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group of the Global TB Department at WHO. She was also the Co-Chair of the Lancet Commission on TB.

Yatinder Pal Singh Suri elected as PPMI Chairman

- The Process Plant and Machinery Association of India (PPMAI) has roped in Yatinder Pal Singh Suri as its new Chairman.
- He is currently working as the Managing Director and India head of Finland-based stainless steel major Outokumpu.

What is PPMAI?

PPMAI is a service organisation having members from companies serving in industries such as oil and gas processing, refineries, fertilisers, chemicals, petrochemicals, synthetic fibre, and environmental controls.

Some of the members include Larsen & Toubro, Godrej, Thermax, Praj Industries, Aker Solutions, Toyo Engineering, ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions (India). Ion Exchange and BGR Energy Systems.

Train e-Tickets Exempted From Service Charge Till March 2018

- The government waived service charges after demonetisation in November last year to encourage digital modes of booking.
- The facility had been extended to June 30 and then September 30.
- Now the passengers can avail service charge exemption on tickets booked online till March 2018
- Service charges on booking train tickets online through IRCTC ranges from Rs 20 to 40 per ticket.
- Almost 33 per cent of the IRCTC revenue comes from the service charge collected on online bookings.
- As per the revenue collection of the last financial year, about Rs 540 crore of IRCTC's revenue of over Rs 1,500 crore came from ticket bookings.

About IRCTC

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways.
- It handles the catering, tourism and online ticketing operations of the Indian railways.
- It pioneered internet-based rail ticket booking through its website
- It has also launched a loyalty program called **Shubh Yatra** for frequent travellers.
- Through this program, passengers can avail of discounts on all tickets booked round the year by paying an upfront annual fee.

8th SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians' Conference

- The eighth edition of Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians (ASSP) began in Colombo
- This conference is a platform for the parliamentarians of South Asia to work together to reach the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
- The main theme of this year's conference is '**Association of the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians**'.
- Discussions on 'Promoting parliamentary diplomacy and open parliament in the age of digitalization' and 'SAARC parliamentarians' role in preserving cultural and archaeological heritage in South Asia region' will also be held.
- A commemorative stamp was issued to mark the eighth Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians.

Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians

- It was set up in 1992 with the vision of promoting friendship and understanding among the people of South Asia
- It promotes coordination and exchange of information among parliaments and parliamentarians of SAARC countries
- It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on parliamentary procedures and practices of the region.

SAARC

- It stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
- It was founded in Dhaka on 8th December 1985
- Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- It is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia.
- Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Its Secretary-General is Arjun Bahadur Thapa.

RBI's Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy: Highlights

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Fourth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for the financial year 2017-18.

Highlights of the Policy

- Repo rate kept unchanged at 6 percent.
- Reverse repo rate unchanged at 5.75 percent.

- Cuts economic growth forecast to 6.7 percent from 7.3 percent for FY'18
- Projects inflation at 4.2-4.6 percent in the second half.
- GST implementation rendered prospects for the manufacturing sector uncertain in the short term.
- Focus on keeping headline inflation close to 4 percent on a durable basis
- RBI continues to work towards the resolution of stressed corporate exposures in bank balance sheets.
- Recent structural reforms improving the business environment, transparency and increasing formalisation of the economy.
- A concerted drive to restart stalled investment projects, enhance ease of doing business, including simplification of the GST to boost growth.
- Rationalisation of "excessively high" stamp duties charged by states, faster rollout of affordable housing programme.

HDFC Life Launched Service Bot "Neo" For Twitter

- HDFC Life Insurance Company has launched Neo which is a servicing bot for Twitter.
- This bot uses artificial intelligence for customer service.
- The bot is expected to answer insurers' queries regarding policies of the companies on Twitter.
- Earlier HDFC Life launched SPOK which was an email bot to answer customer queries.
- The Neo bot will be available 24/7
- This bot has the capability to authenticate customers and give frequently sought details, like fund value, sum assured and premium amount.
- HDFC Life launched Neo with SmartConnect Technologies.

"Neo is one of several initiatives undertaken by HDFC Life to streamline and digitise customer on-boarding, policy issuance processes and servicing, with the aim of making such processes convenient and simple for the customers. One main aspect of this is to ensure our customers receive immediate responses to their queries, any time any place - be it email, chat or twitter - as per their convenience,"

About HDFC Life Insurance

- HDFC Life is a long-term life insurance provider with its headquarters in Mumbai
- It offers individual and group insurance.
- The MD & CEO of the company is Amitabh Chaudhry

Microscope Trailblazers Win 2017 Nobel Chemistry Prize

- Scientists Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.
- They got the award for developing cryo-electron microscopy which simplifies and improves the imaging of biomolecules.

Cryo-Electron Microscopy

- Cryo-electron microscopy has enabled scientists to fill in previously blank spaces in research, generating images of everything from proteins that cause antibiotic resistance, to the surface of the Zika virus.
- Researchers can now freeze biomolecules mid-movement and visualise processes they have never previously seen, which is decisive for both the basic understanding of life's chemistry and for the development of pharmaceuticals.

About Nobel Prize

- The Nobel Prize is a set of annual international awards bestowed in several categories by Swedish and Norwegian institutions in recognition of academic, cultural or scientific advances.
- The will of the Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel established the prizes in 1895.
- The prizes in Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics and Physiology or Medicine were first awarded in 1901.
- The prize ceremonies take place annually in Stockholm, Sweden with the exception of the peace prize, which is held in Oslo, Norway

Committee For Water Management in North-east Set up

- The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has set up a high-level committee to evolve a strategy for management of the region's water resources.
- It aims at helping India's flood-ravaged north-east
- The committee's formation comes against the backdrop of floods that have brought life to a standstill in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- **The committee will be led by Niti Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar.**
- It would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism.
- The committee will submit its report by June 2018.

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