

# RBI GRADE B



# GK DIGEST FEBRUARY 2018

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## UNIT- 1: RBI NOTIFICATIONS

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### CESSATION OF 8 PERCENT GOI SAVINGS (TAXABLE) BONDS 2003

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#### NOTIFICATION

- The Government of India (GoI) has announced that 8% GOI Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2003 shall cease for subscription with effect from the close of banking business on 02nd January, 2018.

### 7.75% SAVINGS (TAXABLE) BONDS, 2018

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#### NOTIFICATION

- It has been decided by the Government of India to issue 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 with effect from January 10, 2018.

#### WHO CAN INVEST?

- Anyone who is a resident Indian in their individual capacity or jointly can invest in the scheme. They can also invest on a one or survivor basis and even on behalf of a minor as

a parent or guardian. Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) can also apply. However, non-resident Indians cannot invest in the scheme.

#### LIMIT OF INVESTMENT:

- There will be no maximum limit for investment in the Bonds.

#### TAX TREATMENT:

- I. Interest on the Bonds will be taxable under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- II. The Bonds will be exempt from wealth-tax under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

#### FORM:

- The Bonds will be issued only in the demat form and held at the credit of the holder in an account called **Bonds Ledger Account (BLA)**, opened with the receiving bank.
- The Bonds issued to the credit of BLA of an investors will be held by any number of branches of the banks and SHCIL, as authorised by Reserve Bank of India

#### RECEIVING OFFICES:

##### Applications for the Bonds will be received at:

- Any number of branches of State Bank of India, Nationalised Banks, and three private sector banks and SCHIL (Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited).
- Branches of any other bank as specified by the Reserve Bank of India in this behalf from time to time.

#### REPAYMENT:

- The Bonds shall be repayable on the expiration of 7 years from the date of issue. (relaxation for Senior Citizens).

#### OTHER FEATURES

- You can nominate more than one person. However, no nomination can be made in respect to bonds issued in the name of a minor. Also, you cannot take loans against the deposit made in the bonds. And the bonds held to the credit of an investor's Bonds Ledger is not transferable.

#### IMPORTANT TERMS

##### BONDS LEDGER ACCOUNT (BLA)

##### As per Section 2(c) of Government Securities Act 2006:

- "bond ledger account" means an account with the Bank or an agent in which the Government securities are held in a dematerialized form at the credit of the holder

In simple words it is kind of **Demat Account** Specifically for Government Securities.

# SUBMISSION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO INFORMATION UTILITIES

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**THIS NOTIFICATION IS RELATED TO ONE OF THE NOTIFICATIONS OF THE LAST MONTH:**

- According to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, a financial creditor shall submit financial information and information relating to assets in relation to which any security interest has been created, to an information utility (IU)
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017, which has come into force with effect from April 1, 2017, has specified the form and manner in which financial creditors are to submit this information to IUs.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as the first IU under the IBBI (IUs) Regulations, 2017 on September 25, 2017.
- All financial creditors regulated by RBI are advised to adhere to the relevant provisions of IBC, 2016 and IBBI (IUs) Regulations, 2017 and immediately put in place appropriate systems and procedures to ensure compliance to the provisions of the Code and Regulations.

## **NEW NOTIFICATION**

- Instructions contained in the above notification are applicable to all registered Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) as well.

## **IMPORTANT TERMS:**

### **FINANCIAL CREDITOR**

A financial creditor is defined under Section 5(7) of the IBC to mean

**"a person to whom a financial debt is owed and includes a person to whom such debt has been legally assigned or transferred"**

### **ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANIES (ARCS)**

- An Asset Reconstruction Company is a specialized financial institution that buys the NPAs or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets. Or in other words, ARCs are in the business of buying bad loans from banks.
- ARCs clean up the balance sheets of banks when the latter sells these to the ARCs. This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a

mutually agreed value.

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## REFINANCING OF EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL BORROWINGS

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### NOTIFICATION

- In order to provide a level playing field, it has been decided, in consultation with the Government of India, to permit the overseas branches/subsidiaries of Indian banks to refinance ECBs of highly rated (AAA) corporates as well as Navratna and Maharatna PSUs.
- Partial refinance of existing ECBs will also be permitted subject to same conditions.

### IMPORTANT TERMS:

#### WHAT ARE EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL BORROWINGS?

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- ECB is basically a loan availed by an Indian entity from a nonresident lender.
- Most of these loans are provided by foreign commercial banks and other institutions.
- It is a loan availed of from non-resident lenders with a minimum average maturity of 3 years.
- In the post reform period, ECBs have emerged a major form of foreign capital like FDI and FII.
- External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) includes commercial bank loans, buyers' credit, suppliers' credit, securitized instruments such as Floating Rate Notes and Fixed Rate Bonds etc., credit from official export credit agencies and commercial borrowings from Multilateral Financial Institutions.
- ECBs are being permitted by the Government as a source of finance for Indian Corporate for expansion of existing capacity as well as for fresh investment

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## XBRL RETURNS – HARMONIZATION OF BANKING STATISTICS

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### NOTIFICATIONS

- The Reserve Bank has harmonized 83 definitions.
- Some important definitions are given below:

### CONSUMER CREDIT

Consumer credit refers to the loans given to individuals, which consists of

- a) loans for consumer durables,

- b) credit card receivables,
- c) auto loans (other than loans for commercial use),
- d) personal loans secured by gold, gold jewellery, immovable property, fixed deposits (including FCNR(B)), shares and bonds, etc., (other than for business / commercial purposes), (e) personal loans to professionals (excluding loans for business purposes), and
- e) loans given for other consumptions purposes (e.g., social ceremonies, etc.).

**However, it excludes**

- a) education loans,
- b) loans given for creation/ enhancement of immovable assets (e.g., housing, etc.),
- c) loans given for investment in financial assets (shares, debentures, etc.), and
- d) consumption loans given to farmers under KCC(Kisan Credit Card).

**PERSONAL LOANS**

Personal loans refers to loans given to individuals and consist of

- a) consumer credit,
- b) education loan,
- c) loans given for creation/ enhancement of immovable assets (e.g., housing, etc.), and
- d) loans given for investment in financial assets (shares, debentures, etc.).

**SLIPPAGE**

- Slippage refers to new accretion to NPAs during a period.

**STANDARD ADVANCES**

- Standard advance is an advance which is not non-performing as per extant IRAC and provisioning norms.

**SUBSTANDARD ADVANCES**

- A substandard advance is one, which remains non-performing for a period less than or equal to 12 months.

**DOUBTFUL ADVANCES**

- An advance which remains in the substandard category for a period of 12 months.

**RESTRUCTURED ACCOUNTS**

- A restructured account is one where the bank, for economic or legal reasons relating to the borrower's financial difficulty, grants to the borrower, concessions that the bank would not otherwise consider.
- In other words, extension or deferment of EMIs to individual borrowers as against to an entire class, would render the accounts to be classified as 'restructured accounts'.

**TREASURY BILLS**

- Treasury bills are short term negotiable non-coupon bearing instruments issued by the Government of India.

### **LONG-TERM TIME DEPOSIT**

- Long-term time deposits are deposits of contractual maturity of more than one year.

### **CORE DEPOSITS**

- Core deposits is the sum of all deposits (including current and savings accounts) with maturity of more than a year.

### **UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS**

- All accounts in India which have not been operated for 10 years.
- Provided that in case of money deposited for a fixed period the said term of 10 years shall be reckoned from the date of expiry of such period

### **OFFSHORE BANKING UNITS**

- An offshore banking unit is a branch of a bank located in a special economic zone (SEZ).

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## **MASTER DIRECTION – FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN INDIA**

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### **NOTIFICATION**

- Reserve Bank of India has revised the Regulations on foreign investment in India.
- RBI has repealed the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of security by a person resident outside India) Regulations, 2000 and Foreign Exchange Management (Investment in a Firm or Proprietary Concern in India) Regulations, 2000.
- Both of them are replaced with the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or issue of security by a person resident outside India) Regulations, 2017.
- The rationalized Regulations have been framed keeping in view the objective of promoting ease of doing business, both from the regulatory as well as supervisory perspective.
- The master directions inter alia list out prohibited sectors/ persons, entry routes and Permitted sectors, permitted investments by persons resident outside India, mode of payment, pricing guidelines, downstream Investment, taxes and remittance of sale proceeds etc.

### **PROHIBITED SECTORS/ PERSONS**

1. Investment by a person resident outside India is prohibited in the following sectors:
  - Lottery Business including Government/ private lottery, online lotteries.
  - Gambling and betting including casinos.



- Chit funds (except for investment made by NRIs and OCIs on a non-repatriation basis).
  - Nidhi company.
  - Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).
  - Real Estate Business or Construction of Farm Houses.
  - Manufacturing of Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes.
  - Activities/ sectors not open to private sector investment viz., (i) Atomic energy and (ii) Railway operations
  - Foreign technology collaboration in any form including licensing for franchise, trademark, brand name, management contract is also prohibited for Lottery Business and Gambling and Betting activities
2. Any investment by a person who is a citizen of Bangladesh or Pakistan or is an entity incorporated in Bangladesh or Pakistan requires prior Government approval.
  3. A person who is a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can, only with the prior Government approval, invest in sectors/ activities other than defense, space, atomic energy and sectors/ activities prohibited for foreign investment.

## FORMATION OF NEW DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF ASSAM - ASSIGNMENT OF LEAD BANK RESPONSIBILITY

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### NOTIFICATION

- The Government of Assam had notified the creation of eight new districts in the State of Assam.
- It has been decided to assign the lead bank responsibility of the new districts.  
(Note: no need to go after minute details)
- There is no change in the lead bank responsibilities of the other districts in the State of Assam.

### IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS:

#### WHAT IS A LEAD BANK?

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- Under the lead bank scheme administered by RBI since 1969, a bank (can be private or public) leads the consortium of all banks in the area. The role of lead bank is to coordinate the efforts of all banks in the area for credit expansion to sectors which are important to economy.

#### NEED FOR LEAD BANK SCHEME

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1. The private commercial banks had (still has) very low presence in the rural areas and even if they were present their contribution to rural and agriculture sector was low (Gadgil Study Group)
2. It was felt that the optimum way for PSB to perform their social responsibility was to follow an area approach, where these banks would focus on their particular assigned area. (Nariman Committee)
3. Lead banks would also help in efficient utilization of funds under priority lending scheme

#### CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF LEAD BANKS

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1. The bank should have significant number of branches in the given area/district.
2. The bank should have sufficient financial and manpower resources to fulfill the responsibilities of lead bank

## EXIM BANK'S GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SUPPORTED LINE OF CREDIT OF USD 100 MILLION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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#### NOTIFICATION

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has entered into an agreement the Government of the Republic of Kenya for making available to the latter, a Government of India supported Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 100 million (USD One Hundred million only).
- The LOC is for agricultural mechanization project in Kenya.
- Out of the total credit by Exim Bank under this agreement, goods and services of the value of at least 75 per cent of the contract price shall be supplied by the seller from India and the remaining 25 per cent of goods and services may be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from outside India.
- The goods include plant, machinery and equipment and services include consultancy services.
- The Agreement under the LoC is effective from January 01, 2018. Under the LoC, the terminal utilization period is 60 months after the scheduled completion date of the project.

#### IMPORTANT TERMS:

##### WHAT IS LINE OF CREDIT (LOC)?

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- A line of credit, abbreviated as LOC, is an arrangement between a financial institution, usually a bank, and a customer that establishes a maximum loan balance that the lender

permits the borrower to access or maintain.

- The borrower can access funds from the line of credit at any time, as long as he does not exceed the maximum amount set in the agreement and as long as he meets any other requirements set by the financial institution, such as making timely minimum payments.

## EXIM BANK'S GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SUPPORTED LINE OF CREDIT OF USD 71.40 MILLION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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### NOTIFICATION

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has entered into an Agreement with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for making available to the latter, a Government of India supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 71.4 million (USD Seventy one million four hundred thousand only) for the purpose of financing the Upgradation of four Military Hospitals.
- Out of the total credit by Exim Bank under this agreement, goods and services of the value of at least 75 per cent of the contract price shall be supplied by the seller from India and the remaining 25 per cent of goods and services may be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from outside India.
- The goods include plant, machinery and equipment and services include consultancy services.
- The Agreement under the LoC is effective from December 15, 2017.
- Under the LoC, the terminal utilization period is 60 months after the scheduled completion date of the project.

## AUCTION FOR SALE (ISSUE/RE-ISSUE) OF GOVERNMENT STOCK (GS)

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### NOTIFICATION

- Government of India(GoI) notified sale(re-issue) of the Government Stocks
- The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the auctions.
- The Government Stock up to 5% of the amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions as per the enclosed Scheme for **Non-competitive Bidding Facility** in the Auctions of Government Securities.
- Bids for the auction was submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core

Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.

- The Stock will be eligible for **"When Issued"** trading in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Issuing Authority:** Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

## IMPORTANT TERMS

### 1. WHAT ARE GOVERNMENT STOCKS/BONDS/SECURITIES?

- One of the bonds sold by a government to finance its budget deficit (the difference between what it gets in taxes and what it spends). Government bonds are usually considered to be a very safe form of investment.
- A government security is a bond issued by a government authority with a promise of repayment upon maturity. Government securities such as savings bonds, treasury bills and notes also promise periodic coupon or interest payments. These securities are considered low-risk, since they are backed by the taxing power of the government.
- The terms on which a government can sell bonds depend on how creditworthy the market considers it to be. International credit rating agencies will provide ratings for the bonds, but market participants will make up their own minds about this.

### 2. WHAT IS NON-COMPETITIVE BIDDING FACILITY?

- To encourage retail participation in the primary market for Government Securities, the facility of non-competitive bidding in Dated Government Securities and Treasury Bills auctions has been introduced. This will enable the investor to purchase a specified number of securities at the weighted average rate of the accepted competitive bids.

#### 1. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEME?

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- Participation in the Scheme of non-competitive bidding is open to retail investors. Retail investor is any person including individuals, firms, companies, corporate bodies, institutions, provident funds, trusts and any other entity as prescribed by RBI.

#### 2. WILL NON-COMPETITIVE BIDDING BE ALLOWED IN ALL AUCTIONS?

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No. It will be decided by the RBI, on particular basis.

#### 3. WHAT IS E-KUBER?

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- e-Kuber is the Core Banking Solution of Reserve Bank of India. E-Kuber provides the provision of a single current account for each bank across the country, with decentralised access to this account from anywhere-anytime using portal based services in a safe manner.
- Core Banking Solutions (CBS) can be defined as a solution that enables banks to offer a

multitude of customer-centric services on a 24x7 basis from a single location, supporting retail as well as corporate banking activities, as well as all possible delivery channels existing and proposed. The centralisation thus makes a "one-stop" shop for financial services a reality. Using CBS, customers can access their accounts from any branch, anywhere, irrespective of where they have physically opened their accounts. Almost all branches of commercial banks, including the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), are brought into the core-banking fold.

- Core Banking Solutions (CBS) marked a paradigm shift as it made a bank's particular branch customers, now bank customers as they can access their accounts from any branch for defined purposes. CBS links all branches of a bank and offers opportunities for information management, better customer service and improved risk management.
- e-Kuber enables ease of operations. The system also benefits state /central Governments as users. Some of the facilities offered include the provision of portal based access which allows Government departments to access on anywhere-anytime basis and view their balances – of all types including the Ways and Means Advances, drawings, funds positions and the like – all in a consolidated manner so as to help them in better funds management. The capability of consolidating revenue collections by banks through the e-Kuber offers the potential for better flexibility for the Government in managing its finances apart from moving over towards higher levels of electronic banking.
- The e-kuber system can be accessed either through INFINET or Internet. The INFINET is a Closed User Group Network for the exclusive use of member banks and financial institutions and is the communication backbone for the National Payments System, which caters mainly to inter-bank applications like Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), Delivery Vs Payment, Government Transactions, Automatic Clearing House, etc.
- The e-kuber system, implemented in 2012, is reported to be one of the foremost central bank oriented Core Banking Systems in the world.
- Auction of Government securities is done through e-kuber system. Sovereign Gold Bonds are available for subscription at the branches of scheduled commercial banks and designated post offices through RBI's e-kuber system. Goods and Service Tax (GST) settlements are also proposed to be done through e-kuber. On 7 April 2016, RBI launched a platform to enable trading in the priority sector lending certificates (PSLC) through its Core Banking Solution (CBS) portal (e-Kuber).

#### 4. WHAT IS 'WHEN ISSUED' TRANSACTIONS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES?

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- As part of restructuring the debt issuance framework in light of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, the Internal Technical Group on Central Government Securities had recommended introduction of 'When Issued' markets in

Central Government Securities.

- 'When Issued', a short form of 'when, as and if issued', indicates a conditional transaction in a security authorized for issuance but not as yet actually issued. All 'when issued' transactions are on an 'if' basis, to be settled if and when the actual security is issued.

**'WHEN ISSUED' MARKET HAS TWO BASIC ADVANTAGES: -**

- a. It facilitates the distribution process for Government securities by stretching the actual distribution period for each issue and allowing the market more time to absorb large issues without disruption.
- b. 'When Issued' market also facilitates price discovery process by reducing uncertainties surrounding auctions.

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## AUCTION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DATED SECURITIES

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### NOTIFICATION

- Government of India has offered to sell (re-issue) **dated securities**.
- The Reserve Bank of India will conduct the auctions.
- Government Stock up to 5% of the notified amount of sale will be allotted to the eligible individuals and institutions under the Scheme for **Non-competitive Bidding Facility** in the Auctions of Government Securities.
- Both competitive and non-competitive bids for the auction should be submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (**E-Kuber**) system.
- The Stocks will qualify for the **ready forward facility**.
- The Stocks will be eligible for "**When Issued**" trading during a definite period.
- An investor can submit more than one competitive bid at different prices in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.
- **Who are eligible:** All Scheduled Commercial Banks and All State Co-operative Banks/All Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks /All Financial Institutions/All Primary Dealers.

### IMPORTANT TERMS

#### 1. WHAT ARE DATED GOVERNMENT SECURITIES?

- Dated Government Securities are longer term securities and carry a fixed or floating coupon (interest rate) paid on the face value, payable at fixed time periods (usually half-yearly).
- The Public Debt Office (PDO) of the RBI acts as the registry/depository of

Government securities and deals with the issue, interest payment and repayment of principal at maturity.

- Most of the dated securities are fixed coupon securities.
- The nomenclature of a typical dated fixed coupon Government security has the following features- coupon, name of the issuer, maturity and face value.

#### DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOVERNMENT DATED SECURITIES

- Zero Coupon Bonds
- Floating Rate Bond
- Tap Stock
- Partly Paid Stock
- Capital Indexed Bonds
- Inflation linked Bonds
- Fixed Rate Bonds

#### 2. READY FORWARD FACILITY

- A repo is also sometimes called a ready forward transaction as it is a means of funding by selling a security held on a spot (ready) basis and repurchasing the same on a forward basis.
- When an entity sells a security to another entity on repurchase agreement basis and simultaneously purchases some other security from the same entity on resell basis it is called a double ready forward transaction.

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## UNIT 2: GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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### PROMOTE YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS

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- Recently, Minister of Science and Technology, Harshavardhana launched four new schemes to promote young scientists and researchers in the country. They are
- Teacher Associate ship for Research Excellence (TARE) Scheme
- Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship
- Distinguished Investigator Award
- Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)'
- These four schemes are instituted by the SERB (Science Engineering Research Board) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- All schemes come into force from February 1, 2018.
- The schemes focus on youth to empower, recognise and motivate them

#### **TARE SCHEME: TEACHER ASSOCIATESHIP FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE SCHEME:**

- The main aim of this scheme is to connect the educators to leading public funded institutions like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science (IISC) or national institutions like CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) to pursue research.
- Under Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) scheme 500 teachers will be assisted
- They will be paid Rs. 5 lakh yearly, and a monthly out-of-pocket expense of Rs.5, 000

#### **OVERSEAS VISITING DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

- Under Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship scheme the government of India offers support to 100 PhD scholars for training in universities and laboratories in foreign countries.
- Under this scheme, support will be provided Up to 12 months during their doctoral research.
- Under this scheme fellowship equivalent to USD 2,000 would be given to scholars as a monthly stipend and one-time contingency allowance of Rs 60,000 would be given to cover travel and visa fee.

#### **DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

- Under this scheme, the government offers a maximum of 100 fellowships to principal investigators of Science and Engineering Research Board/Department of Science and Technology projects.
- The selected 100 researchers will be given a monthly fellowship of Rs 15,000 for three years and an optional research grant, based on peer review of the project proposal submitted.

#### **AUGMENTING WRITING SKILLS FOR ARTICULATING RESEARCH (AWSAR)**

- The purpose of the scheme is to encourage science writing.
- The scheme seeks to tap the potential of over 20,000 PhD scholars in science to popularise and communicate their research outcome.



- AWSAR carries a monetary incentive of Rs. 10,000/- each of 100 best entries in a year and a Certificate of Appreciation, besides getting the story published.
- Three leading stories from the selected 100 would be awarded Rs. 1 lakh, Rs.50, 000/- and Rs. 25,000/- respectively.

## RURAL BANKING SCHEMES IN INDIA

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- The Rural development is the foremost objective in India. It aimed at expanding the branch placement towards unbanked locations. The second major objective is to give importance to lending towards priority sectors.
- The major target groups are agriculturists, small businessman and entrepreneurs. The Reserve Bank of India used its control over the banking sector via the lead bank scheme to ensure that these targets are adequately implemented.
- The branch expansion program in unbanked rural or semi-urban population was not served by any commercial banks before. During the rural banking era, unbanked locations were identified by the 'Lead Bank'.The RBI would circulate the list of unbanked locations to all banks.
- The RBI has also maintained a licensing criterion which stated how many branches at unbanked locations a bank must open in order to be eligible to open a branch at an already banked location.The RBI has also set targets regarding the number of unbanked locations, which were to be banked during the BBE program (Banking Branch Expansion) to meet these targets.Under this program, unbanked locations were allocated to nationalized banks.

### GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The priority sector lending concept is recognized as "Social Banking" with all its new dimensions.The major objective is to make sure that more credit flows towards agricultural, small transport operators, retail trade, cottage, village, tiny industries and small-scale industries. As, agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy.The government has sponsored many schemes in rural areas for upliftment and betterment of rural people under rural banking. As per all government schemes, finance is provided by government banks.

**These schemes are as follows:**

#### SWARANJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA (SGRY)

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- The SGRY scheme was launched by the Government of India on 1st April 1999 by restructuring the six programmes-Integrated Rural Development Programme, Development of Women & Children in rural areas, Training for Rural Youth for Self

employment, Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans, Ganga Kalyan Yojana, Millions Wells Scheme.

- By this scheme, it identified the eligible beneficiaries with the involvement of Gram/local authorities in a transparent manner. It lends to individuals or group (SHGs) and selecting beneficiaries from BPL families by a team of three members (Bankers, Development officer, Sarpanch). Individuals or groups below poverty line whose income does not exceed 11,500/- sponsored by DRDA reserve quota for SC/ST-50 %, Women-40% and Disabled 3%.
- In the scheme, the provision for training like basic orientation and skill development is included. The subsidy will be at 30% of the project, subject to a maximum Rs7500/- In accordance with SC/ST it will be 50% of the cost of the project, subject to a ceiling of Rs 1.25 lakhs. There will be no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation projects.

#### PRIME MINISTER ROZGAR YOJANA (PMRY)

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- The PMRY was implemented on 2nd October 1993 which aims at providing sustained employment to the educated unemployed youth.
- Age: 18-35 years for all educated unemployed in general with 10 years relaxation for SC/STs, ex-servicemen, women and physically handicapped.
- Educational Qualification: Minimum qualification for this scheme is 8th pass. Preference for those trained in government recognized/approved institution for a duration of at least 6 months.
- Family Income: The family income should not exceed Rs.10000/- per annum.
- Residence: Permanent resident of the area for at least 3 years.
- Defaulter: Not be a defaulter of any nationalized bank/financial institutions/cooperative banks. Activity Covered: All economically viable activities including agricultural and allied activities excluding raising crop etc.
- Project Cost: Rs 2 lakh for the business sector, Rs 5 lakh for other activities.
- Reservation: In this scheme, preference will be given to weaker sections including women. The scheme includes 22.5% reservation for SC/ST and 27% for other backward classes OBC.

#### KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRY COMMISSION:

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- Its main aim is to create more employment opportunity in rural areas the Khadi Gram Udyog Commission has initiated a margin Money Bank Finance Plan since 1996-97. Its economic aim of helping in the manufacture of things that can be sold in the market.
- The Margin Money Bank Plan is for setting up village industries and there is a provision of giving 25% to 30% of subsidy upon the sanctioning of the loan. The scheme provides for various cooperative committees like the individual, Khadi gramudyog for arranging loans

from the bank's in an area with a population of 20000 and where per capita permanent capital investment is not more than 100000/-.

- The aim of this scheme is to provide self-employment and subsidy to rural entrepreneurs. Under this scheme, the loan will be provided for rural industrialization and employment generation.

#### PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJNA (PMJDY)

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- It was launched on 28th August 2014. The scheme has been launched with a target to provide "Universal access to banking facilities". Under this scheme account holders will be provided zero balance bank A/c with Ru pay debit card in addition to accidental insurance cover of 1 lakh after 6 months of opening of bank a/c holders can avail Rs. 5000 overdraft from the bank.
- A monitoring mechanism/MIS would be bought in place for online monitoring for ensuring proper coverage of villages.

#### BHAMASHAH YOJNA

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- It was launched on 15th August 2014 by CM of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje. It aimed at the financial inclusion of women and also provide cash amount of Rs 2000 in the name of a woman head of every BPL family of the state in 2 instalments. Bank A/c are also being opened for about 1.5 crore families and the second instalment of Rs 1000 would be transferred in bank account 6 months after the first instalment. Conclusion:
- It can be concluded that Rural Banking plays an important role in providing credit and other financial services to the poor. It helps in raising the standard of living of rural people and contributes towards social development. The government has taken many steps for the development of rural banking. In India, while one segment of the population has an access to an assortment of banking services surrounded by regular banking facilities and portfolio counselling.
- In particular, a growth of information technology and its application in banking would warrant a thorough review of products, procedures and linkages among rural financial institutions.

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SECURITY

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### KEY INFORMATION:

- Launched on: 8th January 2018
- Commencement from: Mid. of the year 208
- Launched by: Central Government of India
- Policy formulation: The Ministry of Labour and Employment

## OBJECTIVE:

- To give equal benefit to organized as well as unorganized sector labours and workers
- To guarantee social security to the poor section of the labourers

## INTRODUCTION:

- The central government of India has launched social security scheme but the commencement will start at the latter part of the year 2018.
- An aim of this scheme is to cover all the formal and informal sector labour and workers.
- This scheme will give assurance and take care the weaker section of the workers along with it this scheme will give safety to informal sector workers.
- The financial allocation for this scheme will be subsumed by the central government and state government also.
- This scheme will help to bring unorganized sector workers to an organized economy.

## REASONS BEHIND LAUNCHING THIS SCHEME

- In a survey, it is found that around 93% of the workforce across the country is in the disordered sector.
- Another reason is that the workers who work in the same job but their working situations, wages and safety coverage are very poor as compared to the formal sector workers.
- In the EPFO and ESIC, the employer and employee have to make the same contribution but sometimes the employee is not in a position to contribute.
- This scheme will particularly focus on the workers of a poor section.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHEME

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has drafted a blueprint of the social security scheme to implement in the whole nation.
- This scheme is going to cover various benefits like pension, Disability and Death insurance, Maternity Benefits and Medical along with the Unemployment Allowances.
- The financial allocation for this scheme will be subsumed by the central government and state government also.
- This scheme will cover those workers and labours who are not included under the Employee Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- The central government has also planned to give Rs 300 for a pension to the old age people and the state government will also allocate some fund for it.
- To make this scheme successful, the central government has introduced "Code on Wages Bill" which intends to settle a national minimum wage for the workers. This code will merge 44 labour laws into 4 codes which are related to Industrial Relations, Wages, Social Security, Safety, Health and Working Conditions.

- The Acts are Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

## NEW 7.75% SAVINGS (TAXABLE) BOND SCHEME

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### KEY INFORMATION:

- Launched on: 5th January 2018
- Commenced from: 10th January 2018
- Launched by: Government of India and Reserve Bank of India
- Inaugurated by: Union Finance minister, Arun Jaitley
- Maturity period: 7 years
- Replaces to: 8% savings Scheme

### OBJECTIVE:

- To help citizens invest in a taxable instrument, without any monetary ceiling.
- This will facilitate resident of Indian or Hindu Undivided Families (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling.

### INTRODUCTION:

- 7.75% savings (Taxable) bond scheme is jointly launched by the Government of India and Reserve bank Of India.
- This scheme will replace old 8% savings bond scheme which was closed on 2nd January 2018 and this new scheme will start subscription from 10th January 2018.
- This 7.75% savings (Taxable) bond scheme will give a steady flow of income although there is a lower rate of interest.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHEME

- In this bond scheme, only Indian resident can make investment means NRIs are not eligible to invest in this bond scheme and issued only in DEMAT form.
- 7.75% savings (Taxable) bond is non-transferable means a bondholder cannot transfer power to anyone else and cannot sell it on the secondary market.
- This bond has a minimum subscription face value of Rs 1000 and multiplication of it.
- There is no maximum limit for investment set by the central government it means an investor can invest up to any amount.
- One can invest individually or with a partner like joint investment and HUFs.
- This savings bond scheme has a maturity period of 7 years with interest rate 7.75% which is calculated and paid on a half-yearly basis. there are two types of interest getting methods like one is
- Cumulative and non-cumulative and an investor is free to choose anyone from this two.

- In a Cumulative method, an investor will pay at the end of the maturity period of a bond and in a non-cumulative method; an investor will be paid half- yearly.
- These bonds are exempted under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957 and interest on this bond scheme are taxable under the income tax Act, 1961.
- An investor is able to use these bonds as security to get a loan from the financial Institution like bank, NBFCs or any other.

## PM SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR CAPF AND ASSAM RIFLES

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### INTRODUCTION:

- PM Scholarship Scheme for CAPF and Assam Rifles was launched in the year 2006-07 by the central government of India under the ministry of home affairs.
- It is funded by the National Defence Fund under the central government of India.

### OBJECTIVE:

- To promote and support higher technical & professional education
- To benefit dependent wards & widows of Central Armed Police Forces & Assam Rifles (CAPFs & AR) Personnel.

### NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES IN 2018:

- Under this scheme, total 2000 of Scholarship to be sanctioned for the equal number of girls and boys.
- The Scholarship is given for each academic year and along with it, new courses are added every year.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### Who are eligible under this scheme?

- Dependents of CAPFs & AR personnel who died in harness/election duty, wards of personnel disabled due to causes attributable to Government service and Dependents of Ex-CAPFs & AR personnel in receipt of Gallantry Awards.
- Dependents of retired and serving CAPFs & AR Personnel who are come under the category of Personnel Below Officer Rank.

#### Entry level minimum qualification

- Continuing first class professional degree in the field of Engineering, Medicine, Dental, Veterinary, BBA, BCA, B. Pharma, B.SC Nursing or Agriculture, MBA and MCA in accordance with the guidelines as mentioned in Para- 8 (B).

- At least 60% marks in Minimum Entry Qualification 10+2 or Diploma or Graduation or equivalent in a case for a new applicant.
- Applicants who are applying under renewal category, it is obligatory to pass each consequent academic year of the professional courses being taken by them with at least 50% marks.
- A grace period of one year is allowed only in one case, where a candidate has delayed to submit application for renewal of scholarship may be considered

### Order of Preference for Scholarship

- The preference will be given on the basis of marks secured by Applicants in Minimum Entry Qualification.
- Category -A Dependents of CAPFs & AR personnel killed in action.
- Category-B Dependents of Ex-CAPFs & AR personnel disabled in action
- Category-C Dependents of deceased CAPFs & AR personnel died for causes attributable to Government service including casualties during the conduct of Election.
- Category-D Dependents of Ex-CAPFs & AR personnel disabled while in service with disability attributable to Government Service.
- Category-E Dependents of Ex-CAPFs & AR personnel in receipt of Gallantry Awards.
- Category-F Dependents of Ex- CAPFs & AR personnel (PBOR).
- Category-G Dependents of serving CAPFs & AR personnel (PBOR) subject to availability of scholarship.

### NOTE:

- Dependents of deceased CAPF/AR personnel will be analysed for a scholarship under Categories "A" to "F" as per applicant's priority, even on the compassionate appointment of spouse/NOK in CAPFs.
- There is no rank restriction for the Categories A to E.
- The Dependents of Assistant Commandant, holding Local Rank of CAPFs & AR are qualified for granting PMS under category "F" & "G" also.
- This scholarship is applicable to only two children per family and should be ensured by the beneficiaries as well as by the respective CAPF & AR.
- The candidates irrespective of their marital status are eligible for PMSS.

### DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Duration of Scholarship depends on the course taken by the applicants and approved by the corresponding regulatory body.

### AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Rs. 2250 per month for girls means Rs 27000 to each girl annually after selection.
- Rs. 2000/- per month for boys means Rs 24000 to each boy annually after selection.

## COURSES AVAILABLE UNDER PMSS:

- First class professional degree courses like BE, B Tech, BDS, MBBS, B.Ed., BBA, BCA, B Pharma, B.Sc. (Nursing, Agriculture, etc.) duly approved by the proper Government Regulatory Bodies like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), University Grant Commission (UGC).

## BANK ACCOUNT

- Aadhar number must be linked to a bank account is mandatory.
- Candidate those satisfied eligibility criteria and applying under PMSS must have an active and valid Account in any nationalized bank with Electronic Clearing System (ECS) or Core Banking, to facilitate the transfer of scholarship amount directly to applicant's bank account.
- For a minor account, the same should be converted into major account.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Documents required for the application areas under
- Service Certificate which is issued by the H.O.O
- Applicants are required to upload duly attested scanned copy of the Mark sheet of Xth and MEQ compulsorily along with the following certificate like
- PPO or discharge certificate, compulsory for category A to F
- Disability Certificate, obligatory for category B & D
- Death Certificate, compulsory for category A & C
- Certificate of Gallantry award, compulsory for category E
- Bonafide certificate issued by college or university

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## NEW HAJ POLICY 2018 - 2022

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### KEY INFORMATION

- Minister of Minority Affairs: Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
- Capital of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh
- Currency of Saudi Arabia: Riyal
- King of Saudi Arabia: Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud
- Minister of Haj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia: Dr. Mohammad Saleh Bin Taher Benten
- **Objective:** To cut down the travel expenses of Haj pilgrims by using sea route.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW HAJ POLICY 2018

- India signed a bilateral agreement with Saudi Arabia to revive the option of sending Haj pilgrims through sea route.



- This agreement is important as Supreme Court of India in 2012 ordered to abolish the subsidies of Haj pilgrimage by 2022.
- The practice of ferrying Haj pilgrims by sea route between Mumbai and Jeddah (city of Saudi Arabia) was terminated from 1995 due to the ship MV Akbari.
- This time, the Haj voyage procedure will be online.
- This new policy aims to reduce the travel expenditure as ship route is quite cheaper than airway.
- Earlier old ships usually taken 12-15 days but these days ship takes 3 to 4 days and covers 2,300 odd-nautical (distance) (1 nautical =1.8 kilometre)
- Ships are well equipped and modern to carry 4000-5000 persons at a time.
- India's Haj quota increased to 1 lakh 75 thousand 25 India Muslim pilgrims.
- This Haj policy strengthens the relation between India and Saudi Arabia.

### **BENEFITS TO WOMEN**

- Indian women can also go to Haj without her "Mehram" (male partner).
- Separate facilities like accommodation and transport facilities will be provided to these women.
- A woman called 'Haj assistant' will also provide in Haj voyage for their assistance.
- Women above 45 years age can go without Mehram (male companion) in a group of 4 or more.
- Women will be exempted from lottery system according to New Haj Policy 2018.

### **Haj SUBSIDY**

- Subsidy means a discount, Indian government gives Haj subsidy to Indian Muslims who want to go Haj by flight; it was started in 1954 by the first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru for only airways between Mumbai and Jeddah.
- Since 1984, all Haj traffic has been shared by only two flights i.e. Air India (India's carrier) and Saudia (Saudi Arabia's carrier).
- Haj subsidy is given to those pilgrims who go through the Haj Committee of India and not by private operators.
- The Haj subsidy is not directly provided to Haj pilgrims but it is provided to Indian air carrier (Air India).

### **WHY SUPREME COURT ELIMINATE SUBSIDY?**

- The Supreme Court of India observed that Haj subsidy had been rising every year with the increase in airfare. So, The Supreme Court of India (a Bench of Justices Aftab Alam and Ranjana Prakash Desai) directed the central to gradually reduce and then abolish subsidy in coming 10 years by 2022. This order was passed in the year 2012.
- Since 2012, Haj subsidy is reducing year by year after the Supreme Court judgement on Haj subsidy.

- But apex Court does not want to make Haj subsidy scrap. The court wants to utilize this subsidy in the upliftment of the society also suggested, using subsidy amount for the educational needs of Muslims.

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## FAME INDIA PHASE 2

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### INTRODUCTION:

- FAME stands for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles and this scheme is a part of National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM) which was set by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises under the central government of India.
- It is launched by the central government of India under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- The central government has allocated total budget for this scheme is Rs 14000 crore.

### BACKGROUND OF FAME INDIA SCHEME:

- The central government of India has introduced FAME India Scheme on 1st April 2015.
- FAME Scheme mainly focuses on four areas Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.
- The first phase of FAME India scheme is 2 years i.e. 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018.
- It also covers Hybrid & Electric technologies like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, and Plug-in Hybrid & Battery Electric Vehicles.
- In the year 2015-16, the central government allocated Rs 75 crore and in the year 2016-2017, Rs 91 crore was allocated.
- The central government has allocated Rs 155 crore for pilot projects, charging infrastructure projects and technological development projects
- From the date of launch, almost 99000 hybrid or electric vehicles (xEVs) have been supported directly by demand incentives.

### FAME INDIA SCHEME 2

- FAME India scheme 2 is going to expand from the 1st April 2018.
- So in the second phase, the aim of central government is to make public transportation system fully electric and to replace all old public transportation vehicles.

### OBJECTIVE:

- 100% electrification of all the Public Transport System
- To support hybrid or electric vehicles market development and Manufacturing eco-system.
- To promote eco-friendly vehicles

### HIGHLIGHTS OF FAME INDIA SCHEME

- FAME India Scheme emphasis on e-vehicles and promote e-mobility.
- It will lessen the level of pollution in India by making public transportation system 100 percent completely electric,

- Under this scheme, all vehicles are entirely electric, worked with a chargeable battery and involve zero emissions.
- The central government will create and expand infrastructure for charging which is necessary for electric vehicles.
- This scheme aims to incentivise all segments of the vehicle that is 2 Wheeler, 3 Wheeler Auto, Passenger 4 Wheeler Vehicle, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.
- The intention of the scheme is to give financial and monetary incentives for adoption and market creation of both hybrid and electric technologies vehicles in the country.
- Its mandate is to promote hybrid or electric vehicles market expansion and its production ecosystem in a country in order to achieve self-sustenance in a specified period.

## SUBSIDY PROVIDED UNDER FAME INDIA SCHEME II

- FAME India Scheme will give subsidy for buses of Rs 72 lakh to Rs 1 Crore, for Taxi Rs 1.24 lakh and for Auto Rickshaw Rs. 37,000 to Rs. 61,000.
- The Central government of India is making efforts to lessen the cost of Lithium-Ion Batteries which is used to run the electric vehicles.

## LIST OF SELECTED CITIES UNDER FAME INDIA SCHEME 2

- Under FAME India Scheme 2, total 11 cities are selected are which are Delhi, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Jammu, Ahmedabad Mumbai Indore, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Kolkata

## MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

- The central government of India has launched electricity based multi-modal transport system under the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- Multi-Modal Transport System need the financial support of Rs 4054.6 crore from the central government in the first phase and more funds for the better implementation in the second phase.
- The central government aims to convert all the fuel stations to charging stations with primary amenities.

## SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2018

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### KEY INFORMATION

- Date of start: 4th January 2018
- Date of completion: 10th March 2018
- Started by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri
- Venue: Delhi
- Covering cities and town: 4041 (500+3541)
- Total marks: 4000 marks
- **Objective:** To encourage citizen involvement and educate them about to make cities and town a cleaner and better place.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2018

**This Survekshan has been divided ranking into two categories:**

1) National Ranking: Those 500 cities whose population is more than 1 lakh will be covered in the national ranking.

2) State and Regional Ranking: Those 3541 cities whose population is less than 1 lakh population will be covered in state and regional ranking.

Ranking	Cities	Population
National Ranking	500	More than 1 lakh
State and Regional Ranking	3541	Less than 1lakh

This is the largest survey which influences more than 40 crore urban area population as well as small cities.

#### **METHOD OF COLLECTING DATA IS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:**

- Collection of data from interactions with Municipal Body/service level progress: 35% weightage will depend on whether the municipal body is implementing Swachh mission or not after verifying all physical document.
- Collection of data from Direct Observation: Under this, 30% weightage will be given on the basis of general cleanliness in cities.
- Collection of data from Citizen Feedback: Under this, 35% weightage depend on citizen feedback. The Citizen can only participate in the survey if citizen resides in the state from last 1 year (at least).
- Under the category of Collection of data from Citizen Feedback, the citizen can participate in online surveyor by downloading Swachhata App.
- Till date, more than 49 lakhs citizens have already downloaded the app.

#### **COMPARISON OF COMPONENT WEIGHTAGE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.**

Component	Weightage of 2018	Weightage of 2017
Interactions with Municipal Body	35%	45%
Direct Observation	30%	25%
Citizen feedback	35%	30%

#### **SURVEY CONDUCT ON THE BASIS OF SIX PARAMETERS**

- By Collecting and Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste: In this parameter, Government will observe that municipal corporation segregated the dry and wet waste and collecting household garbage regularly and keeping public area clean
- Processing and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste: In this parameter, government keep an eye that waste is recycling or not.
- Sanitation-related progress: under this parameter, the government will ensure that public toilet is clean even petrol pump's toilet and another public toilet.
- IEC (Information, Education, and Communication): Under this parameter government will check about how cities are creating awareness among the public regarding swachh surveksan, management of waste material, cleaning the public toilet, etc.
- Capacity Building: It will check that officials were provided opportunities to attend training.
- Innovation and Best Practices: This parameter is new in this survey. This will encourage cities to come forward and do something innovative in making India clean and open defecation free by October 2019.

#### PAST TWO YEARS WINNER OF SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Years	Urban Local bodies (ULB)	Winner
2016	73	Mysuru
2017	434	Indore

## RAJIV GANDHI SCHEME FOR EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS - SABLA

### INTRODUCTION:

- SABLA is a scheme for the empowerment of teenage and young girls was launched under the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)
- It was launched on the 1st April 2011, International day of women.
- In the year 2018, it is extended with an aim to expand and make it applicable in whole India.
- This scheme is managed by the ministry of women and child development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi.

### BACKGROUND OF SABLA SCHEME:

- Scheme for Adolescent was first announced in the year 2010 by the central government of India.
- It was first implemented in 200 districts in the tear 2011 and then further 303 districts were added in the year 2017 to expand this scheme.

- Now, in the 2018 Central government aims to make this scheme universalize by expanding it in the remaining districts.
- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) was merged with two schemes i.e. Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) and integrated child development service scheme (ICDS).

### OBJECTIVE:

- To facilitate self-development and empowerment of young girls,
- To improve their nutrition, nourishment and health status;
- To spread awareness about health, hygiene, nutrition, Adolescent, Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH), and family and childcare
- To improve their home skills, life skills and vocational skills
- To inform and guide to current government services like PHC, CHC, Post Office, Bank, Police Station, etc.

### TARGET GROUP:

- The scheme will cover all the adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years in 202 districts initially.
- The scheme has further divided the age group of 11 to 14 years and 14 to 18 years keeping in view the need for a different age group and to give proper attention to each group.
- The scheme will focus on all out of school adolescent girls, who would assemble at the Anganwadi Centres directed by the central government.
- The school going girls also frequently visit Anganwadi Centres where they will receive living skills, education, nourishment tips and awareness of socio-legal issues.

### SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SCHEME

This scheme provides two types of services that are nutrition segment and non-nutrition segment.

#### 1) NUTRITION SEGMENT

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- Take ration or hot cooked meal to home.
- 11 to 14 years: out of school girls
- 14 to 18 years: out of school girls and on-going school girls.

#### 2) NON-NUTRITION SEGMENT.

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##### Out of school adolescent girls

- 11 to 18 years
- Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation
- Health check-up and Referral services,
- Nutrition & Health Education (NHE),
- Counselling / Guidance on family welfare, adolescent reproductive and sexual health (ARSH), childcare practices
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services
- 16 to 18 years
- Vocational training under National Skill Development Program
- On-going school adolescent girls
- 11 to 18 years

- Nutrition & Health Education (NHE),
- Counselling / Guidance on family welfare, ARSH, child care practices
- Life Skill Education and accessing public services

## FUNDING MODEL

- SABLA Scheme is sponsored by the central government so the centre will give 100 percent finance for all inputs to the state government and union territory.
- But the centre will give up to 50 percent in nutrition segment or the real cost incurred which one is minimum.

## MONITORING MECHANISM

- Monitoring Mechanism set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme which is also used for the SABLA Scheme.
- Performance of SABLA scheme is analysed on a quarterly basis to know the progress and any loophole if sustain.
- The supervision committee is set up at village and block level, Districts level, state level and at the national level.
- A committee will check the progress of the scheme and try to establish the coordination and concurrence between concerned departments.
- The field visit is taken to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and the defined gaps are filled by taking corrective and proper measures.

## MODALITIES OF SABLA SCHEME

### 1) FORMATION OF KISHORI SAMOOH

- Kishori samooH would be of an age group of 15 to 25 years girls in the village and it is formed only when if in a village there are less than 7 Anganwadi centres.

### 2) TRAINING KIT

- A training kit is provided to each Anganwadi Centres to know and learn health, education, nutrition and social and legal issues. A cost of this training kit is Rs 10000 and it includes various games and activities.

### 3) TO CELEBRATE KISHORI DIWAS

- Kishori Diwas is celebrated on every third month decided by the central government for the better implementation and coordination of the scheme.

### 4) KISHORI CARD

- A Kishori card is given to each Adolescent girls and it is managed by the Anganwadi centres.
- It contains information about height, weight, body mass index, Iron Folic Acid, supplementation, referrals and services taken under SABLA.

# HARYANA MONTHLY PENSION SCHEME FOR MEDIA PERSONS

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## INTRODUCTION:

- The Haryana state government has launched a pension scheme for media professionals in a state at Panchkula on the occasion of "Swarna Jayanti Journalist's Meet"
- Under this scheme, a state government will give Rs 10000 as a monthly pension to each media professionals.
- On the day of launch, chief minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar has given a cheque of Rs 100000 to 10 veteran media professionals as a pension.

## OBJECTIVE:

- To give pension to media professionals in a state.

## BENEFICIARIES OF THIS SCHEME

- The Haryana state government will give pension to those selected media persons who are either working daily or evening or weekly or fortnightly or monthly newspapers.
- The state government also give pension to those who work with news magazines, agencies, news channels and radio stations.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Under this scheme, a Haryana state government has some eligibility criteria to avail benefit of this scheme.
- The media professional must be a citizen of Haryana state,
- A beneficiary must be an age of 60 years or above,
- A media professional has at least 20 years of experience in the field,
- A beneficiary must have been accredited with details in the language department, PR sectors and information in the Haryana state for the last 5 years.
- An acclamation will be given to those who have completed 5 years in media profession and it is given by the sub-divisional member of online news portals.
- A beneficiary must have a valid Aadhar card which is linked to the saving bank account in a nationalised bank to deposit directly pension amount into the account.
- A pensioner has to give a certificate in the month of January every.
- Media professionals who are getting pension or honorarium from any other state government or news organisation are also eligible under this scheme.
- In case of demise of pensioner media professional, his spouse will get this monthly pension of Rs 10000 is she or he is not getting any kind of salary, wages, pension or any other type of regular source of income from a state or central government or any other organization.
- If the pensioner is getting the benefit of the pension of less than Rs.10, 000 per month, the entitlement of pension under this scheme would be decreased by that much amount.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF HARYANA MONTHLY PENSION SCHEME

- The Haryana state government will give Rs 10000 as a pension to each media professionals who qualified the eligibility criteria.
- Along with it, the Haryana state government has also launched a policy of life insurance worth Rs 10 lakh and a Rs 5 lakh health insurance policy.
- The media professional will get a health insurance of Rs 5 lakh and life insurance of Rs 10 lakh by paying 50% of the premium amount and the remaining 50% is paid by the State government.



## CONCLUSION:

- This is not the first time that Haryana government come up with a new trend or a scheme. Before this, the state government has also launched many schemes like pension to widower and widowers, pension to disabled people, pension to senior citizen.
- The Haryana state government is constantly making efforts to bring change in a state and make a life of a people prosperous.

## ATAL MAHAAPHAN VIKAS ABHIYAN

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### KEY INFORMATION:

- Announced on: In the year 2017
- Launched by: The Maharashtra state government
- Inaugurated by: Shri Devendra Fadnavis, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra government.

### OBJECTIVE:

- To support and promote non-banking business in a state
- To help and give financial support to cooperative communities to start a new business
- To encourage, assist and supervise young entrepreneurs.

### INTRODUCTION

- Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan is named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and a reason behind launching scheme is that cooperative sector is facing a crisis of funding.
- This new scheme will not only benefit cooperative sectors but also assist and promote many other weaker sections because in rural area cooperative sectors play an important role in development. So, it is the backbone of the provincial economy.
- This new scheme will strengthen and encourage pastoral area and it will create employment opportunity which leads to income generation.
- Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan will also give assistance to the women self-help group and agriculture community to earn income and create job possibility for others.
- This scheme will boost the rural community and bring the standard of living up.
- The Maharashtra state government has launched a new scheme Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan to improve the life of farmers and women in a state, the state government will grant a handful of a fund to start a new business.
- The state government will aim to attract more private organizations to offer fund and promote the agricultural sector.
- This scheme is an effort to sustain and nurture the rural sector by improving the productivity.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF ATAL MAHAAPHAN VIKAS ABHIYAN

- Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan aims to double the income of framers at the end of the year 2022.
- The Maharashtra state government has decided to fund approx. 5000 cooperative societies to start a new business.
- To create awareness and better implementation of this scheme, The Maharashtra state government will run campaigns and drive in each district of the state.

- The Maharashtra state government will, first of all, do registration of primary agriculture cooperative societies who choose non-banking business either public, private or Cooperative Private Partnership (PCPP).
- The cooperative department, under the Maharashtra state government, has started to accept applications to set up the businesses.

## FEATURES OF ATAL MAHAAPHAN VIKAS ABHIYAN

### MOTIVE:

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- The main motive of this scheme is to increase the standard of living of farmers and women in the rural area. It also aims to inspire and assist young blood to take an initiative to set up new business. And all this leads to bring status up of a rural community.

### NEED FOR THE SCHEME:

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- At present, cooperative sector is facing a huge crisis of finance to set up and operate a business. So, this is a try to give financial assistance. This effort will increase the performance of the corporative sector.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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- Through this scheme, a state government will give financial assistance to the selected 5000 cooperative sectors for setting up and start a new non-banking business in a rural area.

### BENEFITS:

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- This scheme will benefit farmers and self-help women groups in a rural community. This will create employment opportunity and create a source of income.

### REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

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- Under Atal Mahaaphan Vikas Abhiyan, primary agricultural cooperative societies will have to register with the state department.

## ODISHA FERTILIZER SUBSIDY SCHEME

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### KEY INFORMATION:

- Launched by: Agriculture department, Odisha state government
- Launched on: 1st January 2018
- Implementation on: 1st February 2018
- Type of benefit: Direct benefit transfer

### OBJECTIVE:

- To provide direct fertilizer benefit transfer to farmers.

- To bring transparency in subsidy scheme

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ODISHA FERTILIZER SUBSIDY SCHEME

- Odisha fertilizer subsidy scheme is launched by Odisha government collaborating with Agriculture department of state government.
- Odisha fertilizer subsidy scheme is an initiative which will work through a point of sale machine at retailer shops and it is a direct benefit transfer which is linked to the farmer's bank account.
- This fertilizer subsidy scheme will benefit only to the selected farmers and the aim is to reach selected one by one and not to all farmers at the same time. This will improve the efficiency of a scheme and transparency in a distribution system.
- The Odisha state government will spend Rs 70000 crore per year for fertilizer scheme.
- Under this scheme, all retailers have to record detail of all activity at the point of sale device.
- This scheme will curb the illicit flow of fertilizers and prevent the fraudulent who always take unnecessary benefits and by doing this, the state government will save a huge amount of money.
- Under this scheme, more than 11680 retailers are eligible and will give a point of sale service and this whole process is done by Odisha agriculture department. But till now it has just included 6174 retailers with a point of sale machine and a target is to include all other remaining retailers at the end of this month.
- The Odisha state government has set up a committee to sell nutrients chemical on an agricultural base.
- Odisha state government is also forming a primary agriculture Cooperative Societies and Large area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies to provide nutrients chemical but only 913 societies have a point of sale device.

## HOW DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER WORK?

- Direct benefit transfer department of fertilizers, the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers will manage and handle all the point of sale machines and retailers.
- All retailers have to compulsory install the latest version of the software and update on regular basis.
- The Recipients have to verify their identity through Aadhar based biometric authentication and it must be linked to a bank account number.
- All the information of buyer will be taken in a retail shop at a point of sales will match to a beneficiary.
- All retailers have to update their stock on regular basis in a system.
- The aim is to connect with all retailers through the current point of sale system so that farmers will get a benefit as soon as possible.

## NARI WEB PORTAL- ONE PORTAL FOR ALL SCHEMES FOR WOMEN

### KEY INFORMATION

- **Launched on:** 2 January 2018
- **Managed by:** Ministry Of Women and Child Development
- **Inaugurated by:** Smt Meneka Gandhi (Union Minister of Women and Child)
- **Portal:** [www.nari.nic.in](http://www.nari.nic.in) / [www.ngomwcd.gov.in](http://www.ngomwcd.gov.in) (e-samvad)

- **Hosted by:** NIC (National Informatics Centre)
- **Objective:** To provide all information related to government schemes and initiatives taken by government for women

### MEANING OF NARI

- NARI means National Repository of Information for Women. Repository means a place where huge data is stored. So it can be said that this website stores huge data related to government schemes in this portal.

### SALIENT FEATURES OF NARI PORTAL

- Gives Suggestion on health check-ups
- Tips on nutrition
- Information about diseases
- Tips for job search and interview
- Advice on investment and saving
- Legal aid cell
- Information about crime against women
- Safety
- Procedure to adopt a child
- Harassment at workplace

### OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

- This is the only official website since Independence which lists down each and every scheme of government. The portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
- This is a single portal to provide information regarding government schemes (both central and state) for women. This portal covers 350 plus schemes and other important information like job search, legal advice, and many other facilities which will be updated on real-time basis
- This portal helps to create awareness about central and state government scheme for women like Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, old age pension scheme, Maulana Azad medical schemes and many more.
- For example, many women are not aware of ONE STOP CENTRE is available in 168 districts for women in difficult circumstances. Some women are not aware that PM Awas Yojana gives priority to the registration of homes in the name of women.
- This portal also counsels us that, which government has launched which scheme and for which purpose.

**The scheme is divided into seven categories:**

1. Pension and insurance

2. Education and research
3. Health
4. Employment and skilling
5. Agriculture
6. Housing and shelter

## OTHERS

- This portal also advises women about legal rights, equality, and women participation. This portal provides information in both languages (Hindi and English).

## E-SAMVAD

- In addition to NARI web portal, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has also launched E-samvad portal. Here 'E' refers to electronic and 'SAMVAD' means conversation.
- This portal is a feedback portal, on which NGOs and Civil society can give their feedback, suggestions, put up grievances, share best practices. All inputs will be recorded with ministry and senior officers of the WCD ministry check the inputs like feedback, suggestions for concerned subject areas and appropriately respond to NGOs and Civil society (who give their inputs). This will help in the formulation of effective policies/scheme and measures for the welfare of women and child.
- On this website, NGOs need to register themselves for giving their feedback and suggestions by using their unique ID of NGOs which is provided by NITI Aayog e-DARPA portal and PAN number
- These two portals are another step toward Digital India.

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## BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

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### INTRODUCTION:

- Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana is launched on 1st January 2018 by Haryana government within a state.
- It is launched by the chief minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar.
- It is managed, regulated and supervised by state agricultural department and state government.
- Objective: To give right price of crops to farmers

### MEANING OF BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

- Bhav means price

- Antar means difference, the difference between the current price of crop and base price fixed by the state government.
- Bharpai means compensation if farmers will sell below base price state government will compensate.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

- In this Yojana, a state government will first try and fix a minimum support price or base price of vegetables for farmers because due to natural or artificial disasters, farmers do not get the right price for their crop.
- A state government will fix base price for each and every crop which is grown in the state.
- It means if farmers sell their vegetable below certain price or at a very low price, this yojana will directly benefit state farmers to the price difference for crop yielded if farmers sell their crop at a low price than the minimum support price fixed by the state government. So, under this yojana, farmers will at least get the least base price.
- The aim of this scheme is to give a common and real price to farmers for their crop.
- Currently, this yojana covers only four crops that are Potato, tomato, onion and Cauliflower.
- To avail benefit for this yojana, farmers have to register online by understanding yojana procedure for the betterment of price otherwise farmers will not get the benefit without online registration.
- To make sure the selling price of crop and do not put farmers in distress situation by giving price which is at least same to cultivation cost.
- A state government aim to bring 25% of the total cultivable area under horticulture.
- This yojana will give relief to state farmers and protect against hazards up to the cost price of a crop so that they will do not bear lose at least.

#### FOR EXAMPLE

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- If Government decided a fixed price of Red chilly Rs10 per kg as a base price and Farmer sold his Red chilly at Rs 7 then the state government will give Rs 3 as compensation.

### FEATURES OF BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA

#### TO EMPOWER FARMERS

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- This scheme will empower farmers and ensure that they will at least do not lose the investment they did.

#### COVER ALL FARMERS

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- This scheme is applicable to all farmers who grow modern or traditional crops.

## FIXED MONETARY BENEFITS

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- Under this scheme, the state government will give the fixed price decided as a base price which directly transferred to farmer's account by calculating the difference between selling price and base price.

## ENCOURAGE FOR INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

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- This scheme will guarantee in case if the actual price is not realized, so farmers can take a risk and try some innovative farming seeds and use some new technology.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Documents required under this yojana are listed below.
- Bank Passbook,
- Aadhar Card,
- Passport Size photograph,
- Voter ID
- Address Proof

## FREE SPACE OPTICAL COMMUNICATION (FSOC) SYSTEM

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### KEY INFORMATION

- Inaugurated On: 27th December 2017
- Inaugurated By: President, Shri Ram Nath kovind
- Inaugurated At: Velagapudi, Amaravathy, Andhra Pradesh
- Objective: To provide cost-effective high-speed internet data connectivity

### WHAT IS FREES SPACE OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM?

- Free space optical communication is also known as optical wireless or INfrared laser which connects to the transmission of modulated visible or infrared (IR) beams in the atmosphere to get optical communications.
- It uses lasers to transmit data in the air and it works on the fundamental rules of an Infrared television remote controls, wireless keyboards or IRDA ports on laptops or cellular phones.

### ATTENDEES

- Chief minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Honorable Minister of IT &Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Mr Nara Lokesh including A. Babu,

- MD of APSFL (Andhra Pradesh State Fibernet Limited), RajulIndukuri,
- Chairman of GTEN,
- AP Economic Development Board and Hari Prasad Vemuru, Technology Advisor to Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Astro Teller, Captain of Moonshots

### **FREE SPACE OPTICAL COMMUNICATION (FSOC) SYSTEM**

- This project is signed by three companies named Andhra Pradesh's fully owned government company named State Fibernet Limited (APSFL), X development LLC and Alphabet's moonshot factory.
- This will raise the potential of Andhra Pradesh by accessing high-speed internet connectivity working on project loon.
- Andhra Pradesh state fibernet limited agency (APSFLA) will implement the management of this Free Space Optical Communication project and due to this; it becomes one of the largest state-owned telecommunication company.
- This project's first phase will cover Households and in the second phase it will try to cover Panchayats and some of it is already connected to the network.
- To boost and develop digital infrastructure with excellent technology by improving and extending internet connectivity in the Andhra Pradesh state.
- It will increase reliability and connect remote and tough area, forest region and river crossings.
- FSOC will provide qualitative and low-cost connectivity in IT, governance, healthcare sector, the education sector and banking and financial services to empower people of a state.
- This will reduce digital divide and foster economic prosperity and improve quality of life.
- X Corporation will supply almost two thousand FSOC links in a state along with engineers and experts who will work in collaboration with APFSL employees to identify and choose the proper site for deployment of FSOC links.
- FSOC is a part of Bharatnnetinitiative and the first to start state lead model in India in an innovative way by using aerial fiber model over utility poles.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF FREE SPACE OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

- This project will cover all sectors and benefit 1, 45,000 thousand houses, more than 12000 Panchayats and 60000 Schools.
- It will also provide internet connectivity to 10000 government departments, 96 municipalities, 14 business organizations and 6000 public health care centres in Andhra Pradesh.
- Under free space optical communication project, APSFLA has already 23000 kilometres in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh state out of 55000 kilometres which was the target to be achieved.



- It was set up to give high quality with affordable digital services like data, information and video to each household, Government departments and private companies to connect nearly 53 million people in a state.
- FSOC has 52% of a ring and 48% of linear connectivity which covers almost 85% of the home.
- Target is to connect 12 million home and 130000 government and private organizations at the end of 2019.
- It will provide high bandwidth to Telecom Company to connect more than 15000 towers to link with microwave to increase service from 2g to 3g or 4g with a speed of 20Gbps at a distance of 20 kilometres.

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## UNIT 3: CURRENT AFFAIRS

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### BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS:

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- The IICA (Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs) and the IPPB (Indian Post Payments Bank) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the training of employees of the IIPB in the field of payments banking.
- The Reserve Bank of India is ready to issue Rs. 10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
- Government launches 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds 2018.
- Paytm Payments Bank, IndusInd Tie up for FD Facility.
- RBI Initiates PCA Against Allahabad Bank.
- NABARD Sanctioned Rs 372.51 crore to Odisha.
- Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank Introduces Desktop ATMs in Rural India.
- SBI, NABARD Tie up to Promote Joint Liability Groups in Bengal.
- India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.
- IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc. at the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

- Retail inflation crossed the RBI's comfort level and rose to 5.21 percent in December on rising in prices of food items, egg and vegetables, dashing hopes of interest rate cut in the near future. The retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 4.88 percent in November.
- In the financial year 2016-17, total FDI of US \$ 60.08 billion has been received, which is an all-time high. The Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved amendments in FDI Policy and further liberalized few of the policies of FDI.
- World Bank has projected India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 for the next two years. According to the 2018 Global Economics Prospect release, despite initial setbacks from demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST), India's economy is estimated to have grown at 6.7 percent in 2017.
- The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to December 2017 show that net collections are at Rs. 6.56 lakh crore which is 18.2% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.
- Indian Overseas Bank and NHB tie up for Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme. Small Finance and Payments Banks to Offer Atal Pension Yojana. The government has announced 88,139 crores rupees' capital infusion in 20 public sector banks
- IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc. announced their plan to introduce the first battery-powered Interactive Payment Cards at the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES).
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched Global Manufacturing Index which is topped by Japan.
- IRFC's Green Bonds: India INX lists 1st Debt Security at IFSC.
- Amplus Energy Solutions announced entering into a pact with private sector lender Yes Bank for the strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
- HDFC Bank Becomes 1st Indian Bank to Cross Rs5 trillion Market Capitalisation.
- Bank of Baroda Partners with Invoicemart as a TReDS Partner.
- IDFC Bank, Capital First to merge in Share Swap Deal.

## APPOINTMENTS

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- Vijay Keshav Gokhale who served as an ambassador to China and currently serving as the secretary (economic relations) has been named as India's next foreign secretary.
- Former RAW chief Rajinder Khanna appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor.
- Abhay has taken charge as the new chief of the NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau).
- Pankaj Jain Assumes Charge as IIFCL Managing Director.
- Vinay Sahasrabuddhe Named ICCR Chief.

- Diplomat T S Tirumurti has been appointed as the Economics Relations Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.
- The Chief Minister of Sikkim Pawan Chamling officially declared A R Rahman to be the new Brand Ambassador of Sikkim.
- Dilip Asbe has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India), an umbrella organization for retail payment systems in India.
- Rocket scientist K. Sivan, currently Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre has been appointed as the Chairman of the Space Commission and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for three years.
- The Indian Olympic Association appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
- Supreme Court collegium recommended senior advocate Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the apex court.
- Senior Sports Administrator Anil Khanna was named as the Chairman of the Finance Commission of the IOA (Indian Olympic Association)
- Market regulator SEBI has approved the appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of the country's largest agri-commodity bourse NCDEX.
- Om Prakash Rawat appointed new Chief Election Commissioner.
- S Somnath appointed Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO, Allahabad Bank, has been elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- FICCI Appoints Dilip Chenoy as Director General.
- Sudeep Lakhtakia Appointed New DG of National Security Guard.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- With an aim to make India a better country with the involvement of youth, National Youth Day is celebrated across the country on 12th January every year.

## OBITUARIES

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- Veteran Poet Anwar Jalalpuri Passes Away.
- Odia actor, director Ananta Ojha passes away.
- Politician, R Margabandhu passes away.
- Former Maharashtra Minister Madhukarrao Kimmatkar passes away.
- Baldev Raj, the director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, and a renowned administrator of nuclear power technologies in the country has passed away. He was 70 years old.

- Powerlifting world champion Saksham Yadav died of his injuries after a road accident near Delhi. He was injured in car accident.
- Peter Sutherland, the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), has passed away in Dublin, Ireland. He was 71.
- Legendary astronaut John Young, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died at 87.
- Famous Cartoonist Chandi Lahiri passed away after a brief period of illness, marking the end of a chapter in Bengal's history of the cartoon. Lahiri was 86.
- Basketball Hall of Famer Jo Jo White, a two-time NBA champion with the Boston Celtics and an Olympic gold medalist, has passed away.
- Former Union Minister Raghunath Jha Passes Away.
- TV actress Charu Rohatgi, known for her roles in serials like 'Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?' and 'Uttaran', passed away.
- Baldev Raj, the director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, and a renowned administrator of nuclear power technologies in the country has passed away. He was 70 years old.
- Veteran Bengali Actress Supriya Devi Passes Away.
- Ursula K. Le Guin, Best-Selling Science Fiction Author Passes Away.
- Hugh Masekela, 'Father of South African Jazz' Passes Away.

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## HONOUR AND AWARDS

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- MAS Chief Ravi Menon Named Best Central Bank Governor in Asia-Pacific.
- Ravi Menon Named Best Central Bank Governor in Asia-Pacific.
- Australia captain Steve Smith has been crowned the International Cricket Council's Test Player of the Year for the second time.
- Indian captain Virat Kohli has been honoured twice in the ICC's annual awards.
- Actor Sudhir Dalvi Gets Janakavi P Sawlaram Award
- 'Hindi Medium' bagged honours in the categories of Best Film and Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for Irrfan Khan's impeccable performance.
- Vidya Balan won her 6th Filmfare award when she was awarded her 4th Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) award for Tumhari Sulu.
- Shah Rukh Khan Honoured with Crystal Award at World Economic Forum.

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## MOUS AND PARTNERSHIPS

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- Cabinet approves MoU between India and UK in transport.
- Cabinet approves Indo-Myanmar agreement on the land border crossing.
- MoU between India and Israel on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector Approved.
- HDFC Bank Partners with Rajasthan Govt. to Promote Start-up Culture.

- India and Saudi Arabia signed the Bilateral Annual Haj 2018 Agreement.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the GCCI (Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and South Korea for Business Corporation
- India and Vietnam Release First-Ever Commemorative Stamps.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Signs MoU with IL&FS for Construction of Zojila Tunnel.
- India and Cambodia Ink 4 Agreements.
- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed an MoU with SME Corporation Malaysia.
- Andhra Pradesh-Zurich Sign Sister State Agreement.

## IMPORTANT NEWS- WORLD

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- Nepal bans solo climbers from scaling Mount Everest and its other mountains to avoid accidents.
- A very unique language called "The Bird Language" or "The Whistle Language" of a Turkish village has become a part of UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- For the first time ever Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced the VAT (Value Added Tax).
- Israel has filed a notice to withdraw from the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) along with the United States.
- 6 new countries comprise of Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands Entered to the United Nations Security Council.
- Egypt's Mohamed Salah has been awarded the Confederation of African Football Player of the Year Title 2017.
- Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT for the first time.
- China develops underwater surveillance networks in the Indian Ocean, South China Sea.
- US puts Pakistan on Special Watch List for severe violations of religious freedom.
- Iceland Becomes 1st Country to Legalise Equal Pay.
- Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 Kicked off at Kathmandu.
- Pakistan State Bank Allows use of Chinese Currency Yuan for Bilateral Trade & Investment Activities.
- The Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Iceland becomes the first country in the world to legalize equal pay in the workplace for equal work.
- The world's largest ice festival "International Ice and Snow Festival" was organized in China's Harbin.
- The Bloomberg Billionaires Index showed that the founder and CEO of Amazon, Jeff Bezos has become the richest man in the history.

- American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise named Iron Fist. The 13th annual Iron Fist exercises kicked off in the U.S. western state of California.
- China became Nepal's second internet service provider, breaking India's monopoly in providing internet access to Nepal.
- UN Environment and the World Health Organization have agreed a new, wide-ranging collaboration to accelerate action to curb environmental health risks that cause an estimated 12.6 million deaths a year.
- By providing Internet access to Nepal, China has become the second Internet service provider of Nepal, breaking India's monopoly in doing so.
- American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise named Iron Fist.
- Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena reimposed a four-decade-long ban on women buying alcohol, just days after his finance minister had lifted the restriction.
- American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise named Iron Fist. The 13th annual Iron Fist exercises kicked off in the U.S. western state of California.
- The third edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the 16th of January.
- The two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) successfully concluded on the 16th of January, setting the stage for taking the dialogue on resilient infrastructure forward at the global level.
- The 10th edition of Global Forum for Food & Agriculture was held in Berlin, Germany from 18th -20th January 2018.
- The World Economic Forum summit at Davos, Switzerland commenced on 22nd January 2018 themed "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World".
- Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.
- Important Dates
- 24th January- National Girl Child Day The theme for this year was "A girl is flower, not a thorn".
- National Voters' Day 2018 in India: 25 January. The theme of this year's National Voters' day is 'Accessible Elections'.
- Nation Celebrates 69th Republic Day.
- Uttar Pradesh Diwas- 24 January.

## IMPORTANT NEWS- INDIA

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- Metro Cards for Public Buses from 31st March 2018.
- A Book Tribute to Pratibha Patil on her completed 50 glorious years in politics.
- The Cabinet of India approved National Medical Commission Bill 2017 which led to doctors' strikes for 12 hours.

- The Minister of Women and Child Development inaugurated online portal NARI in New Delhi to empower women and provide women citizens with easy access to information on various government schemes and initiatives for women.
- Govt. Of India announced Customers will not be charged any transaction charges up to Rs 2000 on making payments through debit cards, BHIM app and Aadhar-enabled payment system.
- Income Tax Department launches on-line chat service.
- The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley unveiled the contours of the Electoral Bonds scheme to clean the political funding system by ensuring that there is a flow of clean money to the political parties without revealing the names of the donors.
- The Union Government has approved the Rs 680 crores strategic Zojila pass tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Namami Gange projects worth Rs 295 crore approved by NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga).
- A new, highly effective vaccine for typhoid (developed by India) has been approved by the WHO (World Health Organization) for global use.
- GAIL commissions India's second largest rooftop solar plant in UP.
- Core sectors' record 6.8% growth in November 2017.
- Government launches NARI portal and e-Samvad portal.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs exempts cruise tourists with e-visa from biometric enrolment till 2020.
- Atal Pension Yojana reaches subscriber base of 80 lakhs.
- World's Biggest Cleanliness Survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan 2018' Launched.
- The Union Minister for Human Resource and Development (HRD), Prakash Javadekar released the AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) for the year 2016-17 in New Delhi.
- The Sports Minister launched the Khelo India logo at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, which has three-stroke Khelo India logo designed by Ogilvy India, has built-in modularity, which offers flexibility in adapting to numerous pictorial forms.
- Centre Proposes e-Sansad and e-Vidhan for Paperless Functioning on 18th Whips Conference started in Udaipur from 8th January 2018.
- The Supreme Court has modified its November 30, 2016, interim order and made it optional for the cinema halls to play the National Anthem before every show.
- The Research arm of the Ministry of Railways, RDSO (Research Design and Standards Organization) has launched the New Online Vendor Registration System.
- First PIO (Persons of Indian Origin) Parliamentary Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Railways has launched the Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) Application.

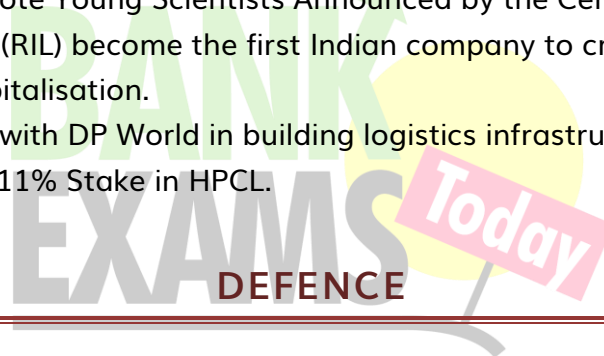
- A new concept of Virtual ID is introduced by the UIDAI to address the privacy concerns. From 1st June 2018, it would be mandatory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept the Virtual ID from their users.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference on "State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions" at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s India International Exchange listed the first bond on its Global Securities Market.
- Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) was held on 12th January 2018 in New Delhi, India.
- 5th bilateral meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between India and Malaysia was held in New Delhi.
- In order to sensitize the people of Delhi about the grave issue of air pollution, the government will begin a two-week awareness campaign (Clean air campaign) from 10th Feb 2018.
- A month-long event of the PCRA (Petroleum Conservation Research Association) 'Saksham 2018' will commence on the 16th January 2018 in a mega inaugural function to be held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.
- The Minister of State for Tourism, K J Alphons launched the 'Incredible India Digital Calendar- 2018'.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Damcho Dorji jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' in India and Bhutan through video-conference.
- India and UK have signed two agreements on the return of the illegal Indian migrants and sharing criminal records and intelligence.
- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in the Indian capital six months after his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, visited Israel becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so.
- India and United States, in order to enhance the military co-operation, will be organising another addition of Vajra Prahar military exercise which will be held in Seattle.
- During the India-Israel Business Summit held in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu launched the maiden call for joint R&D projects under the 'India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)'
- Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurates Gigabit Connectivity with Sri Lanka.
- Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), has launched a competition for college and university students to foster a culture of innovation and creativity in the youth.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2016 to an eminent group of musicians, dancers, and theatre artists.



- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the centre has decided to launch "Operation Digital Board" soon across all government schools in India over the next five years to help students view diagrams and presentations through digital tools.
- Prime Minister Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu dedicated to the nation, the iCREATE facility located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad on the 17th of January.
- The 60th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) was inaugurated on the 17th of January by Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The NITI Aayog launched the first course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) at IIT Kanpur's outreach centre in Noida.
- The Annual Status of Education Report 2017 carried out by NGO Pratham was released in New Delhi.
- India has joined the Australia Group export control regime and has become the 43rd Member of that Group.
- The Housing & Urban Affairs Minister announced the commencement of the Liveability Index Programme in 116 cities.
- National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal launched
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) Crosses One Crore Mark
- India formally became the 43rd member of the Australia Group (AG).
- India Ranks 62nd on WEF's Inclusive Development Index.
- India's to Launch Automated Ocean Pollution Observation System
- IMF: India to Grow at 7.4% in 2018.
- India will host a two days International Conference on dam safety at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- India Signs \$120 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank to improve access to water supply in peri-urban areas in Uttarakhand.
- India Ranks 81st On Global Talent Competitiveness Index.
- India, 5th Most Attractive Market for Investments: PwC Survey.
- India will host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting that is going to be held in New Delhi
- Book by Sheila Dixit "Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998" released.
- Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCL)- India Ranks 81st
- A one-day International Conference on 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process' was hosted by the Election Commission of India in New Delhi.
- India Ranks 177 In Environmental Performance Index.
- India to host informal WTO Ministerial gathering in March 2018.

## **BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- Humanoid Sophia, who got citizenship from Saudi Arabia is on India's visit.
- NASA to launch Parker Solar Probe to explore sun's outer atmosphere.
- NASA to launch two missions — GOLD and ICON to explore the ionosphere.
- India GDP Growth Likely at 6.5% in 2017-18: CSO
- India's GDP Growth at 6.5% in FY18, will Accelerate to 7.6% in FY20: HSBC.
- Flipkart's payment arm PhonePe has partnered with mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the customers of FreeCharge pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- India unveils 'Pratyush' its fastest supercomputer. Pratyush is the fourth fastest supercomputer in the world dedicated for weather and climate research and follows machines in Japan, USA and the United Kingdom.
- India successfully tests fired AGNI 5 missile a surface to surface all-weather missile ranging nearly 5000 KM.
- MeitY Launches Cyber Surakshit Bharat to Strengthen Cybersecurity
- Vodafone India has partnered with e-commerce marketplace Flipkart to provide a range of entry-level smartphones at an effective price of Rs 999.
- 4 Schemes to Promote Young Scientists Announced by the Centre.
- Reliance Industries (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the Rs6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation.
- NIIF has partnered with DP World in building logistics infrastructure, together
- ONGC Acquires 51.11% Stake in HPCL.



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- India and Pakistan exchange list of nuclear sites for the 27th consecutive year.
  - Defence Ministry gives final nod for Barak missiles, PGM bombs.
  - Defence Ministry clears Rs.2420 Crore worth contracts for Navy, Army.
  - Alpha Design Technologies wins firing simulator order from India Army.

## IMPORTANT NEWS- STATES

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- Uder Vikas Samiksha Yatra Bihar Chief Minister laid down foundation stones for more than 100 projects worth Rs 700 Crore in Nalanda district.
- Arunachal Pradesh became the second state in the North-East after Assam to become Open Defecation Free. The three remaining districts of Upper Subansiri, Siang Changlang were declared ODF.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has given New Year gift to the farmers of the state by launching a 24-hours power supply free of cost.
- The Karnataka government announced that Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) which will be the largest B2B event of the country will be held from 28th February 2018.

- APGVB (Andhra Pradesh Gramin Vikas Bank) introduced desktop ATMs in rural India.
- Bhanakpur village of Haryana has become the second village in the country and first in Haryana to sing National Anthem on loudspeakers daily.
- Goa will be hosting the 3rd Edition of the Science Film Festival of India from January 16-19.
- Karnataka receives approval for the purchase of electric vehicles under FAME India scheme.
- CCEA approves construction of bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in J&K.
- NMCG approves five Namami Gange projects in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- West Bengal CM Unveils Official Emblem of West Bengal Government.
- Karnataka to Hold 'Largest B2B Travel Event' in the Country.
- 1st Draft of National Register of Citizens in Assam Released.
- Bhopal becomes the first state to have a 'Happy Nari' sanitary napkin vending machine in the railway station.
- Bandicoot Robots will soon replace men in cleaning up sewer holes in Kerala, ending the age-old practice of manual scavenging in Kerala.
- To commemorate 50 years of the Special Olympics programme, a three-day programme was organized in Kerala.
- NFHS-4 wealth index released: Delhi declared the richest state.
- Maharashtra Unveils Public Cloud Policy.
- Centre Sanctions Projects over Rs. 10,000 cr in North East for Better Network Connectivity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the project commencement of the Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra in Barmer district.
- The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee unveiled the official emblem of the state government which has features the Ashoka Pillar on the top with the theme of "Biswa Bangla" at the centre and was recently approved by the centre.
- Haryana has become the first state in India to launch the High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.
- India's second FTII (Film and Television Institute of India) to be set up in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Karnataka government announced that Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) which will be the largest B2B event of the country will be held from 28th February 2018.
- Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index- Gujarat tops.
- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Manohar Parrikar launched the 'Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities' in Goa.
- Fourth Edition of India International Science Festival to be held in Lucknow
- India's 1st Garbage Festival Organised in Chhattisgarh.

- A replica of the iconic Qutub Minar made out of municipal waste, costing Rs 16 lakh, has been erected in a newly-created street roundabout near the Delhi international airport.
- Telangana, Tokyo Body Sign MoU for Municipal Waste Incineration.
- Delhi Declaration of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.
- Gol, Uttarakhand, And World Bank Sign \$120 Million Loan Agreement for Water Supply.
- 7th Asia Steel International Conference to Be Held in Bhubaneswar.
- Himachal CM Launches 'Shakti' App for Women's Safety.
- Kolkata Becomes 1st Indian Metro to Get a Floating Market.
- AYUSH Minister Lays Foundation Stone for Homeopathy Research Institute in Jaipur.
- Punjab Government Launches Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana.

## SPORTS NEWS

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- Vidarbha Claims Maiden Ranji Trophy in the 84-year long history of the Indian domestic tournament by Delhi by nine wickets at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.
- Indian Golfer Shiv Kapur Wins Royal Cup at Pattaya.
- Meghalaya signs host city contract for 39th National Games in 2022.
- G Sathiyam Becomes India's Highest-Ranked Player in Latest ITTF Rankings.
- The Indian cricket team won the blind world cup 2018 by beating arch-rivals Pakistan by 2 wickets in the final.
- West Indies to Host 2018 Women's World T20.
- Lifter Rakhi Halder Creates New National Record.
- Shuttler Siddharth Singh Wins Swedish Open Junior Badminton Title.
- Vidarbha Claims Maiden Ranji Trophy in the 84-year long history of the Indian domestic tournament by Delhi by nine wickets at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.
- India's Aanchal Thakur created history by winning a medal at the Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup in Turkey organised by The Federation Internationale de Ski, which is international Medal in Skiing.
- Professional player Aditya Mehta won the Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship in the capital city of West Bengal, Kolkata.
- Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million). With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.
- Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy. In the summit clash in Pune, the unseeded French player defeated second-seeded Kevin Anderson in straight sets
- Former world silver medallist Sarjubala Devi claimed the gold medal at the National Women's Boxing Championship.
- Khelo India School Games 2018, a brainchild of Olympian and sports minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, will be held at multiple venues across Delhi from 31st January

2018.

