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WEEKLY CAPSULE

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## POLITY

### India got first US LNG shipment at Dabhol

- India received its first LNG cargo from the US under a long-term supply deal when a ship carrying super-cooled natural gas arrived at **Dabhol (India's biggest gas-fired power plant)** in Maharashtra.
- GAIL India has contracted 3.5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from US (GAIL has long term deals to annually buy **5.8 million tonne of U.S. LNG**), it would be annually receiving about **90 cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG)** from Sabine Pass and Cove Point LNG terminals in the U.S.
- GAIL would be procuring about \$2 billion worth of LNG per annum from the U.S. from fiscal year 2018/19.

### NTPC'S Kahalgaon power plant generated a record over 16,000 million units of power

- National Thermal Power Corporation's Kahalgaon power plant in Bihar has generated a record over 16,000 million units of power in the current financial year which is more than 2.63 per cent as compared to the previous best record.
- The NTPC's Kahalagon unit has also tied up with the Central Institute for Plastics Engineering at Hajipur for providing a six-month-long training to youth, beginning next month.

*Kahalgaon Super Thermal power plant -NTPC-Bihar*

*Plant capacity: 2,340 MW*

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## **Government launched Sand Mining Framework:**

- The Sand Mining Framework was launched by Union **Minister of Mines Narendra Singh Tomar** at **3rd National Conclave on Mines & Minerals in New Delhi** seeking to address the issue of illegal sand mining, non-availability of sand, high sand price, environmental degradation etc.

*It was prepared after wide-ranging consultation*

## **Central Government to fully fund education of martyrs' children:**

- As per a notification by defence ministry, the Central Government will fully fund the education of martyrs' children, scheme covering around **3,400 children** and entails an expenditure of around Rs 5 crore a year currently.
  - Earlier, the education of these children was funded, but only up to Rs 10,000 a month.
  - The concession applies to the children of officers from the armed forces, 'persons below officer rank' missing in action, and those disabled or killed in action.

*The educational concession will be admissible only for undertaking studies in government/government-aided schools/educational institutes/military /Sainik schools and other schools or colleges recognised by the central or state governments, including autonomous organisations financed entirely by the central/state governments.*

***Union Defense Minister- Nirmala Sitharaman (only 2nd woman to hold this post after Indira Gandhi)***



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## **Central task force on AI recommended setting up of N-AIM:**

- A central task force on Artificial Intelligence (AI) has suggested creating a National Artificial Intelligence Mission (N-AIM) that will serve as a nodal agency for coordinating AI related activities in the country.
  - The task force, has identified 10 domains in India, including Manufacturing, FinTech, Agriculture/Food Processing and Education for implementation of AI.
  - Among its recommendation including the setting up of N-AIM with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1,200 crore over five years.

### ***How AI will enhance productivity??***

*AI should be seen as a scalable problem solver in India rather than only as a booster of economic growth .Implementation of technology would actually enhance productivity and referred to agriculture to drive home his point.(AI) will create more opportunities and jobs and make the process of agriculture more reliable. For instance, AI can predict an infection in crops. Therefore it will make agriculture more sophisticated.*

## **SC proposed giving flowers offered in temples to shelter homes for livelihood:**

- The Supreme Court has asked the temples of Vrindavan in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh to give flowers offered by devotees to the shelter homes run for widows and destitute women for making perfume, coloured powder or incense sticks, so that the inmates have a source of livelihood. It also said that the Centre may consider extending this scheme to all major temples of the country at Varanasi, Tirupati and Puri.

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*A bench of justices M B Lokur and Deepak Gupta said that the temples in Vrindavan dump these flowers in river Yamuna which in turn results in pollution.*

## **SC refused to extend May 31 deadline for updation of NRC in Assam:**

- The Supreme Court has refused to extend the **May 31 deadline** for the ongoing process of **publication of the final National Register of Citizens, NRC in Assam** in the wake of panchayat elections in the state, saying the polls should not become an impediment.
  - The bench's remark came after the state government said the panchayat elections were due next month and urged that the employees engaged in NRC work be allowed to be deployed for the polls.
  - The NRC is being prepared to identify illegal migrants in Assam.

### ***About National Register of Citizen***

- NRC contains the names of bona fide Indian Citizens (of Assam) that distinguish them from the foreigners. It is updated periodically. However, in Assam the updation could not be carried on since 1951 due to various political tensions such as Assam Movement of 1980s, the language movement and other ethnic movements.*
- But after the Supreme Court judgment (2014), NRC is now being updated in a time bound manner to incorporate Assam Accord of 1985 in order to tackle the issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh. The NRC will include names of person or their descendants whose name appear in NRC 1951 or any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971.*



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## **Cabinet approval for amendments in National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill:**

- Final MBBS Examination to be held as a common exam across the country and would serve as an exit test called the **National Exit Test (NEXT)**.
- **NEXT** would also serve as the **screening test for doctors with foreign medical qualifications** in order to practice in India.
- The provision dealing with **bridge course for AYUSH practitioners** to practice modern medicine to a limited extent has also **been removed**.
- The **maximum limit** of 40% seats for which **fee would be regulated in private medical institutions** and deemed universities has been **increased to 50% seats**.
- The **nominees of States and UTs** in the NMC have been **increased from 3 to 6**. The NMC will comprise of **25 members** of which at least **21 will be doctors**.

Note -

- **Monetary penalty for a medical college** non-compliant with the norms replaced with provision for different penalty options. The penalty ranges from one half to ten times the annual fee recovered from a batch, to be imposed in a graded manner.
- The **punishment for any unauthorized practice of medicine** has been made severe by including a provision for imprisonment of up to one year along with a fine extending up to Rs. 5 lakhs.

## **Cabinet approval for an integrated scheme for school education:**

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- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal of Department of School Education and Literacy to formulate an **Integrated Scheme on School Education** by subsuming Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2020.
  - An estimated allocation of **75,000 crore rupees** over the period has been approved. It shows **20 % increase** over the current allocations.

*With Prime Minister's vision of **Sabko Shiksha, Achhi Shiksha** -The vision of the Scheme is to ensure **inclusive and equitable quality education** from **nursery to senior secondary** stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal for education.*

*The main emphasis of the Integrated Scheme is on improving quality of school education by focusing on the **two T's - Teacher and Technology**.*

### **Other Cabinet approvals:**

1. Approval for enhancing the scope of **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)**
  - The Government will now contribute the Employer's full admissible contribution for the first three years from the date of registration.
  - The informal sector workers would get social safety net and there would be more job creation.
2. Approval for **continuation of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Education Loans Scheme** and continuation and modification of **Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme** with a financial outlay of **6,600 crore rupees** from **2017-18 to 2019-20**.
  - This will provide education loans to for pursuing professional and technical courses to **10 lakh students** during this period.



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3. Approved the proposal of Ministry of Commerce and Industry for **removal of prohibition on export of all varieties of edible oils except mustard oil.**
  - This is likely to provide additional marketing avenues for edible oils and oilseeds and will benefit the farmers by way of better realisation for oilseeds.
  - The CCEA has also approved empowering the Committee, chaired by Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution to review the export and import policy on all varieties of edible oils.
4. Approval for restructuring of National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** to strengthen governance, implementation and monitoring framework.
  - The restructuring will ensure better corporate governance, transparency and accountability in operations of NSDC and oversight role of NSDF.
  - The NSDC and the NSDF were set up by the Ministry of Finance for implementing coordinated action for skill development.

### **Cabinet approved continuation of Nutrient Based Subsidy and City Compost Scheme till 2019-20**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved for continuation of **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)** and **City Compost Scheme** beyond 12th Five Year plan till 2019-20.
  - The total expenditure for continuation of both the schemes till 2019-20 will be Rs. 61,972 crore.
  - The continuation will ensure that adequate quantity of P&K is made available to the farmers at statutory controlled price.





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Background: Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers.

Also, Cabinet approves fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the year 2018-19

*Financial Outlay for release of subsidy on P&K Fertilizers during 2018-19 will be Rs. 23007.16 crore.*

## **Enhancing the coverage of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)- chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for **enhancing the scope of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)**.
- The Government of India will now contribute the Employer's full admissible contribution for the first three years from the date of registration of the new employee for all the sectors including existing beneficiaries for their remaining period of three years.

*In this scheme, Government is paying the 8.33% contribution of Employers to the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) in respect of new employees (who have joined on or after 1st April 2016) having a new Universal Account Number (UAN), with salary up to Rs. 15,000/- per month.*

## **PERSON/AWARDS/EVENTS**

- The joint managing director of T V Sundram Iyengar and Sons- R. Dinesh previously served CII as vice-chairman, southern region, has been elected chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Southern Region for 2018-19.

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*Mr. Dinesh is also the chairman, CII Institute of Logistics Advisory Council and chairman, Logistics Sector Skill Council.*

- Senior bureaucrat Chandra Bhushan Kumar has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner as part of a major bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the government.
  - Bhushan, a 1995 batch IAS officer of union territories cadre, has been appointed to the post for five years.
- The former chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Vineet Joshi, was appointed **the first director-general of the National Testing Agency (NTA)**.

**Note - National Testing Agency (NTA)** - NTA is an independent body dedicated to conducting entrance tests for higher education in India.

- “First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words” was launched by **Thaawarchand Gehlot**, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi, developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC).

*As per the census 2011, there are 50,71,007 Deaf people and 19, 98,535 with speech disability in India.*

- A three-day International Yoga Fest was inaugurated by **Union minister Jitendra Singh on 21st march**, The ministry has shortlisted four cities --



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Jaipur, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Mysore -- for holding the main function of International Yoga Day this year.

- The event is a curtain raiser to the International Yoga Day (IYD) to be held on June 21.
- Yoga is in the **UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity.**

- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6th foundation day on 20th March in New Delhi inaugurated by Union Minister of Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

**Theme-** Sustaining innovation- A Market Driven Pathway

- **24th March** is observed as **World Tuberculosis Day** across the world, marks the day in **1882** when **Dr. Robert Koch** announced that he had **discovered the bacterium that causes TB.**

**Theme-** Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world.

*Indian Government has a vision to eliminate TB by 2025.*

*Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) has a target of eliminating TB from the world by 2030.*

- 24th March **celebrated as Earth Hour**, on this day, people are encouraged to **turn off their non-essential lights** for one hour **from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM.**
  - Earth Hour is a global initiative of the **World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF)**, with a record participation of 178 countries and territories around the world.

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- **Connect2earth campaign** is being organized worldwide on this occasion.
- On this occasion, WWF-India is launching the ‘**Give Up to Give Back**’ initiative to inspire organisations, institutions and individuals to make the choice to curb some habits, practices and lifestyles that burden our lives and the environment.

*Earth Hour is also a **part-n-parcel** of the **Green Good Deeds** movement by Indian government in which individuals are encouraged to take small voluntary actions to protect environment.*

- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu chaired a roundtable of Invest India in New Delhi** -Various regulatory issues faced by Startups in the sectors of e-pharmacy, NBFCs, unmanned aerial vehicle and retail delivery of petroleum from door to door were discussed (started by IOC on pilot basis).

*‘Invest India’ is India’s official agency dedicated to investment promotion and facilitation.*

- The **two-day 46th All India Police Science Congress** began in **Shimla** (Himachal Pradesh) on 24<sup>th</sup> march **inaugurated by-** Himachal Pradesh **CM Jai Ram Thakur** - It would help in adoption of technology, adopt best practices from across the country and to deal with modern digital crimes.

**Organized by-** Himachal Pradesh Police Department and The Bureau of Police Research and Development



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*Related CA about Himachal Pradesh- The state recently launched 'Gudiya helpline', 'Shakti button' app to help women at the time of distress. It has also launched a women safety handbook called 'Mahila Surakshya'.*

- Union Commerce Minister **Suresh Prabhu** gave the keynote address at the **13th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in Delhi**. During the 3 day conclave, round tables held on connectivity and infrastructure, energy security and renewable energy. The conclave will facilitate over 500 business to business meetings.
- **South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF)**, a London based organisation has received the **Frederick Pincott Award for 2017** from the Indian High Commissioner, Y K Sinha for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for the last 18 years.
  - SACF has been doing commendable work for nearly two decades to **promote Hindi and regional Indian cinema in the UK** and as a result has served the cause of dissemination of the Hindi language.

*The SACF was set up in London in January 2000 by Lalit Mohan Joshi.*

- Mr Kovind lay foundation stone of five projects of the National Highway Authority of India.
  - It includes second phase of outer ring of the city and four-lane roads between Varanasi and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh
  - Released Sanskrit translation of Governor Ram Naik's book Charaiveti Charaiveti.

*Related CA- For the first time, two Indian cities (Varanasi and Jaipur) were designated as members of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).*

- The birth anniversary of India's Dalit social reformer Dr B R Ambedkar celebrated as '**Social Justice Day**' on **14 April**

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- Ambedkar became independent **India's first law minister**, the principal architect of the Constitution of India and a founding father of the Republic of India.
- He also campaigned against the social discrimination of Dalits and inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement in 1956.

*Ambedkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990.*

#### **About Panchteerth:**

*Five places related to Dr. Ambedkar are being developed as Panchteerth by Government of India. These included his birthplace in **Mhow**, the place in **London** where he stayed while studying in the UK, Deeksha Bhoomi in **Nagpur**, Mahaparinirvan Sthal in **Delhi**, and Chaitya Bhoomi in **Mumbai**.*

- **“THE THAI FILM FESTIVAL IN MUMBAI”** organised by the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Mumbai, in cooperation with the Films Division.
  - The Festival took place during Thursday 29 - Saturday 31 March at Films Division Complex.
  - Eight Thai films screened during the Festival. The opening film was 'Nine' (Short Animation). All films are screened in Thai language with English subtitle.
- United Nations General Assembly declared in 2011 to observe **21st March as World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) - National Conference on Down Syndrome** was organised by the National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi.

*A book entitled “Twilights Children” based on the lives of person suffering from Down Syndrome was released on the occasion.*



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- The **Lalit Kala Akademi** is hosting the first-ever International **Print Biennale** titled '**Print Biennale India 2018**' in New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> march

**Chief Guest-** eminent Artist-Printmaker, Shakti Barman

*An exhibition 'Eminent Printmakers in India' is showcasing master Indian printmakers at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.*

- The famous **Madhavpur Mela** held at Madhavpur Ghed of Porbandar district in **Gujarat** on 24<sup>th</sup> march.
  - The four-day-long Mela seen its first-ever cultural integration with the North-East as the state shares common root with the **Mishmi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Union **Power Minister Piyush Goyal** inaugurated a Rs 432 crore underground power cable line project in Varanasi under the Integrated Power Development Scheme by central government. Within two years, the ancient city will become wireless.
- Two Indians, **Mrinalini Dayal** and **Yogesh Kumar**, both working in the **field of gender equality**, are among the 20 finalists shortlisted for the **Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018**.
  - Mrinalini Dayal in campaigning organisation '**Haiyya**',- has been selected for her work on the **UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5** (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)
  - Yogesh Kumar, founder of '**Even Cargo**', a social enterprise which promotes gender equality through employment of women for couriering, traditionally a male preserve in the country.





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*Commonwealth Youth Awards 2018 which recognize **outstanding young aged 15-29** whose innovative projects have had a significant impact in their communities.*

- The Election Commission of India announced a single phase poll for the **224-member Karnataka Legislative Assembly** on May 12 - Rahul Dravid will be the **state election icon**.
  - **Yograj Bhat**, film and music director, is making 2018 "**Karnataka Election Anthem**".

## SPORTS

- 16 year old **Vivaan Kapoor** bagged the trap **bronze medal** in the ISSF (International Sporting Sports Federation) **Junior World Cup held in Sydney (Australia)**.
  - Earlier Indian shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** shattered the world **record** and claimed the gold medal in **10m women's air rifle** event.
  - Elavenil also combined with Shreya Agrawal and Zeena Khitta to claim the team gold medal.

***Related CA-** In the recently held ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara (Mexico) India had topped the medal tally with 9 medals (4 gold, 1 silver, baki hisaab laga lo)*

- One of the official partners of 2018 FIFA World Cup, Gazprom, has announced the opening of Football for Friendship (F4F) International Children's Social Project.



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- The goal of the programme is to involve the young generation throughout the world in promoting friendship, equality, peace and respect for different cultures and nationalities.

*The initiative which is in its sixth season, has expanded from 64 countries last year to 211 countries.*

*The final events of the season will be held in Moscow from June 8 to 15.*

- **India U-16** were crowned champions of the **Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament** after defeating hosts Hong Kong 4-2 in the finals in Hongkong.
  - This was India's **third consecutive victory** in as many days. They had earlier defeated Chinese Taipei, 4-nil and Singapore by 3-1.
- **PV Sindhu** has been named the **flag-bearer of the Indian contingent** for the opening ceremony of the **Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast** next month (4th April).
  - In the last three Commonwealth Games, the prestigious position had always gone to a member of the shooting squad (Vijay Kumar in 2014, Abhinav Bindra in 2010)

*P V Sindhu - Currently ranked 3 in BWF World ranking*

- **German racer Sebastian Vettel** win season's first Grand Prix, **Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne** - it was his 43rd career win in Formula 1 and also recorded a century of podium finishes in the sport.
  - The other drivers with a 100 podiums include **Michael Schumacher** and **Lewis Hamilton**.

*This was also Ferrari's 230th Grand Prix win in Formula 1.*

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- **Pankaj Advani retained its Asian Billiards Championship** by defeating **B Bhasar in Yangon (Myanmar)** - he has achieved a hat-trick of hat-tricks in English billiards, **holding the World, Asian, and Indian National Championship titles simultaneously, in three different years: 2005, 2008 and 2012 and recently in 2017.**
- **15 year old Anish Bhanwala** secured India a third individual gold medal at the ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) Junior World Cup in Sydney (Australia) - he won medal in men's 25-meter rapid fire pistol.

*India is now placed second behind China with 15 medals, comprising six gold, three silver and six bronze.*

**Related CA-** Recently ISSF World Cup was held in Guadalajara, Mexico. Here India had topped the medal tally followed by USA and China.

- Indian shooter **Muskan** clinched the **fourth individual gold medal** in women's 25m pistol event at the **ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney**.
  - The team gold was won by **Muskan, Manu Bhaker and Devanshi Rana**, adding to India's rich medal haul.

*India upstaged China with 22 medals, including nine gold, five silver and eight bronze medals.*

- **Australian skipper Steve Smith** relinquished **captaincy of Rajasthan Royals** in the upcoming 11th edition of Indian Premier League starting 7th of next month.
  - India's Test vice-captain **Ajinkya Rahane** has been named new skipper of Rajasthan Royals.

*Rajasthan Royals along with Chennai Super King will play IPL after 2 years of ban related to illegal batting.*



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- The duo of **Manu Bhaker** and **Anmol** secured India's seventh gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney - pair won the mixed 10-meter air pistol event with a qualification world record.
  - **Vivaan Kapoor** delivered India its fourth and fifth medals, claiming bronze in the men's trap singles and team events. **Genemat Sekhon** bagged an individual bronze medal in the junior women's skeet shooting in final.
  - In the mixed 10 meters air rifle event, **Shreya Agrawal** and **Arjun Babuta** completed the podium in third place with 432 points. **Elavenil Valarivan** and **Tejas Krishna Prasad** finished 4th.

*Related CA- Recently ISSF World Cup was held in Guadalajara (Mexico) in which India had topped the medal tally. Manu Bhaker had won a gold in that tournament as well.*

- **Australian opener David Warner** has decided to **step down as captain** of the **Sunrisers Hyderabad** franchise for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL).

*Warner was recently stripped off the vice-captaincy of the Australian side after the infamous **ball-tampering** controversy in the third Test against South Africa.*

*David Warner became **highest run-getter** for SRH winning **Orange Cap** in IPL 2017.*

*Related CA- Recently **Ajinkya Rahane** has been made the **captain of Rajasthan Royals** in place of **Steve Smith** who was also involved in ball tempering.*

- The **four-day 17th Sub-junior National Wushu Championship** held in **Jammu** on 29<sup>th</sup> march.

*The national level sports event is being organised in the **winter capital city of Jammu** by the Wushu Association of India in collaboration with J&K State Sports Council at MA Stadium.*



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## TECHNOLOGY

- INS Ganga, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned in Mumbai after over three decades of service - It was performed at a ceremony whose Chief Guest was Vice Admiral A K Bhal.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched **communication satellite GSAT-6A from Sriharikota on 29<sup>th</sup> march**
  - Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) F 08 carried the satellite. This will be the 12th flight of GSLV and the sixth one with the Indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage.

*GSAT-6A is an Indian Communication Satellite.*

### **What is a GSLV?**

*Geo-synchronous Satellite Launching Vehicle (GSLV) places medium to heavy weight satellites in Geo-Synchronous orbits (around 36,000 km above earth). These are better than Polar Satellite Launching Vehicle (PSLV) because, PSLVs can not deliver heavy satellites in Geo-Synchronous Orbit.*

- A navigation satellite, **IRNSS-1I** is scheduled for launch using **PSLV launch** vehicle in April 2018 - atomic clock of IRNSS-1A has become non-functional, but the satellite is being used for providing messaging services like disaster alerts, potential fishing zones information dissemination to fishermen, etc

*IRNSS-1I will be added to NavIC constellation for providing intended navigation services.*

*Some notable payloads launched by PSLV include India's first lunar probe **Chandrayaan-1**, India's first interplanetary mission, **Mars Orbiter Mission** (Mangalyaan) and India's first space observatory, **Astrosat**.*



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**NAVIC constellation:** *The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) with an operational name of NAVIC -NAVigation with Indian Constellation) is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system, that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services.*

*It covers India and a region extending 1,500 km (930 mi) around it, .The system at-present consist of a constellation of 7 satellites with two additional satellites on ground as stand-by.*

- Indian population likely to **face widespread antibiotic failure** due to its prolonged use without medical consultation - A study said drug resistance poses the health challenge, as **India witnessed the highest increase in antibiotic consumption** among Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) between 2000 and 2015.
  - Doctors have warned that with the prolonged use of antibiotics, many patients have become anti-antibiotic that even the primary diseases have become difficult to treat and transforming into fatal diseases. If such issues continue to progress, no antibiotics will be left even for the most simple infections by 2030.
  - **India, saw the highest increase** - 103 percent in antibiotic consumption followed by China and Pakistan between 2000 and 2015.

**What efforts are being taken to curb this menace??**

- **International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance**
- India presided over the **68th session** of the World Health assembly proceedings in Geneva (May 18-26, 2015) which adopted a **Global Action Plan on AMR** to prepare a **blueprint with specific actions and timelines** for WHO as well as member states to address the growing threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- **LOGO :“Use with Care”**





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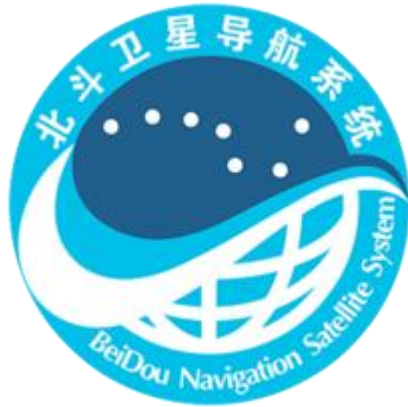
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## National Action Plan for antimicrobial resistance

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- Health Ministry has initiated series of actions including setting up a **National Surveillance System for AMR**, enacted regulations (**Schedule-H-1**) to regulate sale of antibiotics, brought out **National Guidelines for use of antibiotics**
- India's Red Line campaign, launched in February 2017, began marking **prescription-only antibiotics with a red line to curb their irrational use** and create awareness on the dangers of taking antibiotics without being prescribed.
- NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars - the US space agency will launch on 5th of May, a **stationary lander - InSight**, - which will be first NASA mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer, a device that measures quakes, on the soil of another planet.
- InSight or the **Interior Exploration Using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy And Heat Transport Mission**, carries a suite of sensitive instruments to gather data.
- China successfully launched two satellites with a single rocket to strengthen its **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)**, which will serve countries along the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by the end of this year.
- The two satellites are coded as the 30th and 31st members in the BDS. They entered orbit more than three hours after the launch and will work together with six previously launched BeiDou-3 satellites once they pass a series of tests.



### About BeiDou System :

The **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)** is a Chinese satellite navigation system. It consists of **two separate satellite constellations**.

- The **first BeiDou system**, officially known as **BeiDou-1**, 3 satellites-**decommissioned** in 2012.
- The **second generation** of the system, officially **COMPASS** or **BeiDou-2**- 10 satellites in orbit- serving in the **Asia-Pacific region**.
- In 2015, China started **third generation BeiDou system (BeiDou-3)** in the **global coverage constellation**- will consist of **35 satellites** - completion in **2020**.

*It will provide an alternative global navigation satellite system to the United States owned Global Positioning System (GPS).*

*BeiDou-3 will reach millimeter-level accuracy (with post-processing), which is ten times more accurate than the finest level of GPS*

## APPOINTMENT



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- John R Bolton has been named as the **3rd National Security Advisor of President Donald Trump** replacing Lt Gen H R Masters John as the National Security Advisor.
- **Balesh Sharma** has been named the CEO of Vodafone-Idea merged entity. The merger is in the final stage of approval. Earlier he was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Vodafone India.
- **J S Rajput** has been nominated to the **executive board of UNESCO** by **Ministry of Human Resource Development**. He was the former director of NCERT. His book 'Education of Muslims in India' was released by PM Modi in 2015. He received Padma Sri in 2014.
- Veteran director **Shekhar Kapur** has been appointed as chairman of the **central panel** of the **65th National Film Awards**, known for his work in Hindi cinema and International cinema.
- **Lt Gen Harpal Singh**, has been appointed **Director General Border Roads**. He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers on 1982.
- **Pradosh Kumar Rath** to be new chairman cum managing director of **RINL**, he is currently Director (Operations) at RINL,

## STATES

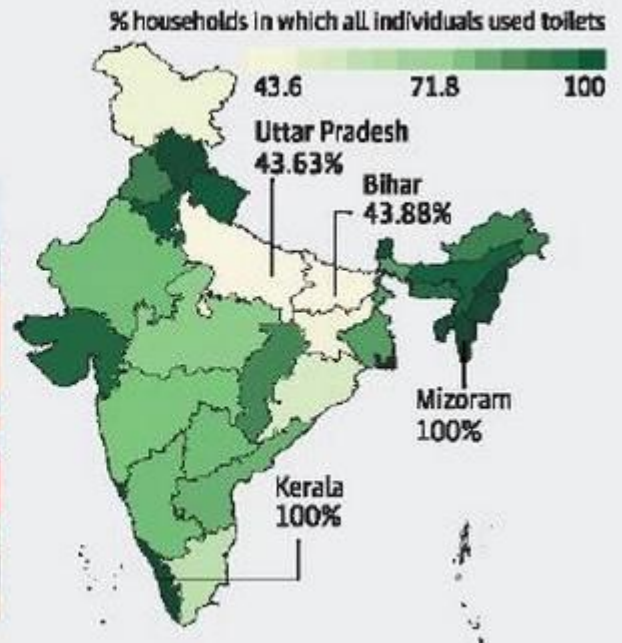
- **All Kerala, Mizoram households are open defecation free**

## States of hygiene

Survey shows households in Kerala and Mizoram villages are open defecation free as of 2017-18

- Results were based on the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey conducted between November 2017 and March 2018

- 92,040 households in 6,136 villages across all States and UTs were surveyed. The sample is proportionate to total rural households in each State



- Kerala and Mizoram top the list of States, with 100% of households which do not practise open defecation, while **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** are at the bottom of the rankings, with less than 44% of such household.
- National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18 revealed that 77% of all rural households now have access to toilets, and that 93.4% of those who had access to toilets used them regularly.
- Senapati is the first manipur district to be declared open defecation free.
  - 31,461 toilets were built to give 100% toilet coverage to Senapati, the state can now remove its name from the list of states with no single district with the ODF title.
  - The overall rural sanitation coverage of Manipur is 80%.

*The certificate of ODF was sanctioned by the Quality Council of India.*



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Part II

- The Madhya Pradesh government has raised the retirement age of state government employees from 60 to 62 years, this move will provide opportunity to those who did not get promotions due to various reasons.
- In Assam, a **total of 2,413 rhinos** have been found at the Kaziranga National Park as per the latest census.
  - As per the recent survey 1,641 adult rhinos including 793 females and 642 males have been spotted in the Kaziranga national park. The number of sub-adult rhinos aged between 4 to 6 years stood at 387.

*In 2015 census, 2401 rhinos were found in the park. This year's enumeration has an increase of 12 rhinos from the last census. However the technical committee has recommended to hold the rhino census again in 2019.*

**Recent in news:** Assam to get fast track courts for trial of cases of rapes, murder of children and women

- In a bid to increase accountability in cases of crimes against women and children, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has started organising '**Rape Roko Mahila Adalats**' in the Capital – Initiative, which aims to facilitate a conversation between those affected and government officials, is an extension of the #RapeRoko movement launched by it in January.

*The #RapeRoko movement seeks stringent action against child rapists within six months. This can only be done through stricter laws, fast track courts, increased police resources and accountability."*

*The first 'Mahila Adalat' was attended by over 500 women and girls. The DCW has asked the police to respond to objections raised by the participants.*

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WEEKLY CAPSULE-4<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF MARCH (23<sup>rd</sup> –31<sup>st</sup>) Part II

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- The country's longest elevated road of 10.5 kms was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, built at a cost of over 1100 crore rupees, the six-lane elevated road connects UP Gate and Rajnagar Extension in Ghaziabad.
  - The elevated road would shorten over an hour-long journey from Ghaziabad to Delhi to barely 18 minutes
- The **first PMUY Awareness Mobile Van** was flagged off by the Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, to create awareness about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (in Tripura)

*Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in Tripura on 07th August 2017 by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.*

#### About -Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched by PM **May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh** - to provide free of cost LPG (cooking gas) connections to women from B PL Households.
- The scheme aims to **empower women and protect their health** by shifting them from traditional cooking based on unclean cooking fuels or on fossil fuels to clean cooking gas.
- **It is first social welfare scheme implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- (CCEA) has approved to enhance target base of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from 5 crore **to 8 crore.**

**Tagline: Swachh Indhan, Behtar Jeevan.**

- The Andhra Pradesh Government launched, **NAIPUNYA RATHAM** or World on Wheels, a multi-utility vehicle which aims to **bring technology to the remote corners at the Secretariat in Amaravathi** to improve





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digital literacy, digital skills and create awareness on various Government Schemes.

- Jackfruit has been designated as the **official fruit of Kerala** - Kerala produced 30 to 60 crore jackfruits annually which are entirely organic and pesticide-free.
- The **Madhya Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department** has signed a MoU with **Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL)** to roll out an **animal healthcare programme** - '**Pashu Dhan Sanjeevani - 1962**' is said to be the first of its kind initiative by any state government in the country.

#### Under the programme

- Animal owners can avail a range of **veterinary services by dialling a toll-free helpline number 1962.**
- Veterinary services, including emergency treatment, on -demand artificial insemination, vaccination and deworming will be provided at the doorstep of farmers.
- The service delivery process will be monitored through the 'Bharat Sanjeevani' software and a mobile app.

#### Related CA-

- Next year **Indian Science Congress** will be held in Bhopal
- *MP was the first state to pass law punishing culprits of raping girls below 12 years with death penalty.*

- Kerala held its **first ever Global Digital Summit in Kochi** aimed at **transforming Kerala into a digital economy** leveraging its education system and skilled labour force.



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- The Government has set the ambitious goal of increasing the floor area of IT parks by 10 million sq ft.
- The state has declared internet as a right of citizens and is committed to provide free Wi-fi in at least a 1000 public spots every year including parks and libraries.

*On the occasion, the chief minister also launched M-Kerala, a unified app for all government services.*

- Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region - Dr Jitendra Singh has said that the **North East Industrial Development Scheme** will play a crucial role in promoting new industrial units in the region by providing several special incentives.
  - The scheme will promote entrepreneurship and job opportunities in the Northeast.
  - The scheme will begin with a financial outlay of **3,000 crore rupees**.

#### Under the scheme

- A number of exclusive incentives will be available to new industrial units being set up in any of the eight states.
  - The overall cap for benefits under all components of incentives will be of Rs. 200 crores per unit.
  - The newly introduced scheme shall promote industrialization in the States of the North Eastern Region and will boost employment and income generation.
- The Delhi assembly presented the green budget for 2018-19, with a major thrust on green initiatives to combat rising air pollution levels in the national capital. Total budget value is worth **Rs 53,000 crore**.



## 4<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF MARCH

## Part II

- Note-** India ranks **177th** out of 180 countries in **Environment Perception Index**. (Switzerland tops)

- This is the organization's largest solar PV project till date.***

- About BHEL:*

- *Established in 1964* *Headquarter- New Delhi*  
*BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer and has the prestigious **Maharatna (big gem)** status.*

- **Assam Government** launched a new campaign named ‘**Mission Samvabh**’ under **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin)** to construct **1 lakh toilets in a day**, the campaign was launched by Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** in Marigaon district.



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Part II

- It will try to reach out to **1 lakh families without toilet in a single day** for toilet construction.
- Assam Government has set a target to make the state Open Defecation Free (ODF) in the year 2018.
- Gujarat **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced** setting up of a seawater desalination plant of 100 million litre per day (mld).
  - It will be set up in Jamnagar district of Gujarat. The Saurashtra region surrounding it faces acute crisis.

*Related CA- India's first coastal police academy was set up in Gujarat.*

- **Surat district of Gujarat has become the first district of India to have 100% solar powered Primary Health Centres (PHCs).**
  - All 52 PHCs of the district are now solar powered.
  - 150 out of 572 Gram Panchayats of Surat districts are now solar powered.
- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Assam government under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative for sustainable development of human settlements at villages in Kamrup district.
  - AAI would provide financial assistance under its CSR initiative of Rs. 4.58 crore as per the estimates prepared by the UNDP to improve the resilience of communities around Guwahati Airport.

### ***What is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?***

*Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a norm under section 135 of Companies Act 2013. Under this a company (beyond a prescribed size) has to*



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*spend 2% of average annual profit of last three years in social developmental activities like health, education, skill training etc.*

- The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has passed an annual budget of over 4 lakh 28 thousand crore rupees by voice vote. It is 11.4 percent higher than the last fiscal.

***Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described the budget as development oriented.***

***Related CA- Recently UP Assembly passed Uttar Pradesh Control of Organised Crime Bill (UPCOCB), 2017 to control organized crime in the state.***

***Uttar Pradesh Investor Summit was organized in Lucknow in February and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.***

- The **Uttar Pradesh Assembly** has passed a stringent bill to curb organised crime and deal strictly with those trying to foment terror.
  - The **UP Control of Organised Crime Bill (UPCOCB), 2017 Bill**, also seeks to act sternly against those using explosives or firearms or any other violent means or damaging life and property or involved in anti-national or destructive activities.
  - The bill provides for punishments from minimum three years' imprisonment to capital punishment.
- **India's first insect museum** has been opened in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Campus in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), inaugurated by- Chief Minister K Palaniswamy

***It will display preserved specimens and also live insects.***

***Related CA- Madhya Pradesh's first butterfly park was opened in Raisen district.***

***Uttar Pradesh has opened its first butterfly park in Kanpur.***

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Part II

- **Chhattisgarh bagged the National 'Water Digest Award'** for Water Conservation-Diversion and for increasing the irrigation capacity in the State - *this is the first time that Chhattisgarh had been given national Award during the past 17 years.*
  - Union Minister of State for Water Resources Arjun Ram Megwal presented the award to Chhattisgarh Water Resources Department Secretary Sonmani Bora.
  - The Award is presented every year by globally renowned magazine 'Water Digest'-which focuses mainly on water resources.

*The award is given in association with Central Water Resources River Development and Ganga Cleaning Ministry, UNESCO, Central Water Board, Central Water Commission and Ganga Purification National Mission.*

- Food Processing Industry Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the **first mega food park at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer, Rajasthan.**
  - The food park is being set up at a cost of over **113 crore rupees**
  - The mega food park will leverage an additional investment of about **250 crore rupees** in 25 to 30 food processing units in the park. The park will also provide direct and indirect employment to five thousand persons.

*Related CA- Prime Minister inaugurated **POSHAN Abhiyan in Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan)** to improve nutritional status among women and children.*

- Rural Punjab achieved a milestone, declaring four of its district open defecation free– Amritsar, Bathinda, Ferozepur, Pathankot free





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*Currently, in rural Punjab, more than 2.5 lakh toilets have been constructed the sanitation coverage in Punjab has moved up from 75% in 2014 to 100% in 2018*

*Related CA- Punjab observed 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Martyrdom Day of Bhagat Singh, as 'Youth Empowerment Day'.*

- The Guwahati High Court set up exclusive Fast Track courts in all districts of Assam for day-to-day trial of cases of rape and murder of women and children in the state.

*Related CA- Biennial **rhino census** carried out in Kaziranga National Park. 'Mission Samvabh' was launched to construct 1 lakh toilets. Presented its **first e-budget**. Proposed insurance scheme for journalists.*

- Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the **Andheri-Goregaon harbour line** at an event held at the Goregaon station
  - The Union government has undertaken Rs 54,777 crore-worth projects for improving the railway infrastructure in Mumbai.

*Related CA- India's **first artificial intelligence centre** will be set up in Mumbai.*