

## Weekly Current Affairs: 9 July to 14 July 2018

### [Once criminality under section 377 goes, discrimination against LGBTQ will go: SC](#)

The Supreme Court of India on July 12, 2018 stated that the social stigma and discrimination attached to the LGBTQ community would go if the criminality of consensual gay sex is done away with.

The SC bench rejected a proposal of the lawyers, seeking retention of section 377, that public opinion should be elicited on the matter, saying it did not want a referendum but would go by constitutional morality. The bench stated that once the criminality under section 377 goes, then the stigma and discrimination will also go.

### [Telecom Commission of India approves Net Neutrality](#)

The Telecom Commission on July 11, 2018 approved the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) net neutrality recommendations that bar service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access.

The decision that aims to ensure open and free Internet in the country was taken at a meeting of the Commission, the highest decision-making body in the Department of Telecommunication in New Delhi. In its recommendations, the regulatory body asserted that there should be no intrusion of equal internet access to everyone, based on just the content.

### [India becomes world's sixth largest economy, France pushed to seventh rank](#)

India has surpassed France to become the world's 6th largest economy, as per World Bank data on the gross domestic product (GDP) of countries for 2017.

The data revealed that India recorded a GDP of USD 2,597,491 million in 2017, while France recorded a GDP of USD 2,582,501. India is now placed just below the United, which recorded a GDP of USD 2,622,434 million in the same period.

The United States leads the table recording a GDP of USD 19,390,604 million, followed by China with USD 12,237,700 million and then Japan with USD 4,872,136.95 and Germany with USD 3,677,439.13. Britain remained the world's fifth-biggest economy with a GDP of USD 2,622,434 million at the end of 2017.

### [Home Ministry institutes five Police Medals](#)

The Union Home Ministry has instituted five Police Medals to promote professionalism and excellence in service and give recognition to the security personnel doing good work in stressful environment and in difficult areas.

All the five medals will be minted and supplied by the Union Home Ministry and will be awarded each year by the Central or State police force/organisations on a fixed day. A selection committee in every State/Central police force/organization would be identifying the awardees every year.

### [India becomes 69th shareholder of European development bank](#)

India on July 11, 2018 formally became the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), paving the way for more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation.

India was selected as a member after all the existing EBRD shareholders, who also form its board of governors, voted unanimously in favour of the country's application in March 2018. The membership process was fully completed this week.

The Indian government had applied for EBRD membership in December 2017. Though now, India has become a shareholder of the EBRD, it will not be a recipient of the bank's financing.

## [Andhra Pradesh tops Ease of Doing Business Rankings](#)

For the second year in a row, Andhra Pradesh has topped the third edition of the government's 'Ease of Doing Business' Index 2018 with a final score of 98.42 percent. Andhra Pradesh outperformed 28 other states and seven union territories (UTs) to be the best state to do business in the country.

Andhra Pradesh was followed by neighbouring Telangana (98.33 percent score) and Haryana (98.07 percent score) at the second and third position, respectively. This year, Gujarat has slipped to the fifth rank in the ease of doing business from last year's third position. Other states in the top ten are Jharkhand (4), Chhattisgarh (6), Madhya Pradesh (7), Karnataka (8), Rajasthan (9) and West Bengal (10).

## [Gujarat Government grants Religious Minority Status to Jews](#)

Gujarat Government on July 6, 2018 granted Religious Minority Status to Jews living in the state. In this regard, Gujarat's Department of Social Justice and Empowerment issued a GR to this effect. With this, Gujarat became the third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

There are now seven religious minorities in the state. The other six are - Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. As religious minority members, Jews in the state will get religious minority rights envisaged in Constitution of India and various acts and rules of the state government.

## [Samsung opens world's largest mobile factory in India](#)

Samsung has opened the world's largest mobile factory in Noida, India. The factory will be officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in on July 9, 2018.

The Electronics facility will be inaugurated on a factory plot measuring 35-acre at Sector 81 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The factory inauguration marks the first-ever state visit of South Korean President Moon Jae-in. The South Korean President will be accompanied by first lady Kim Jung-sook, senior cabinet members, officials as well as industry captains.

## [GST Panel recommends no extra tax incentives for digital transactions](#)

A ministerial panel formed by the Goods and Services Tax Council on July 8, 2018 recommended that there shall be no additional tax incentives for digital transactions for a year, citing revenue considerations.

The panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said that it may think about the proposal of incentivising digital transaction again after a year, once returns and GST revenues stabilise. The panel claimed that it is not an appropriate moment to incentivise digital payments as it will have revenue implications.

## [Uttar Pradesh grants Revenue Status to 3 forest villages under FRA, 2006](#)

The Uttar Pradesh Government in the first week of July 2018 granted Status of Revenue Village to three villages inhabited by the Tongia Scheduled Tribe in and around forests in Saharanpur district under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA). These villages are - Kaluwala, Sodhinagar and Bhagwatpur.

The granting of Revenue Status to villages means that these villages will now come under the revenue department instead of forest department. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 has a provision for turning forest villages into revenue villages so that civic facilities reach these areas.