

National News

1. India, China Sign 2 Agreements On Brahmaputra Water Data Sharing & Non-Basmati Rice Export

- i. India and China signed two bilateral agreements following the meeting between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the summit. The agreements include continuing to share Brahmaputra water data during flood season and exporting non-Basmati rice to China.
- ii. The two countries have set a trade target of 100 billion dollars by 2020. During the hour-long meeting between Mr Modi and Mr Xi, both countries agreed on several initiatives to take forward the spirit of Wuhan Informal Summit. Chinese President accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation for a Wuhan type informal summit in India next year.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- Beijing is Capital city of China.
- China Premier is Li Keqiang.
- Guwahati is situated on the bank of the Brahmaputra river.

2. Centre Launches 'Rail MADAD', 'Menu On Rails' Mobile Apps

- i. The Ministry of Railways has launched two mobile applications to ease the traveling experience. The two apps, 'Rail MADAD' and 'Menu on Rails', were launched by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State (MoS) Manoj Sinha during a press conference organized to highlight the achievements of the Ministry in the last four years.
- ii. While Rail MADAD will enable travelers to lodge complaints, Menu on Rails will facilitate seamless ordering of food. The Minister stated Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh has been created with a corpus of one lakh crore rupees for making additional funds available for safety-related works.

3. Northern Railways To Monitor Cleanliness Of Trains Using WhatsApp Groups

- i. The Northern Railways will now monitor the cleanliness of its trains using WhatsApp groups supervised by senior officials. Every department, be it the pantry, bedrolls etc., will have separate WhatsApp groups, in which status

report of cleanliness will be uploaded on a daily basis.
ii. WhatsApp groups have been created for train and pantry cleanliness, bedrolls and functionality of air conditioners in trains. Photographs are being uploaded in these groups for monitoring by senior officials.

4. Met Dept To Use Flash Flood Guidance System For First Time To Forecast Floods

i. India Meteorological Department (IMD) will use flash flood guidance system for the first time in the country to forecast floods. Currently, the Central Water Commission issues flood warnings.
ii. The national weather agency is preparing to launch this service from the next month. Different kinds of soil from various parts of the country have been studied to find out how absorbent each variety was.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- In 1875, the Government of India established the IMD.
- Kanduri Jayaram Ramesh is Director General of IMD.
- The head office of IMD is in New Delhi.

5. India Is The Second Highest Sender Of Foreign Students In US

i. With 1,86,000 Indian students currently studying in the United States, India is the second highest sender of foreign students to the US, next only to China.
ii. US consul general in Kolkata, Craig Hall, stated that the United States is the top destination for foreign students worldwide and the number of Indian students in the US has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

6. V K Singh Flags Off 1st Batch Of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

i. Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh has flagged off the 1st batch of three month-long Kailash Mansarovar Yatra-2018 in New Delhi. The Yatra will continue till the 8th of September 2018. There are two routes for the Yatra, one through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand which involves some trekking also.
ii. The other route is through Nathu La Pass in Sikkim, which is motorable and suitable for senior citizens who unable to undertake arduous trekking.

7. Sharad Kumar Appointed Vigilance Commissioner In CVC

i. Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar has appointed vigilance commissioner in the probity watchdog CVC. The 62-year-old Kumar, a 1979-batch IPS officer

of the Haryana cadre, retired in September last year after heading the National Investigation Agency, an anti-terror probe organization, for over four years.

ii. Kumar has been appointed vigilance commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for a term of four years or till he attains the age of 65.

Miscellaneous News

8. 44th G7 Summit Was Held In Canada

i. The 44th G7 summit was held on June 8–9, 2018, in Quebec, Canada. This was the sixth time since 1981 that Canada has hosted the meetings. The 44th G7 summit was the first summit for Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

ii. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has hosted this summit. The 45th G7 summit or next G7 summit will be held in 2019 in France. \

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The G7 Group is a political and economic research and advisory firm.

9. WHO Commends India For Reducing Maternal Mortality Ratio By 77%

i. The WHO has commended India's progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 77 percent, from 556 per one lac live births in 1990 to 130 per one lac live births in 2016. This progress puts the country on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of an MMR below 70 by 2030. India's present MMR is below the Millennium Development Goal target.

ii. According to WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, Poonam Khetrpal, India has made a concerted push to increase access to quality maternal health services with the coverage of essential maternal health services has doubled since 2005.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health.
- WHO was established on 7th April 1948.
- headquarter of WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Tedros Adhanom is Director general of the World Health Organisation.

Sports News

10. India Beat Kenya To Lift Intercontinental Cup Football Title

- i. India has lifted the Intercontinental Cup football title. In the summit clash in Mumbai, they defeated Kenya 2-nil. Both the goals were netted by skipper Sunil Chhetri. He gave India the lead in the eighth minute before scoring the second goal in the 29th minute.
- ii. Sunil Chhetri has become the joint second highest international goal scorer among active players along with Argentine superstar Lionel Messi with his 64th strike for the country against Kenya.

11. French Open 2018: Halep Beats Stephens To Win Maiden Grand Slam Title

- i. World number one Simona Halep has won her first Grand Slam title with a gutsy comeback victory over American 10th seed Sloane Stephens in the French Open final. Halep, who had lost her three previous major finals, went a set and a breakdown at Roland Garros.
- ii. But the 26-year-old Romanian battled back to take a see-saw second set against the US Open champion. She then raced away with the third to win 3-6 6-4 6-1.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- Halep became the second Romanian woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy after Virginia Ruzici.
- This was Halep's fourth major final and has lost all three in the past, including two at Roland Garros.
- Halep also was the runner-up at the Australian Open this January.

12. French Open 2018: Rafael Nadal Beats Dominic Thiem To Win 11th Title

- i. World number one Rafael Nadal won an 11th French Open title by beating Austrian Dominic Thiem in straight sets. Nadal, 32, won 6-4 6-3 6-2 to earn his 17th Grand Slam, three adrift of Roger Federer's all-time men's record.
- ii. The year 2005 holds great significance in French Open history. It was the year a muscular teenager by the name of Rafael Nadal first took to the clay courts of Paris and left it with a first Grand Slam title.