

Current Affairs 24th July 2018

National News

1. 1st Meeting Of India-Bangladesh Joint Committee On Border Haats Concludes

- i. The first meeting of the **India-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Border Haats** concluded in **Agartala, Tripura**.
- ii. Extensive discussions were held on issues related to review of operations of the four functional Border Haats and suggestions for improvement, timeline for setting up the six additional Border Haats that had earlier been agreed to by both sides and the roadmap for further expansion of Border Haats.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- **Bangladesh** PM- Sheikh Hasina, **Capital-** Dhaka, **Currency-** Bangladeshi Taka.

2. Lok Sabha Passes Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill

- i. **The Lok Sabha passed the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017** which has the provision of allowing a court trying an offence related to cheque bouncing, to direct the drawer to pay interim compensation to the complainant.
- ii. According to the Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla, 16 lakh cheque bouncing cases are lying in the subordinate courts and 35 thousand cases are in the higher judiciary. The interim compensation will not exceed 20% of the cheque amount and will have to be paid by the drawer within 60 days of the trial court's order to pay such a compensation.

3. Nitin Gadkari Launches Development Projects In Madhya Pradesh

- i. **Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched development projects worth over **5400 crore rupees** in **Guna district of Madhya Pradesh**.
- ii. He addressed the gathering during **Vikas Parv and farmers' convention** in the district. The minister also laid the foundation stones of five national highway projects stretching **226 km at an investment of Rs 3,583 crore**.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- **Madhya Pradesh CM-** Shivraj Singh Chouhan, **Governor-** Anandiben Patel.

4. Government Reduced Minimum Annual Deposit Under Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme

- The Union Government** has reduced the minimum annual deposit requirement for accounts under **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 250**. The minimum initial deposit to open the account has also been reduced to Rs 250.
- The move is aimed at enabling more people to take advantage of the girl child savings scheme. The government has amended the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Rules, 2016 for the purpose.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- The Sukanya Samriddhi scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, as a part of the **Union Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** campaign.

5. Government Sets Up High-Level Committee To Check Mob Lynching

- Considering the increasing incidents of mob lynching, **the Union Government constituted a High-Level Committee chaired by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba** to deliberate in the matter and make recommendations.
- The Secretary, Department of Justice; Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs; Secretary, Legislative Department; and Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment are the members of the committee.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- Mob Lynching is an act to punish (a person) without legal process or authority, especially by hanging, for a perceived offence or as an act of bigotry.

6. NITI Aayog Signs Sol With Lupin Foundation For Collaborating in Aspirational Districts

- i. **A Statement of Intent (Sol)** was signed between **NITI Aayog and Lupin Foundation** to collaborate in Aspirational Districts Programme. The Sol was signed by **Yaduvendra Mathur, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog** and **Sita Ram Gupta, Executive Director, Lupin Foundation**.
- ii. As per the terms of the Sol, Lupin Foundation, with the NITI Aayog, **will work in three states - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan** to facilitate the creation of an ideal template to develop economic strength, technological viability and moral leadership across three districts in these states.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- **NITI-** National Institution for Transforming India.
- **NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman-** Rajiv Kumar, **CEO-** Amitabh Kant.

International News

7. PM Modi 3-Nation Visit: Signed 8 Agreements With Rwanda

- i. **India and Rwanda** signed **eight agreements** following delegation-level talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame** in Kigali. The two countries signed agreements **in the fields of Defence, Trade, Agriculture, Leather and allied products and Dairy**.
- ii. India also extended two Lines of Credit of 100 million US dollars each – one for development of industrial parks and Kigali Special Economic Zone, and the other for three agricultural projects in Rwanda. **Mr Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Rwanda** on the first leg of his three-nation tour to Africa.
- iii. PM Modi also **gifted 200 cows** to villagers as a part of **Rwandan Government's Girinka Programme**.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- **Rwanda Capital:** Kigali, **Currency:** Rwandan franc.

8. Pakistan Gets Its 1st Woman Chief Justice Of High Court

- i. **Pakistan has got its first-ever woman Chief Justice of a high court.** **Justice Tahira Safdar** was named as the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court by Chief Justice **Mian Saqib Nisar**.
- ii. Justice Safdar had made history **in 1982 when she became the first woman civil judge** in Balochistan.

Banking News

9. Banks, Financial Institutions Sign Agreement To Speed Up Resolution of Bad Loans

- i. **Nearly two dozen Banks and Financial Institutions, including SBI and LIC,** have signed the **inter-creditor agreement (ICA)** framework to speed up the resolution of stressed assets which are under the 500-crore rupee bracket.
- ii. **The framework is part of the Project SASHAKT,** the report on bad bank drafted and submitted by the **committee headed by Non-executive Chairman of PNB, Sunil Mehta.**
- ii. The objective of ICA is to resolve stressed assets fast, and will primarily focus on NPAs in the 50 crore to 500 crore bracket.

Sports News

10. Olympic Medalists To Now Receive Rs 20,000 Pension Per Month

- i. **Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** announced that the **rate of pension for sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions** and have retired from active sports has been doubled from April 1. At present, the government gives lifelong pension to 588 players under the scheme of **'Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons.'**
- ii. According to the revised rates, **Olympic and Para Olympic medallists will get a sum of Rs 20,000 per month each,** while gold medallists at World Cups and World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines will receive **Rs 16,000 per month.**
- iii. **Silver and bronze medallists at World Cups in Olympic and Asian Games** disciplines will receive a sum of **Rs 14,000 per month** and an equal amount is payable to gold medallists of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para Asian Games.

11. Lewis Hamilton Wins German Grand Prix

- i. **Lewis Hamilton** won the **German Grand Prix 2018** held at Hockenheimring track in Germany. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton secured the first position.
- ii. He was followed by Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes in the second position. Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen secured the third position.

12. Tokyo 2020 Committee Officially Launches Olympic Mascots

i. The **Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee** officially launched its **Olympic mascots 'Miraitowa'** and **Paralympic mascot 'Someity'** at a ceremony attended by **Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike** and **Committee's President Yoshiro Mori**.

ii. The name of the **blue-checked Olympic mascot 'Miraitowa'** is derived from a combination of the Japanese words for future and eternity and seeks to "promote a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people all over the world".

iii. The **pink-checked Paralympic mascot 'Someity'** owes its name to a type of cherry tree blossom and exhibits enormous mental and physical strength.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams

- **Winter Olympics** will be held in Beijing, China in 2022.

13. World Junior Squash Championships Begins In Chennai

i. The **Men's team event of the World Junior Squash Championships** has **begun in Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. A total of 24 countries, divided into eight groups, are taking part. India, placed in Group-E alongside Switzerland and Saudi Arabia, is seeded fifth.

ii. Egypt has been given the top billing and is in Group-A. Canada has been seeded second and England third. Pakistan has been placed 11th.