

## ***National News***

### **1. Punjab Govt Launches Business First Portal**

- i. In a major step to give a big push towards the ease of doing business in Punjab, the state government has launched a "Business First Portal". It was unveiled by Industry Minister Sunder Sham Arora in Jalandhar.
- ii. The online portal will facilitate the industrialists for Regulatory Clearances and Fiscal Approvals, real-time tracking of applications at the common platform.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- Captain Amarinder Singh is the Chief Minister of Punjab.
- Vijayendrapal Singh Badnore is the Governor of Punjab.
- Chandigarh is the capital of the northern Indian states of Punjab and Haryana.

### **2. Himachal Pradesh Govt To Scrap Semester System In UG Courses**

- i. The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to do away with semester system in undergraduate (UG) courses and revert to annual examination system.
- ii. HP Govt had set up a review committee headed by former vice-chancellor to review RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and it has recommended reverting back to annual examination system. The RUSA was introduced in the state in 2013.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for exams**

- Shimla is the capital of Himachal Pradesh.
- Jai Ram Thakur is the current Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- Acharya Dev Vrat is the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

### **3. Highway Tunnel Dedicates To Nation In North Sikkim**

- i. Minister of State for Defence, Dr, Subhash Bhamre has dedicated a highway tunnel at Theng near Chungthang in north Sikkim to the nation. The tunnel will benefit the tourism and rapidly propel the growth of the state.
- ii. The double-lane tunnel stretching about 600 meters has been constructed by \_\_\_\_\_ the Border Roads Organisation at cost of over 42 crore rupees.

#### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- Pawan Kumar Chamling is Chief Minister of Sikkim.
- Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim.
- Shrinivas Patil is governor of Sikkim.

### **4. West Bengal Govt Decides To Invest Rs 107 Cr To Check Riverbank Erosion**

- i. The West Bengal Government has decided to invest 107 crore rupees to check erosion at vulnerable areas along the banks of the Ganga and the Padma. A stretch of 15 kilometers will be concretized, to prevent erosion. The work will be completed by March next year.
- ii. It will protect hundreds of homes and the river bank close to outposts of the Border Security Force on the Indo-Bangladesh border from being washed away by the strong currents.

#### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- Mamata Banerjee is the current Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- Keshari Nath Tripathi is present Governor of West Bengal.
- Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal.

### **6. Nepal's Chief Of Army Staff On Six-Day Visit To India**

- i. Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Rajendra Chhetri is on a six-day visit to India. He is visiting India at the invitation of COAS General Bipin \_\_\_\_\_ Rawat.
- ii. General Chhetri will attend the Officer Cadet's 'Passing Out Parade' as Chief Reviewing officer at Indian Military Academy in Dehradun. During his visit, General Chhetri will call on Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and meet National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Air Force and Navy chiefs and other senior officers.

## **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli is the current Prime Minister of Nepal.
- Bidhya Devi Bhandari is the current President of Nepal and commander in chief of Nepalese Army.
- The Nepalese Rupee is the currency of Nepal.
- Kathmandu is Capital of Nepal.

### **7. President Distributes LPG Connections To 20 Beneficiaries Under PMUY In Agartala**

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind has distributed LPG connections to 20 beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Raj Bhavan in Agartala, Tripura.
- ii. During his two-day visit to Tripura, the President inaugurated 73 km long National Highway connecting Udaipur town in Gomati district and Sabroom in South Tripura. He also laid the foundation stone for the re-development of Matabari Temple Complex at Tripura Sundari temple.

## **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- Biplab Kumar Deb is Present CM of Tripura.
- Agartala is the capital city of Tripura.

### **8. Keshari Nath Tripathi To Hold Additional Charge As Tripura Governor**

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind gave West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi additional charge of Tripura Governor, during the absence on leave of Tathagata Roy.
- ii. The President of India is pleased to appoint Keshari Nath Tripathi to discharge the functions of the Governor of Tripura, in addition to his own duties, during the absence on leave of Tathagata Roy, Governor of Tripura.

### **9. Andhra Pradesh Is ODF Now, Declares CM Chandrababu Naidu**

- i. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu stated that the state was now Open Defecation Free (ODF) as it had achieved its goal of constructing 2.77 lakh individual toilets. Naidu who was traveling through Chittoor district unveiled a plaque in Tirupati to honour the achievement.
- ii. AP has completed the task of constructing toilets but they have to be used by every individual. For that, the administration has to take up some awareness programmes. In October 2016, all of Andhra Pradesh's urban

areas were declared as open defecation free on the occasion of MK Gandhi's birth anniversary.

## ***Banking/Economy/Finance***

### **10. RBI Amends Gold Monetisation Scheme To Make It More Attractive**

- i. RBI has made changes in the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to make it more attractive. The revamping of the scheme is aimed at enabling people to open a hassle-free gold deposit account.
- ii. The short-term deposits should be treated as bank's on-balance sheet liability. These deposits will be made with the designated banks for a short period of 1-3 years (with a facility of rollover). Deposits can also be allowed for broken periods (e.g. 1 year 3 months; 2 years 4 months 5 days; etc.).

### **11. Short-Term Subsidised Crop Loan To Be Implemented Through DBT Mode**

- i. Reserve Bank has stated that interest subsidy scheme on short-term crop loans of up to three lakh rupees will be implemented through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode from the current financial year.
- ii. The Centre has earmarked 15,000 crore rupees for 2018-19 towards interest subvention for short-term crop loans. The notification adds that the scheme will be required to be settled as applicable in Plan Scheme namely Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and North East Region among others.

### **Static/Current Takeaways Important for competitive exams**

- Direct Benefit Transfer was started on 1st January 2013.
- The first phase of DBT was initiated in 43 districts.
- RBI was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

## ***Sports News***

### **12. Mithali Becomes First Indian To Score 2000 T20I Runs**

- i. Indian cricketer Mithali Raj has become the first batter from the country to score 2000 runs in T20I cricket. She achieved the feat during India's Women's

T20 Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur. Mithali has now scored 2015 runs in 74 T20Is with the help of 14 half-centuries. She has a decent average of 38.01 with the highest score of 76 not out.

ii. Mithali is the seventh woman batter to score 2,000 runs in T20Is, a list which is topped by Charlotte Edwards (2,605), followed by Stafanie Taylor (2,582) and Suzie Bates (2,515). When it comes to men's T20I, the list is led by Martin Guptill (2271) followed by Brendon McCullum (2140) and Virat Kohli (1983).

### **13. Kohli To Get Cricketer Of The Year Award At BCCI Annual Gala**

i. India captain Virat Kohli's phenomenal batting form has fetched him the BCCI's best cricketer award for two seasons, while World Cup stars Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana were chosen for the women's equivalent of the honour, the Board announced.

ii. Following his phenomenal show in the past two seasons, Team India captain Virat Kohli will be presented with the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2016-17 and 2017-18) at the BCCI Awards to be held in Bengaluru on 12th June 2018.

### **14. World Ocean Day: 8th June 2018**

i. On June 8th each year, we celebrate the ocean, its importance in our lives, and how we can protect it. World Oceans Day helps raise the profile of the ocean and inspire more involvement in helping to conserve this amazing resource we all depend on.

ii. The main action focus is to prevent plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean. The Ocean Project has promoted and coordinated World Oceans Day globally since 2002.